



Good News from the Clubs

ROTARY DISTRICT 7780 CLUBS

SERVICE, FUNDRAISING, CELEBRATIONS
& COLLABORATIONS

MAY 1, 2024



Bethel

The Rotary Club of Bethel has had a busy April with robust meetings and an abundance of planning for upcoming events, including our 50th Anniversary Celebration on Saturday, June 8th. All Rotarians district-wide are invited. Reservations and online payment can be facilitated by going to <http://www.bethelrotary.org>

We had wonderful guest speakers at our meetings who we partner with in our community, including the Bethel Food Pantry and Camp Susan Curtis. At right David Bean and Mary Anne Wheeler.

To learn more see our website and our Facebook and Instagram pages.

ROTARIANS & GUESTS

You are invited!



Saturday, June 8th

4pm - 8pm

Gould Academy's Ordway Dining Hall

Dinner, Program, Recognition &
more!

For reservations & online payment, go to
www.bethelrotary.org

\$70 per person, \$80 after May 17th





Bridgton-Lake Region



We had a lot of fun with Eclipse eye covering distribution to elementary schools students and then with Earth Day cleanups in our area. PPs George Klauber and Aaron Hagan helped out in Casco/Naples and PP Carol Madsen in Sweden to name a few. For more about our activities, see <https://lakeregionrotary.com>.

Rotary
Bridgton-Lake Region

EARTH DAY 2024

CASCO/NAPLES EARTH DAY ORGANIZATION
4/27/2024 9am-12pm Meet at American Legion Parking Lot
FMI www.townofnaples.org/earthday

SWEDEN EARTH DAY CLEAN UP
4/19/2024 10am Meet at the Fire Station Parking Area

9TH ANNUAL HARRISON CLEAN UP
4/20/2024 10am-1:30pm Meet at Crystal Lake Park
FMI - pam@barefootrealty.com

PUBLIC GARDEN SPRING CLEAN UP - BRIDGTON
4/27/2024 9:30am Meet at Bridgton Community Center
FMI - Call 207-647-3116

lakeregionrotary@gmail.com or <https://lakeregionrotary.com/>

Rotary
Bridgton-Lake Region

The Total Solar Eclipse is coming on April 8th!

The Bridgton Rotary was thrilled to gift eclipse glasses to 4 schools in the Lakes Region! Students and faculty received their very own pair at Lake Region Middle School, Songo Locks Elementary School, Crooked River Elementary School and Stevens Brook Elementary School! For more information on the eclipse, visit: science.nasa.gov.

For more information about the Rotary Club, please visit: <https://lakeregionrotary.com/>

Brunswick

Our Club has a performance fundraiser on May 4 at 7:30 p.m. and May 5 at 2:00 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 15 Pleasant St., Brunswick. Taking the theme of the WWII VVP concerts, when the USA parachuted Steinway pianos to frontline soldiers, pianist Garik Pederson will play the music of Ellington, Harris, Rachmaninoff, Miller and others. Scan the QR Code or just show up.

An example of how we use some of the funds we raise. In Dec and again in Mar, Rotarians and other community members readied apartments for asylum-seeking families. Beds were assembled, mattresses, tables and chairs delivered. A \$4,408 District Grant helped pay for the furniture, kitchen equipment, bedding, and personal hygiene supplies. Club members who pitched in included Claudia Frost, Carolyn Bulliner, Meredith Herzog, Steve Baldwin, Dave Taft, Zander Abbot, Mark Alexander, Ed Nolde, Kyle Morrison, Patty Biggs, and Ash Richards.



A Piano Performance and Presentation


The Victory Vertical Project

Presented by
Garik Pedersen, pianist

*with music by Samuel Barber, Duke Ellington, Roy Harris,
Sergei Rachmaninoff, Glenn Miller and many others.*
at the
Unitarian Universalist Church, 15 Pleasant Street, Brunswick, Maine

A Time in History
In World War II the USA Parachuted Steinway Pianos to Frontline Soldiers
The Music of World War II • Pianos and Patriotism

Saturday May 4th at 7:30 pm
Sunday May 5th at 2:00 pm




Pianos were crated into crates and primarily shipped by parachute along with tuning equipment and instructions.

