



News from the Clubs

ROTARY DISTRICT 7780 CLUBS

SERVICE, FUNDRAISING,
CELEBRATIONS & COLLABORATIONS

FEBRUARY 1, 2023



Bethel

A lot is going on at the Bethel Rotary Club, as evidenced in photos, clockwise:

Our scholarship chair, Dr. Kevin Finley, presents two educational assistance awards to 2022 grads from Telstar HS - Sophie Hanscom and Megan Cox. Sophie is a student at University of Maine Orono; Megan is at St. Joseph's College. Both are majoring in Elementary Education.

Our hearts go out to Steve Wight, a long time Bethel Rotarian and Foundation Chair, who lost his wife, Peggy Wight, of nearly 60 years this past month.

We provided a financial contribution to these youngsters, who are raising funds for their 5th grade trip to Boston. Pictured are: Madison Lambert, Anna Harvey and Emmy Wright, along with their advisor Angela Harvey. Club President Jean Benedict is looking on.

Kelcy Boles, the new Bethel Librarian, shares her new programming ideas for the adults and youth of our community. The club has supported their summer reading program in the past.





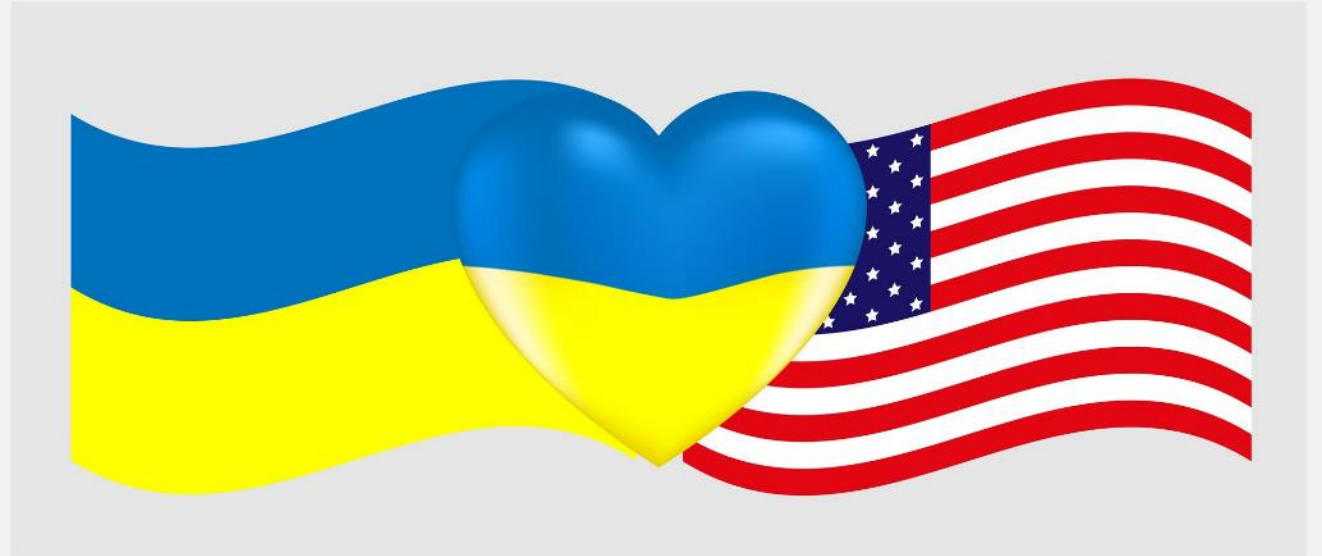
Biddeford-Saco

The Biddeford-Saco Club is hosting a delegation of Ukrainian officials in April interested in learning more about our alternative energy solutions. Important Elements of these Open World missions is for visitors

1. To acquire an understanding of the important elements of American civil society to make constructive comparisons with civil society in their own country.
2. To develop a better understanding of American culture and society and contribute to enhanced American knowledge of their own society, culture, and institutions.
3. To receive an overview of the relationships among:

the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of state and local government; the business and civic communities and government; and individual citizens and government.

If you would like more information about hosting or meeting this delegation, contact Club President Brenda Pollack at bsrotarypresident@gmail.com .





