



Happy New Year!

Jan. 3, 2024 – In-person & zoom meeting, 12:15

The in-person meeting of the Dover Rotary Club was led by Board Member Cate Rafferty, as it was necessary for President Kathy to Zoom in. Cate welcomed all and noted that Dover has the smartest, kindest, and most generous Rotarians of all! Cate’s theme for the meeting was “intentionality” and noted that since Rotary is an international organization, we would this week skip the Pledge of Allegiance. Gregg D. led the recitation of the 4-Way Test.

Program: Kristine Baber, Ph.D. and Christine Dubin, MPP: Reuseable Containers Pilot Project

Cate introduced our speakers: Dr. Kristine Baber is a retired UNH professor who is passionate about reducing plastic in our lives. Christina has a master’s in public policy and is a former teacher and is active with “Beyond Plastics” and “Reusable Seacoast”.

Kristine and Christina are directing a soon-to-be-launched pilot program at several Dover and Portsmouth restaurants called “Takeout, Dine and Return”, aiming to curb the use of disposable plastic or plastic-coated cardboard takeout containers. They have been working together for 3-4 years, and specifically on this project for over one year. Their slide show highlighted several disturbing facts: plastics make up 45% of municipal landfill waste but less than 6% are recycled; there are over 13,000 chemicals used in various forms of plastic, many highly toxic; most so-called compostable containers are potentially hazardous for home compost piles, but can be broken down in industrial composting (e.g. Mr. Fox), and we ingest about a credit card’s worth of plastic each day!

Upcoming Meetings & Events

Meetings:

- Jan. 10: Rain for the Sahara
- Jan. 17: Club Assembly

Events:

- Jan. 16: **Together on Tuesday:** at Cinco’s Cantina (formerly Cinco de Mayo), Central Ave., Dover, at 6pm
- Jan. 18: Garrison School dictionary distribution – 12:35 pm
- Jan. 21: **Mid-year Leadership Dinner,** 11 am - \$35 – sign up at <https://rotary7780.myeventscenter.com>
- Jan. 25: **Senior Visits** – Maple Suites, 3 – 4:30 pm.
- Feb. 17: **Peace Concert at Noble High School** in North Berwick, 2-3:30pm \$25, sign up at: <https://our.show/concertforpeace2024>.

Guests: Kristine Baber, Ph.D., and Christine Dubin, MPP, committee members of the Dover Plastic Reduction Group

Today’s newsletter authored by Cathy B.

Kristine and Christina have joined an awareness campaign to “Stop the Stuff”: i.e. the utensils, straws, and condiment packets often distributed automatically with takeout orders. This movement is being led by the Surfriders Foundation in NH. Restaurants are asked to hang posters, alerting consumers to decline these plastic “extras”. Restaurant participation is voluntary right now, but there is proposed legislation to make it mandatory (HB1207-FN). No cost to restaurants but will save them money in supply costs. Customers are asked to decline these items when phoning in orders, if unneeded.

Reusables are the solution to save money, reduce waste, and protect public health. Their Plastic Reduction group has procured stainless steel reusable containers. These will be housed in two restaurants in Dover and two in Portsmouth (50 containers each). Diners will be asked to take leftovers in these containers, and then return them (clean) to a participating restaurant within two weeks. They will then be cleaned, sanitized, and inspected before re-use. This will be a 6-month pilot program, hopefully launching in February. Restaurants to be announced. (Note that dining patrons could bring their own containers to any restaurant but cannot presently do so with takeout orders.) Participants will download an app to track their container loans. Studies have shown only a 1% loss rate for unreturned containers. Their funding for one year has been secured through Eight-Legged Octopus, Replenish, and several other private donors. Kristine and Christina will keep the club posted!

Announcements:

Bingo---Ken P. reported that it’s been very busy of late. He urges club members to sign up: we need 3-5 people each week for various jobs. Cate R. added that a COVID outbreak has caused a recent shutdown of others’ charity nights and thus our Thursdays will be packed.

Dictionary project---Marion C. reports that the distributions of dictionaries to 3rd graders will continue.

Student of the Month---Gregg D. invited all to Thursday’s presentation at Dover Middle School at 11:15am.

Mid-Year Leadership Dinner---Gregg D. urges attendance in Freeport, ME on Sunday, January 21 at 11am. Cost is \$35 and sign-up link can be found on District 7780 website:
<https://rotary7780.myeventscenter.com>.

Peace Concert---**Saturday, February 17, 2024** at Noble High School. Many choirs, choruses, and performers to enjoy, musical direction by Kathy Fink. Cost is \$25. All profits go to Rotary peace initiatives. Tickets are on sale now. <https://our.show/concertforpeace2024>.

Senior Visits---Melissa L. advises that next visit is **Thursday, January 25** from 3-4:30pm at Maple Suites, Back River Road, Dover. A trivia competition is planned---with hot chocolate. Please join us!

Social events---The Committee met just after today’s meeting. Events on tap include:

Tuesday, January 16 ---Together on Tuesday at Cinco’s Cantina (formerly Cinco de Mayo), Central Ave., Dover, at 6pm

Saturday, February 17: The District 7780 Peace Concert at Noble. 2pm.

Passing of Dave Drucker---Cate R. expressed our collective sorrow at the death of Dave Drucker and told a delightful story about his writing a poem for her.

Happy Bucks:

Jim V. \$2 for our speakers; \$10 for a family holiday visit; \$1 for his Cool Grandpa socks

Frank C. \$1 family holidays and \$1 for Tom Dunnington

Brendan M. \$1 for attending City Inauguration ceremony.

Jay S. \$1 for his wolf ears from Great Wolf Lodge in VA; \$1 for his stamina in climbing four flights of stairs seven times to join grandchildren in tubing; \$1 for gifted Virginia Tech clothing; and \$1 for a good week driving 1800 miles.

Gregg D. \$1 for Dave Drucker and \$1 for Happy New Year

Melissa L. \$1 for serving meals to folks in Rochester; \$1 for lunch and movie with little sister Lani and with Lani's brother too.

Cathy B. \$1 for Edna St. Vincent Millay and iambic pentameter

50/50 Drawing: \$63 in the pot. The winning ticket was Melissa L.'s but the 3 of Spades was not the BIG winner.