

TWO LIGHTS

**Rotary Club of South Portland – Cape Elizabeth
October 14, 2026**



Upcoming Dates:

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

October 17, 1:30 (program starts at 2) – District Foundation Celebration at Port City Air, Portsmouth (sign-up on district website)

October 27, 5:30 – Club Board Meeting (originally scheduled for October 20)

October 21 – Henry Frank, LifeFlight of Maine

October 22, 5(ish) – 7(ish) – South Portland Food Cupboard

October 28 – NO MEETING

October 29-30, 5:30, Hannaford Hall at USM – Sports Diplomacy and the Power of Game; World Affairs Council of Maine 2026 Fall Foreign Policy Forum – mentioned by our speaker on September 9. See WACMaine website for more information and to register (free).

November 4 – Internal Business: Tree Sale Preparations

November 6, 5:30 - 8 – A Light on the Point, SMCC Celebration

November 7 – You Can't Take it With You at Lyric Theater – let Patty Sprague know if you want her to reserve seats for you!

November 11 – tbd

November 18 – Official Visit from our District Governor Michele Bois-Gilbody

November 21 – Tree Lot Set-up

November 25 – NO MEETING – Happy Thanksgiving!

November 27 – First Tree Delivery

December 5 – 2nd Tree Delivery

October 21 Duties

Opening Words – Williams

Raffle Gift – Cox

November 4 Duties

Opening Words – Wilson

Raffle Gift – Danielson

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

What's New With Our Members (& Friends)

Happy Birthday to

 *Bob Danielson - October 15*

 *JD Dobson - October 24*

 *Phil Dube - October 28*

I could have just left last week's raffle congratulations in the bulletin without changing it! Congratulations - again! - to Maggie! This week she won a gift certificate to Barber Bros. courtesy of Kathy Cotter.

Hanging out with the Cub Scouts – The club received a request on Thursday for a speaker to come to the SP Cub Scout meeting that evening (the request was late due to a scheduling issue – we can relate). The kids were learning about being good citizens and after an election to determine the best snack, the older scouts (3rd & 4th graders) met with Nancy H & Laurenz to learn what a non-profit is and in particular what Rotary is and does. Nancy's show-and-tell (End Polio Now decals - which they applied to their faces) was far outshone by Laurenz unscrewing his foot to show them!! But despite the challenges of sitting still, they were able to soak up a little bit about Rotary and what we do. I loved how fascinated they were by countries of the world (does the World Cultures Day at SPMS have food from Japan? From South Africa, etc.? Is there a Rotary club in Italy? In France? In Argentina? In Antarctica?)

Does he know a football isn't round? – Well, maybe he does because he spent part of his childhood in the US – and lives here now – and obviously Michael Dickel must know a little bit about our version of football! Michael picked the Bills to win on Monday night, breaking the tie with John LoBosco and Dave Bagdasarian, Jr. after Sunday's games.

The commissioner took the opportunity to present past winners with their weekly trophies, followed by his usual trivia game, with prizes becoming more bizarre every week - congratulations(?) to Nicole!



Studying Bug Light – This is from an email that the club received requesting access to the interior of Bug Light (and is pretty cool!).

Professors Erica Avrami (Columbia) and Randall Mason (UPenn) are teaching graduate preservation/planning studies this fall focused on Maine lighthouses. Erica's group will approach the entire collection of 60+ lighthouses through systems perspectives (looking regionally at climate impacts, community well-being, economic factors, and more); Randall's group will approach a small number of specific lighthouses at the scale of building, site, and landscape. The academic institutions will collaborate with each other across the fall semester, as well as with the American Lighthouse Foundation, Maine Preservation, World Monuments Fund, and other stakeholders.

Erica and her graduate student group visited Portland Breakwater Lighthouse (Bug Light) on Monday, October 12th, hosted by Lighthouse Keeper Emeritus Jack Roberts, Sue Sturtevant and Tom Meyers.

The students will be making a summary presentation of their work, followed by a Q+A, at the end of the semester, and we are invited to join them via zoom on Monday, December 14, 4:00-6:00pm; we will get more details as the date approaches.



Giving Away Money – After this week’s meeting, an ad hoc committee composed of Anne, Nicole, Mike T, Tom and Laurenz reviewed the community service grant applications received to date and recommended these amounts to be awarded to the following organizations:

\$300 – SPHS Unified Sports Team (our speakers last week)

\$300 – CEHS Unified Sports Team

\$500 – Side x Side (for after-school art scholarships in greater Portland)

\$1,000 – Cape Elizabeth Robotics Boosters

\$1,000 – Love in Living Action (provides free in-home support services for vulnerable residents of SP and CE)

\$2,000 – The Family Restored (support services for families affected by addiction)

The Unified Sports team donations are being split equally between the Community Service and Youth Service budgets.

ShelterBox Bag – No they didn’t change their name but they have changed! Our speaker this week was Renee Brouse, Rotary Relations Manager for ShelterBox US, joining us by zoom from the west coast. Renee started by thanking our club for our (club + members) cumulative donations of over \$40,000! ShelterBox has served over 3.2 million people since its inception 26 years ago. Renee filled us in on some of the changes at ShelterBox:

- It’s no longer a box, it’s a bag! This reduces shipping costs and the use of plastic.
- It’s no longer “one size fits all.” The bags are filled with items that are appropriate for the climate where the disaster occurs.
- Although they still distribute tents, they are also trending towards more sustainable structures that are less temporary.
- They have expanded to six warehouses so that bags can be pre-positioned in various parts of the world. The latest warehouse in Barbados was in a good position for distributing bags two months later in response to a hurricane in Jamaica.

ROTARY CLUB OF SOUTH PORTLAND-CAPE ELIZABETH

Officers

President – Laurenz Schmidt

President-Elect – Michael Tranfaglia

Vice-President – Chuck Redman

Secretary – Kathy Cotter

Treasurer – Marge Dugan

Directors

Club Administration – *vacant*

Youth Services – Ray Healey & John LoBosco

Community Services –Nancy Hawes & Tom Meyers
International – Patty Sprague & Chris Speh
Membership – Bob Danielson
Director-At-Large – Peter Bennett

Committee Chairs

Tree Sale – Nicole Albert & Maggie Williams
SpringFest – Marge Dugan
Program Chairs – Marge Dugan (1st half) & Bob Flynn (2nd half)
Foundation Chair – Nicole Albert
Social Media - Matt McAleney
Publicity – Jim Britt
Web Administrator – Scott Irving
Bulletin Editor – Nancy Hawes
Veterans – Jeff Gabrielson
Bug Light – Sam Wilkens-O’Brien & Jill Nadeau
Club Protection Officer – Nicole Albert

DISTRICT 7780 GOVERNOR

Michele Bois-Gilbody, Rotary Club of Freeport

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

Olayinka Hakeem Babalola, Rotary Club of Trans Amadi, Nigeria

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