

# TWO LIGHTS

**Rotary Club of South Portland – Cape Elizabeth  
January 14, 2026**

***VOCATIONAL SERVICE MONTH!***



## **Upcoming Dates:**

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

**January 17, 10 a.m.** – Clean-up of our corner of Mill Creek Park. This is a BYOR event (Bring Your Own Rake)

**January 17** – If you don't want to watch football, there are a couple concert opportunities by musicians who often perform to raise money for good causes.

- First at 6:00 the Don Campbell Band, Jonathan Edwards, Julia Gagnon and many other musicians will be playing at Aura with all proceeds going to the Maine Coast Fishermen's Association (to benefit those affected by the Custom House Wharf fire).
- Then at 7:30 "Friends of the Club" Pejepscot Station will be playing in Brunswick at the Unitarian Universalist Church – Scott & Nancy Irving will be there to work the soundboard and sell merchandise.

**January 21** – NO MEETING

**January 22** – District Mid-year Dinner. See District 7780 website to register.

**January 28** – Amy Whitmore, The Iris Network

*Note: no South Portland Food Cupboard work party until February.*

**February 4** – "Classification" Talk by JD Dobson (i.e. what he does in his professional life)

**February 11, 5:45 – 7:30** – Potluck dinner at United Methodist Church on Route 77; Entertainment by Pejepsco Station. Look for a sign-up email coming soon.

**February 18** – Emma Tiedemann, Voice of the Sea Dogs

**February 25** – NO MEETING

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

**May 15-16, 2026** – **SPRINGFEST!**

**January 28 Duties**

Opening Words – Gabrielson

Raffle Gift – Redman

**February 4 Duties**

Opening Words – Hawes

Raffle Gift - Roberts

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

**Opening Words** – Marge shared this quote from George Washington Carver:

“How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and strong. Because someday in your life you will have been all of these.”

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

*Happy Birthday to Jack Roberts on January 16*

*Happy Anniversary to Bob & Judy Knupp on January 30 - 61 years!*

*Our sincere condolences to Jim & Gillian Britt on the death of Jim's mom, Patricia Britt. Before retiring she was the Executive Director of the March of Dimes for two Ohio counties - so she and Jim shared a Rotary connection of sorts since the March of Dimes was originally founded to help children affected by polio and was strongly supported by Rotary clubs in its early years.*

*Congratulations to Marge on the birth of her grandson last week!*

*Congratulations to Bob Danielson, the lucky winner of a gift certificate to Scratch Baking donated by Jill Nadeau!*

*Thank you to Bev for organizing a wonderful holiday party last month!*

*Thank you to Jack Roberts for purchasing the wreath that hangs on Bug Light every year - and thank you to Tony and Tom for taking it down recently.*

*Guests: We were joined by Eddie, a student at SMCC, and Andy Souza, co-owner of Mill Creek Barber Shop.*

**Another Successful Tree Sale!** – Co-chair Mike Tranfaglia briefed us on the tree sale wrap-up. The trailer has been towed to the fire barn and the lot is ready to be raked – please come if you can on Saturday morning at 10 to help rake (bring your rake). Although unfortunately there were trees left over, it was still a profitable event and brought a lot of joy to the community.

## **THANK YOU!!!!!!!**

- ☼ Tom Meyers, for securing a solution to: what to do with the leftover trees when everyone we approached was not interested in taking them;
- ☼ Davey Tree, the solution to the leftover trees. They sent two people **at no charge** who chipped the trees in just a few hours.
- ☼ And of course our co-chairs Kathy and Mike for taking on this responsibility and doing an excellent job!!!

**Toss the Tanks (and Imagine the Possibilities!)** – Our speaker this week was Tim Honey, whom some of you knew as the former Portland city manager. In between that gig and coming back to live in South Portland, he served as the city manager of Boulder, Colorado and then did international work, visiting Africa at least 20 times. He started Toss the Tanks a year ago, with the aim of removing the 19 tanks at the Hill Street Tank Farm and replacing them with more appropriate uses of the land (e.g. housing). The Hill Street farm, which is next to South Portland High School and very close to the Kaler and Dyer elementary schools, is just one of six tank farms in the city that were built as much as 80 years ago to pipe fuel to Montreal because tankers couldn't navigate the St. Lawrence Seaway in the winter. Now that it is more economical to procure shale oil from western Canada, the tanks in South Portland are maintained only as a backup; the Hill Street farm is only 3% operational. The Toss the Tanks group has been working with the City of South Portland to try to negotiate with Suncor, the owner of the tanks, to divest itself of the tanks. They are undergoing this initiative because they are concerned that Suncor will allow its tanks to continue to deteriorate and become an increasing hazard to the community.

**Community Service Grants - #3** – This fall our club awarded \$2,000 to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southern Maine (BBSSM) as a Community Service grant. You're probably all familiar with the BBBS program – matching youth (Littles) with adult and high school mentors (Bigs). You may not be aware however of all the careful assessment and monitoring that goes into making sure that matches are suitable and that they result in quality relationships. Decades of research “consistently shows that youth who engage in professionally supported mentoring relationships experience significant positive outcomes, including enhanced self-efficacy, elevated academic and career aspirations, reduced engagement in risk behaviors and improved decision-making capabilities.” In their application, BBSSM also invited Rotarians to consider becoming a “Big” or if you have professional expertise to consider leading a skills-based workshop for their mentees.

In the committee meeting when we evaluated the applications, some of the committee members had firsthand knowledge of BBSSM and were extremely impressed with their program.

**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  
Program Chair – Chris Speh  
Foundation Chair – Nicole Albert  
Social Media - Matt McAleney  
Publicity – Jim Britt  
Web Administrator – Scott Irving  
Bulletin Editor – Nancy Hawes  
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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