

# TWO LIGHTS

**Rotary Club of South Portland – Cape Elizabeth**

**April 15, 2026**



## Upcoming Dates:

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

**April 21, 5:30** – Board Meeting; ask Peter for Zoom link if you'd like to attend

**April 22** – NO MEETING

**April 25, 10-2** – Earth Day Resource Fair at Mill Creek Park

**April 29** – Michael McGovern

**May 6, 8:30-11** – World Cultures Day at South Portland Middle School – our club is sponsoring this event and we have an opportunity to volunteer by serving food at the World Café portion of the event.

**May 6** – Mattie Simas, Photography as a Bridge Between Worlds

**May 9, 12:30 – 3:30 (drop in any time)**, Joseph's by the Sea, 55 W. Grand Ave, Old Orchard Beach – Celebration of Life for Priscilla Yerxa.

**May 13** – Internal discussion of SpringFest

**May 15-16, 2026** – SPRINGFEST!

**May 20** – Deb Bergeron, 100+ Women

**August 19** – Rotary at the Sea Dogs. Nicole asked us to put this on our summer calendar – we will once again have the opportunity to enjoy a Sea Dogs game in two adjoining skyboxes. Cost is a \$50 (or more if you're so inclined) donation to PolioPlus. It works the same as the football pool - give a check to Nicole or make your donation online and let Nicole know that you have done so.

**April 29 Duties**

Opening Words – McDonald  
Raffle Gift – Swift-Kayatta

**May 6 Duties**

Opening Words – LoBosco  
Raffle Gift – Tranfaglia

Meeting Setup Reminder: Locker Combination is **26-8-30**

*Please see if your help is needed in setting up the room before proceeding to the dining hall.*

**Opening Words** – Matt McAleney recognized that April 15 is “Tax Day” and shared some quotes about taxes, including the fact that nothing is certain except death and taxes.

**What's New With Our Members (& Friends)**

*Thank you to Laurenz for running our meeting this week so that Peter could celebrate Judy's birthday with her!*

*Happy Birthday to*  
 *John LoBosco - April 21*

*Congratulations to Chuck who won a gift certificate to Highland Farms donated by Sue Sturtevant*

*Welcome back from Florida, DeeDee - this means spring is here!*

*Guests: We were joined by Denise Curry (friend of Jill Nadeau & new member Rin Cox), Paul Harrison and former member Bob Flynn*

**Welcome to Rotary!** – This week we welcomed not just one but two members of our community into Rotary – and both are nurses!

***Margaret (Maggie) Williams*** is a newcomer to Maine, having moved to South Portland about a month ago to be near her grandchildren who live down the street from her. Her dad's career in the US Forest Service took him all over the western US and every time they moved, he looked for a Rotary club. So she's following in his footsteps! She was briefly a Rotarian in Albuquerque, New Mexico until the travel for her job made it impractical to be an active member. She has a nursing degree as well as an MBA and spent her career in healthcare.

***Corin (Rin) Cox*** was introduced to Rotary by Jill Nadeau whom she met while in nursing school at SMCC. Rin was ahead of Jill in school however and graduated last year; she is now an RN at Maine Medical Center. While in nursing school, Rin served as Vice-President of the Nursing Club and helped to mentor and support other nursing students that were working through the program. She lives in South Portland and is very interested in finding more ways to serve and be involved in the community.

**Tree Sale Finally Over!** – The last phase of the tree sale – lot cleanup – had to be postponed for a few months due to snowy weather. Several Rotarians and friends turned out to help rake up about 6 barrels full of tree needles – in addition to a layer a few inches deep inside Tony's trailer. Manning the rakes were (in no particular order other than as they came into my line of sight as I was typing names into my phone):

- ✓ Catherine & Jim Dorrington
- ✓ Peter Bennett
- ✓ Chuck Redman
- ✓ Former club president Bob Flynn
- ✓ Marge Dugan
- ✓ John LoBosco
- ✓ Adrian Kurre (new member Adrian made a Rotary weekend out of it, attending the district Opportunity Workshop on Saturday as well!)
- ✓ Bob Danielson
- ✓ Mike Tranfaglia
- ✓ Jeff Gabrielson
- ✓ Phil Dube
- ✓ Tony Wagner
- ✓ Nancy Irving
- ✓ Scott Irving