Tickets: \$40 (\$30 for Veterans) sold on-line just scan the QR code with your phone.

Or send check to Brunswick Rotary Club, PO Box 281, Brunswick, ME 04011
Make sure to designate which show your tickets are for. Tel: (207) 522-9962

This is a Fundraiser for The Brunswick Rotary Club to provide services to the Brunswick Area.



The Rotary Club of Dover was honored to present another Student of the Month award to Dover Middle School 5th grader, Jasmine Hassey. Jasmine is a kind and caring student and well involved in her school and helping other students and teachers. She is one to always ask if she can help or assist them when help is needed in studies or with opening a door. The Rotary Club surprised Jasmine as she and the other students of her team thought that the Rotary Club was there to make a presentation about Rotary. It was fun to see her smile as her parents were there to congratulate her, as well as her twin brother. Congratulations Jasmine! In photo, l-r, Melissa Lesniak, Jasmine's dad, twin brother Sebastian, Jasmine, Jasmine's mom and Rotarians Cate Rafferty, Nick Pellman, and Gregg Dowty.

And congratulations to President Kathy Fink as she received a Paul Harris +1 for her monetary contributions to the Rotary Foundation from Club Foundation Chair Jim Munro.





Hampton

Hampton Rotarians volunteered as judges for the Hampton Academy 8th grade student oratorical contest. The students work on a structured research project for multiple weeks throughout the school year, selecting a topic of their choice to research and then they write a fully-cited essay in the form of a speech. They first deliver these to their peers and then the best go on to participate in this contest. The students are very impressive and it is a great event enjoyed by all. Thank you to Rotarians, (left to right) Jim Sambold, Kris McClelland, Laurie Calder (Former Hampton academy colleague), John Considine, Dakota Bockus, and Carolyn Eastman. Congratulations to the top five winners of the contest- Jack, Peter, Chase, Xavier, and Emily! First place being Emily with speech titled "No is a complete sentence".



Portland

Portland Rotary Club members painted a 20 ft x 30 ft USA map on the playground at Amanda Rowe Elementary School in Portland. We used the District 7780 stencils purchased by Governor Anne Lee Hussey (2010-2011). The excellent detailed instructions created by the late Michael Nazemetz of the Portland Sunrise Rotary Club were followed. It was fun and the kids and teachers love the map.

<https://rotary7780.org/sitepage/literacy/us-map-playground-project>



Portsmouth

We lost two prominent Rotarians—Marie Brownell and Joan Rice, a former member. Both are featured In Memoriam in this newsletter. Joan was a popular connecting force in the community and a Rotary Exchange Student “mother” several times over. An entire program recalled Marie’s steadfast Rotary work including donating more than \$20,000 dollars. She went way beyond the call of duty for Christmas Tree sales and chaired the club’s annual Golf Tournament including this year’s. With Marie’s passing, Nicole Clark and Katie Fleisher stepped up to chair this year’s tournament, which will be dedicated to Marie.

On the Good News side, Volunteer Extraordinaire Ted Alex (in photo) was named “a hero among us” by WMUR-TV’s Angela Tetreault.

Members performed hands-on work at Connections and led a clothing drive for Friends in Action.

We raised \$36,000 toward the \$100,000 goal for the next Rotaplast India trip and have other fundraisers planned.

New members and exciting speakers.



River Valley

The Club inducted two new members (top photo l-r) Dave LAURINAITIS, Thibeault's Remembrance a division of the Fortin Group sponsored by Catherine Ross, Jennifer Merrill, Franklin Savings Bank sponsored by Curtis Smith, and Dave Duguay.

Club members and friends participated in Earth Day helping clean up along the main roads throughout the towns of the River Valley.

Photo lower right l-r : Ed Paterson, Amy Corey, Ann Sirois, Joe Sirois, Roger Whitehouse, Catherine Ross, and Dave Duguay, Photo lower left - Club members in action.

