

TWO LIGHTS

Rotary Club of South Portland – Cape Elizabeth
September 17, 2025
EDUCATION AND LITERACY MONTH!



Upcoming Dates:

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

September 24 – Vickie Hayer, Veteran's Career Consultant

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

October 1 – Eric Gerard, The Family Restored

October 3, 9 – 3:30 – Habitat for Humanity Work Day – see Sari's email on 9/19 for details and signup link. Adrienne reports that working with Habitat for Humanity is incredibly rewarding!

October 7, 5ish? – reception to welcome "Flight to End Polio" pilots back in the US (I'm still learning the details)

October 8 – Internal Club Business

September 24 Duties

Opening Words – Bentley

Raffle Gift – Knupp

Meeting Room Setup – please [sign up](#)*

Owl – please [sign up](#)

October 1 Duties

Opening Words – Britt

Raffle Gift – Leasure

Meeting Room Setup – please [sign up](#)*

Owl – please [sign up](#)

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

Opening Words – Dave Bagdasarian Jr. gave President Peter the opening words to read from the ending of The Giving Tree by Shel Silverstein. It's about a relationship between a tree and a boy and how the tree gave to the boy in different ways throughout his life, and giving to the boy made the tree happy.

What's New With Our Members (& Friends)

Happy Anniversary to Bob & Mary Leigh Hanson - 62 years on September 26!

Congratulations to 2-weeks-in-a-row guest Michael Dickel who won the raffle prize of a gift certificate to Tostones courtesy of Scott Irving.

We learned of the passing of founding member Mark Stimson at age 99. After getting into Rotary in our club, at some point he transitioned to the Portland club where he was a member for many years and served as their president in 1979-80.

Guests – *We had a full house this week, which included several guests:*

- ★ *Sybil*
- ★ *Mary Jo Jakab, Board Chair of the South Portland Housing Authority Board of Commissioners*
- ★ *Dwayne Hopkins, Executive Director of the South Portland Food Cupboard*
- ★ *Rev. Alison Patton, First Congregational Church, SP*
- ★ *Michael Dickel, who also joined us last week*
- ★ *Julianne Forbes from the Westbrook-Gorham club and our new Assistant Governor*

Correction to last week's bulletin – The excellent write-up of the Bug Light 150th anniversary was co-authored by Sue AND Jack Roberts. Great job, both of you!

The Prince of Wales Rules! – Tampa Bay’s last minute win sealed it for Bill in Week 2, with a total of 13 correct picks. Kathy had a strong Monday to end up trying Mike for second with 12 picks. Third with 11 was a crowd of great players- Adrienne, Ellie, Laurenz, Bob, Tom, Peter, and always in contention Dick.

Open Lighthouse Day – We welcomed 316 visitors to the lighthouse on September 13. Jill and Sam thanked everyone who participated and assured us that if you didn’t get a chance to work at the lighthouse this month, there will be more opportunities!

Phoning it In – I’ve been away since we met on Wednesday so fortunately I was able to draw on the writing of Sari for a story about the donation of the walk-in fridge to the Food Cupboard, and to our guest Alison who wrote about the SPHA program in her church’s weekly bulletin the next day.

South Portland Housing Authority – Our speaker was Mike Hulse, whom some of us knew in his role as a past president of the Portland Sunrise Club.

From Alison: Wednesday evening, I had the privilege of attending a South Portland Rotary meeting at the invitation of an FCC UCC member. The occasion was a presentation by Mike Hulse, executive director of the South Portland Housing Authority. Mike reported that the Housing Authority has developed and is managing 891 units of affordable housing in our community, much of it for adults 55 years and older. Clearly passionate about developing affordable housing, he talked us through a whirlwind tour of the various developments in town - including (among many others) the Betsy Ross House, named for a former member of FCC UCC!

Mike emphasized what many of us know: that we are experiencing a housing crisis. The units they build fill up as soon as they build them. The waiting lists can be as long as three to four years to get an apartment. When I asked how many of their units are designed for families versus retired residents, he replied that it is easier to develop senior housing than family housing. *(She went on to discuss the housing crisis and her plans to meet with Mike to learn more.)*

My Additional Comments: I don’t think I’m alone in saying that I learned a TON from this presentation. Unfortunately the classroom projector was not working (Jill assured us that this has been happening in some of her classes so it was not an operator error!) so we were not able to see Mike’s powerpoint but it did not detract from the presentation. Mike walked us through the history of the SPHA and had several visual aids with him. He was quite proud of the new Betsy Ross Crossing; there will be a ribbon-cutting ceremony and a chance to walk through the building on October 14 at 2 p.m. – contact SPHA if you plan to go.



Left to right: Mary Jo Jakob, Dwayne Hopkins, Sybil Riemensnider, Peter, Sari, Mike Hulsey

SPCE Rotary Awards \$35,311 to the South Portland Food Cupboard

(Press release written by Sari)

On September 17th, on behalf of the South Portland–Cape Elizabeth Rotary Club, District 7780, our partner clubs, our generous members, and the South Portland Housing Authority — we proudly presented a \$35,113 check to the South Portland Food Cupboard.

This grant will fund the purchase of a walk-in refrigeration unit at SPFC’s new facility — a game-changing upgrade that will dramatically enhance their ability to serve our neighbors. With this new resource, SPFC will be able to:

- **Extend distribution hours** so more families can access food when it works for them.
- **Introduce a pre-order system** that saves time and allows families to plan ahead.
- **And safely store fresh produce, meat, and dairy** — ready for pickup when families need it most.

Let me take you back to how this all began. Last spring, Rotarian Tony Wagner discovered the need for refrigeration and immediately shared it with then President Nancy Irving and Community Service Director Sari Greene. We knew right away this was a project worth rallying behind.

So — we got to work. Nancy and Tony reached out to other clubs, Sari focused on the district grant and community partnerships. Sari reached out to Mike Hulsey, South Portland Housing Authority Executive Director. Mike immediately and enthusiastically agreed to partner with us — generously committing \$10,000 toward the refrigeration unit.

And that was just the beginning. Together, we raised a total of **\$31,113** — a true testament to the power of Rotary and community collaboration.

Grant Contributors

Rotary:

- District 7780: \$3,970
- SP-CE Rotary Club: \$8,000
- Portland Rotary Club: \$5,000
- Dover Rotary Club: \$2,000
- Ogunquit Rotary Club: \$2,000

Brunswick Rotary Club: \$300
Westbrook-Gorham Rotary Club: \$500
Biddeford-Saco Rotary Club: \$500
Saco Bay Sunset Rotary Club: \$500
Wells Rotary Club: \$300

Individual Contributions:

Stern Memorial Fund – \$1,000
Anonymous Donation – \$1,043

Community Partner:

South Portland Housing Authority – \$10,000

This right here is what Rotary is all about — Service Above Self. Clubs coming together, members stepping up, and partners joining forces — all to make sure that **no one in our community goes hungry.**

**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