

# TWO LIGHTS

**Rotary Club of South Portland – Cape Elizabeth  
March 13 & 27, 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 3** – Jennifer Scarpitti-Nelson, Friends of Fort Williams

**April 5, 6-9 p.m.** – Wine Tasting at St. Maximilian Kolbe Church in Scarborough to benefit South Portland Food Cupboard (\$20 for tickets)

**April 6 (morning)** – “The Magic of Reading” at South Portland Public Library (SpringFest event #2)

**April 6 (evening)** – Theater Night at Lyric Theater; Young Frankenstein

**April 8, 2 p.m.** – Immigration in South Portland, Past & Present, Seth Goldstein from the SP Historical Society – at South Portland Public Library, co-sponsored by SPCE Rotary

**April 10** – Club Foundation Committee (Nicole Albert, Chair)

**April 16, 7 p.m.** – Club Board meeting – in our usual meeting room at SMCC

**April 17** – No Meeting

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

**April 24** – Peace Corps

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

**April 3 Duties**

Opening Words – D. Bagdasarian, Sr.  
Raffle Gift – Healey

**April 10 Duties**

Opening Words – D. Bagdasarian, Jr.  
Raffle Gift – N. Irving

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

**Opening Words** – On March 13 Bev shared these words about the luck of the Irish in anticipation of St. Patrick’s Day:

- ✻ You gotta try your luck at least once a day, because you could be going around lucky all day and not even know it.
- ✻ The best luck of all is the luck you make for yourself.
- ✻ May good and faithful friends be yours, wherever you may roam.
- ✻ May the winds of fortune sail you, may you sail a gentle sea, may it always be the other guy who says “this drink’s on me!”
- ✻ And from St. Patrick: “Be still and know that I am. Be still and know. Be still. Be.”

And on March 27 Bill Anderson shared a quote from Charles Schulz (*but unfortunately my method of writing down the first phrase and then googling it failed me so I don’t have the quote ☹*)

**What’s New With Our Members**

*Happy Birthday to*

- 🍰 *Mark Leasure - April 6*
- 🍰 *Ellie Speh - April 8*
- 🍰 *Doug Schauf - April 13*
- 🍰 *John LoBosco - April 21*

*Happy Anniversary to:*

- 👪 *Jack & Shari Roberts - April 3*
- 👪 *Bill & Diane Anderson - April 11*
- 👪 *Dan & Joan McDonald - also on the same date, April 11, 1970!*

*Congratulations to Bob Hanson who won a gift certificate to Nonesuch Books on March 13 donated by Bob Hanson - this is notable in that finally a Nonesuch gift card wasn't won by Tom Meyers!*

*And congratulations also to Dave Bagdasarian who won a gift certificate to Verbena on March 27, courtesy of Nancy Hawes.*

*Guests:*

*On March 13 we were joined by Glenn Prickett, President & CEO of GMRI.  
And on March 27, we were joined by Anh Duong who found out about us from a flyer she received at the Fireworks!*

**Fireworks!** – Thank you to everyone who helped park cars at Fort Williams on March 9 so that people could view the fireworks, which were reported to be the “best ever!”

- ❖ Peter Bennett, Jeff Gabrielson & Sam Wilkens-O'Brien - leaders
- ❖ Nicole Albert
- ❖ Bev Altenburg
- ❖ Dave Bagdasarian, Sr.
- ❖ Anne Swift-Kayatta
- ❖ Frank Butterworth
- ❖ Phil Dube
- ❖ David Lourie
- ❖ Mike McGovern
- ❖ Plus 7 members of the Lions Club

**Bounty!** – Patty Sprague thanked everyone in our club who attended the screening of the short film “Bounty” accompanied by a discussion that included our own Kiley Wilkens-O'Brien. Also attending were:

Nancy Irving	Tony Wagner
Sue Sturtevant	John LoBosco
Nicole Albert	Mike Tranfaglia

This also was reported to be a great event, and those attending urged us to check out the story of the Bounty if we weren't able to attend.

**RYLA Candidates** – I am writing this on the “deadline” to submit our candidates for the RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) camp on June 23-26 (although they will accept candidates up until the camp is full). Thank you to Anne & Bev, who have been interviewing candidates from Cape Elizabeth High School, and Tony & Ray, who interviewed students from South Portland High School.

**SpringFest Update** – As noted in the calendar above and in the Fireworks article, SpringFest is already under way with the fireworks being the kickoff event, and the second event being a magic show for kids at the South Portland Public Library this coming Saturday. (And see the flyer that Sari sent this morning – spread the word!) Jim reports that plans for the main attraction (May 17-18) are largely firmed up and he and Sari will be sending out requests for volunteers to sign up shortly (see Sari’s email this morning requesting Ice Cream Social chairs).

**Aquaponics is a Go!** – We learned recently that the global grant that the Bridgton Lake Region Rotary Club applied for was approved! The grant will provide for the construction of an aquaponics facility in Colombia and will train girls to be the farmers. Our club donated \$3,000 towards the project.

**Judy’s Pantry** – On March 12 Tony Wagner presented a check on behalf of the club to Judy’s Pantry. As you can see from the “big check,” we donated \$2,500 to the program which feeds 20 Cape Elizabeth families (roughly 100 people) every other week. Tony also gave them a little check which they can actually cash - accepting it were Nancy Rallis, Laura Simonds and Beth Owens.