We continued to have speakers from local food pantries, FEMA, the local Recovery Center and others as we continue to learn more about our area and its needs and how we can be of service.



Sanford-Springvale

It was an honor to have one of our own speak to the club members recently: Sanford Police Sgt. Colleen Adams, USA Today's "Woman of the Year" for Maine.

In her powerful talk, Colleen discussed her own personal journey that brought her to the Sanford PD, along with her passion for the work she does each day as Sanford's Community Outreach Officer and supervisor of the Mental Health Unit. Through this role, Colleen works directly with the city's unhoused population, as well as those struggling with substance use disorders.

Colleen emphasized the concepts of kindness, compassion, and relationship building throughout her talk, key principles that have been life changing for the individuals with whom she works each day.

In gratitude for her tremendous efforts and contributions to our city, President Elias Thomas honored Colleen as a Paul Harris Fellow.

Thank you, Colleen and team, from a grateful community!



South Berwick-Eliot

For over 14 years, former Rotarian Mike Moloney and his wife Cindy, who is a member of the staff at Great Works School in South Berwick, have organized our Club's Geography Quiz. Each year the project raises funds for an international project. This year, the Club designated The Common Man for Ukraine, a NH-based organization that has raised millions of dollars to help children affected by the war.

Quiz teams are made up of 2 adults and 2 students. Winners earn bragging rights, prizes, and Girl Scout Cookies. 26 teams participated on Friday, March 22, raising over \$8000. Included in the event is audience participation competition, raffles, a silent auction, and the sale of refreshments. All the Club members and the Marshwood HS Interact Club helped out.

Top Left Photo: Geography Boggarts team, including adults Trevor Lawson and Danielle Moura and sixth grade students Kaz Kucala and Bronwyn Lawson, ponder a question. Bottom right, representatives from The Common Man explain their work.



South Portland-Cape Elizabeth

Coming Soon!!!

South Portland SpringFest

May 17-18

Once again the SPCE Rotary, the City of South Portland and a multitude of sponsors bring SpringFest. Dive into creativity with us at SpringFest 2024. With so much happening, it's hard to know where to begin. But we're thrilled to share a highlight that promises to ignite everyone's imagination - plus fun-filled activities for all ages. This year, we've added a special SpringFest component called the Art of Expression. It's a festival-long performance showcase. Expression is sharing your songs, poetry, dance, painting, comedy, spoken word, sculpture, or photography. Anything goes. Learn more and find the event info at <https://spspringfest.com/expression>. No rain date!



Westbrook-Gorham

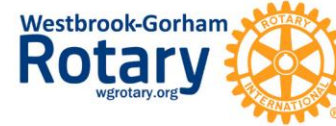
Our 2024 Pizza Challenge was held on April 18 at the Westbrook-Community Center. Abley hosted by WGME's Jeff Peterson, a great time was had by all. We can't wait to do it again in 2025!!

Thanks to DG Marion Cheney, who was one of our five judges along with Cumberland County Sheriff & Rotarian Kevin Joyce, Jason Nappi (WCSH), Ray Richardson (WLOB), and Johnny Maffei (WGME).

We received excellent pre-event coverage on both WGME and WLOB. We ran an ad in the American Journal the week before the event, and this Thank You ad the week following the event.

To see photos, comments, and a video of the awards presentation, check out our [Facebook page](#).

Thanks also to the Sebago Lake Club for their advice and assistance with this event the past two years!!



Most Creative Pizza: **WHOP**

Best Tasting Pizza: **Profenno's**

Peoples Choice Award: **Amato's**



THANK YOU!!
With your help, we raised
over \$12,000
for Rotary Charities



PARTICIPANTS

Amato's Westbrook

Angelone's

Corsetti's

Domino's

Frog & Turtle

OTTO

Pizza Time

Portland Pie

Profenno's

Westbrook House of Pizza

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, Bridgton-Lake Region RC

Dennis Moulton, District Newsletter Publisher, Portsmouth RC