

TWO LIGHTS

**Rotary Club of South Portland – Cape Elizabeth
May 6, 2026**



Upcoming Dates:

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

May 9, 12:30 – 3:30 (drop in any time), Joseph's by the Sea, 55 W. Grand Ave, Old Orchard Beach – Celebration of Life for Priscilla Yerxa.

May 11, 9:30 – 1:30, Cape Community Services – Cardiac screening for students ages 10-25; our club will be paying for the cost of 30 of the screenings.

May 13 – Internal discussion of SpringFest

May 15-16, 2026 – SPRINGFEST!

May 20 – Deb Bergeron, 100+ Women

May 27 – No Meeting

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

June 13 – Family Fun Day

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

August 19 – Rotary at the Sea Dogs.

May 13 Duties

Opening Words – McGreehan
Raffle Gift – Wacksman

May 20 Duties

Opening Words – Meyers
Raffle Gift – Wagner

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

Please see if your help is needed in setting up the room before proceeding to the dining hall.

Opening Words – Dan McDonald shared some thoughts on the subject of hope:

“Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness.” – Desmond Tutu

“You may not always have a comfortable life and you will not always be able to solve all of the world's problems at once but don't ever underestimate the importance you can have because history has shown us that courage can be contagious and hope can take on a life of its own.” – Michelle Obama

““The time is always right to do what is right.” – Martin Luther King, Jr.

What's New With Our Members (& Friends)

Happy Birthday, Bill York! (May 14)

Happy Anniversary to Mike & MaryAnne Tranfaglia on May 19!

Congratulations to Dan McDonald who won a gift certificate to SoPo Seafood courtesy of Mike Tranfaglia!

Congratulations to Jill Nadeau on being pinned as a nurse (I think it's today!) and to Marge who gets to pin her!

Guests: We were joined by past member (and president) Bob Flynn, as well as our speaker's husband Keith.

Welcome, Paul Harrison – This week we welcomed our newest member Paul Harrison. Bob introduced Paul as a native of Pittsfield, Mass who went to college in Vermont (where he played hockey). He came to Maine while working with Hurricane Island Outward Bound and fell in love with it. He used to own a coffee shop in Brunswick and now works in land acquisition for renewable energy projects. He lives in Knightville and has twin daughters who are sophomores and UMaine and Dickinson. He is very interested in giving back to the community and volunteers on Saturday mornings at Florence House. His main qualification for being a Rotarian is that he is “not afraid of standing out in the cold selling Xmas trees!” Just kidding – with a name like Paul Harris(on) he was a shoo-in from the beginning!!



Photography as a Bridge Between Worlds – This was the title of our speaker Matilde (Mattie) Simas’ presentation this week. Mattie is a portrait and documentary photographer from New Bedford and a graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design. She shared some truly amazing photographs with us from her three long-term documentary projects that took us into the worlds of children with limb loss, victims of human trafficking and a tribal village in Ethiopia. One of her credentials is that she is the Creative Director of the Limb Kind Foundation, whose bio of her says that “her work focuses heavily on the beauty of the human spirit and aims to show the dignity of every subject.” She also founded a collaboration of photographers and filmmakers called Capture Humanity, whose website displays photo that was part of Mattie’s presentation about her human trafficking documentary. Their website also has some of the limb loss photographs that Mattie showed us.



Getting Some Culture! – May 6 was World Cultures Day at South Portland Middle School. World Cultures Day celebrates the fact that the school is a melting pot and we should all feel proud that our financial contribution (\$3,000) makes the event as successful as it is. Our donation pays for some of the food at the World Food Market (although most is made by parents of the students) and also provides stipends for various “presenters.” I spoke to one teacher who said that the activities in her classroom were going to be about Italian culture – someone was going to show the students how to make pizzelles and someone else was going to teach them how to play bocce!

This is the thank you that we and the other volunteers received from the Planning Committee:

“I hope you have recovered from the chaos/joy that was World Cultures Day yesterday! From the bottom of our hearts, THANK YOU SO MUCH for sharing your time, warmth, and support for our students. We are beyond fortunate and grateful to have a community that cares about all of our young people and their excitement to share their culture (and their appetites!) on this special day.”

Thank you to **Marge Dugan, Patty Sprague, DeeDee Wacksman** and **Jeff Gabrielson** for manning some of the many (30-ish?) food stations!



DeeDee passing out chocolate truffles (next to the Irish soda bread)



Jeff with Sabusas from Angola (check out his hat & apron!)



Marge pausing between cutting up eggrolls



Patty was passing out popcorn!

**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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