

TWO LIGHTS

Rotary Club of South Portland – Cape Elizabeth

October 11, 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:

October 17, 7 p.m. – Board Meeting

October 18 – No Meeting

October 19, 4 p.m. – 2nd Annual Bridge the Gap to End Polio bridge walk with the Portland Club, followed by Pints for Polio social – details below.

October 21, 12:30 – 5:45 (2 shifts) Volunteer service opportunity to sell concessions at Pond Cove Parents Association Annual Harvest Festival (see Kiley’s sign-up email)

October 21, 1-4 – Community Open House and Dedication of South Portland Middle School (with dedication program at 2:15). Information sessions, student performances and tours throughout the afternoon.

October 25 – Carolyn Nishon, Portland Symphony; also new meeting starting time – 6 p.m

October 26, 5:30 – Food processing service opportunity at South Portland Food Cupboard

November 1 – A Two-fer!

1. Our District Governor Marion Cheney will be joining us
2. Cape Elizabeth Town Manager Matt Sturgis will also be speaking

November 2, 5:30 - 8 – “A Light on the Point” celebration at SMCC Dining Hall

November 6, 9:30 – Spend the morning of Election Day Eve with Sen. Angus King (a classmate of President Dan’s) at South Portland Community Center. A continental breakfast will be served. We’ll be inviting our SpringFest sponsors as well as Rotarians from area clubs. Space is limited so register now at <https://tinyurl.com/ASKRotary>.

October 25 Duties

Opening Words – Roberts
Raffle Gift – Butler

November 1 Duties

Opening Words – Schauf
Raffle Gift – Butterworth

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

OPENING WORDS – In light of the unfolding tragedy in Israel and Gaza, Chuck Redman opened the meeting with this poem (unfortunately I couldn’t find the author) – it’s long but if you weren’t at the meeting (or even if you were), I encourage you to read it.

Stand in my shoes,
Just for one moment,
Just for one day.
Stand in my shoes,
Feel my heart beat,
Hear what I say.
Can you breathe the same air
Through the thick, acrid smoke,
Run through the street
As the noise chokes your hope,
Count every moment -
It's all that you dare
When those you hold dear
May no longer be there,
And it makes not a difference
Just how much you care?
Stand in my shoes,
Just for one moment,
Just for one day.
Stand in my shoes,
Feel my heart beat,
Hear what I say.
Do you think I'm not real,
Just a figure on-screen,
That my dreams,
They don't matter,

That my heart cannot scream,
That you turn off the button
And then I'll be gone,
As you finish your coffee
You haven't got long
To dash to your job
And get on with your life
While I'm still stuck here
In the midst of this strife?
Stand in my shoes,
Just for one moment,
Just for one day.
Stand in my shoes,
Feel my heart beat,
Hear what I say.
Do you know what it's like
To not feel free,
To have your whole future
In doubt, just like me?
Your goal, just for now,
Is staying alive,
Your prayer in the evening,
To simply survive
The night, that begins
With the deafening dark,
Then in comes the terror,
It flashes and sparks
And lights up the sky
Like the end of the world,
A nightmare unleashes,
The fire unfurls,
Your horizon is lost
In a cloak of despair
And you cling to your loved ones
And hope you'll be spared.

What's New With Our Members

Our heartfelt sympathies for everyone who can identify with the above poem, and gratitude for loved ones of club members who are safe there.

Thank you Nicole for taking notes at this week's meeting!

Happy Birthday to

 *Bob Danielson - October 15*

 *Phil Dube - October 28*

Congratulations to Tiffanie who won a donation to the charity of her choice, thanks to Past President Jim.

Thank you to those who helped at the celebration of Indigenous Peoples Day at Redbank - Hannah reported that it was a big success!

Congratulations, Laurenz, for passing your road test so that you can keep your driver's license!!

Thank you to Sue Sturtevant who provided this picture when I said last week that I didn't have a picture of Jim in his cowboy hat:

👤 Doug Miyamoto, NASDA President and Wyoming Director of Agriculture, himself, and Commissioner Amanda Beal



Guests: Past District Governor Peggy Belanger joined us via Zoom so that she could hear our speakers.

Foundation Football Pool Week #5 – Congratulations to Foundation Football Pool founder Bill York, who not only is the season leader, but the Count of Cardiff is also the winner of Week #5, beating out Bill Anderson, Ellie Speh, Mike McGovern and Bob Danielson in the points tie-breaker. Congratulations, Bill!



HEADS UP: Commissioner Chuck warns us that in honor of Bill's win, the next trivia will be focused on Wales, a country that most of us don't know much about – he encourages us to “study up for a chance to win some exciting Wales-inspired prizes!”

Bridge Walk – We received this detail from the Portland club about the 2nd annual “Bridging the Gap To End Polio” walk across Casco Bay Bridge and Pint Social– October 19th.

