

TWO LIGHTS

**Rotary Club of South Portland – Cape Elizabeth
November 12, 2025**

ROTARY FOUNDATION MONTH!



Upcoming Dates:

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

November 18, 5:30 – Board meeting

November 19 – Sam Wilkens-O'Brien “Classification Talk” (i.e. what he does in his professional life)

November 19 - Community Grant Committee meeting following the club meeting. This is an ad hoc committee – anyone can participate on a meeting by meeting basis – no commitment involved.

November 22 – Tree Lot Setup

November 26 – NO MEETING

November 28 – First tree delivery; tree sale starts

December 3 – Internal Business, including election of 2026-27 Board

December 4, 5:30-ish – Food Processing at South Portland Food Cupboard (this is a change in schedule from the usual 4th Thursday of the month)

December 10 – Rotary Jeopardy!!

December 7, 12-3 – District Holiday Open House, Hilton Garden Inn, Freeport

December 17 – NO MEETING (Party the next day instead)

December 18 – Holiday Party at Purpoodock

May 15-16, 2026 – SPRINGFEST!

November 19 Duties

Opening Words – DeGennaro

Raffle Gift – McGovern

December 3 Duties

Opening Words – Dorrington

Raffle Gift – McGreehan

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

(Note that this is a new combination!!!!)

Opening Words – JD Dobson submitted a quote from Margaret Mead for President Peter to read:

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

He went on to comment about how Rotary is changing the world, one polio vaccination at a time, one community project at a time, one RYLA camp at a time, etc.

What's New With Our Members (& Friends)

Happy Birthday to

 *Tom Hamerski - November 26*

 *Mike Tranfaglia - December 2*

Welcome back, Jeff Gabrielson, who is recovering well from a very serious illness - so glad that you're on your way to good health again!!

Congratulations to Tom Meyers, who seems to win the lottery every time the prize is a gift card to Nonesuch Books! Thank you to Dan McDonald for donating it.

Mike McGovern recently spoke at the Bay City, Michigan Rotary club where they fondly remember former member DeeDee!

Thank you, Marge, for spearheading the SpringFest preparations - and for everyone else who has agreed to help her in that process!

Guests – We were joined by “usuals” Bill York and Michael Dickel, as well as RYLA student Matt Bernard’s parents and Joseph Gray’s mom.

A Sweet Deal – Want to have a say in how the club spends its money without the commitment of being on the board or even on a committee? Then stay after next week’s meeting (11/19) to help evaluate the community service grant applications we have received so far and decide right then and there how much to give them. There is no commitment other than those few minutes of your time. I will have hard copies of the applications at the meeting but just let me (Nancy H) know if you’d like to see them ahead of time.

Getting to Know You - from Ellie Speh: – One of the Club’s Visioning goals was to find ways to get to know your fellow club members. We have done Jeopardy games in the past and it was a great way to learn fun facts about each other! Please email me any interesting tidbits about yourself: past or present jobs or volunteer gigs, talents (hidden or otherwise) hobbies, favorite places to visit, etc. Even if you’ve submitted things for previous Jeopardy Games, I’m sure newer members would like to learn more about you!

RYLA Alumni! – Two more CEHS students who attended RYLA in June joined us to describe their experience. Joseph Gray had already acquired some leadership abilities through scouting and wanted to attend RYLA to improve those skills. He said that RYLA encouraged him to be thankful for the opportunities that he has, and to be more open-minded. “You never know someone else’s story.”

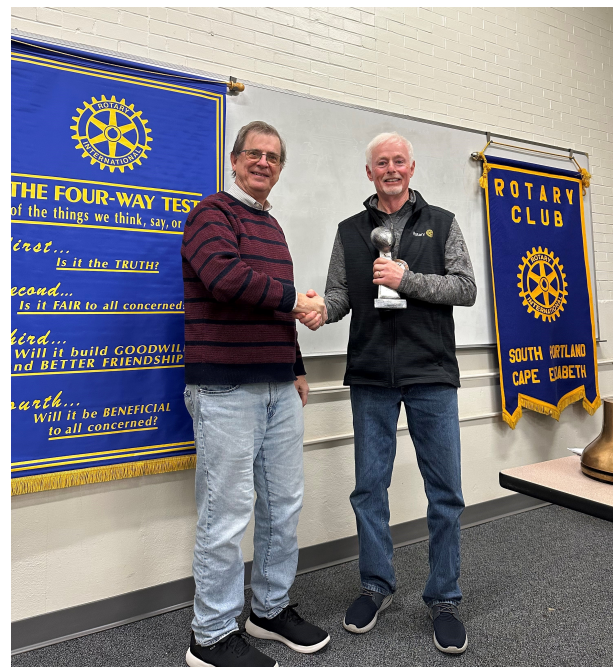
Matt Bernard also learned some important things about leadership: the importance of listening, leading with empathy, and “true leadership means making sure everyone has a voice.” Matt is the VP of the CEHS Interact Club, which will be making up Thanksgiving baskets to donate to Judy’s Pantry.

Listening to the stories of students who have attended RYLA never fails to remind us that our club’s support of RYLA is money well spent!

Welcome, Diane! – Bob Danielson inducted Diane Robinson into the club this week. Some of you may remember that Diane visited us a few times in the spring. She is a Portland resident and is newish to Portland, having moved there 6 years ago. She describes herself as a “volunteer extraordinaire” and has marketing expertise. She says that “volunteering with the Rotary would be a good fit for me to support locally and be part of a wonderful community of volunteers.” Well there’s little doubt that she would be a great addition to our club – welcome, Diane!!



Trophy Handoff - “Half in the Bags” (i.e. Dave Bagdasarian, Sr.) was this week’s winner and has the profound honor of being the custodian of the much coveted Yorkie trophy for at least a week.



TREES!! – The majority of the meeting this week was devoted to preparing us for the tree sale. There is a power point describing “pearls” of wisdom for which Scott will be sending us a link so I won’t reiterate everything in the slides here. But a couple of takeaways:

- ✓ In doing the lot setup, **THERE IS NO NEED TO REMOVE/MOVE HINGES**. If it doesn’t fit, it means it doesn’t go there.
- ✓ Everything you need to know is described in the manual, which will be in the trailer.
- ✓ But since you won’t have a chance to read the manual before you open the trailer – the key is under the tongue of the trailer – **PUT IT BACK** as soon as you open the padlock.
- ✓ The prices are the same as they have been in the past couple years – a bargain!
- ✓ Most importantly, have fun!

Birthday Girl in Quebec City – And since I have the photos, I’ll close with Nicole celebrating her birthday in Quebec this week.



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 – Sari Greene & Nancy Hawes
International – Patty Sprague & Chris Speh
Membership – Scott Irving
Director-At-Large – Nancy Irving

Committee Chairs

Tree Sale – Kathy Cotter & Mike Tranfaglia
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

DISTRICT 7780 GOVERNOR

Emma Bodwell, Rotary Club of Bridgton-Lake Region

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

Francesco Arezzo, Rotary Club of Ragusa, Italy

PMB 239, 50 MARKET ST STE 1A, SOUTH PORTLAND 04106