

TWO LIGHTS

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



Upcoming Dates:

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

April 1 – Aaron Filieo

April 8 – Steven Thomas, American Red Cross

April 11, 8-2 –Opportunity Workshop (f/k/a District Assembly) at Westbrook High School; club will pay your registration fee if you attend. Sign up on District 7780 Website

April 15 – Club Business Meeting

April 22 – NO MEETING

April 29 – Michael McGovern

May 15-16, 2026 – SPRINGFEST!

April 1 Duties

Opening Words – McGovern

Raffle Gift – E. Speh

April 8 Duties

Opening Words – Lohrman

Raffle Gift – Sprague

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

Opening Words – President Peter started the meeting with Mahatma Gandhi’s Seven Social Sins:

1. Wealth without work.
2. Pleasure without conscience.
3. Knowledge without character.
4. Commerce without morality.
5. Science without humanity.
6. Religion without sacrifice.
7. Politics without principle.

What’s New With Our Members (& Friends)

Happy Birthday to

 *Jill Nadeau - April 2*

 *Mark Leasure - April 6*

Happy Anniversary to Jack & Shari Roberts - April 3

Congratulations to John LoBosco who won a gift certificate to Nonesuch Books donated by Chris Speh!

Congratulations to Jill Nadeau who has landed a nursing position after she graduates this spring!

Guests: *We were joined by several guests:*

- *Jaymie Chamberlin*
- *Corin (Rin) Cox*
- *Former member Bob Flynn*
- *Michael Dickel*
- *Michael Takach*
- *Marcia & Mike Backman – parents of RYLA alum Max*
- *Linda & Rory Strunk – parents of RYLA alum Justin*
- *And he’s not a guest but it was nice to Dick Yerxa for the 2nd week in a row!*

RYLA Alumni – As mentioned in the guests above, we heard from two more RYLA alumni, who are juniors at Cape Elizabeth High School. Max Backman and Justin Strunk both thanked the club and told us about the “challenges” (i.e. challenging activities) that they participated in a RYLA, such as climbing a 12 foot wall. These challenges taught them that leadership is not about one person taking charge but in learning to work as a team. The RYLA procedures require that no more than one student in a LEG (the groups that the students are assigned to for the duration of the camp) can come from the same high school. Max & Justin appreciated this rule because it forced them to get to know new people from other school.



Welcome Adrian! – Scott presented Adrian Kurre with the new member paraphernalia as we welcomed him into the club. Adrian has visited our club for a few meetings already as a guest of Bob Danielson. Adrian is a native of Minnesota and now lives near Fort Williams in Cape Elizabeth. He is retired from Hilton, where he launched the Hilton Garden Inn brand. He is the Board Chair of Piper Shores so is already giving back to the community. He figures Rotary might help him stay young via socialization and a sense of purpose. But his primary aim in joining Rotary seems to be the opportunity to potentially win a gold jacket!!!



District Outreach Trip to Bangaluru (formerly Bangalore) – Our speakers on March 18 were Laura Young, co-president of the Portland club, and Karen O’Rourke, past president of the Freeport club. They and 3 other District 7780 Rotarians traveled to India on February 15 and intended to return on March 1. However their trip was extended two extra days due to the travel disruptions caused by the start of the attack on Iran the day before they were due to leave. But they made it home and in the short time since they returned home were able to put together an entertaining collage of photos and videos that illustrated their trip. Their host district (#3191) is in the “Silicon Valley of India” and has 14 million people. It is seventh in the world for the number of new Rotary members and is very active in its support of hospitals and filling medical needs. Laura and Karen were wowed by the generosity of their Indian hosts.

Since the outreach trip is partially funded by The Rotary Foundation, one of the goals of the trip is to learn how we can collaborate with them on global grant projects. The team came back with

4 projects that the district in India has designed and will implement but they need an international partner. These projects are for equipment for cataract surgery, dialysis equipment, a women's empowerment project that will purchase pregnant cows, and a project that will provide bathroom facilities for a tribal village. Partner clubs in our district have already been identified for at least three of the projects.



Appreciation for Our Club's Generosity

Dear Rotary Club of South Portland and Cape Elizabeth - I wanted to reach out to thank you all for your recent and generous gift of \$2,500 for VOA's Veteran Services and the Huot House. VOA takes great pride in offering high quality housing and social supports to U.S. veterans experiencing homelessness. However we could not reach our mission without friends like you.

Your gift makes a great difference in offering resources and supplies to our veteran residents. VOA is grateful for your lasting dedication. I am sending you my wishes and prayers for a wonderful and happy 2026!

Rich Hooks Wayman



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

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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

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