



Good News from the Clubs

ROTARY DISTRICT 7780 CLUBS

SERVICE, FUNDRAISING, CELEBRATIONS
& COLLABORATIONS

DECEMBER 1, 2023



Bath

Bath Rotarian Rick Cromwell is in Cambodia until mid-December working on installing wells and water filters in villages around Siem Reap. Bath's involvement began in 2013 with a District grant and Rick has returned to Cambodia 5 times in the last 10 years. Photos clockwise from top left. Water sampling with Rick and local engineer. Bio sand water filters ready for delivery to the first 2023 beneficiaries. The Water For Cambodia team gives a final pre-delivery orientation at Community Meeting and to a village chief. FMI see <https://bathrotary.org/sitepage/international-projects/water-in-cambodia>.





Boothbay Harbor

Rotary Club hosts Veterans Dinner.

A serving of gratitude followed by appreciation was on the menu November 9 during the Rotary Club of Boothbay Harbor's annual Veterans Dinner. The event had been cancelled for the past couple years due to COVID-19, but it came back serving 92 meals to veterans, members, friends and family members. For the full story, go to the article by Bill Pearson in the Boothbay Register:

<https://www.boothbayregister.com/article/rotary-honors-local-veterans-dinner/180439>.

Photos by Bill Pearson as well. Top Left: Interact Club members, from left, Abby Clark, Meg Sledge and Ariel Alamo sold 'Lewiston Strong' bracelets to support awareness for the Oct. 25 victims of the mass shooting. Top right: Local veterans who attended, from left, Chris Goodwin, Al Sirois and Arthur Richardson. Bottom: Veteran Arthur Richardson introducing himself, his military branch and years of service.



Bridgton-Lake Region

The Bridgton-Lake Region Rotary Club gifted more than 120 dictionaries to 3rd graders at Crooked River Elementary School in Casco and Stevens Brook Elementary School in Bridgton and to Bridge Crossing students in Bridgton. “We are interested in supporting literacy. The goal of this program is to assist all students in becoming good writers, active readers, creative thinkers, and resourceful learners by providing them with their own personal dictionary. Educators see third grade as the dividing line between learning to read and reading to learn,” remarked Rotarian Erin Nelson, Project Team Leader. The Club has sponsored this project for over a dozen years. Students are always appreciative of having their very own dictionary to use at school and home for years to come! At the same time, the Bridgton-Lake Region Rotary Club is expanding its literacy projects in the Lakes Region and beyond with Little Free Libraries and books for very young readers.

For more information about the Club’s activities, see our website:

<https://lakeregionrotary.com> or our FB Page.





Brunswick

In November the fourth Walter H. “Doc” Phillips Award was presented to Gayle Hays at a ceremony at the Harpswell Town Offices. This award from the Brunswick Rotary club was named in honor of our former 40+ year Rotarian, Doc Phillips, as an annual award to be given to a member of our community reflecting Doc’s devotion to our Town of Harpswell, conservation, education, community involvement, and volunteerism. Gayle was recognized for her involvement in Harpswell Aging at Home where she is the Chair of the Health and Wellness Committee, a Neighbor Connecting Program, Meals in a Pinch, and her bonus contribution of flowers and notes to foods being delivered. She is a dedicated inoculator and was instrumental in initiating a daily women’s walking group during the recent pandemic. Her contributions are far and wide.

Photo left-right: Gayle Hays, award recipient, Rotarian David Taft (Club Foundation Chair and member of the Pride in Heritage Committee), and Rotarian Dee Perry, Chair of the Pride in Heritage Committee which is responsible for choosing and presenting the Doc Phillips Awards.





