



THE ACORN

A Weekly Publication by the Rotary Club of Thousand Oaks



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"The illiterate of the 21st century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn." Alvin Toffler



Program: August 24th

WINE PANEL

Karen Furnari, Moderator

Program: August 17th

Henry Oster,

Holocaust Survivor



Darin Arrasmith introduced our speaker, Henry Oster. **Darin** noted that **he** and his 15 year old daughter heard Henry's story in a private setting and was honored to have him share his story with the Club. Henry is also a Rotarian, a member of the E-Peace Club since 2016. They meet weekly with members from all over the world. Everyone was extremely spell-bound and extremely moved by Henry's compelling, horrific, and haunting story of his survival at Auschwitz. Here is some of his amazing story:

"*Achtung,*" a German officer shouted. "Attention." Fifteen-year-old Henry Oster, then called Heinz, lined up with his mother in a Lodz ghetto courtyard on a mid-August day in 1944. He and the others gathered there had been instructed to report for special permits to help harvest the fall crops, exempting them from deportation. But suddenly the shutters covering the windows of the two German administrative buildings on either side were flung open, revealing soldiers with machine guns aimed at the approximately 800 Jews now trapped there. The ambushed Jews were herded to the train station and crammed into cattle cars.

Two days later, they arrived at Birkenau. "*Schnell, schnell,*" the guards shouted, "Hurry, hurry," beating them with their batons. As Henry helped his mother down, she was abruptly whisked away. "I didn't even have a chance to say goodbye," he recalled.

Continued on Page 6



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Thousand Oaks Rotary

Minutes of Meeting

August 10, 2017



Past President Nate Harimoto led the meeting in President Tim Weaver's absence. He said that Tim is doing well, but still experiencing some discomfort, so he felt it best to rest.



For her Inspirational Moment Chris Steele shared a prayer.

Dave Friedl introduced visiting Rotarian Carl Alaniz from Camarillo Sunrise, and Jim Friedl's guest, Dawn Thena; Dave Wender's guest, Adnrea Moxley; Jeff Borenstein's guest, P.O. Petterson; Michelle Nash's son and daughter, Eddie and Chloe; Judy St. John's guests, Ethan Cestann, Susan Cohen, and Gail Grell; Susan Murata's guest, Judy French; Dave Friedl's sons Colby and Hunter; Sharon Renshall's husband, Jim, Melissa Buss's guest, Taylor Thayer, and Carol Robinson's guests, Tony Guevara and Mary Stec.



August 31-September 1

FIRESIDE CHATS

No luncheon meeting!

Program: September 7th

DG John Weiss

District Governor

Annual Visit

BIRTHDAYS

Aug 07 Lemmo, Rick
Aug 11 Steele, Chris
Aug 13 Masci, David
Aug 14 Arrasmith, Darin
Aug 17 Seeley, Teresa
Aug 19 Strong, Jennifer
Aug 20 Diaz, Mario
Aug 21 Benson, Roger
Aug 21 Helmuth, Tammie
Aug 24 Renshall, Sharon
Aug 26 Overton, Dan
Aug 29 St. John, Judy
Aug 31 Kimball, Chris



ANNIVERSARIES

Aug 03 Nagel, Norm & Carol
Aug 04 Donley, Heather & Michael
Aug 07 Lindberg, Fred & June
Aug 09 Murphy, Mike & Leslie
Aug 10 Cabral, Robert & Pelar
Aug 10 Weaver, Timothy & Mary Jane
Aug 11 Bianchi, Robert & Teri
Aug 12 Pederson, Steve & Kathy
Aug 15 Anderson, Martin & Elaine
Aug 15 Kleiger, Ean & Phoebe
Aug 18 Arrasmith, Darin & Lydia
Aug 21 Robings, Jere & Connor, KT
Aug 23 Nash, Michelle & Shannon
Aug 24 Gillette, Denny & Terry
Aug 25 Bradley, John & Karen
Aug 27 Stowell, David & Elaine
Aug 29 Lederer, Jill & Hicks, Stephen
Aug 29 Ward, Tex & Susan
Aug 31 Paulucci, Pat & Joe

FINE SESSION



Herb Gooch was the Fine Master. He asked rich questions about money and currency, more specifically the US dollar bill. His questions ranged from which country has the most expensive Big Mac, to specific questions relating to the meaning of items and words printed on the dollar bill.

Those fined were Daniel Becerra – incorrect, Jere Robings—correct, Jeff Borenstein – correct, Jennifer Strong – incorrect, Chris Lamia – correct, and K.T. Connor—correct. Not a bad batting average for our club!

