



Waunakee Rotary Club

Sept. 27, 2007
Vol. 41 No. 11

Ben Meyer often says, "Life is funny."

And he should know. Ben survived the Holocaust by hiding in a family's home in the Netherlands and went on to fight to establish Israel as the country it is today.

Ben spoke about his experiences to the Waunakee Rotary Club. He was 16 in December of 1940 when the Germans decided to go into Holland.

"We woke up and we were bombarded. The radio said we were invaded by Hitler," Ben said.

The Germans bombed Rotterdam, and that spelled impending doom for the Meyer family.

"I'm Jewish and so was my family and we knew that this was the end of our lives," Ben said.

The residents of Holland were each issued identification cards. Jewish residents' cards were stamped with a "J" for Jew.

The family had to buy yellow stars to wear whenever they were outside.

"When you're 16 like I was, you feel really bad," Ben said.

He was kicked out of school, lost his job, and the family could no longer afford to keep the help they had.

"We were just sitting there, waiting to be picked up," he said.

The family tried to purchase fake identification cards without the "J" label so they could travel outside of the country but were swindled out of their money. They finally went into hiding at another family's home.

They never went outside. Ben said he saw the leaves on the trees turn autumn colors then drop, then return in the spring three times. The neighbor woman gave birth to three children, all while the Meyer family was in hiding.

At one time, they were nearly dis-

covered by the Nazis.

When the war was over in 1945, they left for home with nothing.

"We didn't know dates, weekdays, Jewish holidays," he said. "For three years – I was afraid to walk outside."

When the family returned to Holland in 1945, all of their belongings were gone.

Prior to going into hiding, Ben's father, a cattle producer, had been told to collect his earnings from his customers and turn them over to the Nazi's. But he made a handshake deal with his customers and collected those earnings after the war.

In 1948, Ben was asked to help the Zionists in Israel. He went there, and after eight months, peace was declared. Finally he went to Holland and met a girl who worked in the same store he had in 1939. He married her, and the two emigrated to the United States. They have now been married 53 years.

"Hitler said he would never invade Holland," Ben said. "But he did."

Other items:

- Oktoberfest posters are available for business owners to post in their windows about the event. Also, any businesses who would like to participate in the business olympics at the event can do so. Teams consist of six people, three men and three women.

- Lori Derauf said she attended the Lake Melvin Yacht Club event, where Greg Garton received the Paul Harris Award. He received pay-back from Pat Durden, another recipient of that award, when he drank a concoction of raw egg and other foul ingredients.

- Bill Erickson said he could use two more volunteers to go to Haiti in the beginning of December to help build the home there.

OFFICERS

LYNNE SPIELMAN, PRESIDENT • DAN STATZ, PRESIDENT ELECT
PHIL WILLEMS, CLUB SECRETARY
BOB PULVERMACHER, RECORDING SECRETARY • KIM LENGFELD, TREASURER

DIRECTORS

TOM REIS • LORI DERAUF • BILL ERICKSON

Calendar of Events:

Oct. 6-7, Oktoberfest

Oct. 14, Rotary Rustic Road Rally

Guests: Linda Schmitz, guest of Jim Schmitz; Ben Meyer, guest of John Cullen; Lilly King, guest of Neil King; Rich Eberle, guest of Ken Pesik; Ben Ballweg, guest of Ken Ballweg.

Visiting Rotarians: Ralph Montello, Marco Island, past district governor; Joe Braunger, Downtown Rotary.

Birthdays: Sept. 30, John Cullen.

Anniversaries: Sept. 28, Peggy and Bob Acker-Farber.

Prayers: Sept. 27, Leonard Allen; Oct. 4, Kim Wilde; Oct. 11, Pat Durden.

Programs: Sept. 27, Dean Dickenson, District Governor; Oct. 4, Club Assembly; Oct. 11, Jonny Buroker.

Greeters: Sept. 27, John Cullen, Rodd Cupp; Oct. 4, Allan Dassow, Lori Derauf; Oct. 11, Art Drake, Pat Durden.

Make up meetings online

It's easy to make up a meeting on the Internet. The site is www.rotaryclubone.org. Print out the form and give it to Phil Willems, the club secretary.