“We will park and meet at 3:45 PM at the Shaw’s Market parking lot (180 Waterman Drive, South Portland). At 4 PM our group will walk the bridge. Estimating on the early side of 5 PM, we’ll end up at Foulmouthed Brewing at 15 Ocean Street, South Portland for a “Pints for Polio” social event. Foulmouthed will chip in \$1 for every pint sold.

Some members may walk the entire bridge. Others may walk half-way, exiting the bridge at the pedestrian ramp to Thomas Knight Park. From there, it's a short walk to Foulmouthed Brewing.”

ALSO – since we joined the Portland club in the walk last year, we have t-shirts left over. So if you plan to walk (or even if you don’t) and would like a t-shirt, please contact Kathy Cotter. We have 2 long sleeve shirts (sizes L and XL) @ \$17 and 5 short sleeve shirts (sizes M, L and XL) @ \$12.



Rotary  **END POLIO NOW**

PINTS FOR POLIO

OCTOBER 19
5:00 PM

ERADICATING POLIO ONE PINT AT A TIME!

FOULMOUTHED BREWING
15 OCEAN STEET
SOUTH PORTLAND

\$1 PER DRINK DONATED TO END POLIO NOW

WWW.PORTLANDROTARY.ORG
CO-SPONSORED BY
FOULMOUTHED BREWING

Another Timely Program – As I read the notes that Nicole took on the program this week, I was struck by how fortunate we are to have so many interesting programs on topics that are in the news and extremely relevant. This was yet another one – our speakers were Marpheen Chann, President and founder of Khmer Maine (Khmermaine.org) and Madeleine Saucier, Manager of Programs and Community Engagement for Maine Immigrant Rights Coalition (Maineimmigrantrights.org). Nicole took extensive notes with lots of information about the 2 organizations so rather than figure out how to condense them, I'm pasting her notes into the bulletin:

Khmer Maine:

Marpheen said that he saw there was no organization in Maine that served Cambodian-Americans (includes anyone with any connection to the Cambodian comm/heritage - including people born in Thai refugee camps, adoptees and their parents).

He started the organization in 2018, had raised \$5000 by 2020 with plans to start a project in Bayside in April. When Covid hit, he offered to give sponsors back their money and 100% told them to keep it - "you'll need it to help the community with Covid." Maine Immigrant Rights Coalition was a valuable partner to them - they got grant money from State, KM subcontracted with them to spend the money on fresh food, Covid masks, and other staples for community members during the early days of Covid.

This opened the door to funding from other organizations who saw KM doing good work with limited resources.

Areas they are working on now:

Arts & Culture - School teaching traditional Cambodian ballet and folk dance; bilingual language classes are another goal.

Food & Farm - Pilot senior nutrition program - 10 seniors from the community dealing with various health issues, nutrition education through a cultural lens; BIPOC summer youth food leadership program farming, community gardening - the produce was donated to the seniors from the nutrition program.

Civic Education & Engagement - advocating for pro-family, pro-workforce development of immigration policies.

Vision: to see a vibrant, thriving Cambodian community.

Maine Immigrant Rights Coalition:

MIRC was established in 2005 - founded by Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project and sponsored by Maine People's Resource Center with 20 members. Became standalone in 2017. Over 100 member organizations now.

Dedicated to advancement of legal, social and economic outcomes for immigrants in the state of Maine.

Advocacy, collaboration and information sharing are their three pillars.

Lately they have been focused on emergency response work in light of the

immigration to Maine that has increased. Migrants are coming to the US Border in record numbers and Maine has become a point of secondary migration. No way to really say how many people have arrived in the state - numbers are "guesses" because many people go straight into their communities and don't receive municipal services.

Mostly from Angola and the Congo, but also Central America (Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala specifically).

December 2021 started meal program serving culturally familiar or preferred meals for asylum seekers living in hotels in the area who don't have ability to cook for themselves. 6 nights/week, serve 200 dinners that are culturally familiar or preferred. Second location in Saco cooks for immigrants in a hotel in Saco. But as people gain independence and self-sufficiency, the meal provision is slowing down.

77 bed shelter at Salvation Army in Portland, will soon be joining City of Portland for 179 bed shelter for single immigrants in Portland. Run by City initially, taken over by MIRC in 18 months.

Advocating for greater statewide collaboration on response and services for immigrants coming into Maine.

Work with municipalities on appropriate response to immigrants.

Connect individual to resources and services, connect organizations to other organizations

Biggest need: housing and legal immigration needs - not enough housing and not enough immigration lawyers in Maine

MIRC also has advocates who lobby at the legislature on bills that enhance the lives of immigrants and opposing those that harm the lives of immigrants in Maine.

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

SOUTH PORTLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL

COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE & DEDICATION



Saturday, October 21, 2023

120 Wescott Road

1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Dedication Program: 2:15 p.m.

Information sessions, student performances and tours throughout the afternoon