

TWO LIGHTS

**Rotary Club of South Portland – Cape Elizabeth
September 13 & 20, 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:

September 28, 5:30-7:30 – Work party at South Portland Food Cupboard

October 4 – Nick Battista, Island Institute

October 11 – Madeleine Saucier, Maine Immigrant Rights Coalition

October 17, 7 p.m. – Board Meeting

October 18 – No Meeting

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

November 1 – Our District Governor Marion Cheney will be joining us

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

May 17-18, 2024 – **SPRINGFEST!!!**

September 27 Duties

Opening Words – Murphy
Raffle Gift – Bentley

October 4 Duties

Opening Words – Olshansky
Raffle Gift – Best

OPENING WORDS – On September 20, Tom Meyers spoke about the evolution of the opening words in our club from an “invocation” which had a religious connotation to the more inclusive opening words that are our current tradition. The previous week Mary McGreehan (who was there in person both weeks, welcome Mary!!!) shared her heartfelt gratitude to Rotary for the scholarship we awarded her daughter and how honored she is to be part of us.

What's New With Our Members

Happy Birthday to Frank Butterworth - October 1

Happy Anniversary to

🎂 Bob & Mary Leigh Hanson (September 26) - 60 years!!!!

🎂 Michael & Becca Geneseo (October 3)

September Rotaversaries:

- 🌀 Marge Dugan - 1 year*
- 🌀 Sarah Cary - 1 year*
- 🌀 Patty Sprague - 5 years*
- 🌀 Ellie Speh - 14 years*
- 🌀 Bob Danielson - 29 years*
- 🌀 Ray H-E-A-L-E-Y - 29 years*
- 🌀 Dave Bagdasarian - 41 years*
- 🌀 Jack Roberts - 48 years*

Continued get well wishes for Laurenz who is slowly getting used to walking - and driving - with his prosthesis. He hopes to be able to join us on Zoom in the not too distant future.

Get well wishes also to Dan Davidson.

Congratulations to these raffle winners:

- ◆ Sept 13 - Kathy C won a Tostone's certificate donated by Fran*
- ◆ Sept 20 - Tom M won a Nonesuch certificate donated by Peter B*

*Thank you to Kiley for running the Owl at both meetings, and
Thank you to Matt McAleney for running the Sept 20 meeting in Dan's
absence.*

*Thank you to Tom Meyers for organizing the completion of the tree rack
overhaul (see his article below).*

New Meeting Start Time! – Our board decided at its meeting this week that as of October 25 we will be starting meetings 15 minutes earlier to give us more time for club business. It's contemplated that the extra 15 minutes on the front end could be devoted to announcements about service opportunities, reports from directors, news about what's going on in the district, etc. Note that the Dining Hall opens at 4:30 so if you want to eat there before the meetings, you can come a little earlier.

In conjunction with this change, it was also proposed (but nothing was decided) that the speaker be introduced earlier in the meeting. We actually did that this week so that our speaker could say good night to her kids!

More Housekeeping – We really could use more help with setting up the meeting room ahead of time and running the Owl. Unfortunately we can't assign these tasks on a rotating basis like the raffle and opening words because we don't know who will be able to be there in person. Please sign up on the website for these tasks if you can. Our Club Service Director Mike Tranfaglia will soon be announcing more opportunities to be trained on the Owl – he says that if he can do it, anyone can. And the only thing you really need to know for the meeting room setup is the locker combination:

11-21-11

Now you have no excuse not to sign up for room setup!

A Light on the Point – We are all invited to attend “A Light on the Point” at SMCC, a “Celebration of the Contributions of Alumni, Faculty, Staff and the Business Community. Celebrate with us as we shine a light on accomplishments in the SMCC Community and raise funds to help students succeed and prepare for bright futures.” Tickets are \$50 per person and include 2 complimentary signature cocktails, hors d'oeuvres stations, desserts and a surprise gift. Fundraising benefits the SMCC Foundation's Annual fund which removes barriers and provides wrap around services for students to assist them in reaching their educational goals. Examples include transportation, childcare, books and tools, mental health services, and support staff. For information and tickets, go to:
<https://www.smccme.edu/business-community/a-light-on-the-point/>

Bug Light – Thank you to everyone who helped show off our lovely Bug Light to both locals and folks from away (as far away as Utah on my shifts) on Open Lighthouse Day. Helping to explain what Bug Light is all about were:

Sari Greene
 Sue Sturtevant
 Tom Meyers*
 Nancy Hawes*
 Tony Wagner*
 Mike Tranfaglia
 Michele Danois*
 Tom Hamerski
 Adrienne Murphy
 Jaymie Chamberlin
 Bill Anderson

*double shift

Special thanks to Tom, who worked a double shift in the lantern room and to Tony who took over from him and worked another 3+ hours in the afternoon sun. Although we cut off the line at 2:45, it took until 4:15 to get everyone through the lighthouse.