BIRTHDAYS

January

Jan. 9, Bob Pulvermacher
Jan. 11, Greg Garton
Jan. 18, Rich Harris
Jan. 19, Gene Smith
Jan. 22, Daniel Muxfeld
Jan. 24, Art Drake
Jan. 26, Jim Meyer
Jan. 26, Mike Lawrence
Jan. 27, Pat Durden
Jan. 27, Lynne Spielman
Jan. 29, Gary Epping

February

Feb. 3, Jim Starling
Feb. 11, Phil Willems
Feb. 11, Ron Ballweg
Feb. 15, Dave Kruchten
Feb. 24, Danny Paul
Feb. 26, Sandy Taylor

March

March 1, Rex Endres
March 1, Duwayne Statz
March 14, Craig Larson
March 15, Rich Murphy
March 17, Ellen Schaaf
March 26, Ken Ballweg
March 27, Don Tierney
March 27, Fred Caywood

April

April 1, Ken Pesik
April 4, Ray Statz
April 7, Connie Blau
April 24, Leonard Allen
April 27, Bob Nicholson
April 30, Harriet Statz

May

May 2, Jim Jukes
May 2, Steve Schlaver
May 12, Ed Kruchten
May 25, Joyce Maly
May 26, Bob Lenz

June

June 5, Ed Niebuhr
June 18, Dan Statz
June 20, David May
June 27, Tammy Reefe
June 28, Rod Cupp

July

July 8, Mike Fehrenbach
July 10, Peggy Acker-Farber
July 12, Jim Tubbs
July 14, Robert Tucker
July 23, Jim Brussell
July 25, Jim Schmitz
July 25, Msgr. Jim Kramer
July 26, Tom Laufenberg

July 27, Traci Mann
July 28, Bob Arntz
July 30, Amy Gile-Enge

August

Aug. 3, Drew Lawrence
Aug. 4, Jon Townley
Aug. 5, Jim Leonard
Aug. 11, Kim Wilde
Aug. 12, Mary Weber
Aug. 12, Scott Cochems
Aug. 13, Kathy Cefalu
Aug. 13, Brent Ziegler
Aug. 14, William Erickson
Aug. 16, Dick Pilsner
Aug. 17, Frank Bucaida

September

Sept. 5, Gordy Meicher
Sept. 6, Tom Reis
Sept. 10, Kevin Kearney
Sept. 14, Fritz Durst
Sept. 14, Bob Hoskins
Sept. 17, Dan Miller
Sept. 19, Neil Kruschek
Sept. 21, David Kennedy
Sept. 21, Kim Lengfeld
Sept. 25, Allan Dassow
Sept. 25, Luke Tierney
Sept. 30, John Cullen

October

Oct. 21, Linda Olson
Oct. 26, Betsy Flanagan
Oct. 29, Lori Derauf

November

Nov. 4, Jeremiah Gollon
Nov. 21, Ted Pertzborn
Nov. 30, Susan Vergeront

December

Dec. 5, Ron Niesen
Dec. 6, Bud Zander
Dec. 8, Neil King
Dec. 8, Roberta Baumann
Dec. 14, Rich Wipperfurth
Dec. 15, Margaret Landphier
Dec. 16, Kevin Even
Dec. 17, Ed Endres

ANNIVERSARIES

January

Jan. 2, Jim and Linda Schmitz
Jan. 2, Ellen and Vincent Schaaf
Jan. 12, Ken and Diane Ballweg

February

Feb. 1, Jim and Terri Brussell
Feb. 9, Ed and Elizabeth Kruchten

March

March 31, Drew and Lolly Lawrence

April

April 21, Bud and Jeri Zander
April 22, Kathy and Mark Cefalu
April 28, Scott and Melanie Cochems

May

May 4, Jim and Betsy Starling
May 6, Don and Joanne Tierney
May 9, Ed and Jan Niebuhr
May 10, Margaret and Dennis Landphier
May 12, Mike and Jenny Fehrenbach
May 12, Brent Ziegler and Angela Schwab
May 17, Leonard and Becky Allen
May 23, Greg and Heidi Garton
May 25, Jon and Barbara Townley
May 25, Mike and Dena Lawrence
May 28, DuWayne Statz and Roberta Valle-
Statz
May 30, Phil and Betty Willems

June

June 7, Craig and Judy Larson
June 11, Rod and Wendy Cupp
June 13, Sandy and Tim Taylor
June 15, Bob and Jody Pulvermacher

June 23, Frank and Joann Bucaida
June 27, Kim and Nanette Wilde
June 29, Jim and Joanne Leonard
June 30, Fritz and Sheri Durst
June 30, Gene and Catherine Smith

July

July 1, Kevin and Leslie Even
July 5, Joyce and Alan Maly
July 8, Tom and Rhonda Reis
July 10, Gordy and Kris Meicher
July 17, Allan and Lynn Dassow
July 17, Roberta Baumann and Tim Brubaker