Damariscotta-Newcastle

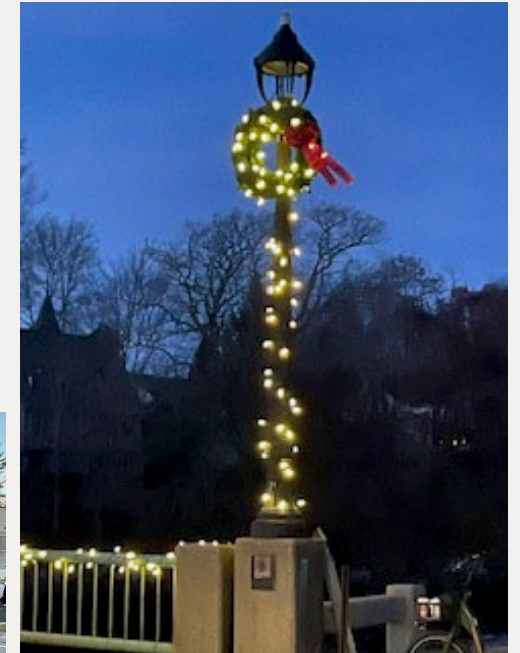
Damariscotta-Newcastle had a busy Fall season. First, the Damariscotta Pumpkinfest & Regatta, with several members involved. Always a fun week!

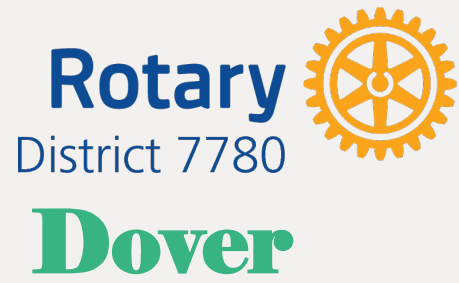
Then we hosted our Karl's Kids Program fun fundraiser with a corn hole tournament, a pig and chicken roast BBQ (Thank you, DG Marion and PE Harry Cheney for helping serve food.) and music/dancing into the evening.

Marion and Harry returned on Halloween for the DG formal club visit (in top photo they are welcomed by Marianne Pinkham on left (District Foundation Committee and Club Foundation Chair) and Lorraine Faherty on right (Assistant Governor area 8). Then club members Tom Anderson and Jason Warlick assisted at the local Trunk or Treat event distributing children's toothbrushes, toothpaste samples and children's books from the Skidompha Library Used Book Store, and some candy.

In November we helped with traffic and parking at The Central Lincoln County Y's annual Holiday Craft Bazaar. The Y is a corporate member of our club. In spite of the pouring rain, the drenched volunteers had FUN.

The next day club members, working with the local Lions club again this year, helped string lights on the railings of the Damariscotta River bridge, uniting the Twin Villages, in preparation for Villages of Light. The antique lamp posts on the bridge over the Damariscotta River, paid for by a District 7780 grant 20 years ago, look so welcoming, especially decorated for the season.





The Rotary Club of Dover has the opportunity to visit each of the elementary schools in Dover - Frances G. Hopkins Elementary School at Horne Street, Woodman Park School, and Garrison Elementary School to present the student advisors with \$1,500 each in Target & Walmart gift cards through our Kids Closet Program for their students and families to buy items they are not able to purchase on their own. Thank you to those who support our Rotary Club fundraisers as we raise money to assist with this program. Top photo: Rotarians Gregg Dowty and Melissa Lesniak (right) presented the cards.

On Saturday, October 7th, the Rotary Club of Dover and the Dover High School Interact students hosted our 3rd Annual Shred It event to raise money to help the Interact students with a project where they will help others. That project planning is in the works and with this event, Rotarians & Interact Advisors Phil Rinaldi and Melissa Lesniak (to the right in bottom photo) presented the Interact students with the proceeds check for over \$2,000 to be used for their project. Thank you to the Rotarians and Interact students for all of your support at this annual event.



Rotary

District 7780

Fryeburg Area

Fryeburg Fair Potato Booth - Rotary was “in the house” at the Fryeburg Fair, excellent signage, good weather and great atmosphere made for an excellent fundraiser and community awareness event. Rotarians from Fryeburg, Bridgton-Lakes Region and North Conway and Interactors from Fryeburg Academy teamed up with friends and family members for 8 days of coverage preparing loaded Potatoes, Loaded Hot Dogs, Red Hots, and Homemade Chocolate Chip cookies to serve over 200,000 attendees at the Fair. An annual event, Fryeburg Area Rotary’s “Potato Booth” is FARC’s major fundraiser. Thank you to those that volunteered and/or came by the booth. Pictured l-r Rotarians Andy Piece, Nancy Boros, Patty Smith and Ron Smith.



