

# TWO LIGHTS

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

**April 24, 2024**



*I slept and dreamt that life was joy.  
I awoke and saw that life was service.  
I acted and behold, service was joy!  
Rabindranath Tagore*

## Upcoming Dates:

**April 25, 5:30** – Food processing at South Portland Food Cupboard

**April 27, 8-10 a.m.** – Gardening at Bug Light

**May 1** – Paul Johnson, Maine Inland Fish & Wildlife (retired), Discovering the Allagash

**May 1** – World Cultures Day at SP Middle School, sponsored by SPCE Rotary

**May 7, 7 p.m.** – Club Finance Committee meeting via Zoom (let Dave Bagdasarian know if you are not a committee member but would like to attend)

**May 8** – Andy Chandler, AARP, Internet Fraud Today

**May 10** – “Flying Colors” – Benefit Art Auction at Children’s Museum & Theater of Maine

**May 17-18** – SPRINGFEST!!

**June 1** – RYLA Clean-up Day at Camp Hinds

**June 23** – Parking detail, CELT Paint for Preservation

**June 25, 5:30 – 10:00** – RYLA Dinner & Campfire at Camp Hinds – open to all Rotarians. \$12 donation (or \$20 for Rotarian & guest). Club members who haven't been before will get a real sense of what all the excitement is about and why supporting this leadership training opportunity for young people is a great use of our funds.

**June 29** – District Conference, Star Island (Isles of Shoals). Cost is \$45, which includes lunch and round-trip boat ride to the island. Boat leaves at 8:50 a.m. and returns to Portsmouth at 3:50 p.m.

**May 1 Duties**

Opening Words – F. Bagdasarian

Raffle Gift – S. Irving

**May 8 Duties**

Opening Words – Bennett

Raffle Gift – Knupp

Meeting Setup Reminder: Locker Combination is **11-21-11**

**Opening Words** – On April 10, on the heels of the solar eclipse, Dave Bagdasarian Sr. gave us some interesting insights into solar eclipses.

And on April 24, Fran Bagdasarian could not be here so Phil read her words for her, musings on “Commitment.”

April 19<sup>th</sup> was the birthday of Paul Harris, Rotary founder and leader, born in 1868 in Wisconsin during a time and culture when the concept of community service was barely a “bud on the vine.” What stands out then and now is the level of commitment that is infused into the vision and mission – which I believe has helped Rotary to endure over 100 years, both nationally and globally. Commitment is a kind of magical glue that keeps Rotary alive through change and challenge.

Let's keep in mind the following wisdom:

- ❖ The only limit to your impact is your imagination and commitment.
- ❖ Unless commitment is made, there are only promises and hopes..., but no plans.
- ❖ Commitment is an act, now a word.
- ❖ **Commitment is what transforms a promise into a reality.**

**What's New With Our Members**

*Belated - and yet still sincere - sympathies to Peter Bennett on the death of his mother - she died just a few weeks shy of her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday!*

*Congratulations to Phil Dube who won a Bug Light container of coffee brandy donated by Nancy Irving at our April 10 meeting.*

*Also congratulations to Hannah who won the supplemental raffle gifts at the April 10 meeting - a map of Wales and a cardigan sweater donated by the Commissioner in honor of the Foundation Football Founder Bill York.*

*Congratulations to Anne, who won a gift certificate to Shoppers Hardware at the April 24 meeting donated by Ray Healey.*

*Welcome home, Nancy & Scott!*

*Congratulation to Jim & Gillian Britt's daughter Hadley who has been accepted to study at the London School of Economics.*

*Congratulations to Catherine Callahan who has an exhibit of her paintings at the lower level of the Press Hotel - opening is on Friday, May 3 from 6-8.*

*Also in Callahan/LeBleu news - their daughter Audrey will be attending RYLA!*

*Congratulations (?) to Mike McGovern who will be emerging from retirement to serve as interim town manager of Cape Elizabeth.*

*Ongoing wishes for better health to Tim Butterworth and his mother Debbie.*

*Our club was recognized for having nine of our members attending the District Training Assembly last Saturday.*

*May Rotaversaries:*

- 🌀 Tiffanie Bentley - 3 years*
- 🌀 Catherine Callahan - 12 years*
- 🌀 Peter Bennett - 15 years*

Guests –

- *On April 10, Bill York, the Founding Father of Foundation Football, joined us but then unfortunately had to leave before the meeting started and therefore he missed the awarding of the Yorkie trophy, named in his honor..*
- *On April 24 we were happy to see that Bob Hansen is feeling better and able to join us (after a fall). We were also joined by Tom & Ann Oliver, friends of Hannah's who were there to hear about the Peace Corps.*

**FOUNDATION FOOTBALL AWARDS!!** – With the return of snowbird Commissioner Chuck Redman, we were able to have the Foundation Football awards ceremony on April 10. The award for most correct picks went to Associate Commissioner Jim Britt.



And history was made when the coveted gold jacket for most weekly wins went to the first woman to wear the jacket, Kathy Cotter.



**Theater Night** – was a big success. We sold 53 tickets and the food at Evie's was reported to be amazing. A huge thanks go to Mike and MaryAnne Tranfaglia as well as their daughter and son-in-law for arranging the food. And of course thank you to Patty Sprague who organized the event!

