

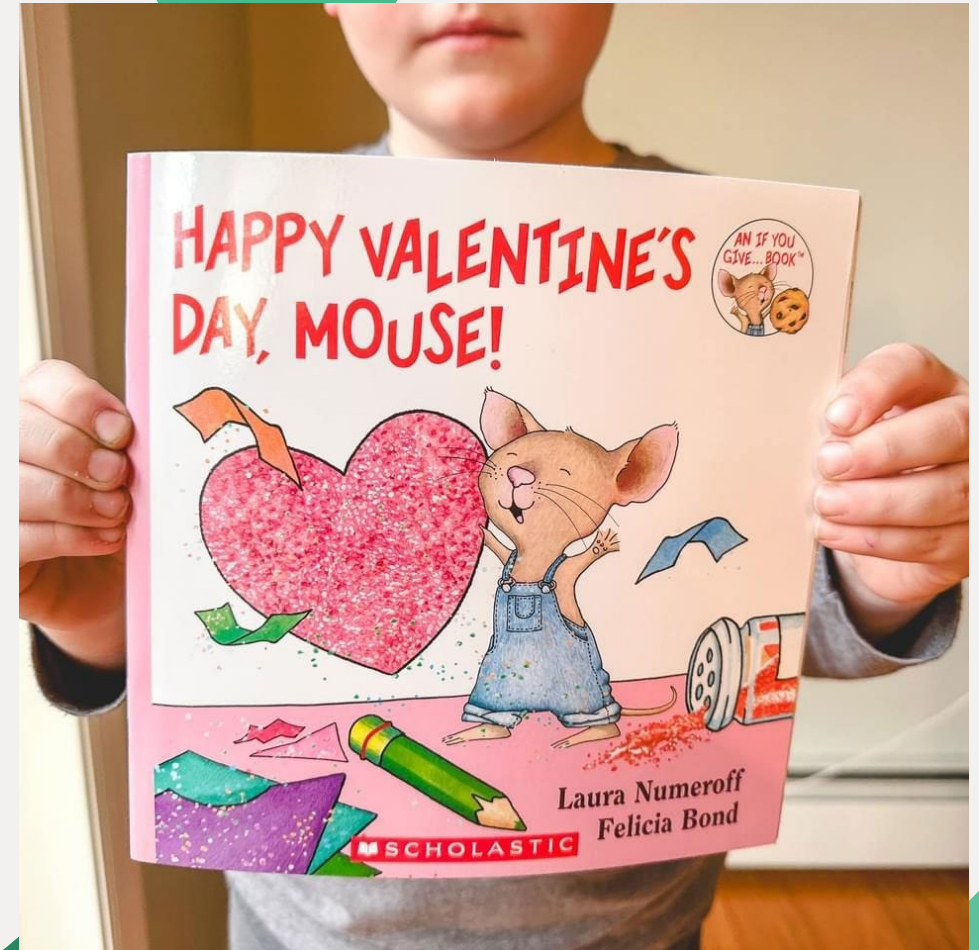


# Good News from the Clubs

ROTARY DISTRICT 7780 CLUBS

SERVICE, FUNDRAISING, CELEBRATIONS  
& COLLABORATIONS

MARCH 4, 2024





## Bethel

Our club jumped into service following the December 18th "Grinch Storm" that caused massive flooding and property damage. Thanks to the support of nearly 200 donors, we raised nearly \$86,000 in under a month and distributed it to individuals and businesses which experienced losses. Pictured below is Rotarian Robin Zinchuk presenting a relief check to Deb Webster, owner and operator of the Eddy Middle School which lost its buildings and material storage.

Also pictured below is a program where Lyndsey Smith, the director of the Northstar Program, along with two of her students, provided an update on the remarkable collaboration between UMaine 4H Camp & Learning Center at Bryant Pond and Telstar High & Middle Schools. The students discussed their 2023 school year trip to DC and their upcoming trip to Montreal. Our club supports this program.

We are planning our March fundraiser, an all-you-can-eat buffet breakfast on Sunday, March 17th with proceeds supporting our worthwhile community programs. We would also like Rotarians throughout the District to Save the Date for our 50th Anniversary Celebration on Saturday, June 8th!

