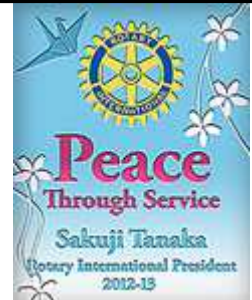




# ROTA-BITS



**SERVICE ABOVE SELF**

VOL. 14, NO. 47, MAY 30, 2013 \* EDITOR: \* DOUG GROSE\*

## LAST MEETING

**Reported by Dianne McDermott Munson**

President Elect John Solich chaired the meeting, in the absence of President Tom.

Lou Kreider led everyone in today's prayer.

Welcome to guests Laura, Stephanie, Jason and Chloe.

**Announcements:** Rick Cooper talked about Every Rotarian, Every Year. He would like to get the funds off to the Rotary Foundation this month. Thanks to everyone for helping. If you have any questions or would like to make a last-minute donation, please see Rick.

Waite Talbot announced that eight people are going to see Frank Caliendo. If anyone is interested in joining them, please see Waite.

Invitations went out last week for the induction dinner at Kirtland Country Club. If you have not yet received your invitation, please see John Solich.

John wished Dianne McDermott Munson the best of luck with her and her husband's move to Arizona. This will be her last meeting in Mentor before the big move. Good luck, Dianne!

**A little trivia:** The U.S. has the most Rotarians in the world. India has the second most Rotarians!

**Program: A trip to Germany ... a Pilgrimage to Humanity.** Presented by Bob Zyromski

Bob has visited Auschwitz-Birkenau three times: in 1977 during the Soviet occupation of Poland; in 1992 with the Learning About Business program; and in 1996 as Rotary Group Study Exchange team leader to Poland and

Sweden.

With today's presentation, Bob took us back on a haunting journey to WWII and these Nazi Death Camps. Through real-life photography that was at times disturbing to look at, Bob gave us all an all-too-real glimpse of what life must have been like for those who entered the camps. So it is on this Thursday before our Memorial Day that we remember those whose lives were taken with such disregard for humanity by the Nazi regime.

Auschwitz, one of the six death camps constructed by the Nazis, was the most streamlined mass killing centers ever created. Starting with the sign "ARBEIT MACHT FREI," which translates to "Work makes you free," we saw the chilling entry to all Nazi death camps and devastating end of life for more than 3.5 million Jews.



"Work makes you free," the ironic greeting at all Nazi camps.

In 1933, nine million Jews lived in the 21 countries of Europe that would be occupied by Nazi Germany during WWII. By 1945, two out of every three European Jews had been killed.

At the height of the deportations, up to 6,000 Jews were gassed each day at this death camp. By November 1944, more than a million Jews and tens of thousands of Roma (Gypsies), Poles and Soviet prison-

ers were killed there.

## CAMPS

Between 1933 and 1945, Nazi Germany established about 20,000 camps to imprison millions of victims: forced-labor camps, transit camps, i.e., temporary way stations and extermination camps built primarily or exclusively for mass murder.

## KILLING CENTERS

Beginning in December 1941, the Nazis established six killing centers for efficient mass murder. Chelmno, Belzec, Sobibor, Treblinka, Majdanek and Auschwitz-Birkenau. All in Poland.



The infamous hell holes.

Unlike concentration camps, which served primarily as detention and labor centers, killing centers or "extermination camps" or "death camps" were almost exclusively "death factories." German SS and police murdered nearly 2,700,000 Jews in the killing centers either by asphyxiation with poison gas or by shooting. All told, nearly 3.5 million

**A NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF MENTOR, OHIO**

victims died in those six killing centers.

### Other interesting facts:

Kristallnacht ... November 9, 1938 ... the beginning of the end. The Night of Glass. Before this, Jews were beaten and harassed. But using the pretext of the assassination of a Germany diplomat in Paris, Goebbels hit hard. A night of rampages by Storm Troopers, the SS and the Hitler Youth resulted in 91 Jews dead, hundreds injured and 7,500 businesses and 177 synagogues gutted.

On May 24, 1943, Josef Mengele became medical officer of Auschwitz's Gypsy Family Camp. When the camp became useless for his experiments, the camp was liquidated and the Gypsies gassed.



Jewish twins kept alive to be used in Mengele's medical experiments. These children from Auschwitz were liberated by the Red Army in January 1945.

Mengele's heredity research happened in Block 10 using inmates for human experimentation—particularly identical twins and dwarfism. He drew a line on the wall of the children's block about five feet above the floor and children whose heads could not reach the line were sent to the gas chambers.

Days usually began and ended in public areas with masses of prisoners whipped, beaten, screamed at and humiliated in countless ways.

