

TWO LIGHTS

Rotary Club of South Portland – Cape Elizabeth

October 8, 2025

ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT MONTH!



Upcoming Dates:

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

October 15 – Jayne Van Bramer, Sweetser and Mental Health Challenges

October 16, 4:30 – “Bridge the Gap to End Polio” Walk across the Casco Bay Bridge. The Portland club has invited us to join them for this 4th annual event. Meet in Broadway Bowl parking lot (725 Broadway). Enjoy Pints for Polio after the walk.

October 21, 5:30 – Board meeting, via Zoom

October 22 – NO MEETING

October 23, 5ish – South Portland Food Cupboard food processing.

October 25, 9-12 – “Unite the Spark,” District Membership Connection Summit at South Portland Middle School

October 29 – Rich Wayman Hooks, Volunteers of America, Northern New England (VOANNE)

November 22 – Tree Lot Setup

November 28 – First tree delivery; tree sale starts

October 15 Duties

Opening Words – Cotter
Raffle Gift – LoBosco
Meeting Room Setup – please [sign up](#)*
Owl – please [sign up](#)

October 29 Duties

Opening Words – Danielson
Raffle Gift – Lourie
Meeting Room Setup – please [sign up](#)*
Owl – please [sign up](#)

Meeting Setup Reminder: Locker Combination is **11-21-11**

Opening Words – Catherine Callahan observed the passing of naturalist Jane Goodall with a couple quotes from her:

You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.

We can have a world of peace. We can move toward a world where we live in harmony with nature. Where we live in harmony with each other. No matter what nation we come from. No matter what our religion. No matter what our culture. This is where we're moving towards.

What's New With Our Members (& Friends)

Happy Birthday to

 *Bob Danielson - October 15*

 *JD Dobson - October 24*

 *Phil Dube - October 28*

Congratulations to Phil who won a gift card donated by Bill Lohrman!

Happy 5th Anniversary to Sam & Kiley Wilkens-O'Brien on October 10 (yesterday)! If you think back to 5 years ago when Sam & Kiley were married, nobody was meeting in person (our club was 100% zoom) so they got married at a drive-in theater! They may have gotten the short end of the stick for their actual wedding but they're making up for it by celebrating their 5th anniversary in Ireland!!!



SP-CE Builders!! – On October 3 eight of us participated in a Habitat for Humanity build day in South Portland. As Sari said, “this is the first time we participated as hands-on hammer-swinging nail-pounding volunteers.” Swinging hammers and pounding nails were:

- ↗ Sari Greene
- ↗ Eric Boutiette
- ↗ Dan McDonald
- ↗ Marge Dugan
- ↗ Nancy Irving
- ↗ Bev Altenburg
- ↗ Tom Meyers
- ↗ Mike Tranfaglia

Actually according to the crew, there was an awful lot of caulking involved as well as pounding nails. And they were impressed that the people in charge insisted on not cutting any corners.

It’s not even Halloween but... Our tree sale chairs Kathy Cotter and Mike Tranfaglia reminded us that the tree sale is not that far away and it wouldn’t hurt for us to pencil in – whether physically or mentally – dates for the tree lot setup, tree delivery and when we would like to work our shifts. They ask that we not clump all our shifts together – ideally do half of them before December 10 and half of them afterwards. Tony did the math and figures that it takes 800 person hours to run the tree sale, and if you figure in the profit, that means \$50 profit per person hour. So what each of us do is valuable and we can’t do it without everyone pitching in, whether it’s on the lot or behind the scenes.

Vote for Grant Money! – Town & Country FCU is inviting the public to vote on who the credit union should award grant money to. You can choose from among 20 outstanding local nonprofits benefitting our community. You can vote every day through October 31. Here is the link to vote:

<https://www.tcfcu.com/better-neighbor-fund-voting/>

Thank you Jaymie Chamberlin for calling this to our attention!

H-E-A-L-E-Y! – Acting Commissioner Marge reported the weekly results in Chuck’s absence. Ray and Scott tied for most correct picks (8) in week 5 of the football pool (by picking a lot of upsets!) but Ray won in the tiebreaker. Kathy Cotter, Bob Danielson & Mike Tranfaglia came in second with 7 correct picks.



Strategic Planning Follow-up – President Peter reviewed all the objectives from our strategic planning in 2023 that have already been accomplished – an impressive list! The meeting was then devoted to discussing the goals that were part of the strategic plan that have not been sufficiently addressed and whether we still feel it would be worthwhile to address them. Both Mike T and Nancy I pointed out that we don’t want to expend extra club effort on new goals to the detriment of the things we’ve already accomplished – i.e don’t stretch ourselves too thin. Peter will be writing up the results of the discussion with action items but here are some of the things that were suggested for follow-up:

- ✓ Allow more club members to post directly to the club’s Facebook page so that people in charge of an event can immediately post photos and messages.
- ✓ Be thinking about a potential fundraiser as a possible Plan B if we are unable to continue with the tree sale at some point in the future, but we should not actually pursue a new fundraiser at this time.
- ✓ Do a service project at Partners for World Health on a Saturday so that more people can participate.
- ✓ Build a library of member profiles – we learn about new members when they join but they don’t learn about the rest of us.
- ✓ Support SMCC more.
- ✓ Look into a relationship with the Portland Arts and Technical High School (PATHS) which some of the students at CEHS and SPHS attend.
- ✓ There were some goals on the list, especially in the Youth Service area, which sound great but were considered to be too labor-intensive to be realistic. And we don’t want to

detract from the effort that goes into the successful Youth Service programs that we have already set in motion.

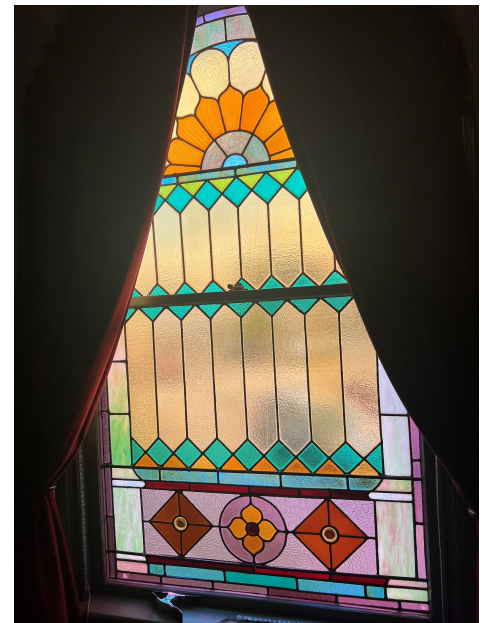
From the Rotary magazine – The October issue of Rotary has some articles in observance of World Polio Day (October 23) which Peter and Bob Knupp pointed out last week. One of them is an interview with Bill Gates and I thought that his parting comments were worth repeating.

Rotary: What message do you have for Rotary members?

“Most importantly, thank you for your unwavering support to eradicating polio. Rotary’s leadership, advocacy, and sustained commitment have brought the world to the brink of eradication – something once thought to be impossible.

To Rotarians everywhere: Thank you for decades of dedication and partnership. Because of your efforts, we will one day live in a world where all children are safe from this disease. We look forward to leaving polio behind long before our foundation (i.e. the Gates Foundation) closes its doors in 2045.”

And finally... - Sari had an opportunity to see the beautiful new stained glass windows at the Lyric Theater which our club helped fund and took these photos. She also took a photo of the plaque that recognizes us but something went awry when she air-dropped it to me. You’ll just have to go to a show there and see it for yourself!



**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

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