

TWO LIGHTS

Rotary Club of South Portland – Cape Elizabeth

April 8, 2026



Upcoming Dates:

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

April 12, noon – Cleanup of tree lot at Mill Creek Park (raking up the needles) – please bring rake & snow shovel (to rake the needles into)

April 15 – Club Business Meeting. President-Elect Laurenz will be presiding!

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 – Mattie Simas, Photography as a Bridge Between Worlds

May 13 – Internal discussion of SpringFest

May 15-16, 2026 – SPRINGFEST!

April 15 Duties

Opening Words – McAleney

Raffle Gift – Sturtevant

April 29 Duties

Opening Words – McDonald

Raffle Gift – Swift-Kayatta

!Note re Meeting Room setup! – Since no one was ever signing up for meeting room setup, Phil took on the responsibility of setting the room up almost every week. But that's not fair to Phil and he isn't always available to set up the room, so if you're coming to dinner at the dining hall before the meeting, please check to see if the room needs to be set up first. The locker combination is always in the bulletin and if you don't have access to it, you could always move the tables and chairs!


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

Opening Words – Bill Lohrman shared these words from Patanjali, an ancient mystic from India:

When you are inspired by some grand purpose,
some extraordinary project, all your thoughts break their bounds:
Your mind transcends limitations, your consciousness expands in every direction,
and you find yourself in a new, great and wonderful world.
Dormant forces, faculties and talents become alive,
and you discover yourself to be a greater person by far
than you ever dreamed yourself to be.


What's New With Our Members (& Friends)

Happy Birthday to

 Doug Schauf - April 13

 John LoBosco - April 21

Happy 56th wedding anniversary to the two couples who were married on April 11, 1970:

 Dan & Joan McDonald

 Bill & Diane Anderson

Congratulations to Sam Wilkens-O'Brien who won a donation to his favorite charity from Patty Sprague

Guests: We were joined by Maggie Williams for the second week in a row, and by Jillian Toce, another relatively new Maine resident (moved here from NH) who is the resident director of the dorm at SMCC.

RYLA Alumni – This week Patty Sprague introduced Isaac Arey, a junior at South Portland High School, who attended RYLA last summer. Isaac had previously been to the Maine Leadership Camp so he had an idea of what it would be all about. But the lesson he learned firsthand at RYLA was that enthusiasm is contagious. And what better way to recruit future candidates for a scholarship to RYLA!



American Red Cross – Our speaker this week was Steve Thomas, Executive Director of the Southern Maine American Red Cross. He pointed out right off the bat that nearly all the work of the Red Cross (about 90%) is done by volunteers and he brought one of those volunteers with him – Mary Ellen Tarling of Cape Elizabeth who runs their smoke alarm program in this area.

Steve reviewed the various programs of the Red Cross:

- Blood – The Red Cross invented blood banking and the collect 40% of the nation's blood supply.
- Disaster Relief – The Red Cross has shelter agreements in place with several facilities so they can open up large spaces like gymnasiums for shelter within 48 hours of a disaster. They also provide food and comfort.
- Military Families – Red Cross facilitates communications between people in the military and their family members in emergency situations.
- International Relief – The American Red Cross as well as Red Cross/Crescent organizations in many countries respond to hurricanes, floods and fires all over the world.
- Training and Certification – Red Cross teaches first aid and CPR as well as water safety classes.

One of the programs he told us about which most of us were not aware of was that the Red Cross will install smoke detectors free of charge. We all know that the batteries should be changed every year but most people are unaware that the sensors in the smoke detector itself wear out and the unit needs to be replaced after 8-10 years.

**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

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