



Wayne Casper  
President for the Day

## Spoke Newsletter

Wednesday June 27, 2018

Attendance: 21(50%) Attendance with make ups: N/A

Wednesday, July 4, 2018

**NO MEETING**

Program Wednesday, June 27, 2018

***Elfi Lee —A German girl's World War II story of survival and quest for peace***

Program arranged by Dick Cumming

***“Watching Over Me:”***

***A German Girl's World War II Story of Survival and a Quest for Peace***



Watching Over Me, by Rachel Hartman, records the recollections of Elfi Gartzke, supplemented by her mother and other relatives.

Elfi was born in eastern Germany in 1940. Her family did not subscribe to the ideologies of the Nazi party. Devout Christians, they managed to lead fairly quiet lives on their acreage as war consumed the world around them.

This changed in 1944 as her father, (along with all men between the ages of 16 to 60 who could bear arms,) was drafted into the *Volkssturm*, or “people’s army.” He was sent away to an unknown location just before Christmas. His family still knew nothing of his whereabouts- or even if he

were still alive- when they fled their home in January of 1945 to escape the advancing Russian army. They managed to find transport via train. The journey was interspersed with frantic scrambles to shelters to avoid falling bombs, where Elfi’s mother, ‘Mutti,’ would sing hymns in the dark to comfort her three children.

Reaching the relative safety of Harksheide, a city farther west, Elfi’s family struggled to build new lives in the rubble. As refugees, they faced negative attitudes, inadequate housing, and meager food allotments.

### Watching Over Me

A German Girl's World War II  
Story of Survival and a Quest for Peace



Rachel Marie Hartman

***A Rotary Thank You to Elfi Lee for an excellent presentation  
on her story of survival during World War II.***

***Lincoln East Rotary Club  
Meetings at Valentino's—70th & Van Dorn  
Noon Luncheon starting @ 11:45 a.m.***

***June 20, 2018***

In spite of the challenges, this memoir is anything but bleak. Trouble was interspersed with joys, such as the return of Elfi's father. Elfi still experienced some of the simple pleasures of childhood: making friends, finding a place to play (even if it was only a particularly large bomb crater,) and receiving her first doll. Through all, her Mutti strove to keep their hopes alive and their faith strong.

Largely told from a child's memories, Watching Over Me was quite different from the other books I've read about the same era. Elfi's concerns were primarily relegated to day-to-day life. Her perspective was a poignant reminder of the suffering that lingers on both sides of a conflict, even after the hostilities of war have ended.

The author also interspersed some significant 'big picture' events into Elfi's narrative. She dealt frankly, if briefly, with the horrible crimes committed under Hitler's regime. She also related dates in Elfi's life with events in the world, such as the Berlin Airlift, the conflicts in Korea, and the beginnings of the space program.



**Why is Gene in this picture? You all have heard the saying "it's a small world." Gene played baseball against Elfi's brother. Gene did not say but I think his team lost!!!**

***We will invite Elfi back for another meeting to tell the following:*** The last third of the book described the family's emigration to the United States, sponsored by a kind stranger from Nebraska and their subsequent lives- learning a new language and a different culture. While I hadn't expected this much post-war information, I found the stories interesting. My family left their European roots a few generations before Elfi's, but I imagine some of the experiences were similar.



### **JCMF Children's Charities Announces 2017-2018 Rotary Water Safety Advocacy Awards**

The Joshua Collingsworth Memorial Foundation is pleased to announce the 2017-2018 Rotary Water Safety Advocacy Award Winners. Clubs were invited to submit nominations that included a description of their Josh the Otter Water Safety and Awareness program along with successes and outcomes. One Rotarian shared the following with her club's nomination: *"I'm happy to be part of a program that teaches kids about an important and life-saving topic in such an engaging and exciting way. This is one of the most rewarding things we get to do as Rotarians".*

The following eleven clubs were selected this year to receive the award:

