



# News from the Clubs

ROTARY DISTRICT 7780 CLUBS

SERVICE, FUNDRAISING, CELEBRATIONS &  
COLLABORATIONS

MARCH 1, 2023



## Bethel

Bethel Rotary had a wonderful past month (all highlighted in photos), starting with a fantastic dinner social of club members.

Next, two speaking programs. Craig Zurhorst, from Western Maine Transportation, briefed us on the free shuttle service that operates winter weekends and vacation weeks from Bethel village to Sunday River Resort. Kate Webb, Program Coordinator of Bethel Area Arts & Music (BAAM), and Wade Kavanaugh, co-owner of the Gem Theater in Bethel, provided an enjoyable program. BAAM and The Gem have a fantastic strategic partnership to bring top-notch arts programming to the residents of the Bethel area.

Last but not least, we inducted a new member, Joan Nichols, proposed by another relatively new member, Marilyn DiFillipo. Club President Jean Benedict conducted the new member ceremony.

For more information on our club, go to [bethelrotary.org](http://bethelrotary.org)

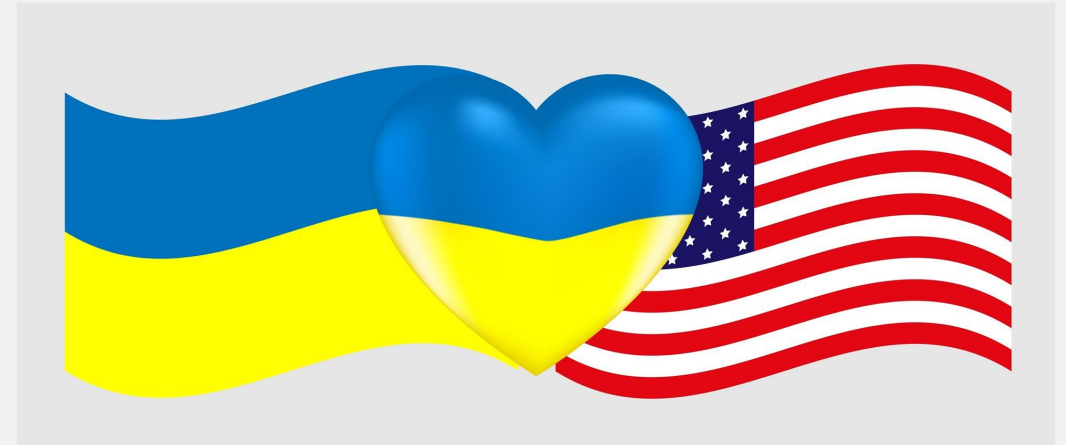


## **Biddeford-Saco**

The Biddeford-Saco Club is hosting a delegation of Ukrainian officials in April interested in learning more about our alternative energy solutions. These Open World missions are 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, 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.

Please watch your email for an invitation to the Welcome Gala Event for our Ukrainian Delegation to be held on Saturday, April 22nd, from 6 - 9 p.m. at Thornton Academy in Saco. District Governor Claudia Frost will be in attendance to help welcome our guests.

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



## Bridgton-Lake Region

Lake Region Rotarians are everywhere. Heading up the Board of Trustees for the Rufus Porter Museum of Art & Ingenuity in Bridgton, Rotarian Therese Johnson explains the multimillion dollar expansion of this unique folk art museum, a highlight of downtown Bridgton's arts scene. She spoke along with Executive Director Karla Rider at a recent Club Meeting. President Aaran Hagan did the Polar Plunge at this year's Winter Carnival sponsored by the Greater Bridgton Chamber of Commerce. Aaron raised over \$1000 for the Harvest Hills Animal Shelter in Fryeburg. Voted Volunteer of the Year by the Chamber in 2020, Aaron, an executive with KeyBank- Bridgton, is always out and about never saying "no" to an ask for support. Last but not least, Rotarian Joanne Cohn, a Friend of the Bridgton Library, sought and received Rotary support for three Little Free Libraries to be set up in Waterford, Denmark and Sweden. Joanne and her team of Rotarians will work with the Industrial Arts Section of Lake Region High School to build the little libraries and, with support from individual towns, place these resources in trafficked areas. For more information on Club activities visit: <https://lakeregionrotary.com> or its FB Page.



## Brunswick

Members of Brunswick Rotary Club and friends delivered handmade valentines to residents and staff at Maine Veterans Home in Augusta on Feb. 13. Center with name badge is the Director of Volunteers who guided us through the beautiful year-old facility. Photo from left: Tony Joaquin, father of BRC President Lisa Harrison; Lisa Harrison; Carlene Byron; Ramona Boucher, Director Volunteer Services; Ash Richards; Carolyn Bulliner; David Taft and Don Kniseley.



## Brunswick Coastal

Ring in the New Year together and raising funds to help The Peace Shelter in Ukraine house mothers and children with nowhere to go. Working with Carol Marcotte at The Saco Bay Sunset Club to make the connection, Sandra Holland put together an amazing take out dinner and her patrons showed up as Rotarians worked to make it all happen, raising over five thousand dollars! Pictured: Tom Cole, Mary Tennant, and Tom Stypinski.