**SMCC Scholars** – You may remember that during the pandemic our club was still active and one of the things that we did under the leadership of John LoBosco and Dave Bagdasarian was to donate \$60,000 that we had set aside for SMCC scholarships directly to the SMCC Foundation. Our club recently received thank you letters from the two students who received our scholarships for the current year. Please scroll down to see the text of their letters. On Thursday, March 28 SMCC held a “tea” for the scholarship donors and recipients to meet each other. President Dan represented our club and we look forward to hearing about the event.

**Rising Seas** – Dr. Dave Reidmiller, Director of the Climate Center at Gulf of Maine Research Institute (GMRI) and a South Portland resident spoke to us on March 13 on Addressing Climate Change in our Backyard. He began by reviewing GMRI’s mission: to develop and deliver collaborative solutions to global ocean challenges. He then shared some sobering statistics with us:

- The sea level in Portland has risen 8” in the last century.
- The Gulf of Maine is warming 3x faster than the global average.
- Summer is warming 4x faster than the global average.

These warming trends are due to warming of the Labrador Current (which feeds the Gulf from the north), as well as a widening of the Gulf Stream, which feeds the Gulf from the south. He spoke about the ramifications of ocean warming on sea life, including the increased hospitality of the Gulf to black sea bass. His presentation was chock full of information so check out his powerpoint that I’m also sending along with this bulletin.



Dr. Dave Reidmiller, GMRI



Julie Pezzino, CMTM

**Kids Have All the Fun!** – Our presentation on March 27 by Julie Pezzino, Executive Director of the Children’s Museum and Theatre of Maine (CMTM) made all the adults in the room wish that they could play at the museum. But good news – adults can attend shows at Maddy’s Theatre, even without a kid! Julie is a graduate of Carnegie Mellon and American University and lives in Portland; she is also on the board of Full Plates Full Potential. Julie informed us that CMTM has a new mission, the first since the Museum and Theatre merged in 2008. Their mission: to “set the stage for every child to imagine and learn through play.” We all know that CMTM has moved from Free Street to their spiffy new building at Thompsons Point, but did you know that its first location was at what used to be the Pond Cove Annex (now the Thomas Memorial Library) and then they moved to one of the buildings at Fort Williams near the playground (and then to a house on Forest Avenue before moving to Free Street)? Some impressive statistics about CMTM:

- Oldest Children’s Theater in the United States
- Most visited museum in Maine
- 5<sup>th</sup> most visited venue in Maine
- Over 220,000 annual attendees
- Over 20% of their admissions are free or reduced

Julie told us about a myriad of programs that CMTM provides as well as photos of all the cool play areas. If you’d like to see what we adults are missing out on, consider attending their art auction on Friday, May 10, or even volunteering at CMTM!

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

1. Plymouth, England is featured as a pictorial. What date did the Pilgrims sail away and how many days was their crossing to Plymouth, MA?
  - a. January 6, 1619, 35 days
  - b. October 19, 1620, 79 days
  - c. September 6, 1620, 66 days
  - d. July 4, 1620, 48 days
2. There is a very good article on J. Robert Oppenheimer. What was "Trinity" and when did it happen?
  - a. An ecumenical worship service at Los Alamos on June 30, 1945
  - b. The test of the atomic bomb in an isolated New Mexico area on July 16, 1945 *(Bob recommends that if you really want to learn about Oppenheimer's entire life story, read [American Prometheus, Vintage Books, 2006, 721 pages, to become and expert and to compare McCarthy era hearings to what is happening today.](#))*
  - c. A spontaneous cocktail party at Los Alamos after Hiroshima
  - d. A visit by FDR to Los Alamos in early August, 1945
3. What is Japanese "hikikomori?"
  - a. A popular sushi
  - b. Part of a religious experience
  - c. A secluded place near Tsukuba
  - d. Persons who isolate and seclude themselves for more than six months
4. We think we have had enormous amounts of rainfall in the US this year. What is the record amount of rainfall for a 24-hour period in India?
  - a. 16 inches
  - b. 28 inches
  - c. 61.5 inches
  - d. 72.5 inches

### **SMCC Thank You Letters**

*From Faustine Hakizimana, Architectural & Engineering Design Major*

Dear Donor:

I am writing to express my heartfelt appreciation for your generous support of my education at Southern Maine Community College. I was overjoyed to learn that I have been awarded a scholarship for the academic year 2023-24. These scholarships are a great blessing to me because they will help me achieve my goals.

I am a second-year student from Madagascar, and I chose to study at SMCC because

of its outstanding reputation, affordable tuition, and diverse community. I am delighted to be here because all my teachers are amazing, they help me a lot and make me feel very comfortable in class. I am passionate about architecture and engineering design, and I hope to use my skills and knowledge to make a positive impact in the world. I am expecting to graduate in the spring of 2024, and after SMCC I plan to attend another university where I can continue my study, and work so I can support myself. I have been also thinking of taking another major related to architecture and engineering design at SMCC for next fall if God will, and that is why your help is invaluable to me.

I have been a permanent resident of the United States for two years now, and it was always a dream for me to live and study in America. Education is very important to me, my mom always told me that I need to study because education is a treasure than nobody can take from me, and I want to make her proud.

Sincerely,  
Faustine Hakizimana

*From Naomie Bwekasa, Liberal Studies Major*

Dear Donor:

My name is Naomie Bwekasa, and I was recently selected as a recipient of one of the scholarships this year. I want to personally thank each of you for helping make it possible for me to pursue my dream of becoming a Nurse. Thank you for your generosity and thoughtfulness.

Your contribution to my education is so genius (*ed - I thing she meant generous*) and will allow me to continue to focus on my studies. I am currently in my First-year pursuing Nursing. I believe this gift will positively impact my future career and goals. I will work hard to achieve success.

Thanks you again for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,  
Naomie Bwekasa

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

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