

TWO LIGHTS

**Rotary Club of South Portland – Cape Elizabeth
November 17, 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:

November 20 (Saturday) – Tree Lot Setup (7:30 at the Ft Wms fire barn; 8:00 at Mill Creek Park)

November 23 (Tuesday), 7 p.m. – Board meeting on Zoom. All are welcome – ask Dave for the link if you are not a board member but would like to attend.

November 24 – No Meeting – Happy Thanksgiving!

November 26 (Friday), 7:45 a.m. – 1st Tree Unloading & Sales begin!

December 1 – Club Assembly

December 2 – Food Cupboard unloading – Brent Wilson is coordinating

December 3 – Tree Lighting at Mill Creek Park

January 28-29 – WinterFest!

OPENING WORDS

November 17 – Scott Irving shared some quotes about libraries in honor of our guest speaker:

“The library card is a passport to wonders and miracles, glimpses into other lives, religions, experiences, the hopes and dreams and strivings of ALL human beings, and it is this passport

that opens our eyes and hearts to the world beyond our front doors, that is one of our best hopes against tyranny, xenophobia, hopelessness, despair, anarchy, and ignorance.” – Libba Bray

“In the nonstop tsunami of global information, librarians provide us with floaties and teach us to swim.” – Linton Weeks

“Google can bring you back 100,000 answers. A librarian can bring you back the right one.” – Neil Gaiman

December 1 – Fran Bagdasarian

December 8 – *please sign up!*

December 15 – Tiffanie Bentley

What's New With Our Members

Get well wishes to Paul Butler who was hospitalized recently.

Happy Birthday to

 *Tom Hamerski (November 26)*

 *Mike Tranfaglia (December 2)*

Congratulations to raffle winner Nancy Irving, who won a Shoppers Hardware gift certificate donated by President Dave.

Congratulations to Past District Governor Marty Helman from the Boothbay Harbor club who has been nominated to be a Trustee of The Rotary Foundation!

Thank you to the South Portland High School men's athletic teams who will be helping us as follows:

- ❖ Tree Lot setup - Football team*
- ❖ 1st Tree Unloading - Basketball team*
- ❖ 2nd Tree Unloading - Hockey team*

We really appreciate it, gentlemen! (And thank you, Aaron F!)

Guests this week: *Regan St. Pierre, Bill York*

Another Tie! – After last week's first ever tie in the football pool – for the number of picks AND the tiebreaker – we now have another tie!! Congratulations to “Half in the Bags” (President Dave) and “Better Half in the Bags” (First Lady Fran) on having the same number of most

correct picks and the same number for the Monday night game! They swear they make their picks independently (Fran picks home teams), but they are both fans of Jackie Robinson and therefore partial to the number 42. The trophy went home with them – it's up to them to determine who gets to have it next to their plate at the dinner table.

Namaste! – SPCE Rotary is nothing if not eclectic! Yoga is probably not near the top of the list of things you might think our club supports. BUT... High school is hard enough, even if you didn't have to flee your country and end up living someplace where everyone looks different and speaks a different language (not to mention that it's so cold!). Fran reported that the club recently received a thank you note from a yoga class at South Portland High School that we helped to get off the ground with our donation of \$1,100. The Movement and Mindfulness class is designed to support ELL students with their social and emotional wellbeing, as well as their schoolwork. The teachers and social worker are very enthusiastic about how well this new initiative is going.

Another Thank You – President Dave read a thank you note that the club received from the South Portland Recreation & Parks Department acknowledging our donation of \$3843.33 in labor and materials for maintenance of Bug Light. Our club spent just over \$3,000 on materials – not sure how the labor was calculated but a few people spent quite a bit of their time and talent – thank you!!!

Einstein Had a Point – Here's the last of Scott's opening words:

"The only thing that you absolutely have to know, is the location of the library," - Albert Einstein.

Fortunately we all know where our local library is located and our speaker this week filled us in on what's going on at the South Portland Public Library. Kathy Cotter introduced Lisa Joyce, who has been the outreach librarian at SPPL for almost 20 years. Lisa spoke about the library's response to COVID-19:

As a SP resident, here's what I already knew and used:

- ✓ Curbside pickup
- ✓ Ordering "book bundles" selected by the librarians based on your reading preferences

Here's what I vaguely knew was happening:

- ✓ Take-home craft kits
- ✓ Online book groups
- ✓ Online Spanish conversation groups

Here's what I had absolutely no idea was happening and along with my fellow Rotarians I was saddened to discover this was a need:

- ✓ Increased wifi bandwidth that was available 24/7. Lisa said that sometimes when she came to work at 7 in the morning, there would be cars in the parking lot with their engine running – it was people coming to the library to use the wifi so their kids could do their homework.



Lisa also filled us in on some other things the library is up to:

- ✓ Plans to construct 3 private computer rooms that people could use for other uses that require privacy (e.g. Telehealth);
- ✓ A partnership with Southern Maine Area Agency on Aging to provide balance classes and one-on-one Medicare counseling and resource counseling sessions with a social worker;
- ✓ Visiting daycare centers to read stories to the kids;
- ✓ Giving away 300 books at the city's Trunk or Treat;
- ✓ Tailoring services for new Mainers at the branch on Wescott Street;
- ✓ A series of Maine history programs to be offered next spring as part of Bicentennial 2.0 (programs that were originally scheduled for 2020);
- ✓ Access to library books from all over the state through the Minerva system;
- ✓ Free interchange of library access with Cape Elizabeth, Gorham, Scarborough and Westbrook libraries;
- ✓ Access to downloadable e-books through the Portland Public Library (you can get a card at SPPL);
- ✓ Annual shredding event to raise funds for the SP Food Cupboard
- ✓ And most currently, a diaper drive:

DIAPER DRIVE


NOVEMBER 22 - DECEMBER 20

1 in 3 U.S. families experience diaper need. The National Diaper Bank Network wants to change that. Maine's diaper bank networks provide nearly 300,000 annually, including to members of our community.

Donations can be dropped off at the Main and Branch library locations.

There is a particular need for larger diaper sizes (5 & 6 preferred) as well as wipes.

To learn more about the National Diaper Bank Network, visit www.nationaldiaperbanknetwork.org
To learn more about SPPL's Diaper Drive, visit www.SouthPortlandLibrary.com or call 767-7660 x2.



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PORTLAND/CAPE ELIZABETH, MAINE**

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