

# TWO LIGHTS

**Rotary Club of South Portland – Cape Elizabeth**

**January 19, 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:

**January 25, 7 p.m. (on Zoom)** – Board meeting. Let President Dave know if you would like to attend.

**January 26** – NO MEETING (See you at WinterFest!)

**January 27 (Thursday), 5:30 – 7:00** – Food unpacking at SP Food Cupboard (dinner will be served)

**January 29 – WINTERFEST!**

**February 2** – Kerem Durdag, Thoughts on Maine's Future

## **OPENING WORDS**

*January 19* – Chris Speh shared the words of a song suitable for the current temperatures, “Solstice Song” by Jan Garrett:

Deep in the darkest wintery night,  
Here with my candle burning  
Cozy and warm inside the light,  
Now that the year is turning.

What does the future hold in store?

Where has our journey brought us?  
How can we learn from what's gone before  
What has experience taught us?

Friendship will light the darkest hours,  
True love will hold the vision.  
Peace and goodwill on earth is ours  
Let it be our decision.

Heart of creation,  
Lover of shadow and light.  
Sing us the songs of a billion stars silently all thru' the night.

Deep in the darkest wintery night,  
Here with my candle burning;  
Cozy and warm inside the light,  
Now that the year is turning.

Feel how the year is turning.

*Please sign up for February opening words – go to the “Members Only” dropdown menu on the club homepage and select “Opening Words Signup.”*

### **Raffle Gift Donor Schedule:**

- February 2 – Tiffanie Bentley
- February 9 – Jim Britt
- February 16 – Frank Butterworth\_

### **What's New With Our Members**

*Happy Anniversary to*  
*👪 Bob & Judy Knupp (January 30)*

*Our sincere condolences to new member Mary McGreehan whose mother Theresa MacDonald passed away recently.*


*And condolences also to District Governor-Elect Claudia Frost whose sister has passed away.*

*Last week's bulletin expressed our sympathies to former member John Thibodeau- if you'd like his address it's 21 Salt Spray Lane, CE 04107.*

*Guests this week: We had a LOT of guests this week, including several past and future District Governors, and former members Brenda Cressey and Bill Lohrman.*

**Let There be Peace** – The reason for all our extra guests was our guest speaker, who is our district's newest Peace Fellowship recipient Cassandra Varanka. Among our guests were her mom Sally and her uncle George Szok from the Bridgton Lake Region club who put her name forward as a candidate. She was introduced by Bob Gravino from the Bath Sunrise club, who is Chair of the Peace Scholars Foundation Subcommittee. Cassandra is from Amherst, NH and graduated from St. Michael's in Vermont. She is one of 50 recipients of the award each year, which covers study at one of seven Rotary Peace Centers formed in partnership with universities. Another of our guests was Marty Helman of the Boothbay Harbor club who was instrumental in a donation which will create the newest Peace Center in the Middle East. Programs last 15-24 months and include a 2-3 month field study. Cassandra will be studying at the University of Queensland in Australia starting next January, shortly after getting married. Among her qualifications she was a legislative assistant to Rep. Jan Schakowsky and is currently a Professional Staff Member for the U.S. House of Representatives Homeland Security Committee. Thank you to Anne Swift-Kayatta for suggesting her as a speaker and to our new Program Chair John LoBosco for making it happen!

**Cassandra Varanka**  
Rotary Peace Fellowship Recipient



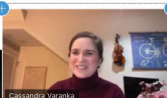
Cassandra Varanka

**Professional Staff Member** at U.S. House of Representatives Homeland Security Committee

**Advocacy Director** at Foreign Policy for America (FP4A)

**Policy Director** for Women's Action for New Directions (WAND)

**Legislative Assistant** to Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky



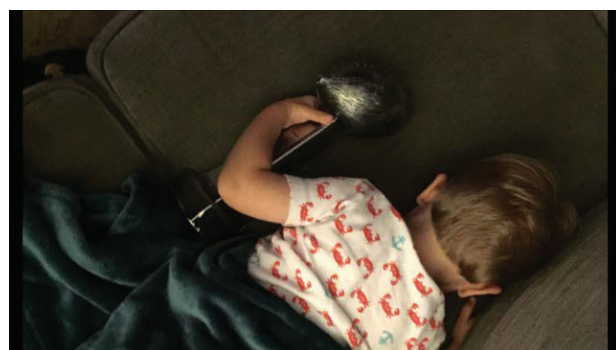
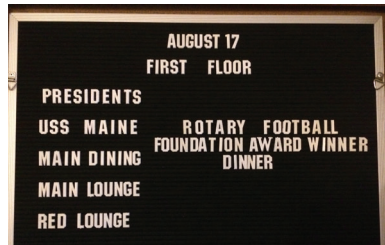
Cassandra Varanka

**It's Playoff Time!** – The football pool fun continues into the playoffs, and three members picked all 6 games correctly last weekend – “Half in the Bags,” “Scooby Dube” and Jim “Big Red” Britt – although apparently there is some controversy over whether you're allowed to win the pool if you pick the Patriots to lose.

**Why Is It Called the Yorkie?** – As its founder Bill York recalls, I was “sitting on a barstool in Siano's and filling out my weekly ‘bookie’ bet and complaining about losing my money and thinking about other options.” That was back in 2016 and thanks to Bill's brilliant idea, the football pool has raised a minimum (some gave more than the \$50 entrance fee and I can't tell how much was raised for the playoffs) of \$8,050 in the five years that we have been playing (no pool in 2020). Our entrance fees were donated to PolioPlus, so when the Gates match is added in,



we have raised at least **\$24,150** towards polio eradication from the football pool! In addition to Bill, we owe a big debt of thanks to former Commissioner Chuck Redman, and his successor Commissioner Jim Britt. But as we learned last week, the money is just a side benefit – the main point of the pool is that it provides “a life-changing experience” for the winners. The trophy is so meaningful that some winners even sleep with the Yorkie!



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

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President-Elect – Jim Britt  
Vice-President – Dan McDonald  
Secretary – Kathy Cotter  
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Club Administration – Mike Tranfaglia  
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International Services/Foundation – Peter Bennett  
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Visibility Co-Chairs – Fran Bagdasarian & Matt McAleney  
Webmaster – Jim Britt & Scott Irving  
Bulletin Editor – Nancy Hawes  
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**DISTRICT 7780 GOVERNOR**

Dick Hall, Rotary Club of Portland

**ROTARY INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT**

Shekhar Mehta, Rotary Club of Calcutta-Mahanagar, India