

TWO LIGHTS

Rotary Club of South Portland – Cape Elizabeth

January 3, 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:

The SMCC Dining Hall will be closed on January 10 meetings – you should make your own dinner plans.

January 10 – Brent Wilson will speak on housing and homelessness based on his professional and volunteer experience.

January 16 – New Member Orientation at the home of Tony Wagner.

January 16 – Board meeting???

January 17 – No Meeting

January 21, 11-2 – District 7780 Midyear Luncheon at Hilton Garden Inn, Freeport – see below.

January 24 – Matthew Sturgis, Cape Elizabeth Town Manager

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

April 6 – Theater Night at Lyric Theater; Young Frankenstein

January 10 Duties

Opening Words – Swift-Kayatta
Raffle Gift – Dube

January 24 Duties

Opening Words – Tranfaglia
Raffle Gift – Dugan





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

Opening Words – Sue Sturtevant shared a poem called Small Kindnesses by Danusha Lameris.

I've been thinking about the way, when you walk
down a crowded aisle, people pull in their legs
to let you by. Or how strangers still say "bless you"
when someone sneezes, a leftover
from the Bubonic plague. "Don't die," we are saying.
And sometimes, when you spill lemons
from your grocery bag, someone else will help you
pick them up. Mostly, we don't want to harm each other.
We want to be handed our cup of coffee hot,
and to say thank you to the person handing it. To smile
at them and for them to smile back. For the waitress
to call us honey when she sets down the bowl of clam chowder,
and for the driver in the red pick-up truck to let us pass.
We have so little of each other, now. So far
from tribe and fire. Only these brief moments of exchange.
What if they are the true dwelling of the holy, these
fleeting temples we make together when we say, "Here,
have my seat," "Go ahead – you first," "I like your hat."

What's New With Our Members

Happy Birthday to

-  *Paul Smith (January 6)*
-  *Chuck Redman (January 9)*
-  *Jack Roberts (January 16)*
-  *Hannah Olshansky (January 17)*

Happy Anniversary to Doug & Dana Schauf (January 21)

Congratulations to Bob Hansen who won a gift certificate to Terra Cotta courtesy of Catherine Dorrington.

District Midyear Luncheon – The midyear lunch was mentioned a couple times at this week’s meeting and some commented that they hadn’t received an email about it. I received one from Emma Bodwell but I couldn’t tell who it was sent to. So in case you haven’t received information about the event, here is what it says on the district website (I added the bold in the 4th paragraph!):

Attention PDG’s, Club Presidents, Presidents-Elect, Vice Presidents, Assistant Governors, committee leaders, district officers, Rotaractors, all Rotarians and spouses! We will have the opportunity to gather for our District 7780 annual Midyear event, this year in the form of a luncheon, which will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn in Freeport, Maine, on Sunday, January 21, 2024, from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Cost: \$35.00 Rotarians and guests; \$20.00 Rotaractors.

DG Cheney will share exciting updates from our clubs, about District 7780’s Rotary Action Group on Mental Health, on upcoming District celebrations, and about other important dates.

DGE Bob MacKenzie will have just recently returned from the International Assembly and will be hepped-right-up to unveil the RI theme for the ‘24-’25 Rotary year!

Our keynote speaker will be Kiley Wilkens-O’Brien who is a member of the South Portland/Cape Elizabeth Rotary Club and is District Chair of our new Rotary Action Group on Mental Health.

There will be breakout groups for our clubs’ Vice Presidents, led by DGN Emma Bodwell, our Assistant Governors led by DGND Michele Bois-Gilbody, and our club’s President Elects by DGE Bob MacKenzie, and finally check-in and plans for the 2nd half of the year led by DG Cheney!

Please plan to attend this informative and enjoyable event.

You can register for the lunch on the District 7780 website (look under “Events and Registration.”)

Congratulations to Next Year’s Board – We held our annual election this week and unanimously elected the following slate of officers

- ⊗ President – Nancy Irving (automatic – no vote required)
- ⊗ President-Elect – Peter Bennett
- ⊗ Vice-President – Chuck Redman
- ⊗ Treasurer – Marge Dugan
- ⊗ Secretary – Kathy Cotter
- ⊗ Community Service – Sari Greene
- ⊗ Youth Service – Kiley Wilkens-O’Brien
- ⊗ International Service – Hannah Olshansky
- ⊗ Membership – Brent Wilson
- ⊗ Club Administration – Bev Altenburg
- ⊗ Director at Large* - Dan McDonald (automatic – no vote required)

In addition at its board meeting on December 19, the board appointed Peter Bennett to fill the role of Vice-President for the remainder of the current year.

Welcome Back Loves the Pack (from the Commissioner) – Green Bay’s big win late means Kathy Cotter and Bill York both caught Jim Britt with 11 correct picks. The score was 33-10, and with guesstimates of 44 each, Kathy and Jim each get credited with a win. Bill just lost out at 45 total points. He’ll no doubt be brooding in his tent in Wales!!

With three weekly wins, Welcome Back is in command. Only Sari Wrong Number and Cowboy Jim have a chance to catch Kathy at this point with only one week remaining.

I haven’t yet put the order in to Hong Kong for Kathy’s gold blazer— but it’s ready when I hit send!



This Week’s Meeting – We learned a lot about what our club was/is/will be up to this week. I can’t possibly tell you all the details of everything that was said but here are some of the highlights:

- ✓ ***Tree Sale*** – Nancy Irving announced that the tree sale was a success. There was a debriefing on Thursday to help Jim Britt & Matt McAlency to make plans for next year’s sale. She thanked a raft of people who made the sale such a success.
- ✓ ***Bug Light*** – Sue Sturtevant will be forming a committee to make plans to celebrate the lighthouse’s anniversary.
- ✓ ***Community Grants*** – Sari reported that our new pilot Community Grant Program has been going well. The most recent awards have been:
 - A defibrillator for the senior center at the South Portland Community Center
 - Support for the South Portland Public Library “Monday Matinees & More,” a program to help combat loneliness among seniors (but open to all ages). There will be speakers or movies the first 3 Mondays of each month; our donation will help pay for speaker stipends and refreshments. If you are interested in helping to serve as a greeter, let Sari know, or just show up at the library at 2 on Monday. (This was advertised in the city newsletter that goes out to all SP residents and Rotary was credited as a sponsor.)

- ✓ **Grants for Wabanaki** – Hannah announced that we had made donations to the Wabanaki Youth and Science Camp, a medicinal garden and Wabanaki Reach, a virtual program on Wabanaki history.
- ✓ **Youth Social Impact Initiative** – Kiley reported on this new program – we have already made a small award to 2 young women who wanted to provide wellness kits for social workers. Another award is in the works for a young person who wants to create and are and literature magazine.
- ✓ **RYLA** – Kiley also mentioned that RYLA has started to accept applications for this June’s camp.



- ✓ **Mentoring** – the board (I didn’t catch who specifically) has designed a mentoring program that will match 5+year members with newer members. They will be looking for volunteers to be matched up – be on the lookout for an email about the program.
- ✓ **Theater Night** – as listed in the dates above, our Theater Night will be on Saturday, April 6 at Lyric Theater and the play will be Young Frankenstein. The club has bought a block of 25 tickets – more details as we get closer to the date.
- ✓ **SpringFest** – Sari & Jim have met with the city and they announced that we’re off to a great start!

Those were the highlights – if any board member or committee chair would like to provide details about anything they’re working on/have accomplished, I’d love to include it in the 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

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