Pints for Polio - The Fryeburg Area and Bridgton-Lake Region Rotary Clubs shared an early evening fellowship at Saco River Brewing in Fryeburg to lift a few Pints to Eradicate Polio and to raise community awareness. Over 20 Rotarian and friends gathered to recognize the efforts of Rotarians to eliminate Polio. \$200 was raised.

700 Books Donated to Early Reading Program - With help from a District Grant, we purchased 700 books for distribution to Molly Ockett K-8 School in Lovell for their Guided Reading program. Over 400 students and 50 teachers will benefit. Rotarians will also support the program as volunteer readers. Photo: President Laura McNaughton presented the books to a VERY thankful student body.



Hampton

On Saturday morning after Thanksgiving Hampton RC members and volunteers shopped at the Seabrook Market Basket to restock local food pantries after the Thanksgiving holiday. Thanks to a generous donation from The Brook Casino, we were able to spend \$10,000 on this project this year! After shopping, the groceries were delivered to seven different food pantries between Seabrook and Hampton, including St. Vincents DePaul/Our Lady of Miraculous Food Pantry, Hampton United Methodist Church Food Pantry, Hobbs House Hampton Community Coalition Food Pantry, Seabrook Church of Christ Food Pantry, Seabrook Food Pantry-Rockingham Community Action, Seabrook Community Table, and End 68 Hours of Hunger. Picture on left, features Rotarian Anne Russell (left) and volunteer Leslie Russell (right) at the checkout. Picture on right features Rotarians Sherry Rand (left) and Kristen McClelland (right) dropping off groceries.



Ogunquit

Member Profile – Tracy Smith

This month's profile is a two-part feature of the dynamic duo Tracy Smith (pictured on the right) and Erin Hays (pictured on the left). Tracy will be reaching a milestone of 20 years as a Rotarian next year. Her Dad Rotarian Larry Smith brought her to her first meeting, where she didn't say a word. Tracy stuck with Rotary and the experience gave her a confidence and mission that has never let up. Four years after that first meeting, Tracy was elected President of the Ogunquit Club for the first of two terms. Currently Tracy and Erin are the incredible team who organize and lead OGT Rotary events. Tracy began her events work by helping another member with an event, then worked on the kite festival her Dad had started, and her event work has continued to expand from there – benefitting the club and the community. As Tracy has said, "people who participate in events are more committed to their club and have fun together." If you are interested in launching or expanding your events, join us for a meeting in Ogunquit and talk with Tracy. The meeting schedule can be found at www.ogunquitmerotary.org. Keep an eye on Club News in upcoming district newsletters for a profile of the other half of this incredible duo, Erin Hays.



Oxford Hills

Oxford Hills Interact Club helped the Club sell their Cabot cheese wheels at the DECA School craft fair. Shown is Interact President Dakota with some of the 150 cheese wheels they sold that day!

The Interact Club also made a float for the Annual Oxford Hills Chamber Christmas Parade and won 3rd place for the non-profit category! Shown in the photo left, is Rotarian/Interact Advisor Tina Fox with several Interactors. She looks like one of the students!

Oxford Hills Rotary is holding their annual Cabot Sharp Cheese Wheel fundraiser. Each wheel is 2 lbs and comes in a decorative box and sells for \$20. They make a great Christmas or hostess gift. If interested, please contact Patty Rice 207-890-2332 or Chair Dan Allen 207-592-4262. FMI see us at our website www.oxfordhillsrotary.org or on Facebook.



Portland

November was a Season of Collaborative Community Service for the Portland Club. Here are two heartwarming examples: Boots to warm the feet, Thanksgiving to warm the soul.

In partnership with Lamey Wellehan, we organized the Second Annual *Boots for Kids* donation at the Amanda Rowe Elementary School in Portland. This year, 125 pairs of brand new boots will be distributed to area school children in need, very timely with winter around the corner.

In collaboration with Sysco Foods, we served 120 hot *Thanksgiving dinners* with all the trimmings to those in need at Saint Vincent de Paul Soup Kitchen, as we have done for the past 36 years.

Photo captions: Boots (Front l-r) Community Service Chair Amy Chipman, Art Howe, Asst. Principal Melissa Richard, Social Worker Amy Leonard, and Patty Byers. (Back l-r) Principal Bill Anton, Lamey Wellehan driver Chuck, Lamey Wellehan Manager Chris Stanley, and Dick Hall.

