

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."

No one has signed up for January opening words – please sign up online (it's easy – go to Members Only on the blue bar at the top of the home page (Members ONLY, not Member AREA) and select Opening Words Signup from the dropdown menu.)

What's New With Our Members

Happy Birthday to

- 🍰 Tom Meyers (December 17)*
- 🍰 Dave Bagdasarian (December 19)*
- 🍰 Ray H-E-A-L-E-Y (December 23)*
- 🍰 Chris Speh (December 26 -Boxing Day)*
- 🍰 Jim Britt (December 28)*
- 🍰 Kathy Cotter (December 28)*
- 🍰 Anne Swift-Kayatta (December 31 - New Year's Eve!)*
- 🍰 Chuck Redman (January 9)*

Happy Anniversary to

- 🎊 Laurenz & Barbara Schmidt (December 18)*
- 🎊 Dan & Shirley Mooers (December 31)*

*Thank you to the “small but amazing sales team” which has raised over **\$39,000** in pledges for WinterFest so far!!!!!!*

Guests this week: Our friend from the Isle of Wight Bill York, and Doug Johnson who learned about us at the tree lot. Attending in person for the first time was Bill Anderson.

Practically Perfect – Like Mary Poppins, Nancy Hawes was practically perfect and a touchdown shy of the pedestal upon which the legendary Mr. Perfect Hugh O'Shea stands. (But wasn't it an amazing coincidence that so many Rams were added to the COVID list the day

AFTER Monday night's game – but I'm not bitter.) 🙄😄



Raffle:

This week's winner – can you believe it – was of course Fran Bagdasarian. Prior to this week the gifts were all donated by various members of the Bagdasarian family so Fran held off on buying a ticket until this week – and she won a gift certificate to Nonesuch Books donated by Peter Bennett.

Raffle Gift Donor Schedule:

- January 5 – Tiffanie Bentley
- January 12 – Jim Britt
- January 19 – Frank Butterworth

Passing the Baton - Thank you to Mike McGovern who has been our program chair for the past 18 months. During that time we've had some excellent programs ranging from our own members (Jim Britt, Sari Greene, Patty Sprague, Bill York) to Rotary "dignitaries (Mark Maloney, Brenda Cressey, Brian King) to town and city leaders (SP Superintendent of Schools Tim Matheny, CE Town Planner Maureen O'Meara) to Rotary Foundation projects (Tony Wagner – wells in Guatemala; Marty Helman – Uganda project) to my favorites – learning about local businesses/organizations (Joe Cassidy - President of SMCC, Gary Moretti - owner of a mussel business, Hank Berg – Casco Bay Lines). This is just a sampling of the many excellent programs that Mike has coordinated for us.

John LoBosco is stepping into the role of Program Chair and has already lined up a couple great programs for us – our district's newest peace scholar on January 19 who will be studying in Queensland, Australia, and a speaker on February 2 about the future of broadband and technology in general in Maine.

A Rotary Foundation "Moment" – One of our members recently made a generous donation to The Rotary Foundation but does not want to be acknowledged for their contribution at a club meeting. But they (and by "they" I mean I won't give you a clue whether it's a man or woman) are willing to put into words anonymously why they gave to The Rotary Foundation.

"Over the last few years I have made a conscious decision to make all of my charitable donations, except for one, to **LOCAL** organizations that have substantive and meaningful impact on issues in the community that are important to me. The sole exception has been The Rotary Foundation. Mike McGovern's heartfelt, passionate presentation on December 8 about his work on behalf of the Foundation to eradicate polio reinforced the notion that this international effort - as well as other Foundation causes - has an overwhelmingly positive effect on the **LOCAL** communities in those countries. In addition to polio eradication, Mike and others have shared their observations about the terrible living conditions and other situations that use both Foundation funds and Rotarians-at-work to improve the health and lives of those in need. The breadth and scope of Rotary causes check all the right boxes for me, both locally and internationally. I am happy to know that my small contribution, along with everyone else's, is helpful in trying to meet the basic human needs and economic opportunities we often take for granted. I encourage others in the club to make whatever contribution you can - within your own means - to the Foundation."

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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Vice-President – Dan McDonald
Secretary – Kathy Cotter
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Webmaster – Jim Britt & Scott Irving
Bulletin Editor – Nancy Hawes
Program Chair – Mike McGovern

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