In January the club collected over 900 pounds of food for the MidCoast Hunger Prevention Program and \$285 in cash donations.

Brunswick Rotarians Patty Biggs and Kyle Morrison and Brunswick Coastal Rotarians Mac and Lucy Lloyd worked together to make it happen.



## **Damariscotta/ Newcastle**

### **The Damariscotta-Newcastle Rotary Club Foundation Responded to Earthquake Devastation in Turkey and Syria**

**Recognizing the immediacy of need in Turkey and Syria and inspired by the rapid response of RI President Jennifer Jones and The Rotary Foundation Trustees, the Board of Directors of the D-N Rotary Club Foundation donated \$10,000 to the Turkey/Syria Disaster Response Fund to aid earthquake relief projects.**

**The Damariscotta-Newcastle Club continues to help combat food insecurity and connect folks to services in Lincoln County, Maine, by supporting 5 local non-profit agencies.**

**During this past month \$5,000 was distributed to five organizations (\$1,000 each), the first three through the Central Lincoln County Y ([www.clcymca.org](http://www.clcymca.org)):**

- **Food for Families provides food for those in need and supports a “help yourself” shelf.**
- **Community Navigation provides connection to services, answers questions and offers aid.**
- **FARMS at the Y teaches children and adults to grow, prepare and cook healthy foods using locally sourced ingredients.**
- **Veggies to Table ([www.veggiestotable.org](http://www.veggiestotable.org)) grows and provides fresh vegetables and flowers through food pantries etc.**
- **Healthy Lincoln County ([www.HealthyLincolnCounty.org](http://www.HealthyLincolnCounty.org)) builds thriving, healthy communities in Lincoln County, including food access and nutrition education.**

## Dover

Dover RC recognized Cam LaChance as Citizen of the Month from the Dover Middle School. Cam started the Card Club to engage his fellow students in a fun activity during COVID. Beside him, sharing in his achievement award was his mother and grandfather.

Nick Pellman was recognized as a Paul Harris +1 Fellow. He was presented with his pin by Club President, Megan Keil.

Members and guests heard from Erin Bassegio & Liz Goldman of Distinctly Dover as they are out in the community focusing with the "Vision on the Go - the Master Plan's Vision Chapter for 2035". They conducted an interactive discussion about the City of Dover's strengths, challenges and future potential as part of the Master Plan. It was an exciting process!





**Exeter Rotary Club inducted a new member, Marianne Gabel, being pinned by Membership Chair Kathy Flygare. In second photo, Marilyn Kellogg, President, Marianne Gabel and Kathy Flygare, welcoming the new member. Marianne Gabel is a transfer from the Delaware, Ohio Rotary Club and is a retired lawyer. She had been volunteering at several of our service projects even before joining. She is a great addition to our club and we are so happy to have her!**



## Kittery & Kittery After-Hours

**Kittery's Breakfast and After Hours Rotary Clubs vied again this year in their annual Souper Bowl competition to see which club could collect the most cans of soup for the Greater Kittery Footprints Food Pantry. After Hours prevailed with 277 cans of soup, with Breakfast coming in a close second at 259 cans. The true winner though, is those served by the Footprints Food Pantry, the happy recipients of the Rotary donation of 536 cans.**

**Photos: left-right 1. Breakfast President Pam Gray and Footprints President Lorianne Suniuk                      2. After Hours Rotarian John Kuliga and President Debra Hartman**



## Ogunquit

### Valentine's Day Celebration and Ski Shots in Ogunquit

The Rotary Club of Ogunquit had an amazing, collaborative, fun, and inspiring day – all packed into Feb. 11. The day started with a dedicated group of Rotarians (pictured in blue aprons) decorating the Wells/Ogunquit Senior Center for Valentine's Day. The Rotarians then served hot meals to 80+ seniors who loved the lunch, which was donated by local restaurant, The Front Porch. Each attendee was given a homemade delicious cupcake (pictured) baked by OGT Rotary Treasurer Erin Haye. After this wonderful community lunch, Rotarians headed over to another local restaurant, Crew, that hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Après Ski event, with a portion of revenue going to the club. Pictured is Erin Haye, with friends, doing a ski shot that got the crowd cheering! Rotarians in blue aprons from back left to right are: Larry Carlson, Russ Osgood, Matt Buttrick, Joe Boyle, Rick Haye, Luke Buttrick, Rick Barber, Pete Woodbury. From front left to right are: Melanie Tromblee, Erin Haye, Tracy Smith, and Susan DeQuattro.





## Oxford Hills

January was Vocational Service month. The Oxford Hills Club invited guest speakers to come to meetings to share their vocations with members. In thanks, each speaker was presented a framed certificate of appreciation. Recently, Jeff “Pete” Preble, a Past President of the Auburn-Lewiston Rotary Club (and brother of our own PP David Preble), shared his vocation as a Civil Engineer with Wright Pierce. It was nice to hear construction is alive and well and impressive to see some of the projects they have done.

