

TWO LIGHTS

Rotary Club of South Portland – Cape Elizabeth

March 10, 2021



Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change – across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.

Upcoming Dates:

March 17 – South Portland City Councilor Deqa Dhalac
Board meeting follows regular meeting

March 24 – Rupal Shah, Konbit Snate

March 31 – Brian King, RI Director of Membership Development

July 21 – Lobsterbake!

OPENING WORDS

March 10: In honor of our guest speaker who dedicated her life to military service, Tom Meyers shared the words of the hymn “Eternal Father” which has a verse dedicated to each branch of the military. Since Tom was in the Coast Guard, I’m printing the CG verse which was added later to the original hymn:

Eternal Father, Lord of hosts,
Watch o'er the men who guard our coasts.
Protect them from the raging seas
And give them light and life and peace.
Grant them from thy great throne above
The shield and shelter of thy love.

March 17: Resident leprechaun Matt McAleney

What's New With Our Members

Happy Birthday to

- ✿ Nancy Hawes (St. Patrick's Day)
- ✿ Michael McGovern (St. Patrick's Day)
- ✿ Bev Altenburg (the day after St. Patrick's Day)
- ✿ Paul Butler (the day after St. Patrick's Day)
- ✿ Peter Bennett (6 days after St. Patrick's Day)
- ✿ Marc Mutty (6 days after St. Patrick's Day)

CONGRATULATIONS to President Mike & Becca who have started the adoption process!!

Hello to Dick Yerxa, whom Nicole ran into last week - we miss you, Dick!

Speaking of Dick, it's been a year since most of us have seen him ☺
Thank you to President Mike for keeping the meetings going on Zoom so that we can at least see many if not all of our fellow club members (as well as some we would never see otherwise!)

Visitors this Week: Brent Wilson, Kristina McCarthy, Ellie & Chris Speh, Bill York, Marc Mutty and Dan Davidson

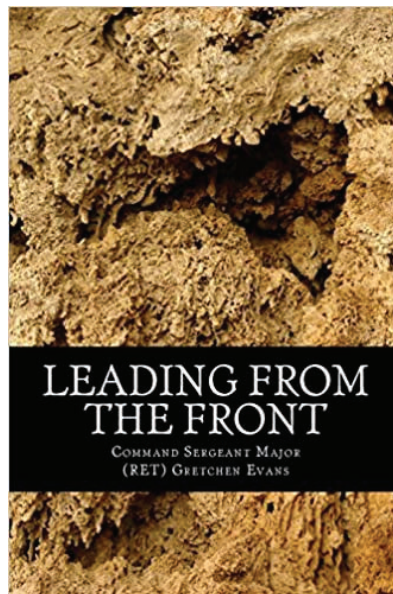
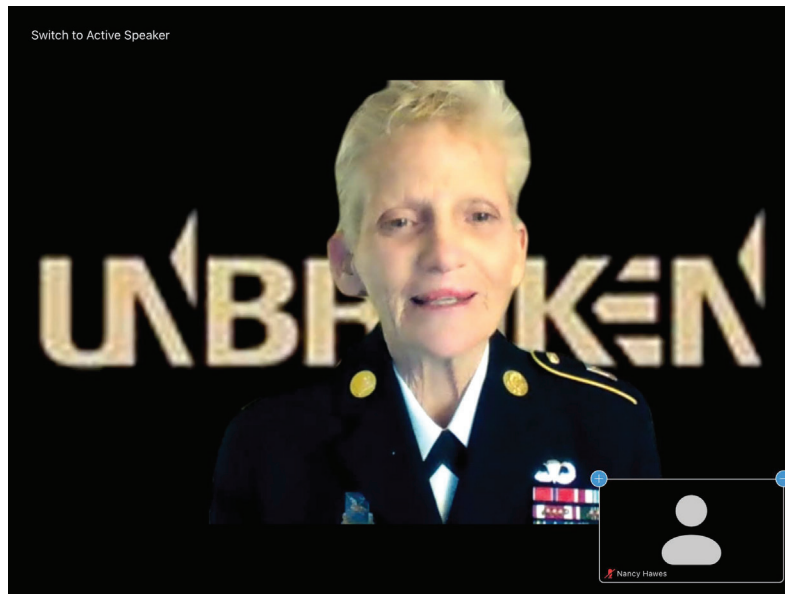
Recognition from SP School Board – Tony Wagner read a letter that South Portland Schools Director of Community Partnerships Gretchen McCloy sent to the SP School Board recently. In the letter she acknowledged the donations that our club has made to help “houseless” students (the backpacks, home kits, Hannaford gift cards and bus passes featured in last week’s newsletter). (I was supposed to print the letter but somehow it has disappeared from my emails – sorry!)

No Barriers Warrior – Our speaker this week was retired Sgt. Major Gretchen Evans who has lived all over the world but recently saw the light and moved to Maine (Brunswick) with her husband who is a Navy veteran. Bob Knupp introduced Sgt. Major Evans, who is one of the most decorated female soldiers ever. She joined the Army at age 19 in 1979 and served until her career-ending injury from an explosion in 2006. (Why the Army? She was too small to be a Marine or Air Force pilot and she didn’t want to wear bell bottoms in the Navy, but the Army was “a match made in Heaven!”)

Sgt. Major was in intelligence so she served mostly overseas. She told the story of the battle which earned her the Bronze Star and of the explosion which took her hearing and left her with severe internal injuries, traumatic brain injury and PTSD. She credits the organization No

Barriers Warriors with helping her to heal emotionally and restoring her passion for life. She has been working for the organization herself since 2017. *(I couldn't begin to capture the dramatic details of her riveting stories – it was kind of a “you had to be there” meeting.)*

This was a Zoom first for our club since due to her hearing loss, Sgt. Major Evans was using captions. Unless you were paying very close attention, you would never have known that she was not actually hearing what we were saying but was reading it instead – amazing!



This is her book - you can get it from Amazon - all proceeds go to provide service dogs for veterans

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PORTLAND/CAPE ELIZABETH, MAINE**

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