

Rotary



Club of Cranberry Township - Sunrise

Speakers

January 27, 2023

Lee Goldman Kikel,
author

Lee Goldman Kikel is the author of "Perseverance: One Holocaust Survivor's Journey from Poland to America", in honor of Holocaust Remembrance Day

February 03, 2023

Beth Marshall, District

7280 PolioPlus Chair

Beth will update the Club on RI's PolioPlus Program as well as the Youth Exchange Program

Events

February 18th

Learn To Play
Texas Hold'em -
Cranberry Elks

Birthdays

Elizabeth Echevarria

February 3rd

Thomas A. Norton

February 15th

Brian M. Kile

February 23rd

Wedding

Anniversaries

No Wedding

Anniversaries Found

Club Leaders



Karen S
Newpol
President



Michael J.
Ozdinec
President-
Elect

Timothy D
O'Brien
Secretary

Club Bulletin 1.27.23

By Timothy D O'Brien on Friday, January 27, 2023



Attendance: Karen Newpol, Mark Segar, Kim Reuss, Jack Wagner, Christine Ley, Shawn Firster, Tim Hester, Dan Santoro, Kevin Flaherty, Erica Sabatini, Ron Gigler, Rick Corbin, Rich Vozel, Michael Pologruto, Vic Conrad, Michelle Jurysta, Elayne Wilhelm, Jerry Andree, Denise Etter, Michael Ozdinec, Tim O'Brien

Happy Bucks Erica Sabatini – Happy to be here unless anyone forgot her! Super excited to be back!

Jerry Andree – Happy Erica is back!

Michelle Jurysta – College Planning workshop Wednesday at ARMCO in Cranberry – reach out to Michelle to attend, they will discuss dicepher award letters or FAFSA!

Mark Segar – Happy Janine (Jack's better half came)! Welcome Janine.

Jonathan Murray is back as a guest!

Lee Goldman Kikel is here to present

Linda Clautti – Here from Cranberry Noon as a guest – she is district secretary.

Membership with Elayne Wilhelm- Meeting after this meeting on membership.

Communication Team with Jerry Andree – Look at website and Rick Corbin has been very active in keeping the website very up to date!

Foundation Team with Kim – no updates.

Community Service with Rich Vozel – Thanks to all who signed up to help with Living in Liberty at Kim Reuss's house at 6pm. Stop in and over, but let Kim know to expect you! April 1st is tentative date for the food drive or March 18th – details to come. Community Service meeting next Thursday via Zoom (Feb 2nd).

Tom Norton and Ben Heinlein – going to do a water workshop based on Big Mikes Guatemala trip – Challenge to the group is come to Brush Creek as a hands on project to check out the process. Tom and Ben will be directing



Kimberly Reuss
Rotary
Foundation
Chair
Vice
President



Shawn Firster
Treasurer



Jerry A. Andree
Club
Director
Webmaster



Christopher J. Williams
Club
Director



Elayne P. Wilhelm
Interact
Club
Sponsor
Membership
Chair



Matthew S. Fiore
Webmaster



Mark W. Segar
iPast
President



Linda M. Clautti
Assistant
Governor

the project in June of 2023.

Speakeasy Night – 16 tickets sold at Elks, not sure of our tickets yet, but sell tickets first and get sponsorships later. Need help with baskets and coordinate baskets – pick up and drop off at venue. Also need help with beer, wine and bourbon tower – the dealers are all set – not thinking we will need 12 tables and all set. Food is all set – Tracie and Jenna have looking into catering options. There is a great group from Sunset coming together for the food prep and serving. Chips will be washed, bleached and cleaned for \$30 worth of chips in each bag. The ad is in the paper in Butler Eagle for the speakeasy.

Mark Segar shared 3rd Friday after the meeting will be fundraising. Vic Conrad reviewed permit applied for March Madness – Vic's wife needs to approve the permit. End of February/beginning of March – 3/10 tentative.

June 19th is also the date scheduled for the golf event.

Educational Committee with Jerry Andree – George is actively working on this. End of February is next Rotary student of month in person – working on the date for this.