Thanksgiving (with children) - *Members of the Prep and Cook Team with lots of family support.*

Thanksgiving (other) - *Members of the Set-up and Serve Team. Thank you DG Marion Cheney for your help!*

Warm wishes from the Portland Club.



Portsmouth

Our biggest fund raiser, the Annual Christmas Tree sale, began Thanksgiving weekend. About 30 Rotarians showed up at 7 am in pouring rain to offload 400 trees. Another 1000 were offloaded two days later. The sale is expected to last three weeks. Some 283 trees, 86 wreaths and 114 ornaments were sold through the first weekend for a gross of \$24,460 dollars.

This year's ornament is the Gundalow and once again Mort Schmidt spent \$100 dollars to purchase #1 for Marlene Jones, Ray's widow. Ray Jones, who passed in 1999, previously was the annual high bidder.

For info on purchasing the ornament or a tree, go to:
<https://portsmouthrotary.org/page/show/homepage/>.



River Valley

We feature several speakers each month, mostly local people who are making a difference in our communities. This past month, Rotarian Shannon Glover, Director of the Rumford Old School Food Pantry, spoke on behalf of local food pantries and the need for food donations being greater than ever! They serve over 125 needy families in the area! Photo on top, left to right: Shannon Glover, Club President Catherine Johnson and Bruce Powell from the Bethel RC.

Another speaker, Sammy Patel is the new owner of the infamous Rumford Mountain Valley Variety Store and generously donated the lobster for the Lobster Lunch fundraiser last winter. Seen in the bottom photo, left to right: Sammy Patel, Donna Watton, Store Manager, Pwonam Patel, Sammy's sister and Assistant Store Manager, and Rotarian Roger Whitehouse.

A final speaker was Sarah Broughton, Marketing Director, Rumford Center Village Improvement Society. She and others are working with members and the community to renovate Rumford Center Meeting house, commissioned in 1803 before the county was even established. This was the seat of Rumford government, and helped people in need. In the early 1960's membership waned and the building fell into disrepair. In 2021 a group of individuals realized the value of this historical property and are now incorporated with a nonprofit. They have raised nearly \$70,000 to refurbish the building.

For more information about this project, contact Committee Chair Roger Whitehouse at roger.riverside@gmail.com.





Rochester

Last month we featured Rochester Rotarians building the play-space. This month we are highlighting its dedication.

On a beautiful fall day the Rochester Rotary Club, board and staff from Hope on Haven Hill (HHH), and local dignitaries met to cut the ribbon for and officially open a new play-space at the HHH Center for Hope and Wellness. This outdoor space was created by Rochester Rotarians and friends for the children and mothers that utilize the HHH Center for Hope and Wellness.

Top photo: Recently Re-Elected Mayor Paul Callaghan and Executive Director of Hope on Haven Hill Kerry Norton cut the ribbon on the new play-space built and funded by Rotary of Rochester NH and a District Grant as Rotarians and Local Officials look on. Bottom Photo: Local Dignitaries and Leadership, Mayor Paul Callaghan, Rotarian Katie Ambrose, Kerry Norton, and Rotarian Dan Fitzpatrick.



Saco Bay Sunset

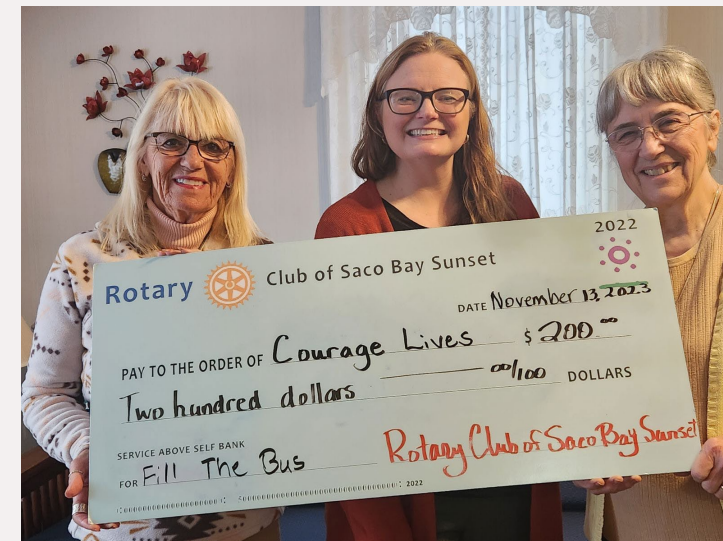
THE BUS WAS FILLED.