August

Aug. 4, Rich and Carolyn Harris
Aug. 5, Lynne and Ken Spielman
Aug. 10, Bob and Nancy Arntz
Aug. 12, Art and Jan Drake
Aug. 13, Danny and Yvonne Paul
Aug. 16, Kevin and Kathy Kearney
Aug. 26, Lori and Peter Derauf
Aug. 26, John and Debbie Cullen
Aug. 27, Dan and Joyce Muxfeld
Aug. 27, Danny and Lori Miller
Aug. 28, Connie and Marjorie Blau
Aug. 30, David and Mary Jean
Aug. 31, Tammy and Jerry Reefe

September

Sept. 8, Ron and Michelle Ballweg
Sept. 9, Linda and Don Olson
Sept. 12, Jim and Phyllis Jukes
Sept. 15, Dave and Lynn Kruchten
Sept. 15, Rich and Donna Murphy
Sept. 17, Ken and Mary Pesik
Sept. 20, Neil and Sharon Kruschek
Sept. 22, Rex and Brenda Endres

Sept. 28, Peggy and Bob Acker-Farber

October

Oct. 5, Dan and Kristien Statz
Oct. 7, Betsy Flanagan and Larry Nummerdor
Oct. 12, Jim and Tonya Tubbs
Oct. 13, Ray and Harriet Statz
Oct. 13, Harriet and Ray Statz
Oct. 19, David and Candace May
Oct. 21, Ted and Cathy Pertzborn
Oct. 21, Ed and Rita Endres
Oct. 24, Fred and Kathleen Caywood
Oct. 29, Tom and Joan Laufenberg
Oct. 30, Amy Gile-Enge and John Enge

November

Nov. 1, Neil and Lily King
Nov. 6, Jim and Margaret Meyer
Nov. 6, Dick and Sally Pilsner
Nov. 9, Bill and Jeanette Erickson
Nov. 13, Gary and Jane Epping

December

Dec. 1, Bob and Nancy Hoskins
Dec. 26, Bob and Mary Jane Nicholson
Dec. 27, Rich and Sue Wipperfurth
Dec. 28, Traci and Michael Mann
Dec. 31, Kim and Barry Lengfeld

The Four Way Test

1. Is it the truth?
2. Is it fair to all concerned?
3. Will it build good will and better friendships?
4. Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

Prayers

Kim Wilde; Pat Durden;
Msgr. Kramer; Susan
Vergeront; Leonard Allen

Prayers

Kim Wilde; Pat Durden;
Msgr. Kramer; Susan
Vergeront; Leonard Allen

Larry
Felsheim

Rotarians

Peggy Acker-Farber
Leonard Allen
Bob Arntz
Ken Ballweg
Ron Ballweg
Roberta Baumann
Connie Blau
Jason Brown
Jim Brussell
Frank Bucaida
Kathy Cefalu
Scott Cochems
John Cullen
Rod Cupp
Allan Dassow
Sarah DeKraay
Lori Derauf
Art Drake
Pat Durden
Fritz Durst
Ed Endres
Rex Endres
Gary Epping
Bill Erickson
Mike Fehrenbach
Larry Felsheim
Betsy Flanagan
Greg Garton
Amy Gile-Enge
Jeremiah Gollon
Wendy Grunewald-Fahlgren
Rich Harris
Carlyn Hensen
Paul Hermanson
Bob Hoskins
Jim Jukes
Kevin Kearney
Bernard Kennedy
David Kennedy
Neil King
Msgr. Jim Kramer
Dave Kruchten
Ed Kruchten
Neil Kruschek
Margaret Landphier
Craig Larson
Tom Laufenberg
Drew Lawrence
Kim Lengfeld
Bob Lenz
Jim Leonard
Joyce Maly

Gordy Meicher
Jim Meyer
Dan Miller
Rich Murphy
Bob Nicholson
Ed Niebuhr
Ron Niesen
Linda Olson
Danny Paul
Ted Pertzborn
Lisa Pertzborn-Whiting
Ken Pesik
Dick Pilsner
Bob Pulvermacher
Tammy Reefe
Tom Reis
Ellen Schaaf
Jim Schmitz
Gene Smith
Lynne Spielman
Dan Statz
DuWayne Statz
Ray Statz
Jim Steffenhagen
Sandy Taylor
Don Tierney
Luke Tierney
Jon Townley
Jim Tubbs
Robert Tucker
Susan Vergeront
Mary Weber
Kim Wilde
Phil Willems
Rich Wipperfurth
Bud Zander
Brent Ziegler

Sarah's e-mail
sdekraay@hotmail.com
FAX 837-0304