More information on our club can be found on [www.bethelrotary.org](http://www.bethelrotary.org)

### SAVE THE DATE!



#### Bethel Rotary Club 50th Anniversary Celebration

**Saturday, June 8th**  
4pm - 8pm

Gould Academy's Ordway Dining Hall

Dinner & Program,  
followed by live music and dancing

More information forthcoming!

### Bethel Rotary Country Breakfast

**Sunday, March 17, 7:30 – 11am**  
**Gould Academy, Ordway Dining Hall**

**Church St., Bethel**

**All-You-Can-Eat Buffet**

**to benefit Rotary's Community Projects.**

**Adults: \$15; Children Under 10: \$10**

**Tickets available from any Rotary member,  
at the River View Resort, or at the door.**







## Bridgton-Lake Region

On April 6, sometime between 2:30 and 4:30 p.m. the Bridgton-Lakes Region area will experience a 98 percent solar eclipse. Our club wanted to be ready for it. First of all, we invited Edward Herrick –Gleason, Director of the Southwick Planetarium in Portland, part of the USM Campus, to come to the Magic Lantern Theatre & 4H Innovation Center in Bridgton and bring us up to speed. Well, after a short several trillion years history lesson, we came to the last few hundred years of eclipses. This coming total eclipse is in the Rangeley Lake and Houlton areas, but Bridgton and vicinity will experience something memorable as well. It only happens in our area about every 18 years, so this one for many Rotarians in our Club and family and friends is the one to see. Secondly, we purchased protective eye coverings that we sold at the event for \$2.00/each. At the same time we will be distributing the “glasses” to elementary school children for free. This eclipse is part of their curriculum as well.

Our event on Thursday evening, February 29, was attended by over 50 Rotarians, Friends and many other members of the public. The presentation was informative and fun. We can hardly wait for the eclipse!



## Biddeford-Saco

One of our Club's biggest annual fundraisers, the Quebec Style Breakfast & Lunch on March 24, is from 7-10 a.m. for breakfast and 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. for lunch.

The QR Code takes you to the website to purchase tickets to the events as well as the other maple syrup products for sale.

Or go directly to the website:

<https://go.rotary7780gives.org/5e8961>

[JOIN US!](#)

**Maine Maple Sunday**

**QUÉBEC STYLE  
BREAKFAST &  
LUNCH**

**MARCH 24, 2024 - Biddeford Middle School**

<b>Breakfast - \$14</b>		<b>Lunch - \$14</b>
<b>7:00 am - 10:30 am</b>		<b>11:00 am - 1:30 pm</b>
Crêpes		Poutine
Maine Maple Syrup		Pea soup
Eggs		Beans
Bacon & Sausage		Tourtière
Toast		Dessert
Hashbrowns		Coffee, Water, Soda
Tourtière	<small>Ticket Sales</small>	
Pea Soup		
Beans		
Orange Slices		
Coffee & Juice		

**Live Franco-American Entertainment**  
**Don & Cindy Roy**



## Damariscotta-Newcastle

This year we will celebrate the 100th anniversary of our charter which was granted December 16, 1924 by Rotary International (RI). We held our first meeting at the Fiske House (now the site of First National Bank of Damariscotta) in November 1924. We'd been sponsored by the Rotary Club of Augusta ME. In turn, we sponsored the chartering of the Rotary Club of Boothbay Harbor December 14, 1939.

“Our members live and breathe Rotary International’s ‘Service Above Self’ motto as they work tirelessly to support local organizations and causes,” said Stephen Searles, the 2023-2024 president. “In this sense, they’re no different than the countless individuals who have been proud to call themselves members of our club during the past century.”

Locally, our Club has worked with dozens of organizations in Lincoln County over the last century including the Ecumenical Food Pantry, Central Lincoln County Y, Coastal Rivers Conservation Trust, Little League, Skidompha Library, The Lincoln Home, the Lincoln Theatre, Lincoln County News, LincolnHealth, Veggies to Table, Healthy Lincoln County, the Towns of Damariscotta and Newcastle, and many others.