**SpringFest!** – You have received sign-up emails from Sari and Jim to volunteer on Friday night, May 17 and during the day on Saturday, May 18. These are reported to be very light duties – no heavy lifting – so feel free to sign up and be part of the fun. Jim has put a lot of plans into place for entertainment, including Don Campbell and a jazz band called the Hadacol Bouncers, as well as others. And if you receive the online Sentry newsletter, you saw the “Quote of the Week” from Jim Britt, who said “If everything goes according to plan, we’re going to have a humongous inflatable gnome to set up that morning.”



**District Celebration!** – Our Rotary year will wind up as a district on Saturday, June 29 at Star Island in the Isles of Shoals. The registration fee is \$45 and the club will pay the fee for all club members. The fee includes lunch as well as the round-trip boat ride to the island. Here is the itinerary:

- ⊗ 8:50 a.m. – depart from Portsmouth on the boat (approx. one hour ride)
- ⊗ 10 – 10:30 – Welcome and District business
- ⊗ 10:30 – 11 – RI Director Drew Kessler
- ⊗ 11 – 11:30 – Report from Gregg Dowty, leader of the District’s Outreach trip to Poland (similar to the trip Catherine went on to Bulgaria)
- ⊗ 11:30 – 12:45 – Luncheon and Foundation Forum – panel consisting of Drew Kessler, Marty Helman and our own Mike McGovern
- ⊗ After lunch – free time and Changeover
- ⊗ 2:50 – Depart for Portsmouth

**Our Rotary Foundation!** – On April 10 our club Foundation committee presented the program. Committee chair Nicole began by telling us about the creation of the Foundation – in 1917 by Arch Klumph to “do good in the world.” It started with a donation of \$26.50, which is the equivalent of \$630 in today’s dollars. Since 1947 (through last Rotary year) the Foundation has spent \$5.85 billion to do good in the world. She also described the 3 major funds of the Foundation:

- Annual Fund – this is the fund that provides money for a myriad of grants in the areas of focus.
- PolioPlus – we’re all familiar with this fund – any money donated to this fund is used exclusively to further the campaign to eradicate polio.
- Endowment Fund- a fund that permanently invests our money and the earnings can be used every year for whatever we designate – i.e. a particular area of focus or even our own district.

Sue followed up by talking about the Peace Centers, one of the ways that the Annual Fund money is used. Peace fellows at Rotary Peace Centers earn master's degrees or professional development certificates. Since 2002-03, 1,600 fellows from more than 140 countries have participated. 93% of the Peace Center alumni end up on a job working for peace, often working with refugees and people in poverty.

Adrienne then spoke to us about Community & Economic Development. Often these funds are used to help the 795 million people in the world who don't have enough to eat, 60% of whom are women and girls. Adrienne spoke about some specific grants, including one by a Colorado club that provided solar lamps to Native villages which have no access to electricity, allowing the residents to continue working and studying after the sun goes down.

**Peace Corps** – On April 24 Chris introduced our speaker Tilyian Phannenstiel who described the Peace Corps' Virtual Service Pilot program (VSP). The VSP was inaugurated in October 2020 after the Peace Corps (PC) had to pull people out of the field due to Covid. It is now used to allow the PC to serve countries where it is not safe to send volunteers. The program began in nine countries but has expanded to over 50 countries. The VSP has had over 800 PC volunteers so far, nearly all of whom have been former PC volunteers in the field. They have recently received authority to expand the program to the general public however.

Rotary and the Peace Corps have had an official relationship since 2015 when the two organizations signed a Memorandum of Understanding, which was renewed in 2018 and 2022. At our meeting we had two former PC volunteers present: Bill Lohrman who served as a short-term volunteer in Prague, and guest Tom Oliver who served in Nigeria in 1964 – in Peace Corps group #13 shortly after the founding of the Peace Corps. Other past PC volunteers include Michele Danois and past president Janet McLaughlin (Ukraine). You can find about opportunities for VSP engagements online (link in email) and if you have questions about the program, feel free to email Tilyian at [tphannenstiel@paeacecorps.gov](mailto:tphannenstiel@paeacecorps.gov).

*Don't throw away your April Rotary magazine (even though the May issue has arrived) – this bulletin is already long enough so Bob's April quiz will be in next week's bulletin.*

## **ROTARY CLUB OF SOUTH PORTLAND-CAPE ELIZABETH**

### Officers

President – Dan McDonald  
President-Elect – Nancy Irving  
Vice-President – Peter Bennett  
Secretary – Kathy Cotter  
Treasurer – Nancy Irving

Directors

Club Administration – Mike Tranfaglia  
Youth Services – Kiley Wilkens-O'Brien  
Community Services – Sari Greene  
International Services/Foundation – Hannah Olshansky  
Membership – Matt McAleney  
Director-At-Large – Jim Britt

Committee Chairs

Visibility Co-Chairs – Fran Bagdasarian & Matt McAleney  
Webmaster – Jim Britt & Scott Irving  
Bulletin Editor – Nancy Hawes  
Program Chair – Chris Speh  
Club Protection Officer – Bob Knupp

**DISTRICT 7780 GOVERNOR**

Marion Cheney, Rotary Club of Dover, NH

**ROTARY INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT**

Gordon McNally, Rotary Club of South Queensferry, Scotland

**PMB 239, 50 MARKET ST STE 1A, SOUTH PORTLAND 04016**