

# TWO LIGHTS

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

**January 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:

**January 25** – Work party at South Portland Food Cupboard

**January 27, 5-7:30** – Lions Club Spaghetti Dinner, Lions Clubhouse, 1 Wheeler Road, Cape Elizabeth

**January 31** – Paul Johnson, Maine Inland Fisheries & Wildlife (ret) – Discovering the Allagash Wilderness Waterway

**February 7** – Paul Fenton, Cape Elizabeth Chief of Police

**February 14** – Elizabeth McLellan, Founder/CEO, Partners for World Health

**February 17, 2 p.m.** – A Concert for Peace at Noble High School. This is a benefit for the Rotary Peace Scholars program. Registration is \$25 at <https://our.show/concertforpeace2024> (link is also on the District 7780 website)

**February 24** – Lions Club Spaghetti Dinner, Lions Clubhouse, 1 Wheeler Road, Cape Elizabeth

**March 2, 5:45 – 6:30** – Fireworks!! (at Fort Williams Park)

**March 23** – Lions Club Spaghetti Dinner, Lions Clubhouse, 1 Wheeler Road, Cape Elizabeth

**April 6** – Theater Night at Lyric Theater; Young Frankenstein

**April 20** – District Assembly, Westbrook High School

**May 17-18** – SPRINGFEST!!

**June 29** – District Conference, Isle of Shoals

**January 31 Duties**

Opening Words – Wacksman

Raffle Gift – Filieo

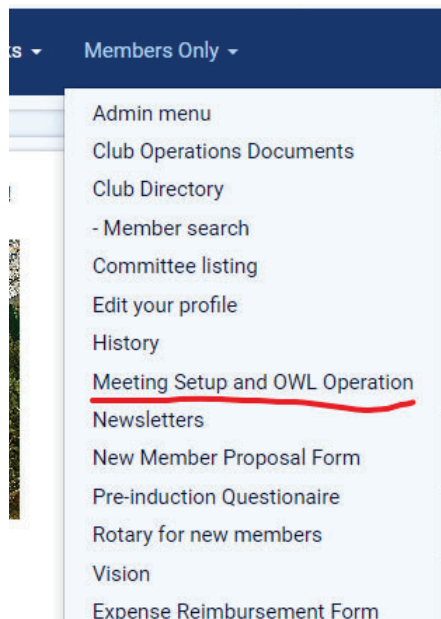
**February 7 Duties**

Opening Words – Wagner

Raffle Gift – Gabrielson

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

**Meeting Room Setup and Owl Operation** – Scott has combined these two duties into one item in the dropdown menu for members only:



You need to be signed in to Clubrunner in order to sign up for the duties – if you're not already signed in you can go to this [link](#) to sign up and then proceed to the above dropdown.

**Opening Words** – Mike Tranfaglia shared a poem about gratitude, and mused that Rotary is a way of turning the noun “gratitude” into an active verb.

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

*Thank you to President-Elect Nancy for running the meeting in Dan's absence.*

*Happy Anniversary to Bob & Judy Knupp - January 30*

*Congratulations to Matt McAleney for winning a gift certificate to Sea Dog Brewing courtesy of Marge Dugan!*

*Get well wishes to Kiley's mom as she recovers from surgery!*

**“New Member Orientation?”** – That’s what it was billed as but it turned out that we had several old hands at the Rotary information session at Tony Wagner’s house on January 16. Due to the terrible weather some of the newest members weren’t able to attend. Weathering the storm to learn more about Rotary were Brent Wilson, Jeff Gabrielson and Ray Healey. Board members in attendance were President Dan, Nancy Irving, Matt McAleney and Peter Bennett. Tony, Scott and Nancy H presented information about our club, Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation. At the conclusion it was decided that learning everything there is to know about Rotary is like drinking from a fire hose so it would be a good idea to have a series of presentations of shorter chunks of information. Brent and Nancy I are already planning the next information session. THANK YOU to Tony for opening up your home for this, and to the Nancys for providing refreshments.

**Speaking of New Members** – We inducted our first new member of 2024 this week. We have already seen Pamela Fox several times since she has been accompanying her husband Kevin Williams (no longer our newest member) to meetings. She owns Williams Financial Services in South Portland where she and Kevin are residents. In inducting her, Matt mentioned that she also has a background as a nurse. Scott gave a happy dollar because although she’s a brand new member, Pam took the initiative to set up the Owl at this week’s meeting! (So if a brand new member can do it without any instruction, what’s your excuse!) Sorry I wasn’t able to obtain a photo of her induction – I’ll try to make that up in a future bulletin. Welcome to the club, Pamela!!

**And Even More About New Members** – Members who have been in the club 5 years or more should have received an email from President Dan about a pool of mentors that Matt McAleney is forming. Please contact him directly if you are willing to help a new member become more familiar with our club and feel like they fit in.