For further information, see <https://dnrotary.org> or our Facebook page.





The Club was excited to hear we'll receive a \$3000 District Grant that will focus on trainings to help understand the mental health needs of children and first responders in our local communities. There are two parts to the trainings Part I - ACERT - Adverse Childhood Experiences Response Team and Part 2 - The Critical Incident Stress Management Team (CISM). The two recent trainings involved 57 Club members and 17 1st responders. Feedback has been exceptionally positive as participants often deal with the impacts of their traumatic experiences for the first time. The presentation involved personal stories of trauma experienced by presenters, including those of colleague 1st responders who had to leave their professions, began using drugs, and even committed suicide. The Club will keep the District posted as to the outcomes of this project.

On a more cheerful note, the Club was pleased to present 7th grader Ben Price the Student of the Month award because of his caring nature for students and teachers at Dover Middle School. Ben received the SOM certificate, a t-shirt, and a \$100.00 gift card to spend on something fun. The students who receive this award are asked to choose an organization or cause and the Rotary Club will make a \$100.00 donation in their name. The team cheered for Ben and his mother as he received the award. Congratulations, Ben!!!





District Governor Marion Cheney visited our club and we got a chance to learn about how our district is focusing on mental health this rotary year. (Photo bottom rt.) In the same meeting, club member, Geoff Merrill, became a Paul Harris +5, with pin presented by President Charlie Davidson. (Photo on lt.) We also welcomed a new member to the club! John Considine was brought in by his father, Rick, and brother, Dave! (Photo Top rt, l-r) President Charlie, Rick, Dave, then John.



## Kennebunk

Each year during the winter holiday season the Kennebunk Rotary Club, along with the Kennebunk Interact Club, staffs the Salvation Army Kettle. Our goal this year was to raise \$5000; we raised \$4300 during the 2 weeks of Prelude in Kennebunkport. Committed to our goal, we reached out to the staff at the Dunkin Donuts in Kennebunk. They kindly allowed us to set the Kettle up at their location the Saturday before Christmas and the Saturday before New Years. We raised an additional \$1700 bringing the total to \$6000!! In the center of the attached picture is District Governor Elect Chief Bob MacKenzie and President Keri Walker with all the Rotarians who participated in the bellringing.







## Kennebunkport

Our MSK Interact Club had an extremely successful "Spread the Warmth" clothing drive that benefitted Kennebunk Cares Closet, Seeds of Hope and Maine Needs. An amazing project by our Interactors! Photo on lt, (l-r): Laura Andrews (President-elect) and Brady Andrews (MSK Interactor) and a friend.

In February we were thrilled to welcome four new members to our club! Our new members in Top photo on rt, (l-r): Kevin Simpson (Membership Committee Chair). New members: Danny Gallant, James Steckel, Bridget Dempsey, and Mary-Ellen Prescott (Community Service Chair). Bottom photo (l-r): John Ware (Club President), new member Conor Hesketh and Kevin Simpson (Membership Committee Chair). Conor is our first Business Member and is representing M&T Bank. This is a new type of membership we introduced that allows a business to nominate one employee to be part of the club meetings but employees from the business as a whole can participate in community events.







## Oxford Hills

In February, we finished our January Vocational Service month presentations (postponed due to weather) where we invite local business owners/leaders to share about their vocations and how they became successful. This is hosted by our new Voc Service Director, Jeff Noblin.

Dan Hart, former OHRC member, talked about his career in education and is in his 5<sup>th</sup> year at UMF working and mentoring student teachers. At the end of his talk, he asked members to share who was their favorite teacher and why they were important. Chris Miller, co-owner of RideSource Inc, talked about his transportation company and how it started with 2 vans and now has over 70 vehicles and 70+ employees. Top photo, l-r President Beth Abbott, Jeff Noblin and Chris Miller. Photo on right, l-r, Beth, Dan Hart and Jeff.

