

TWO LIGHTS

**Rotary Club of South Portland – Cape Elizabeth
February 5, 2025**



Upcoming Dates:

Pickleball – dates may vary - contact Dave Bagdasarian Sr. if you're interested in participating.

February 11, 4 p.m. – Meeting of the Waterfront Alliance (zoom). The topic of dredging Portland Harbor came up at our dinner table so Tom sent an invitation to next week's meeting of the Waterfront Alliance at which they will be explaining what's happening in the harbor. Let Tom know if you're interested and he'll send you the link (all are welcome).

February 12 – Club Internal Business Meeting

February 19 – No meeting – party the next day instead

February 20 – Club Social at St. Bart's – with live entertainment! See online signup.

February 22, 5-7:30 – Lions Club Spaghetti Dinner, Bowery Beach Schoolhouse, 1 Wheeler Road, CE, \$13 for all-you-can-eat

February 26 – Carolyn Delaney, Dependency in Maine

February 26, 4:30 – 7:30 – South Portland Business Awards Ceremony (see below!)

February 26 – Volunteering at Special Olympics Winter Games at Pineland Farms in New Gloucester – see Tom's email for sign-up.

March 1 – FIREWORKS!! – The first event for SpringFest (rain/snow date = March 8). Signup for parking assistance coming soon.

March 6-8 – Northeast President-Elect Learning Seminar

April 5 – District Learning Assembly at Westbrook High School

February 12 Duties

Opening Words – Meyers
Raffle Gift – D. Bagdasarian, Jr.
Meeting Room Setup – *please sign up**
Owl – *please sign up*

February 26 Duties

Opening Words – Murphy
Raffle Gift – Fran Bagdasarian
Meeting Room Setup – *please sign up**
Owl – *please sign up*




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

President Nancy's Questions of the Week:
What can you teach?

Opening Words - Mary McGrehan couldn't be with us so Tony filled in for her with opening words, in which he noted that Rotary observes February as Peace & Conflict Resolution Month. This will notably be celebrated this month by the opening of the newest Rotary Peace Center in Istanbul (which you can read about in the Rotary magazine and in our District Newsletter). In addition February 23 is the date that Rotary recognizes as its anniversary – this year Rotary will be 120 years old!

What's New With Our Members (& Friends)

Happy Birthday to

-  *President Nancy - Feb. 13*
-  *Laurenz Schmidt - Feb. 18*
-  *David Lourie - Feb. 21*

Happy Anniversary to Chuck & Melissa Redman - Feb. 12

Congratulations to Phil Dube who won an Amazon gift certificate courtesy of Dave Bagdasarian (Sr.)

Thank you to Catherine Callahan for running the zoom meeting and Phil Dube for setting up the room (for about the zillionth time)!

Guests: We were joined by long-time friend of the club and chair of the SMCC Foundation Board Jane Eberle.

Special Olympics Update – Tom announced that there was interest in working on Thursday (2/27) at the Special Olympics so he will be adding another outdoor shift to work at the snowshoeing competition (it carries over from Wednesday into Thursday) at Pineland. He stressed that our roles will require “heart but not muscle” and we will be providing “bodies to be told what to do.” Ray added that there are 357 Special Olympians signed up and our club will be donating \$1 per athlete to Special Olympics Maine.

SpringFest Preview – Jim reported that he and Pip (the gnome union boss) met with the director of the South Portland Recreation Department this week and they are all in. Not only did they agree to provide more tables this year (for eating the refreshments people buy at the food trucks) but they are also planning to provide bus transportation to and from Redbank to Mill Creek. Signs are looking good for a one-mile road race (from Mill Creek to Casco Bay Bridge and back), pending approval from SP Police Department. Stay tuned for more details to come!

Winter Clothing Wanted! – New SPHS Interact Coordinator Patty Sprague reports that the club has undertaken a service project to collect winter clothing to make available to students who don’t have adequate warm clothing. SO if you have any winter coats, hats, mittens, scarves, etc. please either contact her (she offered to pick them up) or bring them to a meeting and someone will make sure they get to their destination. Feel free to spread the word to your friends and neighbors!



Learning About Our Hosts! – Our guest speaker this week was Dr. Kristen Miller, who just completed her first year serving as the president of Southern Maine Community College. Chris Speh read off a lot of accomplishments in introducing her but what impressed me most about her is that she has completed the Boston Marathon, and plans to run it again in April with her twin brother. Dr. Miller also began her presentation by singing the praises of South Portland Middle School where her daughter attends school. She made some very positive observations about the college, such as the fact that SMCC is an “incredible family” and that free tuition has allowed many students to attend two

years at a community college before transitioning to a 4-year institution, which has proven to be very successful for students. However despite the many things that SMCC has going for it, the college also has some significant challenges. In looking around at our weekly meetings, we can see that the college has deferred maintenance issues – she said they amount to over \$100 million. And although there are plenty of jobs in fields like automotive and HVAC, they don't have enough facilities & equipment to keep up with the demand. This is just a fraction of the very informative presentation that she gave – it was interesting for us to learn more about our hosts at SMCC.

ROTARY CLUB OF SOUTH PORTLAND-CAPE ELIZABETH

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Secretary – Kathy Cotter
Treasurer – Marge Dugan

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Club Administration – Bev Altenburg
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Community Services – Sari Greene
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Director-At-Large – Dan McDonald

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SpringFest – Jim Britt
Program Chair – Chris Speh
Foundation Chair – Nicole Albert
Social Media - Matt McAleney
Publicity – Jim Britt
Web Administrator – Scott Irving
Bulletin Editor – Nancy Hawes
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DISTRICT 7780 GOVERNOR
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PMB 239, 50 MARKET ST STE 1A, SOUTH PORTLAND 04106