

# TWO LIGHTS

**Rotary Club of South Portland – Cape Elizabeth  
November 19, 2025**

***ROTARY FOUNDATION MONTH!***



**Upcoming Dates:**

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

**November 26** – Thanksgiving Eve - NO MEETING

**November 28, 8 a.m.** – First tree delivery (assisted by SPHS basketball team); tree sale starts

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

**December 4, 5:30** – *Food Processing at Food Cupboard has been cancelled (due to the move)*

**December 6, 7:45 a.m.** – Second Tree Delivery, assisted by SPHS track team & CE Robotics team

**December 8, 7 p.m.** – Downeasters Chorus Saco Food Pantry Holiday Benefit Show, First Parish UCC, 12 Beach Street, Saco – Mikey New Guy, aka Michael Dickel, will be participating

**December 10** – Rotary Jeopardy!!

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

**December 16, 5:30 p.m.** – Board meeting via Zoom

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

**December 18** – Holiday Party at Purpoodock

**December 24** – NO MEETING – Happy Holidays!

**May 15-16, 2026** – SPRINGFEST!

**December 3 Duties**

Opening Words – Dorrington  
Raffle Gift – McGreehan

**December 10 Duties**

Opening Words – Dube  
Raffle Gift – Meyers




Meeting Setup Reminder: Locker Combination is **26-8-30**  
*(This is the new combination)*

**Opening Words** – The opening words this week were from a speech that Robert F. Kennedy Sr. gave in 1966:

“The future does not belong to those who are content with today, apathetic toward common problems and their fellow man alike, timid and fearful in the face of new ideas and bold projects. Rather it will belong to those who blend passion, reason, and courage in a personal commitment to the ideals and great enterprises of American society. It will belong to those who see that wisdom can only emerge from the clash of contending views, the passionate expression of deep and hostile beliefs. Plato said: “A life without criticism is not worth living.”

**What's New With Our Members (& Friends)**

*Happy Birthday to*

-  *Tom Hamerski - November 26*
-  *Mike Tranfaglia - December 2*
-  *Adrienne Murphy - December 8*

*Congratulations to John LoBosco who was honored by the district RYLA directors as RYLA Coordinator of the Year - well done!!*

*Thank you to the SPHS football team (and their coach Aaron Filieo) for helping with the tree lot setup. They were an invaluable help - because they know their colors and their alphabet! (In other words they did a great job putting the racks together.)*

*I don't know why we buy raffle tickets if Tom Meyers is going to win all the time! This week he won a gift card to Barber Bros. Meat & Provisions (formerly Smaha's) courtesy of Mike McGovern.*

*Guests – Kiley Wilkens-O'Brien joined us this week to hear Sam's presentation, along with CEHS student Lauren's parents (see RYLA story below).*

**Thankful for Sybil** – Quote from Kiley about Sybil this week “I admire her so much.” Well, don't we all! And we won't have to worry about her as much this winter because she has moved from her home on Teal Point Drive in Scarborough just up the road to Scarborough Terrace, where she will be very well cared for. Her new address:

Sybil Riemensnider  
217 Scarborough Terrace  
600 Commerce Drive  
Scarborough, ME 04074

New email: [sybilriemen@gmail.com](mailto:sybilriemen@gmail.com)

I presume her cell phone is still the same? (I'll let you know if that's not the case):  
207-504-3307

She would love to hear from you or even have a visit from you!

**Thankful for Ellie** – Please make it part of your Thanksgiving preparations to reflect on your life and all the things you're grateful for, and send Ellie Speh a quick note letting her know a few key facts about yourself. (Sam, you're off the hook because we already learned a ton about your life in your presentation!)

**Thankful for RYLA!** – This week we heard from Lauren Gerety and Liam O'Brien, RYLA alumni who attend Cape Elizabeth High School. Coincidentally Liam is Sam's cousin! They both hold leadership positions in their school - Lauren is captain of the volleyball team and Liam is captain of the tennis team. We're starting to recognize a pattern in the experiences of students who have attended RYLA – they learned to become better listeners, to be kind and caring and to realize that other people may have very different backgrounds. They are hoping to go back next summer as a camp counselor.

**Thankful for Next Year's Board!** –Nominations Committee chair Nancy Irving presented a slate of officers for next year's board. They are:

- ❖ President – Laurenz Schmidt
- ❖ President-Elect – Mike Tranfaglia
- ❖ Vice-President – Chuck Redman
- ❖ Treasurer – Marge Dugan
- ❖ Secretary – Kathy Cotter
- ❖ Community Service Directors – Nancy Hawes & Tom Meyers
- ❖ Club Administration Director – Bev Altenburg
- ❖ International Service Directors – Chris Speh & Patty Sprague
- ❖ Membership Director – Bob Danielson
- ❖ Youth Service Directors – Ray Healey & John LoBosco
- ❖ Director at Large – Peter Bennett

The positions of president (Laurenz) & director at large (Peter) are automatic positions and do not need to be elected. The club voted to close nominations. The actual election is scheduled to take place at our meeting on December 3.