Rotary Club of Emerald City in South Carolina

Rotary Club of Engelwood in Florida

Rotary Club of Kerrville in Texas

Rotary Club of Laurens in South Carolina

Rotary Club of Northwest Des Moines in Iowa

Rotary Club of Sarasota in Florida

Rotary Club of Susitna in Wasilla, Alaska

Rotary Club of Lake Wylie in South Carolina

Rotary Club of Longboat Key in Florida

**Lincoln East Rotary Club in Nebraska**

Vero Beach Oceanside Rotary Club in Florida



***Worship Celebration for the Zambia project to be held on July 18, 2018, at First Plymouth United Church of Christ, 20th and D street. 5:30 PM. Bring a lawn chair.***

This is a kickoff for the Church's increased involvement with the project. Bob Simmering has engaged Zambian dancers to be present and folks involved with the project will be present. ***Please come and show Rotarian involvement.***

The Zambia Project began with a \$500 gift in 2003 from Lincoln East Rotary to be used to purchase sinks for the Bindi (pediatric ward) at Livingstone General Hospital in Zimbabwe. Over time the Zambia Global Project has burgeoned into a massive Rotary project involving many Rotary District 5650 Clubs. Chuck Erickson, the original leader, along with other District leaders such as Ozzie Gilbertson, Dorothy Zimmerman, Sharon and Dan Wherry, Chuck Matzke, Dan Martin and Bob Perrin have help make this project a success.



## ZAMBIA NUTRITION PROJECT

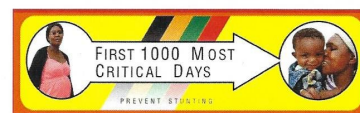
### Issues Identified

1. Stunting - severely short for age
2. Poor nutrition leading to inability to fight disease
3. Reduced school performance
4. Reduced economic productivity as adults



### What we know

We now know that the First Thousand Days of life, including pregnancy are critical in achieving maximum physical and mental health in adulthood.



### Next Steps

1. We plan to address the issues by working with local health professionals in training local senior women to teach mothers how to feed their children.
2. Continue our progress by providing water and agricultural projects in Southern Province Zambia. A coalition of Rotarians, Canadians, private individuals, University of Nebraska professors and First Plymouth Church have been working in Zambia since 2003 to make for better lives.



### How can you help?

Are you technically adept? Help us by plotting growth data  
Join a travel team in 2019  
Become "our boots on the ground"  
Help raise funds  
Contribute financially

For more information contact: Chuck Erickson (cerickson2003@gmail.com)



***SumFun Picnic  
Friday, July 20, 2018***

***We still need volunteers. Sign up sheets will be available at the meeting on Wednesday, July 11.***



## Anniversaries & Birthdays

Weeks of June 21—27

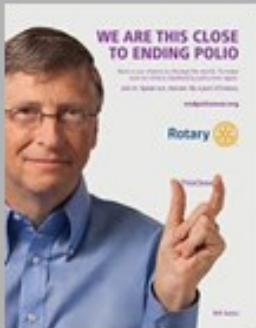
### Birthdays:

NONE

### Anniversaries

Barry Stelk—July 3

Roses: Ozzie Gilbertson, John Duling, Charles Erickson, Mike Carr



## Happy Dollars

Al Burdick	\$ 3.00
Jerry Albright	\$ 3.00
John Duling	\$ 1.00
Dale Lloyd	\$ 1.00
Dick Cumming	\$ 1.00
Greg Schnasse	\$ 2.00
Ben Martin	\$ 1.00
Duane Tappe	\$ 2.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$14.00</b>



### Greeter Duty

Ozzie Gilbertson—July

Dean Douglas—August

Dennis Duckworth—September

### Make Ups

N/A



### Cashier Duty

June—Gordon Bair

July—Gordon Bair & Wayne Casper

Contact Dick Cumming

### Guests & Visitors

Merrilea Anderson

Doris Burdick

Cathy Carr

Kay Gilbertson

Cathy Duling

Jonathan Albright

Steve Grosserode

Al's wife

Mike's wife

Ozzie's wife

John's wife

Jerry's son



## Lincoln East Rotary Club—July Speaker Schedule



**NO MEETING JULY 4, 2018**



July 11—Karla Welding—Lincoln Recycling with focus on Cardboard

July 18—Community Crops

July 25—Bluestem Health, previously People's Health Center

**Lincoln East Rotary Club**  
**Spoke Newsletter**  
**Published by Wayne Casper**