NOW
is the time to
END POLIO

As of the latest report, there are
only 9 new cases this year so far:
6 in Afghanistan, 3 in Pakistan!

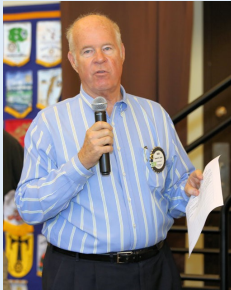


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ANNOUNCEMENTS



Bob Lewis reminded everyone about Fireside Chats, and that hosts are still needed for Thursday, August 31, and Friday, Sept. 1st.

Hugo Roche announced Senior Concern's major fundraiser to be held on September 16th, and they're still looking for people to fill a table for Rotarians. Tickets are \$390 per couple, or \$190 per person.

Richard Williams talked about the history of the Midsummer Eve Wine Festival dating back 16 years now, originating from **Mike O'Beirne, Lee Ladd, Martin Anderson, and Bob Biery**. **Roger Benson** took the reins 10 years ago and the event has been very successful, benefiting Special Olympics of Ventura County and the TO Rotary Foundation. **Richard** talked a little about the upcoming event, mentioning that a friend of his, a talented strolling magician, will be there as well, entertaining guests. Ross Porter, retired sports announcer will be a special guest, as will the club's honorary member, **Rafer Johnson**.



HAPPY \$\$\$\$\$

Joani Pappas carried the cup.

Michael Magasinn said he met Henry Oster (speaker) recently on his trip to Israel where he and his wife celebrated their Bar and Bat Mitzvah. He encouraged everyone to read Henry's book, "The Kindness of the Hangman".

Martin Anderson is celebrating his and Elaine's 20th Anniversary.

Jere Robings announced that when the lights go out on Monday, August 21st (Total Eclipse), it will be his and **K.T.'s** 7th year Anniversary.

K.T. Connor reminded **Jere** that on Monday, the 7 year itch is over, the 8th year starts.

Roger Benson gave thanks for all of the thoughts and prayers during his surgery and recovery.

Don Moors gave thanks for all of the cards and expressions of sympathy. He and his late wife Nan were married for 56 years.

Steven Stanley noted that he always bought Wine Event raffle tickets for his family, but no one in his family has ever won. He just wanted the raffle committee to realize that.

Dave Friedl welcomed back **Roger Benson**.

Carol Freeman welcomed back **Roger** also and said she is pouring for Robert Young Wineries at the event.





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Rotarian Code of Conduct

The following code of conduct has been adopted for the use of Rotarians:

AS A ROTARIAN, I will

- 1) Act with integrity and high ethical standards in my personal and professional life**
- 2) Deal fairly with others and treat them and their occupations with respect**
- 3) Use my professional skills through Rotary to: mentor young people, help those with special needs, and improve people's quality of life in my community and in the world**
- 4) Avoid behavior that reflects adversely on Rotary or other Rotarians**



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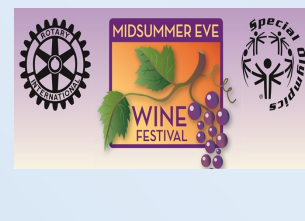


August 19th

Wine Event

Benefit :
Special Olympics
and
Thousand Oaks
Rotary
Foundation

Capturing Some of the Magic of the Evening





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Henry Oster, Holocaust Survivor *(continued from page 1)*

Henry was born in Cologne, Germany, on Nov. 5, 1928, to Hans and Lisbeth Oster. Hans was a vice president of a chain of small department stores, and the middle-class family lived in a luxurious apartment on Brabanterstrasse. Henry's first encounter with anti-Semitism occurred on his first day of Jewish day school, in 1934. As the children left for the day, Hitler youth, along with their parents, spat and swung at them with sticks. "I was more confused than frightened," Henry said.

After the Nuremberg Laws were introduced in September 1935, Henry could no longer attend school and Hans lost his job. The family was forced to move to a small apartment consisting of only one bedroom and a kitchen. Soon, 11 friends and relatives who had also lost their apartments joined them. Henry slept on a slatted wooden bench in the kitchen. With no income, Hans joined a labor camp, where he received meager pay for helping construct the Siegfried Line, German fortifications opposite France's Maginot Line.

On the night of Nov. 9, 1938, which would become known as Kristallnacht, Henry was awakened by a terrible commotion outside. He and the others, including his father, who had returned home, looked out the window to see the Roonstrasse Synagogue in flames. Suddenly they heard banging on their front door, and an SS officer and two enlisted men entered the apartment. The SS officer looked at Hans. He then turned to the two soldiers, announced, "This is a mistake" and promptly left. Henry's father explained that as vice president of his company, he used to meet with salesmen twice a year at a particular hotel. The SS officer had been the hotel doorman, whom Hans had consistently tipped for many years.

