

## Surviving the Holocaust



**Patti Roscoe**  
Editor

A tad bit nervous, new President **Peter Duncan**, meekly rang us to order. I suspect his gentleness with the gong was in respect to the octogenarian, Rose Schindler, whose ears were just inches away. Prez Peter did a very nice job for his first official day at the podium.

Girl Scouts **Jo Dee Jacob's** Inspirational Moment gave us pause as she contrasted the joyful experience thousands of Girl Scouts are having at summer camp to the horrors that thousands of Jews suffered while interned at death camps so many years ago. As we saluted our Flag and **Steve Hubbard** and **Suzu Spafford** led us in *America the Beautiful*, the words to our patriotic song meant ever so much more. **Stan Lawrence** intoned the news of the day (sponsored by **David Oates** of Stewart Communications), then told an oldie but goodie Yoga Berra joke about "towels so thick at his hotel he couldn't get his suitcase to close."

The one fine levied was on **Amnon Ben-Yehuda** and he was asked to self-fine, which he did to the tune of \$500 for the Rotary Foundation. (Good job, President Peter!) In a recent issue of the *San Diego Jewish Times*, we learned that during the Israeli War of Independence, Amnon was a member of the Palmach unit attempting to capture a critical fortress. While his unit was being driven back by Arab Legionnaires, Amnon was shot in the head. Four of his buddies, one a lifelong friend, carried him to safety down the mountain. It took 72 hours for him to receive treatment at a hospital. After a very long recovery, he moved to San Diego, became a businessman and joined Club 33. As a result his actions during the war, he was recently recognized as a "San Diego Builder of Israel" by the United Jewish Federation of SD County and the Center of Jewish Culture. And we thank Amnon for his over 40 years of service to Rotary.

New member **Lisa Carman** told us a bit about herself as we welcomed her to Club 33. When she admitted she was an Aggie, a lone

roar went up in the audience from **Ed Glazener**. Never mind, Lisa, we're all delighted to have you in our midst. The effervescent **Paul Nestor** was introduced with the little-known fact that he possesses the only lifetime pass to Kobey's Swap Meet, which he visits every Saturday morning at 6AM. (There must be more to the story than that!) A lucky Rotarian from the Paradise Valley Club received a bottle of wine Paul compared to our new president ... "full bodied, annoying but palatable, makes you want to sing, and is a bit fruity." (Oh my!!!)

In his introduction of Rose Schindler, Paul spoke of a woman of resilience and courage – and of A-25893 – a tattoo found on her left arm – a small reminder of the scourge of the holocaust. Rose was born in 1929 and grew up with a mom, dad and seven siblings as Jews in a small town in the then-Czechoslovakia. While it was a simple life, with handmade clothes and food grown on their farm, it was a good life. In 1938, that all changed. Hungarians marched into their town taking over businesses, her Father's tailor shop included. Jews were no longer allowed to go to school or leave the village. They were prisoners in their homes. In 1944, the Nazi SS Soldiers marched into their village and all Jews were gathered in a school, put on oxen-driven wagons, and taken to the train station. They stayed in the train station for seven weeks until their names were called, only to be sent away to "somewhere." They were stuffed in cattle cars like sardines, with no bathrooms, water, seats or windows. After several days, the train finally stopped, someone shouted, "Auschwitz!" and screams were heard everywhere.

A kind Jewish prisoner whose job was to help newly arriving prisoners off the train, asked Rose how old she was. She told him she was fourteen. He told Rose to say she was eighteen. She soon learned that younger children and the weak were sent immediately to the gas chambers.

*Continued on page 2*

## NEXT MEETING

**July 23**  
*San Diego*  
*Youth Symphony*

The San Diego Youth Symphony and Rotary District 5340 International Youth Exchange celebrate the 11th annual International Youth Symphony in Balboa Park. Every summer, this unique three week orchestral program brings together gifted conservatory musicians from around the world to play with exceptional SDYS musicians under the leadership of SDYS Music Director Jeff Edmons for an intensive and top quality orchestral and chamber music experience. This year fifteen international musicians representing the UK, Ireland, Germany, Spain, The Czech Republic and Canada will join eighteen SDYS students to create the unique International Youth Symphony orchestra for two weeks of rehearsals and a variety of recitals and concerts that will be shared with the community.

