

TWO LIGHTS

Rotary Club of South Portland – Cape Elizabeth

December 14, 2022



**IMAGINE
ROTARY**

*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:

December 17 – We are scheduled to have TWO musical groups at the tree lot if the weather permits – the Pine State Pitches and the choir from St. Bartholomew’s Church

December 22 (note this is a THURSDAY) at 6 – potluck Holiday Party at the Lions Clubhouse; see signup email from Scott

December 28 – No Meeting – enjoy the holidays!

January 3 – RYLA Accepting applications.

January 4 – Patty Cormier, Maine Forest Service (SMCC dining hall closed)

January 5 – Business Breakfast Roundtable – helpers will be needed; be on the lookout for a signup

January 4 Duties

Opening Words – Cary

Raffle Gift – McDonald

Meeting Room Setup – – *please sign up*

OWL Operation – *please sign up*

January 11 Duties

Opening Words – Cotter

Raffle Gift – McGovern

Meeting Room Setup – – *please sign up*

OWL Operation – *please sign up*

Opening Words – Sarah Cary had the opening words duty but could not join us so she sent these words, reflecting on her experience as a new member:

I greatly appreciate the amazing work I have seen in the short time of my membership. The limited exposure I have had with the Food Pantry, the Tree Lot, and the recognition by Kiley Wilkens-O'Brien addressing mental health in Maine is amazing. As we celebrate this holiday season her information is key as this is one of the most difficult times for many. May we all find one person to share an avenue for help.



As the Dalai Lama said "There are only two days in the year that nothing can be done. One is called Yesterday and the other is called Tomorrow. Today is the right day to Love, Believe, do, and mostly Live."

What's New With Our Members

Thank you to our masterful substitutes this week:

- ★ Nancy Irving filling for Jim Britt in running the evening
- ★ Paul Butler filling in for Kathy Cotter in the secretarial role

Happy Birthday to

-  Tom Meyers (12/17)
-  Dave Bagdasarian (12/19)
-  Ray Healey (12/23)
-  Rick Dobson (12/23)
-  Chris Speh (12/26)
-  Jim Britt (12/28)
-  Kathy Cotter (12/28)
-  Anne Swift-Kayatta (12/31)
-  Chuck Redman (1/9)

Happy Anniversary to

-  Laurenz & Barbara Schmidt (12/18)
-  Dan & Shirley Mooers (12/31)

Congratulations to Tom Meyers on winning the raffle prize to be donated by Anne Marie McCoubrey

From our Tree Sale Chairman Dan - THANK YOU to everyone who has pitched in and made our tree sale yet another big success!

Happy Holidays to our former fellow Rotarians who are now Honorary Members:

- ❁ *Bob Carson*
- ❁ *Dan Davidson*
- ❁ *Rick Dobson*
- ❁ *Marc Mutty*
- ❁ *Sybil Riemensnider*
- ❁ *Bill York*

Congratulations to Football Pool winner Mike McGovern!



Guests – *One of our most faithful attendees, Bill York joined us from the Isle of Wight.*

Brenda's Back! – Our speaker this week was our former member Brenda Cressey. Brenda joined us during the Zoom year after moving back to Maine from California. She and her husband Dick live in Wells though, so she joined Ogunquit when things started to open up. One of the highlights of Brenda's Rotary resume is that she was a member of the Rotary Foundation's Board of Trustees and was actually the first female chair of the Trustees at one point.



Brenda and Dick drove up from Wells to join us, which gave them a chance to visit in person with Mike Geneseo, who was club president when she joined, and Laurenz Schmidt who was the Membership Director who welcomed her into our club. In her talk, Brenda alluded to a Foundation Major Donor presentation which she made to me in 2020 at Mike's Clam Shack on Route 1 back when we weren't taking our masks off indoors. I never told the club about it at the time but here's a photo of her presenting me with the crystal.



Brenda gave our club a book called Conquering Polio by Herbert Pigman which tells of Rotary's early efforts in eradicating polio. She encouraged us all to take turns reading it (tentatively Kathy Cotter will serve as "librarian").

Brenda shared some heartening statistics about World Polio Day – online donations for just that one day were \$740,000 (which is about \$2.2 million with the Gates match). Social media activity surrounding World Polio Day reached 31 million people. In our own district, we have donated a cumulative total of \$1.5 million in cash towards polio eradication, with our own club being responsible for a healthy chunk of that - \$137,000!!

Brenda is currently leading the global effort to recruit Rotarians into the PolioPlus Society. All that's needed to join is to document your commitment to donate at least \$100 per year towards polio eradication. Many of our members are at least halfway there through their participation in the football pool. There's a fillable form on the District 7780 website to fill out if you're interested in joining, or let me know if you're having trouble finding it.

Brenda shared stories of Rotarians who have made significant contributions in eradicating polio, including our own Mike McGovern (who was on MaineCalling this week on a program about polio) and presented him with a lap quilt which she had made!



Bob's December Quiz

1. Greeting cards are a big business. How big? How many cards are sold in the U.S. annually?
 - a. 850,000
 - b. 200 million
 - c. 6.5 billion
 - d. 2.7 billion
2. Germans are generous people. What is the average amount spent per person for Christmas gifts?
 - a. 280 Euros
 - b. 825 Euros
 - c. 495 Euros
 - d. 522 Euros
3. How many Rotaract members are there in Africa?
 - a. 14,650
 - b. 21,820
 - c. 31,324
 - d. 34,721
4. Who said "It's easy to make decisions when you know what your values are?"
 - a. Hank Williams
 - b. Brenda Lee
 - c. Jimmy Carter
 - d. Roy Disney
5. Bonus Question. Victor Fleming, the crossword guru of Rotary, has a very interesting puzzle this issue. What is the answer to 11 down which reads "Era that began in 1957?"
Spaceage

ROTARY CLUB OF SOUTH PORTLAND/CAPE ELIZABETH, MAINE

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