Bridgton-Lake Region

From the cold but sunny lakes and hills of western Maine, Rotarians and friends assembled at the Bear Mt. Inn & Barn Winter Pub with dozens of snowmobilers and others for fellowship and to raise some money for projects in warm and sunny Kakamega, Kenya, that the Bridgton-Lake Region Club has supported for over 5 years. Thank you to all pictured and other Rotarians and friends who came out and asked questions about our work and donated. A great opportunity for fellowship and fun and fund raising.

Pictured at top, back: Rotarians Nicholas Orgo, venue owner; PP Carol Madsen, President Aaron Hagan and Erin Nelson. In front, l-r Oxford Hills RC President George Rice, Friends of Rotary Ted Gerber and Ray Kearns, Oxford Hills Rotarians Patty Rice and Beth Abbott.

For more information at our Club, check out our website: <https://lakeregionrotary.com> and our Facebook Page.



Brunswick

The Brunswick Club has been asked by the Family of Dr. Susan Black to share an invitation for her memorial service in June. That information is elsewhere in this newsletter with an obituary for Dr. Black. If you have further questions, feel free to contact Lucy Lloyd at lucylloydedc@live.com.



Damariscotta/ Newcastle

Damariscotta/Newcastle Club, in collaboration with the Damariscotta Lions Club, raised \$7,500 from our annual kettle bell fundraiser with kettles on Main Street and in Main Street Grocery in Damariscotta. The clubs split the money, which will go toward food insecurity and other service projects in our area.

For more information, check out our website: <https://dnmrotary.org>.



HOLIDAY FESTIVITIES, FELLOWSHIP & FAMILIES -

Over the hills and through the wintry woods of Greater Portland, Falmouth Club members engaged in a variety of holiday gifting in December to help those newly landed in Maine. In collaboration for its 5th year with Falmouth HS seniors, we collected lightly used holiday decorations, lights, tree stands, and stars, then sorted and matched them with over 20 beautiful Christmas trees donated or discounted by the South Portland-Cape Elizabeth Club and the Falmouth Hockey Boosters. Donee families were identified with the help of area school teachers, nurses, administrators, and local food cupboards. Teams of Rotary and FHS Elves filled pickup-sleighs and delivered these holiday supplies along with tasty goodies for each recipient family. The wide eyes of the recipient children reflected the awe and wonder of watching engaged Rotarians who embody the spirit of the Season and our Rotary values.

Our little Club also identified 5 newcomer families who could benefit from some holiday gifts, so Rotarians took on the shopping, wrapping and delivery to make the Season bright for others.

Fellowship and festivities culminated with a Holiday cocktail party at the newly opened Portland Pie in Falmouth. Attendance included spirited members from the Westbrook-Gorham and Bridgton-Lake Region Clubs. Great Yankee swap too!

This modest gifting brought together multiple Clubs and a cross-generational effort bringing a very American holiday season to “folks from away”. A warm thank you to all those who participated.

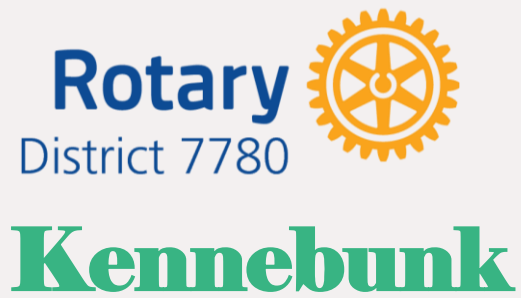


The Hampton RC had two important December events which missed the January News.