*The orchestra will perform excerpts from some of the most celebrated works including Mozart's Overture to the Marriage of Figaro, Gabriel Faure's Pavane, Mozart's Symphony No. 35 in D Major (Haffner), and Beethoven's Symphony No. 2 in D Major.*



**Chair of the Day**  
**Larry Hoeksema**

## QUICK BITS

**Video from our President's Roast on June 25 is now available for viewing.**

[Click here](#) for the short version (5:49)

[Click here](#) for the long version (51:25)

### JULY 30 ALL-CHAIR COMMITTEE MEETING!

The meeting will take place after our program (Room number TBD)

Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs are expected to attend this meeting given by President Peter and President-Elect John Morrell.

### 2015-16 Rosters are now available!

Pick one up at our Thursday meeting (they will not be mailed). An electronic version is also available. Please contact the office for information.

## BIRTHDAYS

Rick McElvain	July	20
Bert Wahlen		22
Suzy Spafford		23
Troy Wilson		23
Denis Vanier		23
Craig Evanco		23
Courtney Liddy		24
Ricardo da Rosa		26
Jim Kidrick		26
Ellis Smith		26

## Surviving the Holocaust *continued*

She was surprised the worker was a Jew until she learned that all Jews worked and had no choice when assigned a job. Soon she and all the new arrivals were lined up and asked their age. An SS officer believed she was eighteen and she went into the camp with the living. Her mother, one younger brother, and her three younger sisters were led to the gas chambers. She still remembers the horrible screams and smells from the fire. A-25893 was burned into her skin. She remembers her father telling her, "Whatever you do, make sure you stay alive to tell the world what they did to us." He and her older brother were taken away as slave laborers, never to be seen again. She and her two older sisters were assigned a barracks where they had to fend for themselves, awaiting their fate. The horrors and deprivation they experienced will never be forgotten.

Eventually they were sent away and assigned to Brunntal, an ammunition factory. Rose's job was inspecting gas masks. Life after Auschwitz was a lot better for all three girls. Rose states that they fed them a lot better, because they needed them to be healthy for labor. On the morning of May 6, they heard the sounds of Russian soldiers who came to liberate them. She and her sisters were able to return to their home village, where they found an unlivable house and shunning by the neighbors, who had taken all their possessions. They eventually made their way to England where she lived in a hostel.

**Editor's note:** Max Schindler, Rose's husband, is a concentration camp survivor as well. Max became part of a group known as "The Boys," some 732 Holocaust orphans brought to England after the war, given medical care and food, and taught trades. The nickname suggests it was an all-male refugee operation, but there were girls, too. In 1945 five girls arrived. One of those girls was Rose. Life moved on and they were married on July 27, 1950. Max and the Schindler family were at Club 33 Thursday to support Rose as she told her story.

In January of this year for the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Liberation of Auschwitz, Rose, Max and several members of their family returned to the concentration camp with three hundred other Holocaust survivors as special guests of The World Jewish Congress and the USC Shoah Foundation. As you can imagine, the visit was bittersweet. Rose always remembers her father's admonition: "Be sure they never forget." 6 million Jews were slaughtered in concentration camps, 1.1 million of those in Auschwitz. *Lest we forget.*

## CALENDAR

ALL MEETINGS ARE HELD AT LIBERTY STATION CONFERENCE CENTER UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

### July

23 *San Diego Youth Symphony*

30 *Brad Howard, Director—Rotary International*

### August

6 *Ignacio De La Torre—Regional VP, AT&T*

13 *ADM Jonathan Greenert—Chief of Naval Operations*

## GROTARIAN EVENTS

### AUGUST 18—POOLSIDE CHAT

**Time: 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM**

**Cost: Free**

**Location: John Morrell's residence**

*This event is only for Grotarians and appointed Committee Chairs—please, no spouses or guests.*

*A reminder that this is a Centennial Badge requirement for Grotarians.*

[Click here](#) for more details.

**Save the date! September 27 event at the San Diego Mesa College Math & Science Center.** Come watch the lunar eclipse with fellow Rotarians and scientists. More details to follow soon!