Speaking of Jeff Noblin, the Club Voc Service Director AND Club VP, he was the lucky winner recently as he drew the King of Clubs in our weekly 50-50 drawings. Why? Because **ROTARY IS the KING of CLUBS!** (Photo: Jeff in crown.)

We have also disbursed \$6,000 to our scholarship recipients who graduated last June and requested funds after successful completion of their first semester.







## Portland

What will our Portland Club look like in 2027? That was the question for the 26 members who participated in the Visioning Workshop, on February 15<sup>th</sup>.

We identified shared values and common goals which will provide the roadmap for a strong, engaged, and growing Club which, through service, fun, and fellowship, will make our community and the world a better place.

Thank you to the team for organizing and facilitating the event, (top photo front center l-r) Portland Rotarians Patty Byers and Laura Young, and most especially to the District's Visioning Team (bottom photo, 3<sup>rd</sup> from left, l-r) Julie Forbes, Aileen Dugan, Tony Wagner, Cleo Villaflores, and Michele Bois-Gilbody.





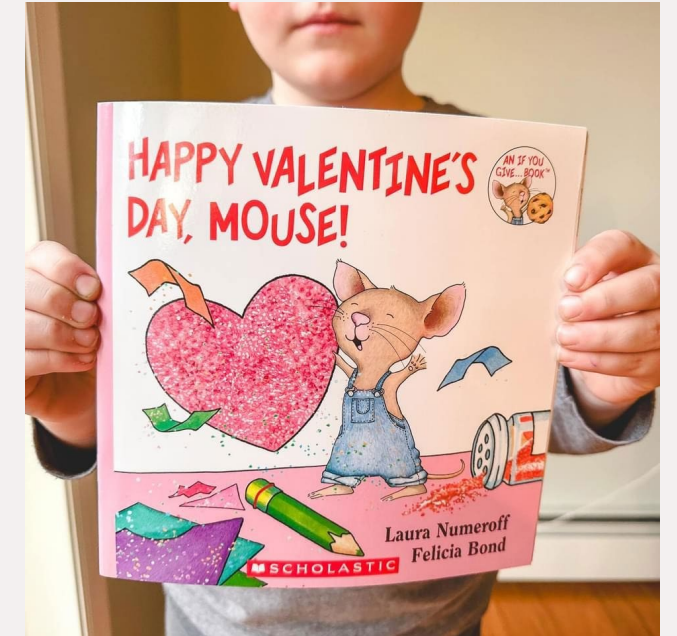
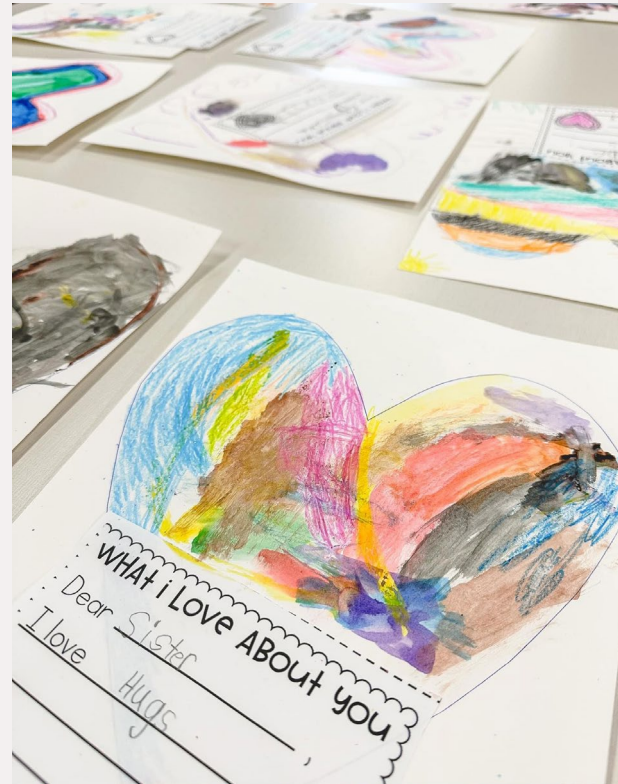
## Rochester

The Rochester NH Rotary started a program this month called PLAY PARTNERS. A local elementary school kindergarten group in Rochester was the first to benefit from the programming.