The Hampton Holiday parade was on December 3rd. We had seven Hampton Rotarians march in the pouring rain to support the club! (Left to right- Christina, Geoff, Larry, David, Martha, Dakota, and Joan)

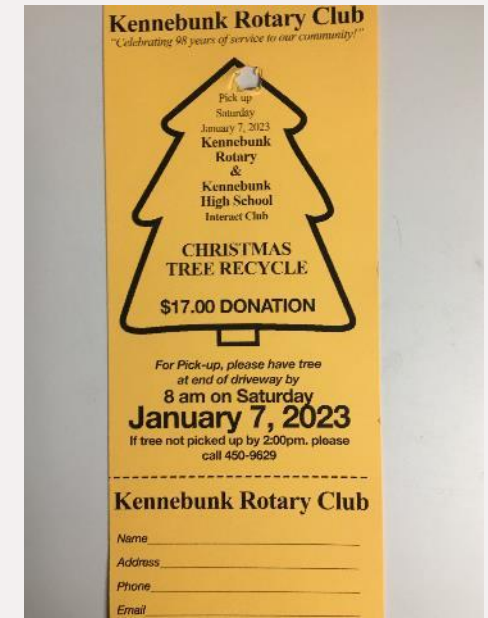
On December 5th we had our Polio fundraiser at the Community Oven in Hampton. A portion of the proceeds from food purchases that evening went to the polio foundation. We are thankful to the owner Rotarian Shane Pine for making this possible for us every year.





Each year the Kennebunk Club supports the Interact Club in a community event/major fundraiser for humanitarian projects usually raising about \$2000. Community members can purchase Christmas Tree tags from Rotarians and at major locations: local banks, businesses, chamber of commerce and town offices. See photos of posters, tree tags, and Rotarians and Interactors who participated this year. The trees are taken to our town recycling center and mulched. Ecomaine.org has recognized this project as environmentally green especially since residents can collect and use the mulch for landscaping. This project is important for three main reasons: it's eco-friendly, a good fundraiser, and enables Rotarians to connect with Interact Members and instill in them the importance of community service. In group photo center is club president Keri Walker, on her right is long time Rotarian David Moravick and on far right is Kennebunk Rotary's Interact liaison June Huston . Throughout the picture are members of Interact. For more information about the project details, contact Christ Angelos at cta@roadrunner.com.

For the past 25 years Kennebunk/Kennebunkport Rotarians staff the Salvation Army kettle during Prelude to raise money to be used locally. This year we raised a record breaking \$4016.32 Check presentation photo l-r Velma Hayes, Salvation Army, Rotarian Betsy Ross and Club President Elect Lesley Stoeffler.





Oxford Hills

January is Vocational Service month so the Oxford Hills Club has invited guest speakers to come to our meetings and share their vocation with members. Each speaker is thanked and presented a framed certificate of appreciation. Recently, Newly Retired Norway Fire Chief Dennis Yates shared his vocation and said he had worked for the Norway FD for 48 years, serving as chief for the last 13 years. Dennis said he had used the 4 Way Test as a guide, but never knew where it had come from! Perhaps he will become an official Rotarian soon.

MSAD 17 Interim Superintendent Heather Manchester spoke about her extensive education background, both as a teacher and an administrator. We're hoping 'interim' gets dropped soon and she is hired as our full time Superintendent!

We still have 60 cheese wheels available, 2 lbs of Cabot sharp cheese costing \$20 each. Shipping is available, at an extra cost. If you missed out during the holiday sale or just want more cheese wheels on hand for gifts or home dining pleasure, please contact President George Rice at 207-890-3122.



