

TWO LIGHTS

Rotary Club of South Portland – Cape Elizabeth

July 26, 2023



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:

July 27, 5:30 – 7:15 – Food processing at South Portland Food Cupboard

July 31, 6 p.m. - Sounds by the Sea, Ocean House Road Band, Fort Williams Picnic Shelter

August 2 – Steven Genovese, Sustainability Outreach Fellow, City of South Portland

August 7 – Sounds by the Sea, World Famous Grassholes - concert at the bandstand but the picnic shelter has been reserved for us!

August 9 – Meredith Mendelson, Maine Marine Resources Dept.

Respond to Mike T by Friday if you would like to order a meal for this meeting.

August 14, 6 p.m. - Sounds by the Sea, Pine State Pitches, Fort Williams Picnic Shelter

August 15 – Board meeting – in our usual room at SMCC as well as on Zoom

August 16 – Andrew Tufts, Maine Audubon

August 22 – SP-CE Rotary at the Sea Dogs! Pick up your ticket from Mike T at any meeting before then (cost = \$32).

August 2 Duties

Opening Words – Lourie
Raffle Gift – Altenburg




August 9 Duties

Opening Words – McAleney
Raffle Gift – Anderson



Opening Words – Bill Lohrman read the complete quote from Thoreau which has been shortened for posters, etc. as “Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you have imagined.”

What's New With Our Members

Happy Birthday to:

-  Fran Bagdasarian (July 28)
-  Bob Carson (July 29)
-  Catherine Callahan (July 30)

Happy Anniversary to

-  Fran & Dave Bagdasarian (July 31)
-  And belated anniversary wishes to DeeDee & Rick Wacksman who celebrated their 51st anniversary in June!

Congratulations to Jim Britt who won a Nonesuch gift card donated by Nicole!

August Rotaversaries

- David Bagdasarian, Jr. - 3 years
- Sari Greene - 4 years
- Katelyn Estes - 9 years
- Michele Danois - 11 years
- Chuck Redman - 14 years
- John LoBosco - 18 years

And no longer a member of our club but a frequent virtual visitor and namesake of the Yorkie trophy, Bill York joined our club **50** years ago!!

Guests this week: Lisa Vallee from the Waterville club, and Sam Wilkens-O'Brien

New Board Off and Running – Our new Board met on July 18 and approved a \$1,000 donation to South Portland High School for a community project, and discussed the club's goals in the areas of International, Foundation and Youth. Board meetings this year will be held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month in our usual meeting room, with a hybrid option. Board meetings are open to all Rotarians, so if you'd like to attend but can't attend in person, just let President Dan know that you'd like the link.

Tree Rack Report (from Nancy Irving) – What a day! Fun, fellowship and accomplishment....and even some sunshine. Rotarians are amazing at getting things done. Nineteen Rotarians and 2 guests helped get the tree racks in shape for this coming year. All the A frames are now all the same and there are 4 different lengths of cross pieces to work with when we put the racks up for the Christmas tree sale this year. There are no more letters to find. Start with the middle section and put the lower cross pieces in and build from there. It's almost like Lincoln Logs.

My thanks to Mark Leasure who at the last Christmas Tree Sale said this could be so much simpler, started the conversation and drew up initial designs. Mark, Scott Irving, Tom Meyers and Tony Wagner (with me taking notes) met to determine the final design. Scott made a prototype to ensure the design would work before the rest of us came together.

We had a generator there!!! Finally, electricity at the Firebarn. Thank you, Dick Yerxa, for loaning us the generator and Tom (I love that you have a truck) for picking it up and taking it back. The team unscrewed pieces, redesigned the A frames, put them back together and painted. We were running out of time so we only painted new wood. The racks aren't pristine and the trees will cover up the flaws.

We almost finished. A few A frames still need to be built and painted. A plan will come together soon to deal with what needs to happen next.

An excellent BBQ followed thanks to Chef Marge Dugan, food runner Michele Danois and Mary McGreehan, and doer of all things behind the scenes Kathy Cotter.

Builders, painters, workers of power tools included:

- Nicole Albert
- Bev Altenburg
- Dave Bagdasarian
- Tiffanie Bentley
- Jim Britt
- Frank Butterworth
- Kathy Cotter
- Michele Danois
- Marge Dugan
- Aaron Filieo
- Bob Hanson
- Katelyn Estes who brought along her partner Cullen Wegman and son (future Rotarian) Henry
- Nancy Irving
- Scott Irving
- Mark Leasure
- Matt McAleney
- Dan McDonald
- Mary McGreehan
- Tom Meyers

Thank you all for your hard work, your fellowship and for making it fun!

Old News – I was away on July 12 and sorry to have missed John LoBosco’s “classification talk;” knowing his sense of humor I’m sure it was very interesting. Fortunately Sue provided a photo from that evening however.



