

TWO LIGHTS

**Rotary Club of South Portland – Cape Elizabeth
February 16, 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:

February 19, 5 – 7:30 – Lions Club Spaghetti Dinner. All you can eat – at clubhouse (1 Wheeler Road, Cape Elizabeth) or To Go. \$12 for spaghetti, salad, garlic bread, soft drinks & dessert.

February 22, 6 p.m. – District 7780 World Peace & Understanding Celebration (Zoom – link in Dick Hall’s email)

February 23, 7 p.m. – Board meeting – all are welcome; ask President Dave for Zoom link

February 23 – No Meeting

February 24, 5:30 – 7:30 – Food Unloading at South Portland Food Cupboard

March 2 – New Member Inductions & Paul Harris Fellow Awards (Back to Hybrid Meetings)

March 9 – Norm O’Reilly, Dean, Graduate School of Business, UMaine

March 16 – No Meeting

March 23 – Club Assembly

March 30 – Past District Governor Marty Peak Helman, Rotary Peace Centers

April 16 (Saturday) – District Assembly

May 14 (Saturday) – District Conference

OPENING WORDS

February 16 – Since Anne Marie has a conflict on Wednesday evenings, Aaron Mathews read her opening words on her behalf, a quote from a speech that Joshua Chamberlain gave on the 100th anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln. Unfortunately you had to be there – I always write down the first few words of the quote (“Great crises in human affairs”) and then google to find the full quote. But google let me down and I can’t find the rest of the quote.

Opening Words Duty:

- March 2 – Dan McDonald
- March 9 – Mike McGovern
- March 16 - Meyers

(If you cannot make it to the meeting, tag a friend as Anne Marie did, or forward your opening words to Dave to read on your behalf.)

Raffle Gift Donor Schedule:

- March 2 – Tiffanie Bentley
- March 9 – Jim Britt
- March 16 – Frank Butterworth_

What’s New With Our Members

Happy Birthday to

 *Laurenz Schmidt (Feb. 18)*

 *David Lourie (Feb. 21)*

In Person Again! – Our next meeting will be on March 2 and we are going back to hybrid. Some notes about the meeting:

- The dining hall will be open so if you’d like to come eat beforehand, feel free. Alternatively you can come directly to the meeting at 6:30. Or participating via Zoom continues to be an option.
- If you’ve been on the “tech” crew in helping to set up the meeting, please try to come and refresh your memory on how to get the owl and zoom set up.
- If you’ve been boosted since you sent your vax card to Mike T., please send a photo of your card with the booster info on it to Tiffanie. Similarly if you’re a new member and plan to attend a meeting in person, please send your vax card to Tiffanie. Her address is Tifanya@yahoo.com
- We will have our official election of officers for 2022-23 at that meeting.
- We will be inducting our backlog of new members, so if you’re a new member and can come in person, that would be extra special.
- We will also be catching up on a backlog of Paul Harris Fellow awards as well

Recent Donations – President Dave reported that at last month’s board meeting, the board approved making these donations:

- 💰 1,500 – WinterKids (who were planning to participate in WinterFest)
- 💰 525 – Cape Courier
- 💰 2,500 – Greater Portland Family Promise (last week’s program)
- 💰 2,500 – Camp Susan Curtis (side note – former member Denis Landry is on their board)

Club Assembly – In addition to announcing these donations, Dave reviewed some of the upcoming activities, including the club’s 60th anniversary celebration. Mike Tranfaglia and Dave are putting out feelers for a venue to seat 75-125 people, but if you have good ideas for a suitable venue, please let them know.

We also heard reports from members of the board. I reported a few weeks ago that the board approved sponsoring a student in South Portland who is interested in doing a Rotary Youth Exchange short-term summer exchange – Peter Bennett reported that the student is in the process of applying. There was considerable discussion about the difficulties in recruiting RYLA applicants and re-invigorating our Interact clubs at the two high schools. Our younger members had some great ideas including reaching them on social media other than FaceBook.



