

TWO LIGHTS

**Rotary Club of South Portland – Cape Elizabeth
October 20, 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:

October 26, 7 – 8:15 p.m. – Board Meeting via Zoom. Anyone wishing to attend, let Dave know and he will send you the Zoom link.

October 27 – No Meeting

October 28, 5:30-7:00 – Food delivery unloading at South Portland Food Cupboard – see signup that Brent Wilson sent out. Dinner will be provided at no charge.

November 3 – Club Assembly. Full hybrid meeting at SMCC. Dinner 6-6:30 in cafeteria (there will be online signup). Meeting will begin in 107 Preble Hall between 6:30 and 6:40. *Note: Our club board unanimously approved the purchase of an “Owl” camera/microphone/speaker and it is expected to arrive in time for the meeting.*

November 10 – Past District Governor Dave Underhill, “Rotary Foundation 1010”

November 17 – Lisa Joyce, South Portland Public Library

November 20 (Saturday) – Tree Lot Setup

November 24 – No Meeting – Happy Thanksgiving!

November 26 (Friday) – 1st Tree Unloading & Sales begin!

January 28-29 – WinterFest!

OPENING WORDS

October 20 – Ellie Speh read “The Peace of Wild Things” by Scottish poet Wendell Berry:

When despair for the world grows in me and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children’s lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake rests in his beauty on the water,
and the great heron feeds.

I come into the peace of the wild things who do not tax their lives with forethought of
grief.

I come into the presence of still water.

And I feel above me the day-blind stars waiting with their light.

For a time, I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

November 3 – Chris Speh

November 10 – Tiffanie Bentley

November 17 – Scott Irving

What’s New With Our Members

Happy Birthday to

🍰 *Phil Dube (October 28)*

🍰 *Matt McAleney (November 8)*

Our condolences to the family of Sophie Kourakos - Sophie was the widow of Bill Kourakos who was president of our club in 1991 -92.

Guests this week: *Kiley Wilkens (last week’s visitor Regan St. Pierre also intended to be here but had to work late)*



Pints for Polio! –This was a huge hit, and it was great to see Dick Yerxa & Ray Healey. Fore River Brewery doubled their patronage during the event (Sat. 2-5) and would be happy to host us again. Note: There is outside seating that is very pet friendly.

And the Winner is... – John LoBosco who won the football pool for *his first time ever!*

South Portland Schools – Our guest speaker, Timothy Matheney, became the Superintendent of Schools for the City of South Portland on July 1st of this year. Prior to his current role, Tim oversaw 14 at-risk school districts, including Newark, Atlantic City, and Camden, as Chief Intervention Officer for the New Jersey Department of Education. Tim previously led the Department’s Office of Evaluation, where he was the lead architect of Achieve NJ, the state’s comprehensive educator evaluation system. From 2004 to 2012, Tim served as principal of South Brunswick High School (SBHS), one of New Jersey’s largest schools. Under his leadership, SBHS was designated a National School for Character, honored on the Advanced Placement Honor Roll, and named as one of “America’s Best High Schools” by Newsweek Magazine.

Tim began his career as a social studies teacher in Toledo, Ohio before becoming an instructor at the University of Michigan and the University of Minnesota and serving as an Assistant Principal in the Minneapolis area. He is a graduate of Princeton University and the University of Michigan.

Although the transition from hybrid & remote learning to back to full time in person learning held its challenges, the SPSD was helped by the overwhelming number of vaccinated students, staff and parents and almost 100% adherence to masking and social distancing mandates. The school system has reported only 28 positive COVID cases or 1% of the school population.

Tim related that the greatest challenges facing SPSD are:

- Shortages in the labor market (transportation; education technicians, food service workers & substitute teachers are of greatest need).
- An increase in vulnerable families facing housing insecurities (113 students in the spring, currently 150 students). Many have come from a long journey and have significant education needs. SPSD has a multilingual team that is comprised of a social worker and a clerk to help with the paperwork as well as support for 10 community agencies. At this time there is no food insecurity among these families due to the work of these agencies. Housing insecurity is the greatest concern.
- Pandemic effects on students’ mental health & learning issues as a result of interrupted learning.
- Supply chain issues (food service and building materials needed for construction of new middle school)

SPSD partnered with Northern Lights to offer vaccination clinics. Once the vaccine becomes available to 5–11-year-olds, they will again set up vaccination clinics. It was noted that SP-CE Rotary Club could identify volunteers to assist with vaccination efforts.

The Club could also be a potential resource for substitute teachers. For information contact: SPSD/Jobs.

Club Programs – John LoBosco has agreed to coordinate club programs, beginning this January. Thank you to John in advance and a special thank you to Mike McGovern for bringing us such wonderful programs over the past year or so. Mike will continue on the program committee. Other members who already have joined the newly formed program committee include Mike Geneseo, Tiffanie Bentley, Sue Sturtevant, and Tom Meyers.

Program committee members will select dates every two to three months where they’ll be responsible for that meeting’s speaker: coordinating the appearance, introduction, thank you. In sharing responsibility in this way, the club will adopt a model somewhere between our single member coordinator of recent years (Bill York, Dave Bagdasarian, Mike McGovern) and prior times, when each club member was

responsible for the speaker on a rotating basis. Please join the program committee and help make the new model a success!

The program committee will hold an organizational meeting in November (probably by Zoom) during which it will discuss the types of programs we'd like to bring to the club. After that, its meetings will be occasional, perhaps a couple of times per year. While the workload will be light, we all know the importance of good programming!

Please call John at 207-838-3554 or send him an email (lobosco@maine.rr.com), if you're able to join the committee or have ideas for programs. [No need to re-send ideas you've already sent to Mike; Mike has shared those with John already.]

John looks forward to hearing from you!

**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