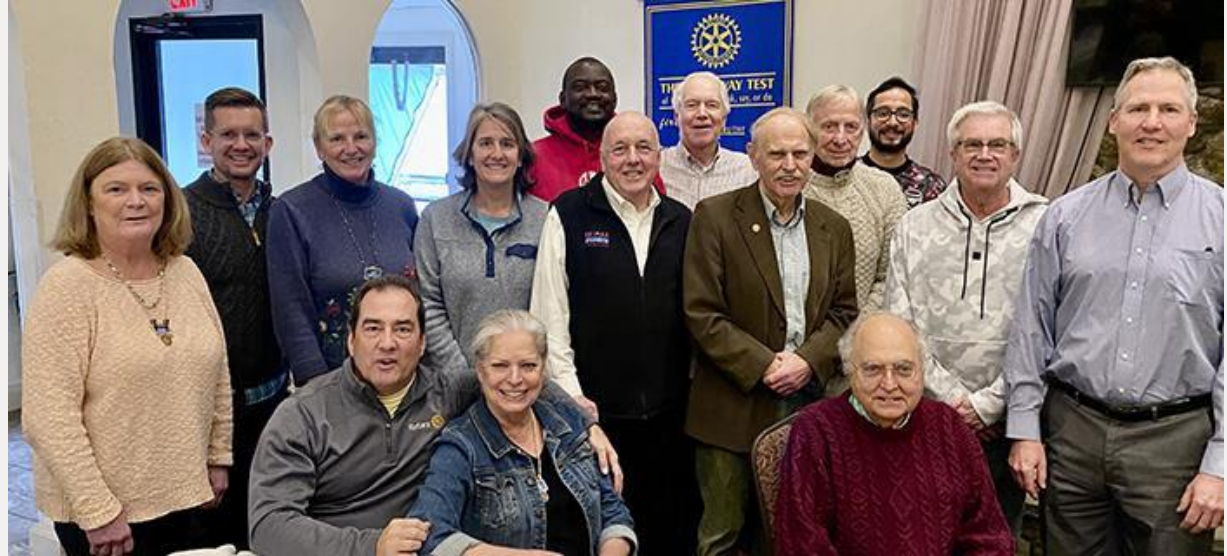


Portland

Club President Bruce Jones organized a meeting of reports, updates, upcoming events, and new ideas that were presented to the club from 8 different committees chairs - Youth Service, Environmental, Community Services, Fundraising, International Service, Membership, Foundation, and the Windjammer. He reminded us that as we pursue our mission of "Service Above Self", we have the opportunity to engage in good work while building friendships with each other. A great start to the New Year!

Dave Ertz received his first Paul Harris Fellow award, the first of the new year. Congratulations Dave.

On January 25th, The Portland Club donated \$4,789.04 to the PROJECT HEAT Telethon sponsored by News Center Maine. Money was raised from our CLYNK program, part of Hannaford's recycling effort. We give away free CLYNK bags with the Club's account sticker so that funds from recycling cycle back into the club to be used for more good in our community.





Saco Bay Sunset

Narcan Training Hosted by the Rotary Club of Saco Bay Sunset was a Huge Success - The Rotary Club of Saco Bay Sunset hosted a Narcan training on January 10th. It was a success in part because of Lacey Bailey from OPTIONS/Sweetser who presented to 67 individuals at Old Orchard Beach High School.

Narcan trainings are crucial in helping recognize the signs of an opium overdose, and showing how to administer the drug that can reverse opium overdoses. Participants were from Old Orchard Beach, Saco, Portland, Cape Elizabeth, Ocean Park, Kennebunk, Westbrook, Wells, Saco and Scarborough, many were Rotarians. Representatives were from Maine Health, OOB School Department, Maine Behavioral Health, Harcros Chemical, Sweetser, SMCC, retirees and more. The training was a huge success. Each participant received a Narcan kit and the knowledge of how to administer Narcan. All are equipped with tools to save a life related to an opium overdose. For more information,

<https://www.sacobaysunsetrotary.org>.





Sanford-Springvale

In January the Rotary Club of Sanford-Springvale celebrated its 100th birthday! The entire year will be dedicated to honoring a **CENTURY OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY AND THE WORLD** through observances of many projects that have benefited those in need all over the world.

Club members welcomed [Joshua Hughes](#) to speak about his work with young men serving as mentors to the youth of the Lewiston-Auburn community, many of whom lack the presence in their lives of a strong father figure. He's produced dramatic and musical events during [Black History Month](#). This year on February 11th, his company, Rooted Soul Enterprises, will bring to Portland's Merrill Auditorium an original production of MOSES - which involves some fifty singers, dancers, and actors. In an effort to share this experience with the underprivileged youth of Lewiston-Auburn, Joshua is seeking sponsorship support to bring two busloads of young students to Portland and provide lunch for a special performance of MOSES. Anyone interested in supporting this worthwhile project should email Elias Thomas, Sanford/Springvale Rotary Club President, at elias@exitkeyrealestate.com. The cost for sponsoring each child is \$25.00.





