

# TWO LIGHTS

**Rotary Club of South Portland – Cape Elizabeth  
November 8, 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:

**November 15** – “Club Assembly” – preparations for Christmas Tree sale (sign up online for your shifts!)

**November 18** – Tree Lot Setup

**November 21, 7 p.m.** – Board Meeting

**November 22** – No Meeting

**November 24** – 1<sup>st</sup> Tree Unloading & Tree Sale Starts (Fortunately the basketball team has signed up for the unloading!)

**November 29** – Katie Shorey, Live + Work in Maine

**December 2** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Tree Unloading

## November 15 Duties

Opening Words – Smith

Raffle Gift – Cotter

**November 29 Duties**

Opening Words – C. Speh

Raffle Gift – Danielson

Meeting Setup Reminder: Locker Combination is **11-21-11**  
*Please consider signing up for Meeting Room Setup and Owl Operation*

**Opening Words** – WELCOME BACK, LAURENZ!!!!!!! Laurenz had the opening words duty this week and offered some thoughts about empathy, especially by our leaders: “does this person help to alleviate suffering?”

**What's New With Our Members**

Happy Birthday to

🍰 Nicole Albert (Nov 13)

🍰 Tom Hamerski (Nov. 26)

Congratulations to Nancy Irving who won a Rosemont gift certificate (where Audrey works!) donated by Catherine Callahan

Speaking of Catherine's daughter Audrey, she plays in the SPSHS Marching Band and they just won a gold medal in a band competition!

Thank you, Tony & Sam Wilkens-O'Brien for spending 8 hours replacing the floor in the tree trailer.

November Rotaversaries:

🌀 Hannah Olshansky - 1 year

🌀 Matt Best - 1 year

🌀 Mark Leasure - 8 years

🌀 Kathy Cotter - 18 years

🌀 Adrienne Murphy - 31 years

🌀 Bob Knupp - 43 years (mostly in Hershey, Pennsylvania)

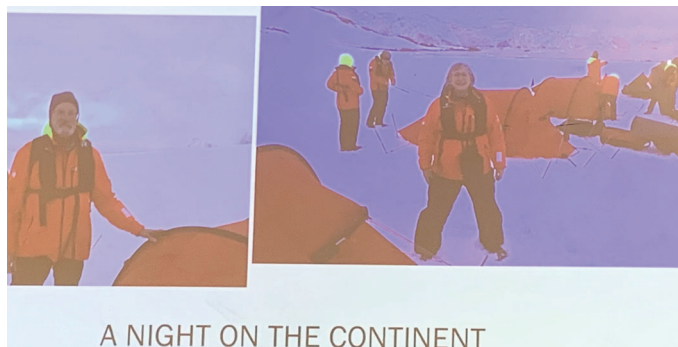
Guests: Sam Wilkens-O'Brien and Bill York

**Almost Perfect! (from Commissioner Chuck)** – Mike Tranfaglia nailed all the Sunday picks and couldn't be caught despite great efforts by Wrong Number Greene, Scooby Dube, If it's Browns it's Down Anderson, and Cowboy Jim Britt. But due to a final serious lapse in judgement, i.e. thinking the Jets could possibly win, Hugh O'Shea remains our only Mr. Perfect. Congratulations on a great effort anyway, Mike!



**Miscellaneous Announcements:**

- Kathy Cotter has Rotary winter hats for sale @ \$12 – let her know if you want one.
- Dave Bagdasarian, Sr., chair of the Finance Committee, gave a report of the Finance Committee meeting on November 7. The committee meets quarterly – let Bags know if you have any interest in joining the committee.
- We received a thank you note for our \$1,500 donation to ShelterBox last spring. We have already sent another \$1,500 donation to them for the current Rotary year. (For those unfamiliar with ShelterBox, it's a nonprofit founded by Rotarians which provides a "box" to individuals who have lost their homes due to disasters. The Box contains a tent, sleeping bags, cooking utensils, flashlight, etc. etc, even crayons for the kids!



**Sleeping Down Under!** - Our speaker this week joined our club in 1995 but moved to California after ten years. Now they're back in New England so Past President (2003-04) Jeff Gabrielson re-joined our club last year. He and his wife Linda live in Cabot, Vermont but they come to Maine as snowbirds and spend their winters in Cape Elizabeth. Jeff began by filling us in on his career; he grew up in Rhode Island and went to UConn and CSU Long Beach where he studied marine biology. H spent 20+ years in the Coast Guard, specializing in maritime safety and security. Since retiring from the Coast Guard he has been doing what he calls "fun jobs," including home renovation, teaching fire training at SMCC, working at Fess Parker's winery, sergeant at arms at the Vermont State House, town selectman in Cabot.

Jeff then shared the story and photos of his trip to Antarctica right after he joined our club in February, 2022. Due to the regulations in this part of Antarctica, not all of the passengers on their ship were allowed to sleep overnight on the continent but he and Linda were lucky enough to be among the select few, a highlight of this bucket list trip!

**A Spectacular Success** – Thank you to Dan, Sari, the Irvings, Kathy Cotter and everyone else\* who make “A Conversation with Sen. Angus King” possible. Sen. King, who was a law school classmate and friend of President Dan, spoke about topics in the news and gave some insight into the way Congress works. It wasn’t just billed as a “Conversation” – it actually was a conversation, with more than half of the senator’s time devoted to listening and responding to questions and comments from the audience.

\*You read the names of who “everyone else” was in the emails from Sari and Dan but they deserve recognition again:

- ❖ Eric Boutiette
- ❖ Mike Tranfaglia
- ❖ Phil Dube
- ❖ Peter Bennett
- ❖ John LoBosco
- ❖ Tiffanie Bentley and boys
- ❖ Tom Hamerski
- ❖ Kiley and Sam Wilkins-O’Brien
- ❖ Patti Sprague
- ❖ Sue Sturtevant
- ❖ David Lourie
- ❖ DeeDee and Rick Wacksman
- ❖ Michelle Danois
- ❖ Several others who didn’t sign up but who helped clean up afterwards anyway.



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

Officers

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

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

