

# TWO LIGHTS

**Rotary Club of South Portland – Cape Elizabeth  
February 18, 2026**

***VOCATIONAL SERVICE MONTH!***



## **Upcoming Dates:**

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

**February 25 – No Meeting**

**February 25 (Wednesday)** – Special Olympics Maine. Cross country skiing and snowshoeing take place at Quarry Road Trails in Waterville on the 25<sup>th</sup>. Look for more information to come shortly from Tom Meyers – including potential carpooling.

**February 26 (Thursday), 5-ish** – Food processing at SPFC has been **Cancelled**.

**February 27 (Friday), 5-7:30 (arrive anytime in that window)** – Empty Bowls at SMCC Culinary Arts Center, \$25/adult gets you a soup meal and a handmade bowl! Event information and to purchase tickets: <https://www.smccme.edu/student-life/empty-bowls/>

**February 28, 6 p.m.** – **FIREWORKS!** at Fort Williams Park (rain/snow date = March 7)

**March 4** – Colleen Cooper, Boys & Girls Club of Southern Maine

**March 11** – Club Business, including Yorkie Presentation!!!

**March 21** - Lions Club Spaghetti Dinner, Lions Clubhouse, 1 Wheeler Road, Cape Elizabeth

**March 24, 5:30** – Club Board meeting on Zoom (change of date)

**April 11** –Opportunity Workshop (f/k/a District Assembly)

**April 7** – Opening Day at the Sea Dogs; first pitch at 4:00

**May 15-16, 2026 – SPRINGFEST!**

**March 4 Duties**

Opening Words – N. Irving  
Raffle Gift – Schmidt

**March 11 Duties**

Opening Words – Knupp  
Raffle Gift – Smith


Meeting Setup Reminder: Locker Combination is **26-8-30**  
*(This is the new combination)*

**Opening Words** – In acknowledgement of our speaker’s topic, Nancy Hawes offered some memorable words about the sport from its most quoted representative, Yogi Berra:

- ❖ Baseball is 90% mental. The other half is physical.
- ❖ All pitchers are liars or crybabies.
- ❖ The towels were so thick there, I could hardly close my suitcase.
- ❖ How can you think and hit at the same time?
- ❖ Love is the most important thing in the world, but baseball is pretty good too.

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

*Happy Birthday to*

 *David Lourie - Feb. 21*

 *Dick Yerxa - March 5*

*Happy Anniversary to Tom & Marti Meyers on March 9*

*Congratulations to our own SPCE Pirate Laurenz Schmidt, who won a gift certificate to C Salt donated by Doug Schauf.*

*Guests: We were joined by: Rin Cox and Denise Curry, friends and nursing colleagues of Jill Nadeau, as well as Paul Harris(on) who is interested in finding our more about our club.*

**Day by Day at RYLA** – Patty Sprague introduced Evelyn Smith, a junior at SPHS and an alumna of RYLA. Evelyn made us all jealous when she informed us that she will be traveling to France and Italy during the April school vacation. She walked us through the RYLA experience day by day so that we could see the experience through her eyes. (Including the fact that it was 97 degrees on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day but felt like 107!) She learned that she is significant and can make a difference in the lives of others. As a result, she tries to make others feel seen as well.



**PLAY BALL!** - Our speaker this week was Sea Dogs Director of Broadcasting Emma Tiedemann, better known as the Voice of the Sea Dogs. Since speaking to our club three years ago, Emma was named Maine Sportscaster of the Year in 2024, was twice invited by NESN to broadcast a Red Sox game, and most importantly, gave birth to her daughter Lucy almost two years ago!

Emma spoke about what the Sea Dogs office staff do in the offseason – they don't just take off for Florida! Last year during the offseason they built a new clubhouse – required by Minor League Baseball (otherwise they wouldn't allowed Portland to have a team) – and this year they raised the field by 18 inches! The front office also practices pulling tarps since early in the season they're the ones responsible for doing it during rain delays. They also plan promotions, including creating bobbleheads. Last year they created bobbleheads for "Password" (Jhostnyxon Garcia) but he was promoted to Worcester before the giveaway game. Hopefully that won't happen with Emma's bobblehead, scheduled to be given away on Women in Sports Night on August 21.



**Rotary at the Sea Dogs!** – And speaking of Sea Dogs, Nicole announced that the club will be going to the Sea Dogs again this summer on Wednesday, August 19. The deal is same as prior years: price of admission to the skybox (with food included) is a donation of \$50 to PolioPlus. And like the Foundation Football pool, you can give Nicole a check or just tell her that you've made a donation online. All donations are eligible for 2:1 match form the Gates Foundation.

**The Most Important Job in the Club??** – Being copied on Chris' emails to Emma reminded me what an important role he plays in the club. Week after week we have such interesting programs that Chris Speh has coordinating for a few years now from his home in North Carolina. He has developed a turnkey system with templates for emails to speakers to invite them and send confirmation. It's really not a heavy lift and club members provide suggestions for most of the speakers. Chris is ready to pass the mantle so please consider volunteering to succeed him in this role. (I would do it myself if I weren't doing the bulletin, so if you want to volunteer to write the bulletin instead, just let me know!)

*And in case you missed evidence of the Valentine Bandits, here is a banner that was up until Saturday's snowstorm – there are still lots of hearts in windows though!*



**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 – Kathy Cotter & Mike Tranfaglia  
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**