*(There was some dispute as to whether there were 14 or 16 people helping out – there are 12 in the photo but it doesn't include Scott & Nancy who had to leave early so they started before everyone else. Apologies if there was someone else that I've omitted!)*



**Global Grant #1** – Patty Sprague reported on a global grant project that our club participated in along with several other sponsors. Our club was the “International Partner,” which is a requirement of Rotary Foundation Global grants. In other words the project took place in Ontario and we are in a different country so we qualified as the international partner. The project was a week-long experience held on a First Nations Reserve that brings together First Nations and non-indigenous teens in what is called “Youth to Youth Truth in Reconciliation.” Patty went up to join them at the end of the week to observe what it was all about. She was impressed at the cultural knowledge that the teens learned over the course of the week (and beforehand). She is enthusiastic about the possibility of variations of the event in the future.

**Global Grant #2** – Nancy Irving filled the club in on the progress to date of a global grant that the club plans to apply for that would benefit the Maranatha Maternity Hospital in a rural area to the north of Kampala, Uganda. The Rotary club of Kampala East would be the Host partner and we would be the International partner as in the Youth to Youth grant. We would also be partnering with Partners for World Health, an organization that we have worked with pretty much since its inception (for anyone new to our club or to Maine, look them up on their website – they’re an amazing organization). Our club has formed a committee to prepare the grant application:

- ❖ Nancy Irving (chair)
- ❖ Mike McGovern
- ❖ Mike Tranfaglia
- ❖ Catherine Callahan
- ❖ Renee Burch
- ❖ Chris Speh
- ❖ Jeff Gabrielson
- ❖ Peter Bennett

The project consists of sending containers of used (but still in good condition) hospital equipment and (unused) supplies, as well as a medical service trip to train local personnel in the use of the equipment. (Please refer to the accompanying summary of the project for more details.) Completion of this project is projected to result in 64 fewer infant deaths each year!! Please stay tuned for more information about this grant, and contact Nancy or one of the Mikes if you would like to be involved.

**World Cultures Day** – The South Portland Middle School held a World Cultures Day last spring sponsored by our club. And since it proved to be a big success, they’re doing it again on Wednesday, May 6. The club has pledged financial support, which will pay for artists to teach the students about various cultures with hands-on activities and for international food for the students to sample. They would appreciate our help again with serving food in the World Café from 8:30 – 11 a.m. You will be seeing a sign-up soon for a half dozen people to help serve food from various countries. The volunteers from our club who participated last year enjoyed the experience. If you cannot be on hand to serve food, you could also help by preparing your favorite international dish! Here are a few scenes from last year’s celebration.



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

### Officers

President – Peter Bennett

President-Elect – Laurenz Schmidt

Vice-President – Chuck Redman

Secretary – Kathy Cotter

Treasurer – Marge Dugan

### Directors

Club Administration – Bev Altenburg

Youth Services – Ray Healey

Community Services – Nancy Hawes

International – Patty Sprague & Chris Speh

Membership – Scott Irving

Director-At-Large – Nancy Irving

Committee Chairs

Tree Sale – TBD

SpringFest – Marge Dugan

Program Chair – Chris Speh

Foundation Chair – Nicole Albert

Social Media - Matt McAleney

Publicity – Jim Britt

Web Administrator – Scott Irving

Bulletin Editor – Nancy Hawes

Veterans – Jeff Gabrielson

Bug Light – Sam Wilkens-O'Brien & Jill Nadeau

Club Protection Officer – Nicole Albert

**DISTRICT 7780 GOVERNOR**

Emma Bodwell, Rotary Club of Bridgton-Lake Region

**ROTARY INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT**

Francesco Arezzo, Rotary Club of Ragusa, Italy

**PMB 239, 50 MARKET ST STE 1A, SOUTH PORTLAND 04106**