In 1941, the Oster family received notice to report for resettlement on Monday, Oct. 20. But the Saturday night prior, German soldiers broke open their apartment door and escorted them to a collection center. Two days later, they were loaded onto passenger trains, one of two transports of approximately 1,000, each headed to the Lodz ghetto. There they were squeezed for living quarters into a small room with 10 other people.

Hans was assigned work repairing the electric fence that surrounded the ghetto. Lisbeth, Henry's mother, worked in a factory drilling holes in metal plates that were fastened to the soles of military boots. And Henry worked on an agricultural detail, spending 12 hours a day planting and harvesting.

One day in July 1942, Hans returned home early from work, physically depleted and near starvation. He lay down on the floor, and then quietly died. "You were as much afraid as you were sad and sorry," Henry said of his father's death. Henry and his mother moved to another room, this one shared with 19 people.

Henry continued his story, recounting several incidents that were both frightening and fortunate. That is, fortunate in the sense of placing him in situations where he was barely escaping disaster. Henry then spoke of the liberation and his eventual progress from an orphanage to living with an uncle in Los Angeles. After spending several months recuperating, Henry was transferred to an orphanage in Ecouis, France. Late that summer, he learned that his maternal uncle, Herbert Haas, had seen Henry's name published in the Los Angeles B'nai B'rith Messenger. He and his wife, who had left Cologne in 1939, invited Henry to live with them.

Henry arrived in Los Angeles on April 20, 1946. He attended Belmont High School and UCLA and then the Southern California School of Optometry. In 1957, he opened his own practice in Beverly Hills, selling it in 2007. He continued working full time at Kaiser Permanente, retiring in January 2014. Henry also volunteered at the Ambulatory Care Center at Cedars-Sinai for 50 years. In 1998, Henry met Susan Fishman, and they married on May 6, 2001. He has four stepchildren — two from Fishman and two from a previous marriage. He has six step-grandchildren.

Henry's memoir, "The Kindness of the Hangman," written with Dexter Ford, was published in July 2014 and is available at Amazon.com. Of the 2,011 people transported from Cologne to the Lodz ghetto, only 23 survived. Of those, Henry is one of only two still living. "I have more *mazel* (luck) than anyone could expect," he said.



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PAST PRESIDENTS — Rotary Club of Thousand Oaks

58-59 DONN ODELL	88-89 KENNETH ROBERTS
59-60 JOHN HEYWOOD	89-90 JEFF BORENSTEIN
60-61 MARV BURROW	90-91 DENNIS GILLETTE
61-62 ROSS DUSKIN	91-92 MERV KOPP
62-63 ROY McCOMBER	92-93 TOM GLANCY
63-64 PAUL PACE	93-94 HUGO ROCHE
64-65 JOHN CONLAN	94-95 BRIAN BACK
65-66 CARLOS SCURIA	95-96 TONY KOUROUNIS
66-67 MERRILL DARLING	96-97 JACK CAINE
67-68 PHIL OZAB	97-98 DICK WIELER
68-69 WILLIAM VANDERZWANN	98-99 JUDY ST. JOHN
69-70 ALVIN J. HOTZ, JR.	99-20 MIKE GONZALES
70-71 BEN CRANMER, JR.	20-01 NEIL SCRIBNER
71-72 GLENN GOODWIN	01-02 BOB BIERY
72-73 GEORGE VASLIEFF	02-03 HARRY SELVIN
73-74 HENRY STILL	03-04 RICK LEMMO
74-75 JOHN TUEL	04-05 DOUG TAPKING
75-76 KENNETH HANSON	05-06 KATHY HILL
76-77 DAVID HUANG	06-07 PETE TURPEL
77-78 WILLIAM HAAS	07-08 VICKI ARNDT
78-79 FELIX MASCI	08-09 MARTIN ANDERSON
79-80 HARLAND JONES	09-10 KEITH PARKS
80-81 DAVE WENDER	10-11 FRANK CORRIGAN
81-82 GEORGE GIBB	11-12 RICHARD WILLIAMS
82-83 NORMAN NAGEL	12-13 SUSAN MURATA
83-84 BILL PETERSON	13-14 CAROL FREEMAN
84-85 MIKE O'BEIRNE	14-15 NATE HARIMOTO
85-86 MARV SOSNA	15-16 MIKE MURPHY
86-87 FRED FERRARINI	16-17 ROBERT BIANCHI
87-88 DOC NEEDHAM	

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*Editor **K.T. Connor**, notes by **Nancy Wohl**, photos by **Larry Baker***