

TWO LIGHTS

**Rotary Club of South Portland – Cape Elizabeth
January 28, 2026**

VOCATIONAL SERVICE MONTH!



Upcoming Dates:

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

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

February 9, 6 p.m. – Foundation Grant Qualification Training (via Zoom)

February 11, 5:45 – 7:30 – Potluck dinner at United Methodist Church on Route 77;
Entertainment by Pejepsco Station. See sign-up email that Bev sent.

February 12, 6 p.m. – SpringFest meeting (via Zoom)

February 18 – Emma Tiedemann, Voice of the Sea Dogs

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

February 25 – No Meeting

February 25 & 26 – Special Olympics Maine. Cross country skiing and snowshoeing take place at Quarry Road Trails in Waterville on the 25th. These are the events that we helped with last year – stay tuned for information from Ray about signing up to volunteer. It was a heartwarming experience last year!

February 27 (Friday), 5-8 – Empty Bowls at SMCC Culinary Arts Center (see more below)

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

March 4 – Kristen Crean, Boys & Girls Club of South Portland

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

March 31 - Lions Club Spaghetti Dinner, Lions Clubhouse, 1 Wheeler Road, Cape Elizabeth

May 15-16, 2026 – SPRINGFEST!

February 4 Duties

Opening Words – Hawes

Raffle Gift – Roberts

February 18 Duties

Opening Words – Healey

Raffle Gift – Schauf

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

Opening Words – Jeff Gabrielson shared three quotes; the author is unknown for the first two:

“Teamwork is the fuel that allows common people to produce uncommon results.”

“I cannot change yesterday. I can only make the most of today, and look with hope toward tomorrow.”

And this last one was from a bar somewhere in Florida:

“Give a man a fresh fish; he will eat for one day. Teach him to fish and he will sit in a boat and drink beer all day.” – *the author is Matt M – unclear whether it's our own Matt M!*

What's New With Our Members (& Friends)

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

Congratulations to Laurenz, who won a generous gift certificate to Tostones donated by Commissioner Chuck!

And speaking of Chuck, you may have heard that he had some unfortunate health news about six months ago, but after getting a second opinion and undergoing more comprehensive testing, the original diagnosis was reversed and he's the way he is just because that's the way Chuck is! Congratulations on this wonderful news!

DeeDee & Rick arrived in Florida, where they will be living in their motor home for three months. She attends a Rotary club down there while they're snowbirds.

Congratulations to our club - but mainly to Patty! - on our club's global grant application being approved! This is the Youth to Youth Reconciliation program in Canada. We had hoped to have some students from Maine participate but the scheduling didn't work out. The program will still take place in Canada and Patty plans to attend on March 27 (on her own dime).

Guests: *We were joined by Nancy Charlebois (Hudson's mom) and Peter Kelley (Lachlan's dad)*

Young Leaders – We were joined this week by Cape Elizabeth High School RYLA Alumni Lachlan Kelley and Hudson Charlebois. Both young men thanked the club for giving them the opportunity to attend RYLA.

- ❖ Hudson is active on the Robotics team and serves as a senior patrol leader with the Scouts. As a Scout, he had a feeling of coming home at Camp Hinds since he has camped there many times with the Scouts. He commented that like him, many people in his group (LEG) did not think of themselves as leaders. (This seems to be a common thread with RYLA alumni.) But he learned a lot about leadership at RYLA, which helps him to be a better Scout leader.
- ❖ Lachlan also has a leadership role as the captain of the CEHS Ultimate Frisbee team. He said that RYLA taught him that a big part of leadership is listening (another very common report). RYLA taught him the value of service-based leadership, and that being a leader means showing up when it matters and using your skills to make your community better.

Our RYLA Interview committee did a great job in selecting these two young men to attend RYLA!



Lachlan & Hudson

Empty Bowls! – Apparently “Empty Bowls” is a thing:

Empty Bowls is an innovative nationwide community dinner initiative that has been held since 1990 which focuses on raising funds to fight hunger within our local communities while using the powerful symbol of an empty bowl. It raises awareness and funds by providing attendees with a hearty meal, a handmade bowl, and a metaphorical reminder of hunger—the “Empty Bowl.”

SMCC is going to be holding an Empty Bowls event on Friday, February 27 from 5-8 at the Culinary Arts Center. Attendees all receive a handmade bowl and a soup/chowder dinner.

All funds raised will be donated to the Captain’s Cupboard Food Pantry on the SMCC South Portland Campus. The Captain’s Cupboard provides food and critical supplies to hundreds of students and families in need. Nearly 20% or 1 in 5 SMCC students and their families struggle with food insecurity. Recent economic uncertainty has increased the need for food supplies for our most vulnerable students.

Our club will be a sponsor for this event, showing our community that we appreciate the hospitality of our host, SMCC, and that we have compassion for the students who are not fortunate enough to dine with us at the dining hall.

(Most of this article was copied from the event website at [Empty Bowls - Southern Maine Community College](#).

Iris Network – Our speaker this week was Amy Whitmore, Director of Development and Communications at the Iris Network. Amy has a long history of working in the non-profit world, in addition to volunteering at Big Brothers Big Sisters, Maine Needs and Wayside Kitchen. She pointed out that the Iris Network provides assistance to the visually impaired for the entire state of Maine. She showed demonstrations of what the world would look like if you had glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy, age-related macular degeneration or cataracts. She discussed the services that Iris offers – vision rehabilitation therapists, orientation & mobility training and assisted living in the Iris Park Apartments. She also offered some common sense tips for interacting with blind people:

- When starting a conversation, remind them who you are so they don’t have to memorize your voice.
- When you walk away, let them know that you’re leaving.
- Ask them if they need help before you jump in and help them.
- Don’t move things around.
- When guiding a blind person, offer your elbow rather than trying to steer them by the shoulders.

Community Service Grants – Round One Wrap-up – Previous bulletins have included articles with information about three of the Round One Community Service Grants: Greater Portland Family Promise, Cape Elizabeth Robotics Boosters and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southern Maine. The remaining two applications that were approved were The Family Restored and South Portland Little League. We have had programs on The Family Restored so you know about their

mission; our \$2,000 grant will help them to expand their family services – they are anticipating a 20% increase this year.

The \$500 grant to the South Portland Little League will assist with field improvements and clubhouse repairs at the Pine Street field. That field is used for softball and Challenger (adaptive baseball) games. The Challenger program welcomes players not only from South Portland but also from neighboring towns including Cape Elizabeth. This summer the Little League will be celebrating their 75th season. The program served 300 boys and girls last year.

In addition to these grants, the Community Services Committee approved a donation of \$500 to the South Portland Chamber of Commerce to help defray the costs of the annual tree lighting ceremony at Mill Creek Park.

And finally – Bill York (I think now that Foundation Football is over I don't have to call him the Duke of York anymore) sent us this photo captioned "The Last Christmas Tree."



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

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President-Elect – Laurenz Schmidt
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Secretary – Kathy Cotter
Treasurer – Marge Dugan

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Club Administration – Bev Altenburg
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Community Services – Nancy Hawes
International – Patty Sprague & Chris Speh
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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

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