The Rotary Club of Saco Bay Sunset collaborated with Courage Lives, Old Orchard Beach (OOB) Social Services Navigator, OOB Rec Department, OOB High School Interact and Esther House to "Fill the Bus" with clothing, hygienic products, food, blankets and other items to donate to Human Sex Trafficked survivors and families. The collected items will also go to local/needy families in town. The bus was filled from top to bottom and front to back! Old Orchard Beach residents were generous in their donations! \$200 was raised as well.

Picture 1: Top left. Left to right: Carol Marcotte (RCSBS), Stephanie Moutsatsos (RCSB), and OOBHS Interactors Sara, Emily, Madison, Evan, Carey Nason (Courage Lives) and Interactors Mandy and Chloe in front.

Picture 2: Top right. Left to right: Sister JoAnne (Esther House), Jacob Allen (RCSBS), Carey Nason (Courage Lives/Director), Carol Marcotte (RCSBS), Sasha (Old Orchard Beach Social Services), and Kelly Canning (RCSBS).

Picture 3: Bottom. Check being presented to Courage Lives. Left to right: Carol Marcotte, Carey Nason of Courage Lives and Sister JoAnne of Esther House.





Sanford-Springvale

COME IN FROM THE COLD

We are hosting a heartwarming event on January 16 to help warm the unhoused in the Sanford area. All are invited to this fun event. Join us.

MEE-D THAI, Main St. Marketplace, 886 Main St., Sanford

Tuesday, January 16, 5:30-8:00 p.m.

Admission \$40/person

A Free signature drink

Sampling of all food choices.

Match up to \$2000 from EXIT Realty Corp Int'l

Bring at least one WARM Clothing item

For tickets email rotaryss@gmail.com.



Come in From the Cold

Join Sanford-Springvale Rotarians at the JANUARY THAW

- * **MEE~D THAI** - Main St. Marketplace, 886 Main Street, Sanford
- * Tuesday, January 16, 2024 5:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.
- * Admission: \$40.00 per person, includes one free signature drink PLUS complimentary sampling of all food choices
- * EXIT Realty Corporation International will match Net Proceeds to a maximum of \$2,000
- * Bring at least one WARM clothing item
- * Event to benefit the unhoused in the Sanford area
- * Tickets - email rotaryss.me@gmail.com

In collaboration with Sanford Housing Authority Development Corporation - 501c3 and to benefit the Community Outreach Program of the Sanford Police Department.

Rotary 



Sebago Lake Windham Area

Led by Rotarian Don Drew, dedicated members of the Sebago Lake Rotary took time out of their busy lives to help the Windham Veterans Center with a much needed yard cleanup day. They also planted two purple tulip beds to bring awareness to Rotary Polio Plus. Nice work Don Drew, Suzy Burkholder, Ingo Hartig, Deb & Roy McPhail, and Mark Wasowski.

Photos: Top Left - Rotarians Ingo Hartig (forward) and Don (back) working in garden. Right – Rotarian Mark Wasowski and Bottom - Don Drew trimming.

