

TWO LIGHTS

Rotary Club of South Portland – Cape Elizabeth

September 10, 2025

MEMBERSHIP MONTH!



Upcoming Dates:

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

September 13, 8:30 – 3:30 – Open Lighthouse Day!

September 16, 5:30 – Board meeting

September 17 – Mike Hulse, South Portland Housing Authority. Note: Since SPHA was a significant donor towards the South Portland Food Cupboard refrigeration unit that we fundraised for, there will be a check presentation at this meeting.

September 19 – Reenactment of the Bombardment of Portland 250 years ago at DiMillo's Marina, organized by the Tate House

September 24 – Vickie Hayer, Veteran's Career Consultant

September 25, 5ish to 7ish – South Portland Food Cupboard

October 1 – Eric Gerard, The Family Restored

Weekend of October 4 – reception to welcome "Flight to End Polio" pilots back in the US (date tbd due to weather-dependency of the flight itinerary – stay tuned!)

October 8 – Internal Club Business

September 17 Duties

Opening Words – D Bagdasarian, Jr.
Raffle Gift – S. Irving
Meeting Room Setup – please [sign up](#)*
Owl – please [sign up](#)

September 24 Duties

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

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

Opening Words – Dave Bagdasarian, Sr. reflected on the changing of the season but also on the constants in our life such as Rotary and the needs that it fills in the community. He also wove in a shout out to September as Literacy and Education Month in Rotary and the importance of supporting education.

What's New With Our Members (& Friends)

Happy Birthday to:

-  Sari Greene - September 11
-  Catherine Dorrington - September 13

Happy Anniversary to:

-  Dan & Edie Davidson - September 15

Congratulations to...me! (Nancy H) on winning a gift certificate to Tostones courtesy of the other Nancy

Condolences & Welcome - Patty Byers, our District Assistant Governor from the Portland club has had to resign from that position due to a family tragedy. We welcome Julianne Forbes from the Westbrook-Gorham club, who was already a friend of SPCE, as our new AG.

Safe travels to Nancy & Scott Irving as they enjoy a much deserved vacation (from us!) in Greece - fortunately we survived this week's meeting without needing help from Scott!

September Rotaversaries:

- ⊗ Marge Dugan - 3 years
- ⊗ Patty Sprague - 7 years
- ⊗ Ellie Speh - 16 years
- ⊗ Ray Healey - 31 years (SPCE and prior clubs)
- ⊗ Bob Danielson - 31 years
- ⊗ Dave Bagdasarian, Sr. - 43 years
- ⊗ Jack Roberts - 50 YEARS - Congratulations!!!!

Guests – this week we welcomed Judy Bennett, who was there to fact check her husband's presentation (and she confirmed everything he said) and Michael Dickel, who joined us at the lobsterbake and has been a member of a Rotary club in Germany for 17 years. And as always it was a treat to have Bill York join us on Zoom.

Bug Light Story #1 (150th Anniversary) – Sue has written a report describing the celebration on July 26, which is a nice historical record of the event and which mentions several members of our club. I'll send it as a separate link along with this bulletin.

Bug Light Story #2 (Car Show) – 251 visitors took advantage of the beautiful weather at the Bug Light Car Show to tour the lighthouse. They donated \$147, all of which will go towards maintenance of the lighthouse. A couple of the visitors came from as far away as Utah, where coincidentally he is Foundation Chair for his Rotary club. Thank you to everyone who served as tour guides last Wednesday in lieu of our meeting – and especially to Sam who was there for the entire time.

Bug Light Story #3 – Thank you to Jill & Sam for coordinating our tours for Open Lighthouse Day! Sue reported that there will be a special event at 11 o'clock: 96-year-old Howie Wright, who was the first person to make an effort to save Bug Light, found a crank telephone inside when he first entered the lighthouse and he will be returning the telephone to its home on Saturday.

Flight to End Polio Update –As I write this, the two pilots “circling the Atlantic” to raise money for polio eradication are in Poland, having already seen the sights – and raising money for polio* - in Iceland, Norway, Denmark and France. In the next week they are expected to visit England and Spain. One of the pilots, Colonel Ed Galkin, has already set a record as being the oldest pilot to fly a plane across the Atlantic. According to the most recent revision of the pilots' itinerary, they are scheduled to fly from Newfoundland to Portsmouth on Friday, October 3 and then depart for New Jersey (their final destination) on Sunday, October 5. So that means they will be available to meet with Rotarians in our district and tell us all about their trip sometime that weekend if all goes according to plan – stay tuned for more details.

*When I say raising money for polio, I mean ALL the money they raise goes to The Rotary Foundation for polio eradication. They are not raising a single dollar for expenses of the flight – 100% of the expenses are being paid for by the two current pilots (Peter and Ed) as well as the other pilot on the first flight (John).

Another Way to Eradicate Polio – Our club has its own way of raising funds to help eradicate polio, and that’s of course the Foundation Football Pool. Commissioner Chuck reported this week (due to Nicole’s tallying for us) that we have 30 club members participating in the football pool so far this year (it’s never too late if you’re not one of the 30!) and the total contributed so far is \$1,700! And if you do the math, the Gates Foundation 2:1 match brings that total to over **\$5,000!!!!**

Now that Week 1 is in the books, Chuck announced the results:

- Four people had 11 correct picks – Laurenz, Ellie Speh, Bill Anderson & Dick Yerxa
- Two people tied for the lead, including Bill York (namesake of the Yorkie trophy), proving that you can live in a country where they think football is a sport you play with your feet and still guess well enough to come out on top in the pool.
- The winner of the tiebreaker however was Johnny Front Porch LoBosco! (And if you’ve driven by his house more than once, you know how he got that new nickname which the Commissioner has bestowed on him.)

Who is Peter Bennett?? – Our speaker this week was our own President Peter, who gave a “classification talk,” telling us all about his career and other facets of his life. The most significant thing to know about Peter is that he attended his first Red Sox game at Fenway in 1958 and **has been to Fenway every single year (pandemic excluded) since 1962!!** (He also goes to Spring training games in Florida.) And he’s not just a Red Sox fan; he also supports our local farm team and threw out the first pitch at a Sea Dogs game last year on his 75th birthday!

Other facets of his life:

- ✓ His family moved to Cape Elizabeth (from the greater Boston area) in 1964 and he lived there until going to college. He and Judy moved back there in 2018, a year before he retired.
- ✓ He attended Trinity College in Hartford (majoring in political science & international relations) and then attended law school at Northeastern.
- ✓ For most of his law career he worked at a law firm in Nashua, NH, focused primarily on business law.
- ✓ He met Judy at his first job out of law school – even though they were both from Cape Elizabeth and their fathers played tennis together, they had not met until then. They were married in 1976 (if you’re counting, that will be 50 years next year!).
- ✓ Peter and Judy have a son and 2 daughters: Matthew who lives outside of Chicago, Sarah in Cambridge, Mass and Kim in Melrose, Mass.
- ✓ He loves to hike.
- ✓ He was a founding member of the Hollis-Brookline Rotary Club in New Hampshire, and was very active with youth exchange as a member of that club – he was a counselor to 3 inbound students and one outbound student.

Peter had never been a president of his NH club but we are very fortunate that he has assumed that role in our club. Peter's closing words were that he is "proud to be a member of this club."

**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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