**Meetings: Every Thursday at Noon, Liberty Station Conference Center, 2600 Laning Road, San Diego, 92106**

Peter Duncan, President ♦ Paul Devermann, Executive Director

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# MEMBERSHIP

Please welcome our newest member to the club.



**Lisa Carman**-“Data Management.” Lisa is the President and CEO of T3W Business Solutions, Inc, a company that provides business enterprise, GIS/GPS, and technical and environmental solutions to federal, state and local governments and commercial clients. They are a women-owned small business.

Lisa is an alumni of Texas A&M and has a degree in Chemical Engineering, and has a daughter who is currently attending there. Her hobbies include reading, graphoanalysis and operas. For the past ten-plus years she has been building a business and is now looking forward to volunteering and helping our community.

Peg Eddy, **Victor Ramsauer**, and **Sarah Lamade** were her sponsors.

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**Save the date!**

**Thursday, August 13 at 11:30 am**

***Give The Gift of Rotary***

**San Diego Rotary  
VIP Reception**

You and your prospective member are invited to a pre-lunch meeting reception at the Liberty Station Conference Center for an opportunity to introduce your member prospect to some of our club Rotarians and Board Members. The club will provide a complimentary lunch for your guest.

**—ADMISSION REQUIREMENT—  
Bring one prospective member!**

**MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW SOON**

# FACES IN OUR CROWD



Left: Peter called the meeting to order for the first time as President.



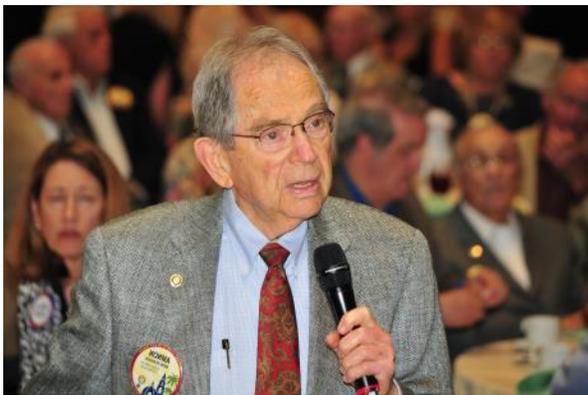
Top left: Chair of the Day Paul Nestor, guest speaker Rose Schindler and President Peter. Top right: Jim Tiffany visited with Max Schindler, Rose's husband, and Jeff Schindler, her son.



Cadet Girl Scout Maria Burritt, who had interviewed Rose for a video, joined us today.



As Jo Dee Jacob described the different kind of "camp" that was experienced in Auschwitz, Rose showed everyone the serial number tattoo she was given when she was taken prisoner.



Amnon Ben-Yehuda shared his own story of survival during the battle of Nebbi Yusha in 1948.



President Peter presented new member Lisa Carman with her Rotary pin.

Rose spent some time after the program to visit with our members.



Jenni Prisk and the SDSU Rotaracts thanked Rose for sharing her story.

# JULY 14 GROTARIAN EVENT

We would like to thank **Dennis Burks** for arranging the event at the Hubbs-SeaWorld Research Institute, **Don Kent** for his informative presentation, and all of his staff for the delicious food and interesting tours.



## DISTRICT NEWS - ROTARY PADRES NIGHTS

The remaining “Rotary Padres Nights” for this baseball season are as follows:

**Thursday, July 23rd at 7:10 pm vs. the Miami Marlins** - Rotary Price is \$30.00 for Field Infield seats (Section 107);

**Monday, August 10th at 7:10 pm vs. the Cincinnati Reds** – Rotary Price is \$30.00 for Field Infield seats (Section 107); and,

**Saturday, September 5th at 5:40 pm vs. the Los Angeles Dodgers** – Rotary price is \$50.00 for Field Plaza seats.

Please join other Rotarians from District 5340 for an evening of baseball and fellowship!

Part of each purchase will be donated to Rotary's "End Polio Now" campaign. To place your order for tickets, please contact Rotarian Kevin Forrester at [kforrester@psmkr.com](mailto:kforrester@psmkr.com) or (760) 944-1918, no later than 7 days before the scheduled game day. *Go Padres!*