



May 3, 2023 – In-person & zoom Meeting, 12:15

President Megan welcomed all to the greatest Rotary Club in the universe.

Thanks to **Doug L.** for picking up lunch and **Marion C.** for yummy cupcakes

Program – Seacoast Outright - Hershey Hirschkop, Executive Director

Bio: Hershey Hirschkop (she/her pronouns) cut her teeth at Gay Community News in Boston, of the few lesbian and gay national newspapers in the US at the time. Her life as an activist took many turns, but never ceased. While the majority of her career was spent first as an architect, and later in non-profit affordable and supportive housing development, she has stayed involved in key social justice issues, including affordable housing and LGBTQ rights.

Aside from late nights catching up on email, Hershey enjoys birding, beekeeping, and admits to being born and raised in Massachusetts. She is now settled in Seacoast Maine with her partner of many years, as well as a variety of farm critters.

Seacoast Outright provides support, resources and community education to LGBTQ+ youth and adults in the Seacoast and most of New Hampshire. They were founded in the 1990s, when a group of concerned parents and community members met at a UNH conference where the idea for the organization was sparked.

Upcoming Meetings & Events

Meetings:

May 10: Club Assembly

Events:

May 13 & 14: Durham GB flower sale

June 24: Gundalow Trip

Guest: Brian Hanson, David Barnes and Montana Foroughi

Pledge: Jay S.

4-Way Test: Ute L.

Today's newsletter authored by Noreen B.

With an occasionally humorous approach, Hersey described herself as “queer” noting her acceptance of the term as long as it isn’t pejorative and she uses it as an overall reference to LGBTQ+ terminology. She “came out” in high school several years ago and felt isolated at the time until one day she found the courage to tell her brother who was loving and accepting. She is concerned “hateful” legislation is creating unnecessary burdens, forcing kids to hide feelings and potentially increase incidences of suicidality.

Hersey emphasized the importance of activism and involvement in NH’s discussions on the Parental Bill of Rights. If it passes, she said, anyone a youth confides in regarding their preferred pronouns or status would be required to notify the child’s parents. “That means kids cannot come out, cannot talk to an adult.” Kids will struggle, especially if their parents are not understanding.

Jim V. noted the importance of community involvement at many levels and with the Dover School Board. Hersey agreed. Hersey was also asked to define transgender. The term, she said, covers anyone born as one sex yet feeling they are in the wrong body – a boy feeling like a girl, a girl feeling like a boy – they may do nothing, take hormones, puberty blockers, or have surgery – it’s a wide range.

Seacoast Outright offers meetings and activities for youth, training and support for parents and informal case management with multiple community partners such as Seacoast Mental Health and Big Brother Big Sisters. They also provide training for schools and work with police, the Dover Mental Health Alliance and the 603 Coalition.

The Portsmouth Pride Event and Parade is their main fundraiser – this year it will be June 24, 2023. For more information visit [Portsmouth Pride 2023 | Seacoast Outright](#).

Announcements:

Durham Great Bay Rotary is having their second annual flower sale – May 13 & 14

They have expanded their flower offerings this year to include three types of lilacs and an option for hydrangea plants as well. Plants are \$50 and can be picked up (or possible delivery) funds raised from this sale will support the scholarship program for high school seniors, a boot & shoe program, and lots of great organizations in the area. You can order Lilac plants and Hydrangeas at this link: [Lilac Fundraiser – Rotary Club of Durham Great Bay \(nhlilacsale.org\)](#)

Durham Great Bay Rotary Club will also be hosting their first annual Summerfest Event on June 17th

from 12-6 at Boulder Field at the University of New Hampshire. This free family friendly event will feature live music from local musicians, a kids club with face painting and activities, a massive blow-up slide and bouncy house, vendor area and farmers market, cornhole tournament, and more! We would love to see you and your families at this event! Be on the lookout for a volunteer sign-up sheet, as they’re asking our club to help them with some manpower for the event.

Committee Reports

Bingo Report - Last week we had 123 players and sold 27 boxes! The May position-based sign-up link is now live:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F49AEAF22AAF5C61-maybingo1>

Dover Middle School student of the month has been selected. May 4 at 12:15 for the presentation;

Kids Closet: Gregg D. & Phil R. distributed 900 snacks to the local elementary schools.

Foundation: Jim M. reminded members of the district's Flight to End Polio event at Pease on Saturday, 4 pm. \$50/pp. Purple cupcakes sponsored by Dover Rotary.

District Changeover: June 24, 11-2 pm at Westbrook

Dover Clean Up: May 6 – Joe Park Gardens need help – 8-11 am. Contact Beth F. for more info.

Rotary Garden Planting – May 20, 9 am – all welcome (needed) to dig in! Henry Law Park, contact Noreen B. for info.

Happy Bucks

Beth F. for Don't Trash Dover event with several Rotarians

Jay S. \$5 for Hawaii trip – a preemptive cruise to celebrate his 50 years of marriage – still 5 weeks away. Also went to Tahiti and enjoyed visit with brother in Hawaii who lives in Montana.

Phil R. \$10 for 39th and final radiation treatment!

Ute L. for ski season finally ending.

50/50 drawing: \$379 – Melissa L. picked 7 of spades – sorry. Pot grows!

May Birthdays:

Beth F. May 18

Ute L. May 22

Ron R. May 29

May Anniversaries:

Malcolm M. 41 years

Bob R. 34 years

Marion C. 33 years

Betsey AP 23 years

Terrie H. 8 years