

TWO LIGHTS

**Rotary Club of South Portland – Cape Elizabeth
May 13 & 20, 2026**



Upcoming Dates:

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

May 26, 11 a.m. – District Town Hall to learn about District 7780 Merger with D7850

May 26, 6:30 – 8:00 – Story Exchange, with the CEHS Can We? Club

May 27 – No Meeting

May 29-31 – District Celebration (see District 7780 webpage)

June 2, 7 p.m. - District Town Hall to learn about District 7780 Merger with D7850

June 3 – Sarah Johnson, Maine Prisoner Advocacy Coalition

June 10 – 2025-2026 Club Retrospective. Also Club Vote on District Merger

June 13 – Family Fun Day

June 17 – Emily Swisher, Cooperative for Education; Guatemala Literacy Project

June 18, noon – Lunch for South Portland Public Works

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

June 24 – Officer Changeover

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

July 22 – Lobsterbake at Fort Williams

August 19 – Rotary at the Sea Dogs

June 3 Duties

Opening Words – Murphy
Raffle Gift – Wilkens-O'Brien

June 10 Duties

Opening Words – Nadeau
Raffle Gift – Williams

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

Opening Words – Dan McDonald had the opening words on May 13 and it was Tom Meyers' turn this week. He's off babysitting an island for Audubon (or something like that) so Peter read these thoughts that Tom had suggested:

Please take a moment to reflect on how blessed and prosperous we are.
Let's be grateful that we have the time and talent to willingly share our
prosperity within our community in ways great and small.

(Ed note - a very fitting thought to start the meeting in which the speaker was
from 100+ Women Who Care)

What's New With Our Members (& Friends)

Happy Birthday to Michele Danois - May 31

Happy Anniversary to David & Joyce Lourie - June 3

And speaking of David Lourie, the board voted this week to make him an honorary member of the club. David is a long-time member and past president, who has done a lot for our club over the years!

Congratulations to:

- *May 13 - President Peter, who won a gift certificate to Stonewall Kitchen donated by DeeDee (who won it on the first draw but requested a re-draw!)*
- *May 20 -Laurenz, on winning a gift certificate to 43 North, courtesy of Tony!*

Guests: We were joined by Michael Dickel, who is back from spending five weeks in Germany visiting family – welcome back!

SPRINGFEST!!! – What a perfect day we had on Saturday. There were lots of people having fun and smiling faces at Mill Creek Park! You can see many of those smiling faces in the photo album on the club's home page and I put a link to it in the email that's sending this. A few more have been added since I first sent the link on Monday. A huge thank you to:

- ❖ **Event Chair Marge**
- ❖ **Friday Evening Chair Nicole**
- ❖ **The Sponsorship Sales Team**
- ❖ **The City of South Portland**
- ❖ **Lots and lots of other people** in the club who each did their part to make SpringFest a huge success!

The Fun Part of Being on the Board – I'm not gonna lie, it's not always fun going to board meetings, but they do have their redeeming value such as this week's board meeting on Tuesday. Some of you may remember that when Boys & Girls Clubs Executive Director Colleen Cooper spoke to our club in March she mentioned the challenge of serving the kids in the Redbank/Brick Hill part of town. Fast forward to SpringFest on Friday evening when we were disappointed not to see more young children at Redbank (although Aaron Filieo's football team provided fun for the teenagers). Due to a turnover in personnel, the BG Clubs did not apply for a grant from our club until last week – the grant was for funds to bus the kids from Redbank & Brick Hill to the South Portland clubhouse on Broadway during the summer. So it was a feel-good moment at the board meeting when we were able to donate \$2,500 to do something meaningful for the kids in that part of town who, let's face it, have had a rough winter. Even though it's the board that has the authority to give away money, the money comes from the efforts from everyone in the club, so I hope you all have a warm fuzzy about the money we give away!

The board also approved a donation of \$2,000 to the Locker Project. The Locker Project has food pantries in three schools in South Portland, allowing consistent, reliable and low-barrier access to students facing food insecurity. During this school year they made 3,600 pounds of food available to the 800 economically disadvantaged children who attend these schools, as well as their family members.