South Portland- Cape Elizabeth

SAVE THE DATE

Thursday, April 6, 2023

**An Evening of Great Theater, Good Rotary Friends,
Wine/Beer and Free Tasty Food.**

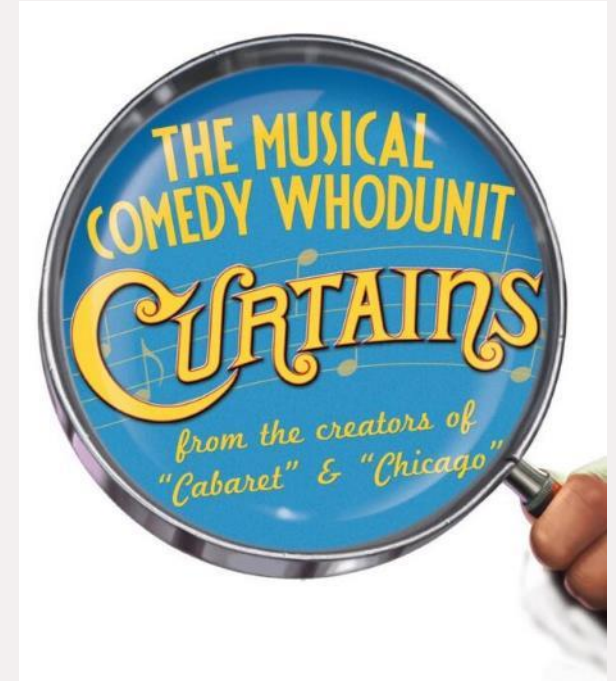
Net Proceeds to the District 7780 Recovery Initiative.

**Show: CURTAINS A Musical Comedy Whodunit
by Kander and Ebb ("Cabaret", "Chicago").**

**Theater: Lyric Music Theater, 176 Sawyer St, S.
Portland**

**Tickets: \$25, ticket link on Rotary SPCE website
(sp-ce-rotary.org) starting Feb 14**

Sponsored by RC of South Portland-Cape Elizabeth



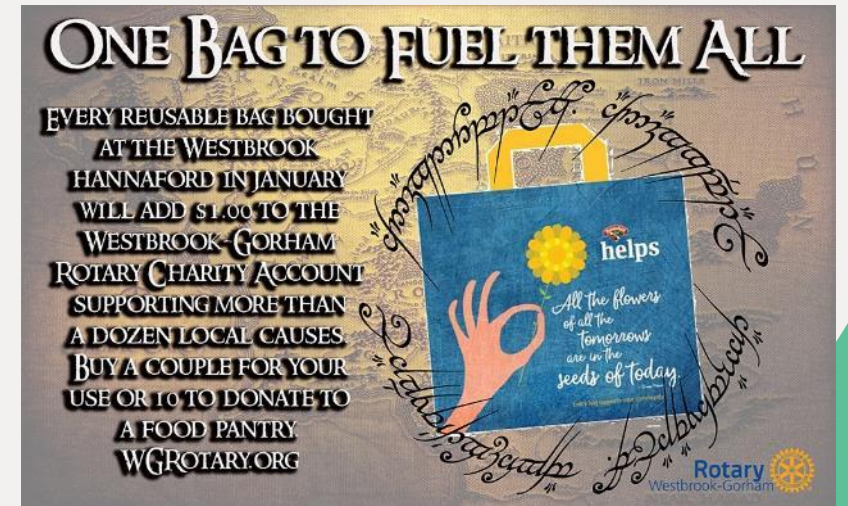


Westbrook-Gorham

Club members recently enjoyed hearing from guest speaker, Anne Merkel, the program director of Girls on the Run, Maine, about how her program is inspiring girls to build social, emotional, and physical skills while developing healthy habits for life. www.girlsontherunmaine.org

We are raising money at Westbrook Hannaford to support local causes, \$1/reusable bag bought. Get yours!

Visiting Rotarians and speakers rave when taking part in a Tuesday, Westbrook-Gorham Rotary meeting after eating lunch prepared by the Culinary Students at the Westbrook Regional Vocational Center. We have been actively supporting the vocational programs at WRVC for more than 50 years. Visiting Rotarians are always welcome Tuesdays at 11:30 a.m. when school is in session. Lunch is only \$13.



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. About 75 words and a couple of 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

Michelle Lester, District Newsletter Publisher