

# TWO LIGHTS

Rotary Club of South Portland – Cape Elizabeth  
October 21, 2020



*Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change –  
across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.*

## **Upcoming Dates:**

**Each Friday** – work detail at South Portland Food Cupboard, 8-11 (or any part thereof)

**October 24** – World Polio Day – and also United Nations Day

**October 24** – South Portland Drug Take-back Day

**October 28** – Jen Packard, Plans for SP Waterfront near Bug Light Park

**November 7, 9-10:15 am** – “Celebrate the Rotary Foundation” District 7780 presentation about The Rotary Foundation (add to your calendar but Zoom link hasn’t been sent yet)

**November 21 (Saturday), 8 a.m.** – Tree Lot Set-up

**November 27 (Friday), 8 a.m.** – First tree delivery

**December 5 (Saturday), 8 a.m.** – 2<sup>nd</sup> tree delivery

**January 29-30** – WinterFest!

## OPENING WORDS

This Week: Nicole shared some words from humorist Dave Barry:

“All of us are born with a set of instinctive fears - of falling, of the dark, of lobsters, of falling on lobsters in the dark, of speaking before a Rotary Club, and of the words ‘Some Assembly Required.’”

And on a more serious note, this gem from Rotary’s founder Paul Harris:

“The foundation upon which Rotary is built is friendship; on no less firm foundation could it have stood.”

## What’s New With Our Members

*Happy Birthday to Phil Dube - October 28*

*DUH - Apparently I didn’t proofread last week’s bulletin carefully enough and I typed Matt Leasure instead of MARK - sorry about that!*

**We’re LIVE** – The Christmas tree website went live this week and we have already sold some trees!!!! The site is simply AWESOME and you have to go check it out:

[www.rotarychristmastrees.com](http://www.rotarychristmastrees.com)

(Don’t make the mistake that I did and search for dot org at the end rather than dot com!)

**Night, Night, Gardens** – Our gardens committee has put “our” gardens to bed for the winter. Catherine Callahan reported that we did a great job this summer in keeping the gardens in good shape, thanks to the work groups for each garden:

***Bug Light (Fore River)*** – led by Karen Vachon, with help from Michele, Sue and Anne-Marie. This group was quite diligent and brought the garden back from looking a little sad at the beginning of the summer to its current beautiful condition.

***Bug Light (Entrance)*** – led by Katelyn & her son Henry, with help from Tony & Anne-Marie.

***Fort Williams Picnic Shelter*** – led by Bev, with help from Peter B, Phil, Bob K and Catherine.

***Ft. Williams Lighthouse*** (not our garden but we helped the Garden Club with a work party) – Ray, Catherine, both Nancys.

Faithful gardeners  
Michele & Sue!



**Paul Harris Butler** – Betty Egner led our Foundation Minute this week by summarizing the history of Paul Harris Fellow recognition and what it is. She mentioned some well-known PHFs including Mother Theresa, President Jimmy Carter, Dr. Jonas Salk, Dr. Anthony Fauci and Maine CDC Director Dr. Nirav Shah. Over the years, our own club has had 159 Paul Harris Fellows as well as 40 additional “Multiple” Paul Harris Fellows. One of those Multiple PHFs is Paul Butler who received his PHF+3 pin virtually at this week’s meeting. (*Do we have to honor you to get you to come to our meetings, Paul???*) Paul joined our club in 1974 and was club president in 1980-81 and served as secretary for many years. But his most distinguished title is winner of the 2018-19 football pool (in a tie-breaker!).



**Blue Glasses?** – The “program” this week was a club assembly and after a very generous happy dollar session, we separated into randomly assigned break-out rooms to discuss how we could improve the weekly meeting experience. Our group immediately tackled this by talking about where Jim Britt got his glasses (online for \$6.99 per set of frames), which led to the first item on this list of suggestions from the groups:

- More opportunities for small group chit chat (which can serve as a substitute for the pre-6:15 conversations at our Purpooodock meetings, which some of us really miss)
- Invite students to meetings (RYLA, scholarship recipients, Interact)
- More classification talks
- Devote program time for the club to brainstorm ways that we could be of service to the community.
- Put a moment of levity on the agenda each week (see Dave Barry above!).
- Hold an in person meeting at the tree lot.
- Reach out to people who haven’t been zooming and encourage them to join us.
- Have members of the board lead the meetings sometimes to give our president a little break.

*(Just a note on this last item – I led a forum for club treasurers in the district this week and there were about the same number of attendees as a typical SPCE meeting. It’s NOT EASY to follow your agenda while at the same time paying attention to all the chats, looking for people with their hand up, etc. Kudos to President Mike – Countless Names for doing this so seamlessly for the past 7 months!)*

# WORLD POLIO DAY

Last Saturday our district held an information session on polio eradication, which had a star-studded cast of presenters and was quite fascinating.