**SpringFest!** – SpringFest co-chair Jim Britt reported on the plans that are underway for SpringFest. Sari will be coordinating the Friday night activities at Redbank and Jim will take responsibility for the activities on Saturday, May 18. We’re mainly going with the “if it ain’t broke” philosophy and keeping intact much of the structure of last year’s event. This should make planning/preparing easier than last year. That’s not to say that they don’t have ideas for possible new activities – stay tuned to hear if any of them come to fruition. Like last year, there will be a gnome theme, which was incredibly popular last year. Thank you to Adrienne, Bev and Tony who are already hard at work soliciting sponsors.

**First or Last??** – This week we made it easier for our speaker by having him speak first, followed by happy dollars and announcements. Our incoming president Nancy would like to know if you have a preference for having the speaker at the beginning of the meeting or the end. Let her know so that we can accommodate people’s preferences next year.

**What’s Happening in Cape Elizabeth?** – I’ll start out by apologizing for not being able to completely cover everything Cape Elizabeth town manager Matt Sturgis had to say – he provided a LOT of information about town business. He started by acknowledging former town manager Mike McGovern whose shoes were hard to fill, and former town councilor Anne Swift-Kayatta (I didn’t write it down but I think he said she hired him.) Here are some quotes from him:

- ❖ “*Sea level rise is real.*” He discussed the project to disconnect Sawyer Road at the marsh and restore the area to its original habitat. This is a joint project with the town of Scarborough and was partially funded by a \$1.6 million grant. Each town will also be kicking in \$180,000 over the 3-year project (60k/year).
- ❖ “*Disinformation is not a help.*” He said this in connection with reporting on the status of the schools project. There is a committee studying this with two subcommittees: Communication and Finance. The mission of the Communication committee is to provide information, not to advocate, so that the voters will be fully informed by the time they vote on the ultimate proposal. There are currently 7 different options being discussed, which the committee will whittle down to three options following a Community Forum next week.
- ❖ “*Younger Mr. Bagdasarian has been a gem!*” This was said while he was discussing the challenges of succession planning and the talented employees that he works with.

Some of the other topics he discussed were:

- ❖ Kudos to the WET team, who were responsible for saving the four crew members of the Tara Lynn II when it ran aground on Trundy Point.
- ❖ The budget planning process – the budget must be submitted to the Town Council by March 1 and will be voted on by the town on June 11.
- ❖ Property Revaluation – The current revaluation underway has not been done since 11 years ago. Results should be sent to owners next month. In order to avoid huge jumps in property values, the town plans to undertake this venture much more often in the future, which new software will allow them to do.
- ❖ And of course, what everyone was wondering – what’s going on with the pickleball court? The new courts will be double the size of the old courts (there will be 8 courts) and should be ready by late spring.



**Kiley Knocks it out of the Park!** – Our own Kiley Wilkens-O’Brien, chair of the district’s new chapter of the RAGMHI (Rotary Action Group Mental Health Initiative) was the keynote speaker at Sunday’s district mid-year luncheon. She spoke from personal experience about mental health and the importance of society to recognize the issues. Her “posse” from our club was out in force to support her:

Tony	Tom	Sue	Nicole
Hannah	Peter B	Sari	Tiffanie – and James
President Dan	Bev	Both Nancys	Scott
Patty – and Roger	Jeff G	Kevin	Pamela

Ray H-E-A-L-E-Y (although his nametag said Healy?)  
Former members John Eliassen & Brenda Cressey

She opened with this poem that she had written:

Stricken

Too many people I love believe they are damaged.  
And so I remind them  
of their wholeness and their richness.

Too many people I love are in distress.  
And since the earth is on fire  
and bombs are dropping on innocent people  
I tell them: “That makes sense.”

Too many people I love are dead.  
And sometimes grief strikes  
when I least expect it  
and I can’t catch my breath.

-Kiley Wilkens O’Brien, 2023



They were desperate to find someone to write up the event for the district newsletter by the deadline so when they scraped the bottom of the barrel, I ended up writing an article about the event – so be sure to read your district newsletter when you receive it next Thursday to learn more about what Kiley had to say! If you are interested in joining this effort or just learning more about it, please go to <http://www.tinyurl.com/RotaryWellWishers>.

### **Bob's January Rotary Magazine Quiz**

1. Carmel, Indiana made this publication – why?
  - a. Traffic problems
  - b. Covid-19 outbreaks
  - c. Record roundabouts (it is the “roundabout capital of the world!”)
  - d. Flooding problems
2. January 27<sup>th</sup> is “Remembrance Day” of what?
  - a. The coldest day of the year
  - b. Basketball events
  - c. Ski resorts
  - d. The Holocaust
3. What was the annual value of used cooking oil in 2022?
  - a. 468 Million
  - b. Two Billion
  - c. Six Billion
  - d. Eight Billion
4. The Rotary Club of Fairhope, Alabama has the shortest marathon event of just ½ kilometer. What do all participants get?
  - a. Hushpuppies
  - b. Pancakes
  - c. Sausage-topped donuts (yuck!)
  - d. Fried dough

**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

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