

TWO LIGHTS

Rotary Club of South Portland – Cape Elizabeth

June 10, 2026



Upcoming Dates:

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

June 13, 9:30 – District's International Café on Zoom (let me know if you need the link). Ordinarily I don't put these on the calendar because you all get the email from Emma, but I added it this week because Nancy Irving will be speaking about our club's proposed global grant in Uganda (see article below)

June 13 – Family Fun Day at Fort Williams Park. See signup on club website.

June 13 – Also on Saturday- loading a container with mobility devices for Crutches4Africa in Saco – Tony reports that we have enough volunteers.

June 16, 5:30 – Joint Board meeting via Zoom

June 17 – [Emily Swisher, Cooperative for Education; Guatemala Literacy Project](#)

June 18, 11:45 – Lunch for South Portland Parks & Recreation Dept. at Willows in SP

June 19, 20 & 21 at 7:30 (2:00 on the 21st) – Patty Sprague encourages us to go join with some Rotary friends and attend "9 to 5" at Lyric Theater (sorry, Dolly won't be performing)

June 20, 3-7 – Handmade Pride Market & Festival at Mill Creek Park (organized by Kiley Wilkens-O'Brien)

June 21-24 – RYLA at Camp Hinds (all Rotarians are usually invited to have supper with the students on the Tuesday (June 23) – they will probably also ask if anyone can help with registration on Sunday morning, June 21)

June 23, 11:30 – Lunch for Cape Elizabeth Public Works Dept at CE Fire Station

June 24, 6:00 – Officer Changeover at Port Harbor Marine Boathouse (see Bev's email or club website for signup - \$30 pp)

June 25, 5-7 – Food Processing at South Portland Food Cupboard (at its new location behind Staples)

June 27, 3-6 – Fort Williams, Sue Sturtevant's Birthday Party!

July 1 – NO MEETING – Start your long weekend celebration of our Nation's 250th Birthday!

July 6, 6 – 7:30 – “Sounds by the Sea” (which our club sponsors) – Baily's Mistake at Fort Williams Picnic Shelter

July 8 – President Laurenz' Preview of the 2026-27 Rotary Year!

July 10 – deadline to RSVP for lobsterbake, so there's enough food for everyone!

July 13, 6 – 7:30 – “Sounds by the Sea” = Joan Kennedy Band, Fort Williams bandstand

July 15 – Kathy Raftice, Fort Williams Park Manager

July 19 – Cape Elizabeth Land Trust Paint for Preservation (we will be parking cars)

July 20, 6 – 7:30 – “Sounds by the Sea” – Curse of Kona, Fort Williams picnic shelter

July 22, 5 p.m. – Lobsterbake at Fort Williams – see Anne's email.

July 27, 6 – 7:30 – “Sounds by the Sea” – The Stem Brothers, Fort Williams Picnic Shelter

August 3, 6 – 7:30 – “Sounds by the Sea” – Bluehill, Fort Williams Picnic Shelter

August 8 – Art in the Park, Mill Creek Park

August 10, 6 – 7:30 – “Sounds by the Sea” – Portland Symphony Orchestra Ensemble, Fort Williams Picnic Shelter

August 19 – Rotary at the Sea Dogs

June 17 Duties

Opening Words – Redman

Raffle Gift – Yerxa

June 24 Duties

Opening Words – Robinson
Raffle Gift – Albert

July 8 Duties

Opening Words – Schauf
Raffle Gift – Altenburg

July 15 Duties

Opening Words – Schmidt
Raffle Gift – Anderson

July 22 Duties

Opening Words – Smith
Raffle Gift – D Bagdasarian Sr.

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

Opening Words – Our new R.N. Jill Nadeau shared some thoughts that pertain to her new career and her journey to get here:

Hillary Clinton: “Caring for others is an expression of what it means to be fully human”










Margaret Mead: “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

Misty Copeland: “Anything is possible when you have the right people there to support you.” (I think Jill meant us!!) – Misty Copeland

What's New With Our Members (& Friends)

Congratulations to Jill Nadeau, who is all set to embark on her second career as a registered nurse, having graduated and passed her licensing exam!!

Happy Birthday to

-  *Bob Flynn - June 11 (today!)*
-  *Bob Knupp - June 16*
-  *Sam Wilkens-O'Brien - June 25*
-  *Dan Davidson - June 30*
-  *Kiley Wilkens-O'Brien - born on Canada Day!*
-  *Sue Sturtevant - born on the fourth of July!*
-  *Sybil Riemensnider - July 8*
-  *Marge Dugan - July 13*
-  *Paul Harrison - July 22*

Happy Anniversary to

- 🎂 Catherine & Jim Dorrington - June 16*
- 🎂 Anne & Bill Kayatta - June 17*
- 🎂 DeeDee & Rick Wacksman - June 18*
- 🎂 Bill & Diane York - June 19*
- 🎂 Ellie & Chris Speh - June 21*
- 🎂 Nancy & Scott Irving - June 30*
- 🎂 Phil & Claudette Dube - July 22*

Congratulations to the 11 winners of our scholarships to graduating high school seniors who were presented with their awards by Kathy Cotter at SPHS and Nicole Albert at CEHS. Kathy also presented two Yerxa scholarships to students interested in continuing their education in the trades.