District Conference Update – look for a test link a week – Mike Patsy organize and Matt Fiore helping with technology.

Presenter for today is Lee Goldman Kikel.

Lee grew up in Squirrel Hill and in the family jewelry business – dad took care of business and mom helped with books. She went to University of Pittsburgh and she would help with the business. She worked in the mental health field and retired and is an avid traveler and muscle car enthusiast.

In 2005 the United Nations made a resolution that honors the victims of the Holocaust – this date marks the date of Auschwitz liberation. Shao means catastrophe and is a time of education, sharing stories, recollection, survivor testimony and honoring victims.

Lee wrote the book – Perseverance – Lee's dad was a holocaust survivor and this book was produced to honor him. He started taping his life story years ago, and he gave a detailed organized story of his entire life.

Lee was in college and never listened to them. Dad passed in 1996, and in 2012 mom passed and hadn't listened to the tapes. In 2015 Lee's son studied in Berlin for the summer and decided to trace the families steps in Poland. Lee hadn't heard her dad's voice in 20 years. Lee thought she could write the book in a year, but it took 4 years. There are 3 parts to the book – the first part is a transcription and make sure everything is accurate – part 1 is in fathers words. Part 2 is memories and recollections of family and Lee's father. Part 3 are documents, photos, postcards, lists of all hospitals, rehab places – this is a treasure trove of ephemera.

Lee's dad was born on 1/21/1923 in Poland in a city similar to Pittsburgh as one of 7 siblings. The family operated a sheet metal factory and had been in Poland over 400 years previously. There was antisemitism – 40m people in the city and 3.5m Jews in the city. In Sept 1939 the Nazi's came and made the city a ghetto with a walled in area. The Nazi's kept most alive and starving as slave labor. Lee's family stayed there til 1944 and that is when they started to liquidate the ghetto. Lee and his brother sent one way and the other family the other at Auschwitz. Lee's father begged a guard to put him on a transport to another camp. He was transferred to Braunschweig – he worked in Bissing Factory doing truck work. He was transferred to another camp – 1945 marched to Ravens Bruck.

By now this time the allies were coming – May 2nd 1945 the 82nd Airborne was looking to meet the Russians and that is when they found Ravensbrok. He was transferred to various hospitals and rehabilitation centers for 5 years. He built up stamina and training and he knew he needed to leave Germany and decided to come to the US and Pittsburgh. Why Pittsburgh? Since Lee had skills that were industrial focused it was a natural fit. He came under the name Melvin Goldman – he met his wife in 1954 and married and in 1956 he became a U.S. citizen. He attended school, accomplished jeweler – he had hope, hard work and perseverance.

At the end of writing the book the Tree of Life shooting happened and Lee realized antisemitism still exists. 22 survivors from the Holocaust around the Pittsburgh area and Lee like other relatives feel it is important to keep telling the stories so we don't forget. Her biggest takeaway is to always have Hope in your mind.

Prime Stage Theater at the New Hazlett theater is turning Lee's book into a play and streamed worldwide to share the story of Lee's dad and his experience as a holocaust survivor who preserved. Tim Hester asked about the book on tape yet? Not yet.

Kim Reuss asked about what the name of jewelry store – Lee Trading – Kim Reuss shared that she got her jewelry from the Lee Trading company. Kim's sister also got rings from Melvin.

Vic Conrad asked about how many tapes Lee's dad made – and the answer is 10.

Karen Newpol asked how Lee's dad came to America – you had to do training to prove you could do work another country. Australia, Israel and Pittsburgh were options – and since Lee knew the metal business and would get a job here.

Christine Ley asked about Holocaust deniers – Lee saw the burden her dad carried from war.

Jon Murray – read Man's Search for Meaning and asked if Lee's dad would watch or listen to other survivor stories. Lee's dad just didn't speak about it.

Elayne Wilhelm asked if book is available on Amazon – it is.

Jack Cohen – shared his great aunt was on a death march and sat Janine down when married and showed the numbers on her arm. They took her and her family and pushed them into the snow and marched them and her baby died in her arms. Carried her baby for 3 days before they had her bury the child in the snow. Janine will never forget that.

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