



The Ramrod

Chartered in 1918

News of the Elyria Ohio Rotary Club

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Tuesday November 9, 2021

by Fred Kerestury

President **Amanda** called the meeting to order at 12:17 p.m. with the ringing of the bell, the singing of “America the Beautiful” and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Today’s invocation was given by **Chris Pyanowski**. In honor of the upcoming Veteran’s Day, Chris led us in a moment of silence for all who served and died in the cause of their service. Chris recognized all Veterans with a reading of the Poem *Boots*, by **Rorick ‘Speedy’ Amos** and dedicated a framed copy of the poem in the name of the author.



Chris Pyanowski reads Speedy Amos’ poem, *Boots*

November 16 Program

Economic Outlook

from an Economist at the Federal Reserve Bank

Guests

Tony Cuevas (guest of **Dianne Brehm**); Lisa Hutson (guest of **Tammy Bertrand**); Kim Mealwitz Pausa and Emily Pausa (daughter and granddaughter of **Peter Mealwitz**); and prospective member Bob Yun.



Pastor Pete Mealwitz with his lovely daughter Kimberly Mealwitz Pausa (visiting from Italy), and granddaughter Emily Pausa (visiting from NYC).

Announcements

- ERC annual meeting will take place on December 21 at our regular meeting time.
 - The prospective Board members are: **Chris Pyanowski, Kathy Runser, Kim Wilhelm, and Don Schiffbauer**. There

were no other nominations from the floor.

- Fifth Tuesday Social will be trivia at Unplugged Brewery in downtown Elyria. Sign up if you have not already.
- Valor Home in Lorain thanks ERC for our involvement in the recent expansion project.
- Peace Conference report: 200 participants in the District 6600 Peace Conference. What a turnout! A special thanks was made to those who assisted as well as to all ERC Rotarians who served.
- **Past-President Rev. Peter Mealwitz** was presented with honors for his 50-year anniversary in the Club.

Song of the Day

Rev. Janet Long led us in the singing of “The Star-Spangled Banner,” but before we sang, she asked that we recognize all veterans and family of veterans with a standing ovation for their sacrifice and service.

Today’s Program - “Memories from the HomeFront: Growing Up During WWII”

Greg Kruszka introduced (and participated in) a panel of 3 Rotarians who lived through the years of World War II. **Dick Laubenthal** and **Peter Mealwitz** were the other two participants present today.



Rev. Dr. Peter Mealwitz, Greg Kruszka, and Dick Laubenthal

All three were fairly young during the War, but their memories were quite vivid. Some of their memories included air raid blackouts; stamps for food (not food stamps) because of rationing; and the ethereal celebrations that went on when news arrived that the War had concluded.

PANEL DISCUSSION MEMBERS		
Name	Lived In	Age (War End)
Pete Mealwitz	Boston MA	10
Dick Laubenthal	Lorain OH	7
Greg Kruszka	Springfield IL	6
SPECIAL PRESENTATION		
Maud de la Porte	The Hague, Netherlands	9
WORLD WAR II TIMELINE		
Sept. 1, 1939	Germany invades Poland; start of WW II	
May 10, 1940	Germany invades The Netherlands	
Dec. 7, 1941	Japan bombs Pearl Harbor, US enters War	
May 8, 1945	VE Day (Victory Europe)	
Aug. 15, 1945	VJ Day (Victory Japan), end of War	

Greg then read **Maud De la Porte’s** moving written account of her experience living in Europe during Wartime as a little girl, when she nearly lost her life in an air raid and was able to barely save herself and her sister from doom. Special thanks, as well, to **Mark King** for his historical research.

Thanks to **Greg, Dick, Peter,** and **Maud** for the memories!

Today’s Book

The book donated to Elyria Public Library in honor of our speakers, is “Just Like Mama,” by Alicia Fay Duncan.

Zoom Meeting Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86461082213?pwd=aVhiV1FBQ1o3cnlwVHZ3dXptODRndz09>

Meeting ID: 864 6108 2213

Password: Rotary

Happy Dollar Paypal donation link:

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