Congratulations to the Cape Elizabeth Girls Tennis Team, which won the state championship while we were meeting on Wednesday - Bev was at the tournament watching her granddaughter play.

Congratulations to all the sons, daughters, grandsons, granddaughters, nieces, nephews, etc. graduating this month!

Thank you Maggie Williams for donating the raffle gift certificate to Nonesuch Books - and thank you to Tom Meyers for not winning it so that I could!

July Rotaversaries:

- 🎂 Bill Lohrman - 8 years*
- 🎂 Bev Altenburg - 11 years*

Guests: We were joined by past member Bob Flynn – see above – he has a birthday and it's a big one!

DUES ARE DUE! – Our secretary Kathy Cotter reminds us that it's time to pay our annual club dues. If for any reason you don't plan to renew your membership (because life happens):

1. We will miss you!!! and
2. It would be appreciated if you would let Kathy know that by June 30, because we will be charged by Rotary International and the district for everyone who is on the roster on the first of July.

AN IMPORTANT VOTE – No, not the primaries or school budgets – the vote in our district to join with our neighboring district to the west to form a new district. John LoBosco, who is chair of the district's Bylaws committee presented the background to this proposal and pointed out the advantages of being proactive. After several questions and thoughtful discussion, the club voted unanimously to approve the proposal.

SpringFest Debriefing – Following the discussion about the district, Marge and Nicole led us in discussing the results of the survey we received after SpringFest. Scott had compiled all of the feedback and grouped it according to topic. There were lots of favorable comments about the way things were organized on Saturday with only minor suggestions for improvements. The big concern about Friday was the lack of participation by immigrant young children and their parents.

PROGRAMS – Dan McDonald and Chuck Redman have agreed to help in coordinating the program scheduling for the upcoming year to make sure we don't have any holes or double-booking. But they are serving only as coordinators – they are not the program chairs. So they could use our help in coming up with speakers who would be of interest to the club. You all know somebody who would make a good speaker, so please let Dan & Chuck know your suggestions. There are a couple open slots between now and Labor Day so they're not scrambling but any suggestions would be appreciated!

And a huge **THANK YOU** to outgoing program chair Chris Speh who has brought us SO MANY interesting programs in the last few years. One of the things I love about being in Rotary is that I feel so much more aware of and connected to my community through all the great speakers we have.

Uganda Global Grant – Nancy Irving gave an overview of the club's proposed global grant to both ship equipment to a maternity hospital in Uganda and to send a team of medical personnel to the hospital to train the staff there. There is no cost for all of the hospital beds and equipment that will be sent because they will all be used equipment that hospitals are no longer using (but in good condition). For instance if a hospital changes vendors for IV poles, they get rid of all the IV poles they had from the former vendor. It's not cheap to send heavy equipment overseas however so the major expense will be shipping costs. We are partnering with Partners for World Health (PWH) and they will arrange for the shipping (they send a few dozen containers overseas every year so they are familiar with all the logistics involved). Here are some key takeaways from

Nancy's brief presentation but as noted above, she will be presenting about it on Saturday. (Presumably it will be recorded so that if you miss it due to Family Fun Day or Crutches4Africa, you can still have a chance to see it.)

- ❁ The pictures that Nancy showed of the former maternity hospital depict crowded, presumably not very sanitary, conditions.
- ❁ A donor provided funds for the construction of a new hospital with about 4 times as many beds but there was no funding for equipment.
- ❁ It will require four containers to hold the equipment and beds that we would like to send; the shipping costs alone are projected to be at least \$120,000.
- ❁ The total cost is projected to be in the vicinity of \$175,000.
- ❁ Our club has already committed \$8,000 towards this project.
- ❁ If we are able to convince two other clubs to contribute, the maximum that we can receive from Rotary Foundation funding (through the district and matching funds) is \$45,000.
- ❁ If you do the math, that leaves a large gap which needs to be filled by donations from other clubs, individual Rotarians and maybe even friends and family of Rotarians.
- ❁ The Huntsville, Alabama club is interested in this project and in the next couple weeks they will be sending 30 hospital beds to Portland to be housed at a PWH warehouse until the project is finalized.
- ❁ Due to the need to raise funds, get approval from RI, arrange for shipping, make sure Ebola has subsided, etc., it's expected that it will take a year to complete the project.
- ❁ Most importantly, the new hospital is projected to result in 64 fewer infant deaths each year (and presumably some mothers' deaths also).

Stay tuned for more information as this process progresses!

Side x Side – One of the organizations that we supported this year is Side x Side (which came to our attention through Patty Sprague). It's an organization that encourages and teaches young children about art. What we specifically supported is camperships to summer art camp, but during the school year they have artists come into the schools and work with the teachers to incorporate art into the curriculum. The Rowe School invited people to come view the creations of the first graders who learned all about birds and either made a picture or a papier mache bird – here's one student's little workbook that had pages all about woodpeckers' diet, habitat, etc.



**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
2026 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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