In addition to the pleasure that we take in sharing the lighthouse with the public, we also raised \$350 in donations on the two days that we opened the lighthouse.



Hungry in Our Community – Dwayne & Jim from the South Portland Food Cupboard shared some staggering statistics with us about the sharp increase in the need for their services this year:

	Families	Individuals
January	179	562
February	184	645
March	276	969
April	276	948
May	228	889
June	289	929
July	264	859
August	328	1037

These numbers do not include the Tuesday food distribution which reaches up to 300 families/month.

Tree Rack Infrastructure Committee (from Infrastructure Chair Tom Meyers)



Thursday night work crew finishes the job the Wednesday slackers left behind. The people there on Wednesday included:

- Peter Bennett
- Kathy Cotter
- Jeff Gabrielson
- Mike Geneseo
- Adrienne Murphy
- Mike Tranfaglia
- Tony Wagner

The Wednesday crew made fast work out of adjusting the hinges on the cross braces until we ran out of hinges...but Jeff had a bunch headed to the Cape E swap shop which he dedicated to the cause Wednesday night. Nancy Hawes, Bev Altenburg and Nicole Albert attached the hinges (all 5 of them!!) Thursday night. The paint crew of Chuck and Brent finished up on Saturday morning.

News from the Creator of the Foundation Football Pool, aka Bill York (from an email to Tony and Ray)

– “Yesterday we sold our house on the Isle of Wight. We are now living in a Travel Lodge in Cardiff, Wales waiting for the occupants of our new house to vacate. You can't believe how complicated and confusing selling real estate is in this country. Thank God for the football pool - it keeps me sane! The reason we left the Isle of Wight is because there was little to do - almost like being in OOB in the winter. I miss you and my Rotary friends.”

We miss you too, Bill!

Foundation Football Pool Weeks # 1 & 2 – And speaking of Foundation Football, we have 36 participants in the pool so far – 4 more than last year. That translates into at least \$1,800 donation to PolioPlus, which is the equivalent of \$5,400 when the match from the Gates Foundation is added in! Thanks to all who donated!!!! Sari was the inaugural winner with 11 picks. Here she is receiving the coveted trophy from last year's winner.



However Ray didn't have to give it up for long because he was the winner of week #2 on a tiebreaker. (This is the third time he's mentioned in this bulletin – I hope he doesn't get a swelled head.) Tied with Ray with 11 correct picks until the Monday night points tiebreaker was Mike T. Coming in second with 10 picks were Mikey Three Names (aka Geneseo) and Three Bags Full (one of the Bagdasarians).

Getting to Know Hannah – Our speaker on September 13 was our own Hannah Olshansky and there's no way that I can recount her entire work history – needless to say it was varied and incredibly interesting. Hannah grew up across the river from me in Northampton, Massachusetts and chose to attend college at Goucher because it was mandatory to study abroad. And fortunately for us it was also where Kiley went to college so they became best friends and that's how she found out what a great place southern Maine is to live!

Hannah chose to study in Buenos Aires and after graduation took a job working in Argentina. After that she took a job which required constant traveling around the US. When she tired of the constant travel, she moved back to Argentina. In 2014 she moved to Boston and worked for a startup that didn't get funding and then for a management consulting group where she traveled all over the world recruiting employees. Most recently she worked for CreateMe as their 5th employee where her job was to grow the company's workforce. Which she did very successfully – so much so that after growing the company to 200 employees she was able to leave to do some traveling. As part of those travels, she developed a passion for helping people around the world who don't have all the advantages that we have. This passion makes her ideally suited to be our club's International Service Director!



South Portland Middle School (Go Sharks!) – Liana Popkin, our speaker on September 20 spoke about the new middle school in South Portland as well as the “Community School” concept. SPMS has 110 classroom teachers, 182 staff and just under 900 students. The student population is 62%

white and 18% of the students are multilingual learners. The city got a 4-year grant to partner with The Opportunity Alliance to institute the Community School concept; Liana was hired in November, 2022 to be the Community School Director. A Community School, unlike what its name suggests, is not an actual school but “a strategy that organizes the resources of the school and community around student success.” Examples of ways that the strategy fosters student success are a school-based health center, more varied after-school activities including partnering with RippleEffect and The Telling Room, more field trips. Absenteeism is a big problem in schools, especially post-pandemic. The school found that 60% of students reported that they did not feel a sense of belonging at school so Liana will be forming focus groups to get a better understanding of why and what can be done to address this.



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