100+ Women Who Care Southern Maine – Our speaker this week was Deb Bergeron, founder of the southern Maine chapter of 100+ Women Who Care. Our own DeeDee Wacksman is one of those 100+ women - and actually they're up to 531 women, with chapters starting up in other parts of Maine as well. The southern Maine group started with 60 women at their first meeting, at which they raised \$4,000 to give away. In the 11 years since then they have donated over \$850,000 to 29 nonprofits. Each member commits to a quarterly donation of at least \$50. At each meeting (at the Elks Lodge in Portland), three nonprofits are invited to briefly pitch their organization and the members vote on who to donate to (and the runners-up get some money also). Deb said that she has been surprised and pleased by the "ripple effect" – donations coming from people/businesses who are not members but who heard about it from a member. Coincidentally the most recent organization that they selected to donate to is the Locker Project (see story above!) – they have donated over \$21,000 to them.

Deb was kind of preaching to the choir since their mission and ours are so in sync. As she described organizations that they have donated to, we were all nodding our heads because we have donated to them as a club or have had a speaker tell us about the organization. Thank you DeeDee for bringing this group to our attention!

South Portland Middle School World Cultures Day – In the last bulletin there were photos of a few of our members taking part in the culinary portion of World Cultures Day, which was fun, but the thank you card we received from them made us wish we could have participated in all of the activities!

"Thank you for the generous support of \$3,000 for our World Cultures Day. This day is an important day for our school as we celebrate the various native cultures of our student body.

We were able to provide an all-school assembly performance by Taiko Drummers that had everyone cheering!

Some of the workshops we had were Azerbaijani folk dancing, making challah bread, playing Fulani Guitar (West African music), learning some Brazilian Jiu Jitsu, and so much more!

Again, we are deeply appreciative of your continual support."



In Our Rotary Community – You may have read in District Governor Emma’s weekly email this week that a member of the Portland Rotary club was detained by ICE. This is what it says in the GoFundMe page that the Portland club set up to help cover legal costs.

“Gervin is a valued member of the Portland Rotary and a former resident of Gabon, where he was actively involved in his local government and community. Since moving to Portland, Gervin has continued his commitment to service, participating in numerous events to support youth and strengthen our community. His dedication and good character have made a lasting impression on everyone who knows him.”

The GoFundMe page has a note that he would be released on Tuesday and that an update will be posted later.

Story Exchange – Tony called our attention to the calendar item above on Tuesday evening for Story Exchange. Most of us had never heard of this but here’s a description provided to Tony: “The premise of the State project, expanded to include a CEHS club, is to have a topic where differing opinions are voiced and heard in a respective atmosphere. I’m not sure if there is overlap between members of this club and Interact. Regardless, this sounds like a nice event for most ages.”

If you’re interested, you can register on the Thomas Memorial Library website.

Bob’s Quiz is Back!

APRIL

1. President Arezzo reminds us of the motto for his year – what is it?
 - a. Peace through strength
 - b. Unite for Good
 - c. Advance through Service
 - d. Act with Integrity
2. An article on tiny homes touts their features. What is one thing missing?
 - a. Room for recreation
 - b. Living in tents
 - c. Plumbing
 - d. Locks on doors
3. Mexico suffered deadly floods. How many suffered damage to their homes?
 - a. 25,000
 - b. 45,000
 - c. 100,000
 - d. 215,000
4. An article about malaria testing in Africa tells how many persons were reached. What is that number?
 - a. 1.25 million
 - b. 747,000
 - c. 60,498
 - d. 25,000

Bonus question: Victor Fleming's crossword asks at 24 across for the answer to "embarrassing mistake," calling for 5 letters. What is it?

MARCH

1. Each month has a theme. What is it for March?
 - a. Cleanliness is Integrity
 - b. Treat others fairly
 - c. Sanitation and Hygiene
 - d. Use Professional Skills
2. Who is J.P. Swenson?
 - a. Former mayor of Harrisburg
 - b. One of the editors of Rotary magazine
 - c. District Governor of New Zealand
 - d. RI Trustee from Cleveland, Ohio
3. Volleyball is a popular sport. What year was it introduced to Canada?
 - a. 1492
 - b. 1812
 - c. 1900
 - d. 1921
4. It is a challenge to find new members. What percentage of them leave within three years of joining?
 - a. 20%
 - b. 40%
 - c. 65%
 - d. 50%

Bonus Question: Victor Fleming's crossword puzzle asks at 21 across for the answer to "intervene." What is the 6-letter answer?

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

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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