

TWO LIGHTS

**Rotary Club of South Portland – Cape Elizabeth
December 15, 2021**



SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES

*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:

December 22 – No Meeting – Happy Holidays!

December 28, 7 p.m. – Board meeting via Zoom – please let Dave B know if you'd like the link

December 29 – No Meeting

December 30, 5:30 p.m. – South Portland Food Cupboard Shipment Unloading

January 5 – Club Assembly (primarily tree sale debriefing)

January 12 – WinterFest Preview

January 19 – Cassandra Varanka, District 7780's newest Peace Scholar

January 28-29 – WinterFest!

OPENING WORDS

December 15 – Tiffanie Bentley read Robert Frost's poem "Birches," which is a little long to print in the bulletin but which ends with "One could do worse than be a swinger of birches."

The Iris Network – Our speaker this week was Regal Naseef, the Director of Development and Communication for the Iris Network, which was formerly known as the Maine Center for the Blind. Among other things, the Iris Network provides visual rehabilitation services to older Mainers who are losing their vision. Their therapists demonstrate gadgets and teach techniques which allow many people to live independently. Regal mentioned Helen Keller’s role in founding the original school for the blind in Maine. Regal sent John a letter that Helen Keller had written on Feb. 7, 1905 to William Ryan (the founder of the Maine Center for the Blind) for him to use in soliciting funds from the Maine legislature. Here is an excerpt:

“The blind do not ask for your charity or for your pity. They do not ask you to accept inferior work at their hands. They ask you to train them in order that they may become producers instead of burdens upon the community. Every State in the Union should have at least two schools for the blind, one for the young, that is, purely educational school, the other a work school with a workshop which shall train them in some useful occupation. The object of such a school would be to send out active, competent workmen who can earn at least a part of their living. We are not content with an education that does not fit us to do something.”

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

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