Under the menacing watch of guards, 5,000-7,000 or more inmates, many infected with typhus or dysentery, without any real opportunity to care for their personal hygiene, shared a latrine at any given time.

Prisoners' wooden clogs were the source of much pain, suffering and death. Ill-fitting and rough, they caused blisters, sores, even fatal infection due to prisoner's weakened immune systems.

Camp survivors were so weak they could hardly move, the result of forced labor and the lack of food, compounded by months and years of maltreatment. Disease remained an ever-present danger. Many of the camps had to be burned to prevent the spread of epidemics.

There were survivors. Bob ended his program with pictures of those who survived Auschwitz, including a brother and sister who posed together in their hometown after the war.



Auschwitz to the right, Birkenau to the left. These wooden-framed horse stables numbered hundreds. Each housed eight hundred or more inmates. Most of the barracks have been torn down, leaving behind a graveyard of foundations and chimneys.



High-voltage fences were a constant menace, except for those who decided that the physical and mental torture had become too much.



Those lucky enough to be alive prepare for the night.

### BOARD NEWS

At the last meeting of the Board of Directors, the *membership* application of Michelle Johnson was approved. Her sponsor is Lisa Nelson and Michelle is in Communication Management with CTM.

### JOCOE'S JOURNAL

A young woman sat in her stalled car, waiting for help. Finally, two men walked up to her.

"I'm out of gas," she purred. "Could you push me to the gas station?"

The men readily put their muscles to the car and rolled it several blocks. After awhile, one looked up, exhausted, to see that they had just passed a gas station.

"We just passed a station! How come you didn't turn in?" he yelled.

"Oh, I never go there," the girl shouted back. "They don't have full service."

Mother: "Why are you home from school so early?"

Son: "I was the only one who could answer a question."

Mother: "Oh, really? What was the question?"

Son: "Who threw the eraser at the principal?"

### UPCOMING EVENTS.

**May 30**—Laura Polachek | Community and Volunteer Involvement Director for American Cancer Society

**June 6**—Jessie Baginski Leadership Lake County.

**June 9** – Lake County United Way Day of Caring. All day at Deepwood Center.

**June 20** – Paul Vanik

**June 27** – Installation dinner at Kirtland Country Club – No lunch program.

**June 28** – Retirement Party for Rick Cooper, 5PM to 9PM at LaMalfa Center.

**August 27:** David Joyce, Congressman

### BIRTHDAYS

May 5 – Al Salvatore

May 18—Ted Hieronymus

May 21 – George Maier

May 22 – Tom Parkhurst

May 23—John Krueger  
May 23 – Randy Carver  
May 23 – Andy Meinhold  
May 25 – Fred Lariccia  
May 26 – Susan Peters  
May 27 – Bob Zyromski  
If I have missed anyone, please call  
257-9827 or email [d.grose@sbcglobal.net](mailto:d.grose@sbcglobal.net)

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### THE 4-WAY TEST

**Of the things we think, say or do...**  
**Is it the Truth?**  
**Is it Fair to all concerned?**  
**Will it build Goodwill and Better Friendships?**  
**Will it be Beneficial to all concerned?**

### OFFICERS MENTOR ROTARY CLUB 2012\2013

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**Immediate Past President**

Wayne Brodnan PHF

**President Elect**

John Solich

**Vice President**

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### OUR MAILING ADDRESS

PO Box 1177  
Mentor, OH 44061-1177

### OUR WEB SITE

[www.mentor-rotary.org/](http://www.mentor-rotary.org/)

### ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

[www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org)

### MEETING MAKE-UPS

Following are a few nearby Rotary Club meeting sites and times for makeups;

**MONDAY**

**Willoughby** at 12:00 PM

**TUESDAY**

**Painesville** at Hellreigel's Inn at 12:00 Noon.

**WEDNESDAY**

**Burton-Middle field** at Welshfield Inn Banquet Hall, 14001 Main Market Rd., Burton, at 7:00PM

**Cleveland East** at Nighttown

Restaurant 12387 Cedar Road  
Cleveland Hts. At Noon.

**THURSDAY**

**Cleveland** at Windows on the River in the Flats, Bridge View Room, Third Floor, Windows on the River, Powerhouse. Nautica Entertainment Complex, 2000 Sycamore at 12:00

**FRIDAY**

**Chagrin Highlands (Beachwood area):** at Mitchell's Fish Market, 28601 Chagrin Blvd., Woodmere (at Eton Square).

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### WHERE WE MEET

LaMalfa Center,  
5783 Heisley Road,  
Mentor, Ohio  
Thursday at 12 Noon