

TWO LIGHTS

**Rotary Club of South Portland – Cape Elizabeth
February 2, 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 5 – FIREWORKS at Fort Williams at 5:45

February 9 – Michelle Lamm, Greater Portland Family Promise (Zoom Only)

February 16 – Club “Assembly” (Zoom Only)

February 22 – District 7780 World Peace & Understanding Celebration (Zoom)

February 23 – No Meeting

February 24 – Food Unloading at South Portland Food Cupboard

March 2 – Tentatively back to Hybrid Meetings

OPENING WORDS

February 2 – President Dave shared some words from Ralph Waldo Emerson:

“Write it on your heart that every day is the best day in the year. He is rich who owns the day, and no one owns the day who allows it to be invaded with fret and anxiety. Finish every day and be done with it. You have done what you could. Some blunders and absurdities, no doubt crept in. Forget them as soon as you can, tomorrow is a new day; begin it well and serenely, with too high a spirit to be cumbered with your old nonsense. This new day is too dear, with its hopes and invitations, to waste a moment on the yesterdays.”

Note change in procedure for opening words – we are returning to the pre-pandemic method of taking turns in alphabetic order. President Dave announced last week that we would start as of February 9 with the middle of the alphabet, with Matt McAleney going first. So the schedule for the next few weeks is:

- February 9 – Matt McAleney
- February 16 – AnneMarie McCoubrey
- March 2 – Dan McDonald

(If you cannot make it to the meeting, 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

- 🍰 *Nancy Irving - Valentine's Day Eve (Feb. 13)*
- 🍰 *Anne Marie McCoubrey - also Valentine's Day Eve!*

Happy Lincoln's Birthday Anniversary to Chuck & Melissa Redman (Feb. 12)

Congratulations to Michele Danois whose whimsical school crossing again caught the attention of the media.

February Rotaversaries:

- 🌀 *Marc Mutty (now an honorary member) - 23 years*
- 🌀 *Laurenz Schmidt - 31 years*
- 🌀 *Paul Butler - 48 years*
- 🌀 *Bob Carson (now an honorary member) - Golden Anniversary - 50 years!*
- 🌀 *Dan Mooers - 52 years!!*

Guests this week: *Returning member Bill Lohrman joined us from his home in Camden. Other Rotarians joining from outside the Portland area were Chris & Ellie from a hotel somewhere between NYC and North Carolina, Chuck from Arizona, and Sari took the prize – joining us from Turks & Caicos!*

Playoff Winners – Congratulations to the winners of the football pool for the 3 playoff games:

- 🍷 WildCard week – President Dave
- 🍷 Division Championships – Tom Meyers
- 🍷 Conference Championships – John LoBosco

“Attendance” in the pool has been waning, but you have over a week to submit your pick for the Super Bowl winner.

The Future of Internet in Maine – This week’s speaker was Kerem Durdag, the CEO of Great Works Internet (GWI – a WinterFest sponsor!). A few members of the club go way back with Kerem, including Chris Speh who introduced him. Kerem was born in Pakistan to Turkish parents, and attended college in Minnesota. Chris described him as thinking **and living!** outside the box. Kerem said that almost $\frac{3}{4}$ of Mainers have internet of poor quality or no internet at all. Kerem’s (and GWI’s) mission is to expand Maine’s fiber infrastructure such that many more of us will have high quality internet. Kerem also spoke about the changing demographics in Maine, and the fact that Maine’s only population growth is coming from immigrants. There are 35,000 individuals with professional degrees from over 30 countries who are unable to work in the fields of their expertise due to accreditation issues and lack of English. Kerem described some measures that are being taken to address these issues.



A Sign that it’s Time to Get Back to “Normal” – There were lots of jokes at the pandemic onset about people abandoning their efforts to dress up. This Rotarian has taken it to heart that appearances don’t matter and given us a peek into his home office. I think he’s probably trying to make the rest of us feel better about what our own desks look like!



Bob's February Quiz!

1. What is the significance of February 23rd?
 - a. The three-week anniversary of Groundhog Day
 - b. The anniversary of the New Deal
 - c. The anniversary of Rotary
 - d. The anniversary of Tom Brady's professional career

2. What do Aikaterini Kotsali-Papadimitriou and Ananthanarayanan S. Venkatesh have in common?
 - a. A primer in name spelling
 - b. Rotary directors
 - c. Winners in the longest name contest
 - d. Leading foreign soccer stars from Greece and India

3. What percentage of the world's wetlands are located in Canada?
 - a. 2%
 - b. 38%
 - c. 45%
 - d. 25%

4. In this month's crossword puzzle by Victor Fleming, there is a clue which reads "Phil's home commonwealth, abutted by Lake Erie." What is it (Hint: 12 letters)

(And extra credit if you can name the female lead actress in the movie associated with Phil and February 2)

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 – Mike McGovern

DISTRICT 7780 GOVERNOR

Dick Hall, Rotary Club of Portland

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

Shekhar Mehta, Rotary Club of Calcutta-Mahanagar, India