The first presenter was **Michel Zaffran**, the head of Global Polio Eradication for the WHO. He described a new Polio Type 2 vaccine which has been developed and they are on the threshold of deploying. (There were originally 3 types of polio and Type 2 is the only type that has not been eradicated.) I won't pretend to understand the science but they expect this vaccine to be much more effective and give us a better shot at completely eradicating polio.

The second speaker was **Dr. Tunji Funsho**, Rotary's head of polio eradication in Nigeria (and recently named one of Time's 100 Most Influential People of 2020). He spoke about lessons learned – and these lessons pretty much apply to COVID-19 as well as to polio:

- ✓ *“You can't shave a man's head in his absence”* – i.e. just having a vaccine isn't enough – there has to be buy-in from governments and the beneficiaries of the need for the vaccine.
- ✓ *Disease eradication costs a lot of money.*
- ✓ *The virus wants to survive* – and keeps popping up in places where it's hard to eradicate.
- ✓ *Technology is a great ally in disease eradication.*
- ✓ *No challenge is insurmountable when people come together.*

The third speaker was the RI Chair of PolioPlus, **Michael McGovern** of the Rotary Club of South Portland-Cape Elizabeth. Here is some information from his slides:

- ❖ 19 million people are walking on earth who would otherwise have been paralyzed. An estimated 650,000 cases are now prevented each year.
- ❖ Since 1988, 3 billion children have received oral polio vaccine.
- ❖ In 2019, more than 430 million children in 40+ countries were vaccinated using 1.2 billion doses of oral polio vaccine.
- ❖ We have gone four years without a case of wild polio virus outside Pakistan and Afghanistan.
- ❖ We have helped with other vaccine preventable diseases through PolioPlus and have assisted the world in responding to Ebola and COVID-19.

Mike also included a list of grants that were being forwarded to the Rotary Foundation trustees for their approval. These requests are made 3 times a year for a total of \$150,000,000 (\$50M in Rotary donations and \$100,000,000 from the Gates match).



## PolioPlus IPPC Grant Requests

- African Region Surveillance WHO 6,132,134
- Nigeria Technical Assistance UNICEF 501,738
- Nigeria Soc Mob UNICEF 2,424,131
- Eastern Mediterranean Region Surveillance WHO 1,684,314
- Afghanistan Social Mobilization UNICEF 3,109,688
- Afghanistan Operational Support WHO 4,370,950
- Pakistan Social Mobilization UNICEF 3,210,000
- Pakistan Operational Support UNICEF 6,697,408
- Pakistan Operational Support WHO 6,352,774
- Social Mobilization: Outbreak Response UNICEF 1,535,648
- mOPV2 Stockpile WHO 12,360,000
- Polio Research Grants WHO 151,784
- Polio Research Committee Operations WHO 1,469,431
- Total \$ 50,000,000



Our District Governor **Peggy Belanger** wrapped up the program by reminding us of the inception of the March of Dimes, in which millions of people sent in their dimes. Her point being that no donation is too small – they all add up.

Segue to **SPCE Rotary** – So.... if you haven't yet contributed \$18 (or more) in our club's polio fundraiser, please consider donating online or sending a check made out to the Rotary Foundation to Anne Swift-Kayatta. All donations will be eligible for the 2:1 match from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and all participants will be entered in next week's drawing for 1,000 Paul Harris Fellow recognition points! At last count, we have 22 participants and donations are close to \$1,500 – ***we have such a generous club*** – thank you for your generosity!!!!



**ROTARY CLUB OF SOUTH  
PORTLAND/CAPE ELIZABETH, MAINE**

Officers

President – Michael Geneseo  
President-Elect – Dave Bagdasarian  
Vice-President – Jim Britt  
Secretary – Kathy Cotter  
Treasurer – Nicole Albert

Directors

Club Administration – Bev Altenburg  
Youth Services – Katelyn Estes  
Community Services – Tony Wagner  
International Services/Foundation – Peter Bennett  
Membership – Laurenz Schmidt  
Director-At-Large – David Lourie

Committee Chairs

Visibility Co-Chairs – Fran Bagdasarian & Matt McAleney  
Webmaster – Jim Britt  
Bulletin Editor – Nancy Hawes  
Program Chair – David Bagdasarian

**DISTRICT 7780 GOVERNOR**

Peggy Belanger, Rotary Club of Kennebunk Portside

**ROTARY INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT**

Holger Knaack, Rotary Club of Herzogtum Lauenburg-Molln, Germany