There was some discussion at our meeting this week about RYLA, including “what is it?” so I went to the District 7780 RYLA website (ryla7780.org). I read this story on their home page which more or less says it all.

The game was almost over, the championship was in sight. The fans however, were not as excited as I wanted them to be. As a devoted North Yarmouth Academy sports supporter, I couldn’t let this happen. I marched up to the front of the stands and began to yell as loud as I could to rally up the students.

“I believe that we will win!”

“I believe that we will win!”

“I believe that we will win!”

Four years ago, I never would have imagined myself leading a chant in the student section of a state championship soccer game, singing at a rock show, or reciting a personal and poignant speech in front of my entire school.

My whole life I have been quiet, reserved, and too nervous to participate in unfamiliar activities. In fact, I immediately scoffed at the idea of attending RYLA. Four days in the woods with total strangers doing wacky “team building exercises?” No way. However, I ultimately figured that I have nothing to

lose. Four days of my summer, it'll give me something to do, and I'll be spending time outside as a detox from my phone and the internet. It couldn't be all that bad.

It turns out, saying it wasn't bad was quite the understatement. It was an amazing and transformative four days. I could go on and on about my experience that week in June, but it is difficult to exactly define RYLA without actually participating in it. While anyone could read a brochure and get a general idea about what it is all about, there is no substitute for firsthand experience. RYLA in particular is something one needs experience in order to fully understand and appreciate.

After my camper year at RYLA, my authentic self started to show. Looking back, I realized that I was capable of becoming more outgoing and adventurous. RYLA was just the catalyst that brought me to where I am today.

Today, I have evolved into the person I set out to be at the beginning of my camper year. I gained confidence and started to realize the importance of sharing your life with others. This realization was what led to my increased outgoingness, vulnerability, and will to get out and serve my community. I felt great inspiration after RYLA and I was determined to keep that mentality going beyond those four days at Camp Hinds. If I was able try new things and share my stories with my peers at RYLA, what was stopping me from continuing?

All my growth at RYLA would be rendered meaningless if I didn't continue it beyond Camp Hinds. My two years at RYLA, the slogans have been "share your spark" and "take action." RYLA made me realize that life is fundamentally action. If I want to improve myself and my community, there is no substitute for action. Ideas are easy, execution is what takes the true time and effort. What we choose to execute is up to each one of us. That is where "share your spark" comes in.

Everyone is unique, so share *your* spark. Do what you are compelled to do, and don't let anyone tell you differently. Whatever activity or cause gets *you* the most excited, find out what it is, and *do* it. After RYLA, I felt motivated to do activities that I now had the confidence to execute. Performing rock songs, leading group chants, leading hiking trips, facilitating clubs, sharing my stories, and giving speeches are just some of the things I have enjoyed and felt comfortable doing after RYLA.

What we choose to do with our lives will of course be different for everyone, and the RYLA effect will vary from person to person. However, as long as we realize it is important to share our lives with others, have confidence in ourselves, and most importantly, take action, then I believe that all of us will win.

Reed Silvers is from Portland, ME. He attended RYLA as a camper in June of 2017 and is currently a senior at North Yarmouth Academy in Yarmouth, ME. He plans on attending a liberal arts college in New England with an Environmental Studies major.



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

Officers

President – Dave Bagdasarian
President-Elect – Jim Britt
Vice-President – Dan McDonald
Secretary – Kathy Cotter
Treasurer – Nicole Albert

Directors

Club Administration – Mike Tranfaglia
Youth Services – Katelyn Estes
Community Services – Tony Wagner
International Services/Foundation – Peter Bennett
Membership – Laurenz Schmidt
Director-At-Large – Michael Geneseo

Committee Chairs

Visibility Co-Chairs – Fran Bagdasarian & Matt McAleney
Webmaster – Jim Britt & Scott Irving
Bulletin Editor – Nancy Hawes
Program Chair – John LoBosco

DISTRICT 7780 GOVERNOR

Dick Hall, Rotary Club of Portland

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

Shekhar Mehta, Rotary Club of Calcutta-Mahanagar, India