Coastal Enterprises – Chris introduced our speaker this week, Betsy Biemann, who has been the CEO of Coastal Enterprises, Inc. (CEI) since 2016. Betsy began by expressing her sincere appreciation to Rotary, which gave her the opportunity to be instrumental in forming the nonprofit WorldTeach, and to work in Kenya as its first teacher of WorldTeach, teaching Kenyan culture to girls. While doing that she realized that her real interest was not in teaching but in economic development. CEI is right up her alley, which aims to “build an economy that lifts all people and communities.” CEI caters to startups that may have trouble getting a bank loan, for whatever reason. Since its inception in 1977, CEI has provided almost \$1.5 billion in loans, equity and tax credit financing for over 3,000 businesses and projects.



(Doesn't it look like her blouse is covered with Rotary wheels?)

Saga of the Flight to End Polio – The two Rotarian pilots from Iowa who endeavored to fly a single-engine plane (which is really small!) around the world to raise funds for polio eradication are (miraculously) almost home. Their first leg – Iowa to Portsmouth NH – was uneventful, but then their troubles started. They spent 3 extra days in our district while they got a new alternator for the plane. Then after setting out for Newfoundland, they had several days more delays due to sleet and freezing rain – in May!

They finally made it to Iceland and from there to Europe, visiting Scotland, Netherlands, Germany and Greece. (They had to cancel planned visits to Denmark and Portugal.) They made an unscheduled stop in Rome because they had issues with their fuel. *(When I read that the plane was burning more fuel than it should, I had visions of them running out of gas off the coast of California.)* After Greece they toured the Middle East, visiting Jordan, Abu Dhabi and Pakistan (where they were

able to immunize children with polio vaccine drops).

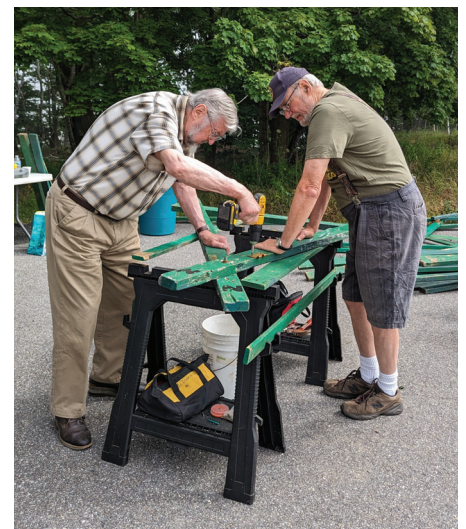
At their first stop in India, they were waylaid again: one of the pilots (Peter) got sick and had to be hospitalized, plus more issues with the plane. So while their plane was grounded, the other pilot (John) flew commercially to other destinations in India and eventually Peter was able to join him.

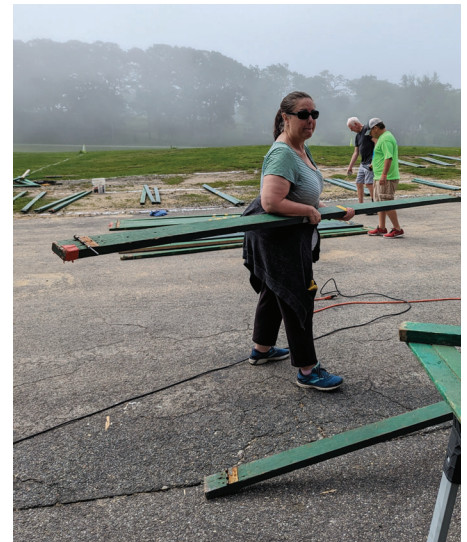
After the plane issues were squared away, they flew on to Sri Lanka, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and then Darwin and Cairns in Australia. Unfortunately Peter was hospitalized again in Cairns and John flew solo on to Brisbane, where the plane's autopilot was fixed. After Peter was well, they set out for New Caledonia but returned to Brisbane due to a failure of the alternator (*déjà vu*). (*At this point I would have sold the plane and booked a ticket home on Qantas. But they were more intrepid than I would have been.*) After the plane was repaired yet again, they set off and made stops in New Caledonia, Fiji, Pago Pago and Hawaii. The last two legs involved flying for many hours (16 to Hawaii and 15 to Oakland) over open ocean with no Plan B if there were major mechanical issues. But thankfully both legs were uneventful and they are back in mainland US, landing in Oakland on Tuesday night. Their last leg takes place tomorrow (Sunday) and they will be welcomed with a pancake breakfast at their home airport in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Their story had plenty of drama, especially as it was playing out. But it's also a metaphor for the campaign to eradicate polio. It had many highs and lows and there were several points when anyone with less stick-to-it-iveness would have given up. But like the pilots, the polio eradication leaders at Rotary, WHO, UNICEF, CDC and the Gates Foundation have never given up. Hopefully polio eradication will have the same happy ending as the Flight to End Polio very soon.

(If you are interested in seeing more about their journey - and fact-checking me - just go to their Facebook page which will come up when you google "Flight to End Polio.")

PHOTOS FROM TREE RACK REPAIRS





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

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President – Dan McDonald
President-Elect – Nancy Irving
Vice-President – *in transition*
Secretary – Kathy Cotter
Treasurer – *position open*

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