Co-Owner of Daddy O’s Diner, Aaron Ouellette, shared how he and his wife started out in the hospitality industry and how they’ve worked their way up to celebrating 15 years of owning and operating their Diner with 22 employees on staff.

OH Rotary has successfully finished their annual Rotary Cheese Wheel fundraiser, selling all 1000 wheels! A heartfelt THANK YOU to all the Rotarians around the District who helped sell and/or purchased cheese!

Pics-L to R: PP Dave Preble, Pete Preble from Wright Pierce, Club President George Rice. Alice Paul, OH Rotarian, Aaron Ouellette from Daddy O’s, Club President George Rice



## Portland

**Our Club's core international project 3H: Hearing, Hands & H2O. As part of that project, Club member David Small outlined ways Rotary has created clean water in the bateyes in the Dominican Republic, the shanty-town camps where sugarcane cutters live without electricity, plumbing or running water. Funds have been raised for the purchase of 50 water filters, 50 spare cartridges, and 50 inflatable solar lanterns. Soon families will have clean water to drink and cook with, and lanterns that lighten their heavy economic burden. (Photo: Dave Small and International Service co-chair, Roger Fagan, demonstrate the use of solar lanterns.)**

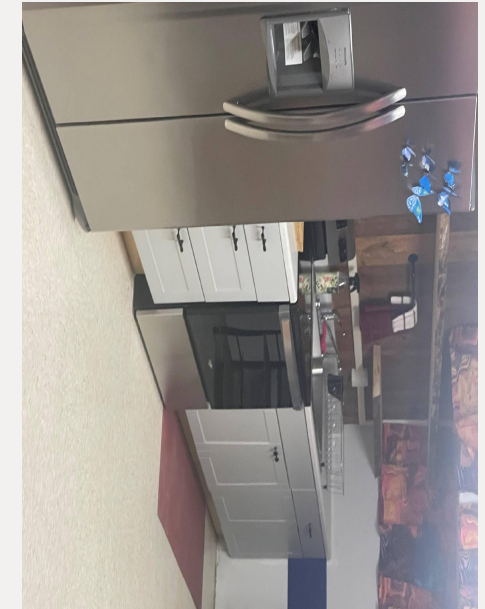
**Unfortunately, Maine broke its own record for overdose deaths in 2022. Milestone Recovery Center, a homeless shelter in Portland, has been forced to turn away 10-12 people a night. The Club donated \$1,000 to the Center and is collecting men's winter coats, long underwear, hats and gloves, and cold-weather sleeping bags and tents. (Photo: Bruce Moore, co-chair of the Recovery Task Force, with an arm full of donated coats for the Center.)**

**Our Youth Services Committee honored two students with \$1,000 award scholarships. (Photos: Rose Heric, Deering HS, with Rotarian Laura Young and Rose's parents. Logan Rudolph, Baxter Academy, with Rotarian John Thompson and Logan's mom.) Congratulations, Rose & Logan!**



## Saco Bay Sunset

Club member Sharri MacDonald decided she wanted to do something for the students of Sweetser, a school/environment where children and youth can heal, learn, and grow. Their residential behavioral treatment centers and experiential learning programs are designed to help children at many different stages of development overcome unique challenges and strengthen their mental health. Sharri had heard a student remark that the only people who come to see us are our instructors. She set out to create a community room for the children at Sweetser. The once run down area now houses multiple large screen televisions, pool table, karaoke machine, craft room, kitchen, exercise room, and more! It is all related to incentives for the children. The project Sweetser Renovation For Student Community Rooms has been three years in the making and remains a work in progress, mainly because of slowdowns due to Covid. The entire project's estimated cost was \$45,000, accomplished through donations and volunteering. Leo Menard was a large contributor due to his expertise and contractor skills.



## **South Portland- Cape Elizabeth**

**Light Up The Sky Fireworks Show**

**March 4th at 5:45pm**

**Ft Williams, Cape Elizabeth**

**Make plans to kickoff SpringFest 2023 with SPCE Rotary Club's Light Up The Sky Fireworks Show. This second annual fireworks display is presented by the club with thanks to a generous donation by Port Harbor Marine in South Portland. This event is tied to the complete SpringFest '23 (a Gnome Themed event) presented by the City of So Po and Rotary on May 20, 2023. Last year's fireworks was a "sold out" event based on available parking. The Town of Cape Elizabeth is graciously providing Ft. William's Park, and providing staff to safely hold the event. There is no charge for attending. Please consider bringing a Gnome based article for a collection that is being held. The articles will be distributed throughout the greater Portland area to those who can best use a cheerful item.**



South Portland Cape Elizabeth Rotary Club  
presents

**Light Up the Night Sky  
FIREWORKS**

**Saturday March 4  
5:45 pm @ Fort Williams**

Generously Sponsored by  
**PORT HARBOR MARINE**  
& SpringFest '23 Major Sponsor  
**Bath Savings**

# **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](mailto: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**