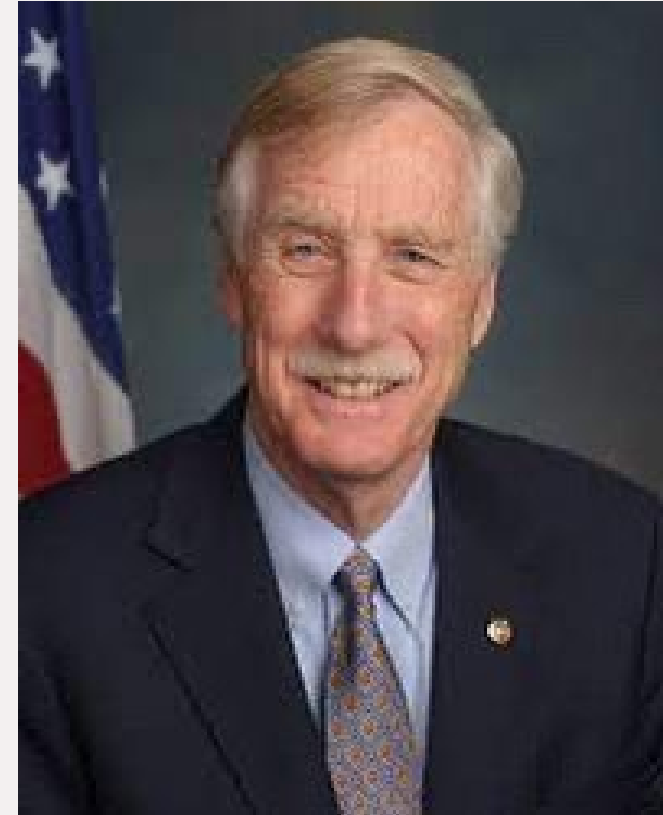




South Portland - Cape Elizabeth

SPCE Rotary Hosts Senator Angus King Event

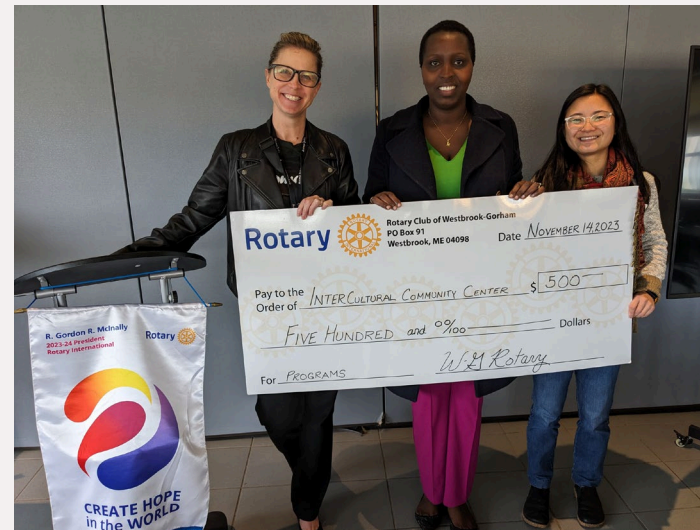
On November 6th SPCE Rotary organized an event called “A Conversation with Senator Angus King” at the South Portland Community Center. Senator King, who was a law school classmate and friend of President Dan McDonald, spoke about topics in the news and gave some insight into the way Congress works. It wasn’t just billed as a “Conversation” – it actually was a conversation, with more than half of the senator’s time devoted to listening and responding to questions and comments from the audience. Over 100 people attended. Thanks to club members who arranged a continental breakfast and extended hospitality to invited guests.



Westbrook-Gorham

On Giving Tuesday, Westbrook-Gorham Rotary was pleased to welcome Mary Ellen Johnson of Westbrook Middle School's Falcon Academy and Falcon's Nest. The Falcon's Nest is a great resource at WMS which offers a food pantry, creates about 60 weekend take-home bags each week, and provides clothing for students in need. In addition to packing 60 weekend bags with breakfast items, lunch items and snacks, the Club also donated a bag of gloves and warm socks.

Earlier in November, Beatrice Mucyo, Executive Director of the Intercultural Community Center (ICC), joined us for lunch, along with Lian Joseph, Development Associate at ICC. They accepted our donation to this amazing local organization that supports and improves the lives of immigrants and refugees by providing educational, health, and social opportunities, as well as resources.



DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

If you didn't see your Club's News in this issue of the District Newsletter, it is likely we did not hear from your President or PR person. We would love to hear from every club. Forward about 75 words in a Word document and a couple of separate photos with the identities of people in them, especially Rotarians. Keep photos flattering, please. Send your material to: RotaryNews7780@gmail.com.

Thank you for all you do for your Club, the District and the World.

Carol Madsen, District Newsletter Editor, RC of Bridgton-Lake Region

Dennis Moulton, District Newsletter Publisher, RC of Portsmouth