Each month Rotarians will go into the Kindergarten classroom and read a book, sing songs, and complete a craft! Afterward each student will get a copy of the book to help build their home libraries and support early childhood literacy growth. Rotarians use school standards to plan activities and conversations about books to support the students in their current learning goals.

The Club's goal is to expand to one more classroom each year using club funds and partnering with local businesses.

A big thank you to Profile Bank, based in Rochester, for helping our club meet our goal of providing books to 40 students this year from January until May!







## Saco Bay Sunset

Our Club received this wonderful note thanking us for the gift supporting the Music School of Paul Harris. "On February 26, the meeting of RC Lublin Centrum was held at the headquarters of the Music Society (founded 125 years ago) in Lublin. We have been cooperating with this Society since the beginning of our Club; and for 22 years we have been successfully running a music occupational therapy program for disabled children and youth, commonly known as the Music School of Paul Harris. This is the only initiative of this type in the entire global Rotary world. The meeting was attended by students-patients - Ukrainian refugees and teachers, accompanists and the management of the Music Society available that day. The meeting was therefore a form of a farm visit with the intention of familiarizing our Club members with the current activities of the school, its successes, problems and plans for the future. Students from various skill levels gave samples of their instrumental and vocal skills. We saw with our own eyes and ears how wonderfully effective and at the same time beautiful medicine music is. It was very musical, artistic and nice. During this meeting, we provided financial support to the Paul Harris School in the amount of PLN 7,000 from our friendly RC of Saco Bay Sunset D-7780 from Maine, USA.( Thank you !!!)

At the end, all students and teaching staff received symbolic gifts from the Club in the form of chocolate Easter bunnies.





## Sanford - Springvale

Following nearly twenty-four hours of snow, some 80 guests, made up of Rotarians and friends, braved the cold and joined together at the third annual *January Thaw*, held recently at MEE D THAI Restaurant in Sanford. Guests, coming from as far away as North Carolina and central Massachusetts, arrived with armloads of winter jackets and coats, sweaters, sweatshirts, socks, mittens and hats to be distributed to those in need by folks from the Sanford Police Department and the Sanford Housing Authority.

Club President Elias Thomas, broker/owner of EXIT Key Real Estate, the primary event sponsor, welcomed guests confident that the outpouring of support would surpass the results of the two previous years, when \$10,000 was raised each year.

Following the event, members of the Rotary Club and Sergeant Adams and Officer David Randt, joined Heather Beaupre and Elias as they distributed literally dozens of warm coats and other items. Some of those who are served by this program were at the Sanford Warming Center and assisted in carrying the many armloads of items into the center for sorting and distribution.

The final figure is not in as yet, but more than \$12,000 will be shared with the program.







## Sebago Lake Windham Area

The Sebago Lake Rotary Club held its 24th Annual Ice Fishing Derby on February 17th and 18th. This is the club's largest fundraiser, and the \$5,000 grand prize helps to draw participants from all over New England. Unfortunately, ice conditions did not allow for the annual Polar Dip, which is usually part of the derby, but it will be rescheduled for April. There won't be any ice, but Sebago Lake will still be cold!

Photos: Top left - Pickerel Winner - Travis Sparks; Top right - Perch Winner - Shannon Hudgin; and Bottom - Club President, Robin Mullins, modeling the 2024 derby sweatshirt.



## South Portland Cape Elizabeth

Light Up The Night Sky Fireworks !

March 2nd at 6pm was the 3rd Annual Light Up the Night Sky Fireworks at Fort Williams Park in Cape Elizabeth! This is a kickoff event for our SpringFest fundraiser in May. Brought to you by the Rotary Club of South Portland Cape Elizabeth, supported by the Town of Cape Elizabeth and sponsored by Port Harbor Marine. Many turned out for this spectacular display – bundle up and enjoying the show!





# 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](mailto:RotaryNews7780@gmail.com).

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

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

Dennis Moulton, District Newsletter Publisher, Portsmouth RC