Thank you to all of the individuals who have stepped forward to serve our club next year!

**Thankful for the Community Grants Review Committee** – As Community Service co-director, I am especially grateful for the people who stayed after this week's meeting to review the grant applications. We had 5 worthy applicants and in this first round of applications (there will be two more rounds this year) we awarded grants as follows:

- \$2,000 - Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southern Maine
- \$2,000 - The Family Restored
- \$1,000 - Cape Elizabeth Robotics Boosters
- \$1,000 - Greater Portland Family Promise (we had previously donated \$1,000 worth of supplies by the club and about that amount in diapers donated by individual Rotarians)
- \$500 - South Portland Little League

Thank you to Tom Meyers, Tiffanie Bentley, John LoBosco, Peter Bennett, Jeff Gabrielson, Tony Wagner and Anne Swift-Kayatta for their thoughtful review and discussion.

**Thankful for Greater Portland Family Promise** – I'm planning to tell you a little more about each of the grant recipients in upcoming bulletins but I'll start with Greater Portland Family Promise since I happened to receive their November newsletter yesterday. Since we had a work project to assemble medical supply kits for GPFP at a meeting earlier this fall (and gave them a truckload of diapers!), I don't need to tell you who they are, but they summarize it as "Greater Portland Family Promise provides families with transitional housing, culturally responsive food support, and the wrap-around care needed to rebuild stability." In her message, the Executive Director says:

“These past few weeks have been especially difficult for many of the families in our community.

‘With proposed cuts to SNAP, a lifeline for so many, and the trauma and fear caused by recent ICE detentions, families are navigating challenges and threats no one should have to face. And yet, in the midst of these hardships, we’ve witnessed extraordinary kindness.

‘I want to extend my deepest gratitude to every volunteer, donor, partner, and friend of Greater Portland Family Promise. Your support is not just helpful, it is life-changing. You make it possible for families to feel safe, valued, and not alone.”

**Thankful for the Commissioner and Everyone who participates in Foundation Football –**

As a former Toilet Bowl award winner, Mr. Rotary (Mike McGovern) had high hopes going into Monday night’s game – if the Raiders had won, he would have collected the trophy! But as the Commissioner said, his “hopes got flushed by Dallas’ big win.” The win by Dallas meant that 3 people were tied: Founding Father (Dick Yerxa), Mikey New Guy (Michael Dickel) and Ray H-E-A-L-E-Y, with Ray winning the tiebreaker. *(Someone will have to remind us exactly how he got his nickname – it had something to do with a litigious dispute over the outcome of the pool one year and Ray’s “lawyer” making sure all the facts were correctly notated – or something like that.)*



**And finally, Very Thankful for Sam!** – This week we heard Sam Wilkens-O’Brien give a “classification talk,” which is a term that harkens back to the early days of Rotary when each member filled a classification – i.e. vocation or profession. (The first four Rotary members were an attorney, a mining engineer, a coal merchant and a tailor; the idea was to populate Rotary with representatives from different professions but we’ve gotten away from that and we’re mainly interested in attracting people who want to give back to their community.)

Anyway, back to Sam – he was born in Littleton, NH and lived in Massachusetts until he was 8 when his family moved to Maine. To say he has an eclectic background would be an understatement – here are some of the things on Sam’s resume:

- ✓ Child prodigy ballet dancer
- ✓ Worked as a carpenter (fine woodworking) as a teen
- ✓ Pipe organ tuning and repair (including at the Kennedy Center)
- ✓ Majored in computer music at Goucher College
- ✓ Designed custom software for live music events
- ✓ Managed an organic chicken farm in North Yarmouth
- ✓ Had his own software programming business – his largest gig was displaying game data for everyone in the arena to see at the Fortnite World Cup in 2019
- ✓ Masters degree in Computer Science from the Roux Institute
- ✓ Currently works at Gulf of Maine Research Institute, helping enable the scientists to analyze massive amounts of ocean and weather data
- ✓ Gives tours of Bug Light
- ✓ Most importantly – married Kiley Wilkens-O'Brien in 2020 - the pandemic didn't stop them from having a celebration so they were married at the Saco Drive-In



**Lost** – This earring was found on the floor of our meeting room after the meeting. We assume that it belongs to a student (and Tiffanie turned it in to Campus Security) but just in case it was one of us, here's what it looks like:



**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**