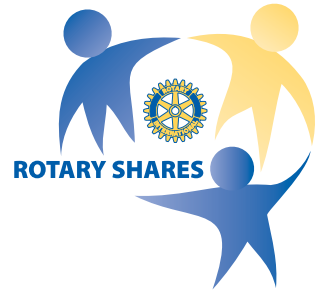




the Arch



June 3rd, 2008
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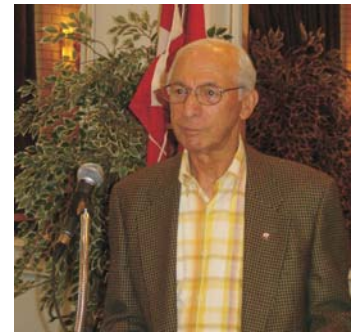
HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR Sidney Cyngiser

Bart Dailley introduced our speaker, holocaust survivor Sidney Cyngiser.

Sidney Cyngiser explained that he is still committed to speaking about his experience in the concentration camps to refute anyone's claims that the holocaust did not take place. He also feels his public speaking is necessary to enlighten students to guard our democracy. In addition to Jews, there were 19 other nationalities incarcerated in these death camps, including Christians who tried to help Jews.

Mr. Cyngiser was born in Poland in 1924. He spent five and a half years under Nazi Germany in ghetto, labour, and concentration camps. He is the sole survivor of his family.

In September of 1939 Mr. Cyngiser's city was occupied, creating a ghetto of 35,000 people. They were forced to live in 12' by 18' warehouse bays, 7 people to a bay. In 1942 10,000 people were sent to Treblinka concentration camp, the rest followed. In 1942 his mother and his three younger sisters were murdered in the gas chambers of Treblinka.



He and his father worked 12 hour shifts in a munitions factory. In 1944 as the Russian forces reached within 40 km of their camp, they were once again forced to march to another location, and from there they were shipped by train and then by foot to Auschwitz. During this forced march, between 65 or 70 people were killed due to their inability to keep up. Here he and his father dug ditches until his father succumbed to starvation. The rest of Mr. Cyngiser's family perished in other concentration camps.

During Mr. Cyngiser's captivity he was subjected to 25 lashes for disobeying camp rules, 50 lashes for picking up a piece of fruit from the ground in addition to the horrific living conditions. Sidney (who now at 21 years of age weighed only 66 pounds) was on his death bed when he was liberated on April 7th, 1945 by the French army. Mr. Cyngiser is the lone survivor of his family. Following his liberation, Mr. Cyngiser was taken to a hospital on the 12th of April 1945 and discharged in January 1948. He then spent almost two years in various displaced persons' camps in Germany before moving to Canada in 1949. By chance when asked if he wanted to write to anyone as he recovered in hospital, he remembered addressing letters as a child for his father to a relative in Calgary, a snippet of memory that reconnected him with relatives.

Sidney is married to Bronia, who is also a survivor of Auschwitz and Bergen Belsen where she lost her mother and sister two weeks before liberation by the British army on April 15th, 1945.

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The Arch is published weekly. Please forward any items for inclusion to Stephen Pick.

Rotary Club of Calgary Chinook

Chartered March 14th, 1977

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Meeting Minutes



May 27th, 2008

Scribe: Bruce Bohnet

Attendance at this week's meeting consisted of 52 members, 3 Guests, 2 Downtown, 1 Fish Creek and 5 South for a total of 63.

President Pat accepted an award for International Service presented to Calgary Chinook Club at the District Conference held in Lethbridge.

Al Pettigrew emailed Chinook Club members to report that despite a persistent leakage from his angiogram incision, he is in good spirits and is able to note some differences in medical care between Canada and Greece. It seems blood donations are an issue in Athens and usually relies on family members as opposed to collecting from donors at large. It also happens that Don McLean's neighbors were on the same cruise as Al and Bev.

The roof of picnic shelter in South Glenmore Park has been replaced and Ron Smith is looking for volunteers on June 9 to paint the shelter and park benches.

Tom Sorenson will be our club secretary again this coming year. He is expecting all members to fill out the committee duty sheet that was distributed to everyone. This is your chance to decide where your area of interest lies and to participate in the club.

Another Spending Seminar is being held at the Atco Centre in which members of Rotary are informed of new and existing charitable recipients. Contact Ian Burgess to register for this enlightening seminar that will give you further insight into how Rotary benefits the community and our world.

A \$2,500.00 cheque was presented to Shelter Box Canada to assist in their efforts in both China and Myanmar.

Bruce McDonald presented a plaque to all of the founding Chinook members who contributed to the Calgary Rotary Clubs Foundation.

50/50 draw won by Tom Ranson.



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Sidney was one of 50 Holocaust survivors from across Canada chosen to be honoured jointly by the Government of Canada and the Canadian Jewish Congress in 1998 with the Zachor (Remember) Award. In 2006 he received an honorary Dr. of Laws Society degree. At 85 years of

age he has survived all those years of abuse, but has worked tirelessly to inform Canadians and others about the horrors of the Holocaust, so that it can never happen again.

He says he and other survivors were able to eventually rebuild their physical bodies and lives, but the horror they experienced is never far below the surface. "It's always there in the back of our minds," said Cyngiser. "But I don't believe in hate, because hatred, bitterness and anger are self-consuming. By having retained my humanity, I can claim victory regardless of my terrible losses."

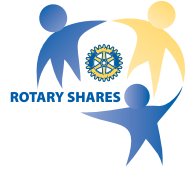
At the conclusion of his speech all the members attending today's meeting stood up to deliver their applause.

Editors Note: Approximately 11.5 million people were exterminated in the Nazi death camps. Most of the of the people were killed on the territory of Poland. The infamous death camps Auschwitz, Treblinka, Belzec, Majdanek, Sobibor, Birkenau were all located in Poland. Over 3.2 million Polish Jews were killed. The average survival rate in the small towns of Poland averaged 1% ... out of 100 people 1 person survived. Other hard hit areas were the Netherlands, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia where the survival rate was 15%. From a pre-war European Jewish population of over 9.0 million, less than 3.0 million survived the war.

... cont'd from page 4

2005 by poliovirus originating in Nigeria. This repeated success in Somalia indicates the disease can be stopped even in areas with no functioning central government.

"Somalia beat polio in the midst of more widespread conflict and poverty than that affecting Afghanistan and Pakistan," according to Dr Maritel Costales, Senior Health Advisor, UNICEF New York, citing insecurity and large population movements in those countries as challenges to reaching all children with vaccine. "But Somalia shows that when communities are engaged, children everywhere can be reached." Afghanistan and Pakistan could be the first of the remaining endemic countries to stop polio; between them they account for 5% of all cases of polio in 2007. Consistent financial commitment continues to be crucial to completing polio eradication. The global effort currently faces a shortage of US\$525 million for 2008-2009, funding urgently needed to fight the disease in the remaining endemic areas and protect children in high-risk polio-free areas. Rotary International, the top private sector contributor and volunteer arm of the GPEI, has contributed \$9.2 million for polio eradication in Somalia, and \$700 million worldwide since 1985. "Somalia clearly shows that the tailored tools and tactics of the intensified eradication effort are working," commented Mohamed Benmejdoub, Chair of Rotary's Eastern Mediterranean PolioPlus Committee. "A polio-free world is a feasible public health goal and a global public good. I urge governments across the world – and in particular the G8 countries – to rapidly make available the necessary resources. Together, we can ensure that no child need ever again suffer the terrible pain of lifelong polio-paralysis."



Upcoming Events

June 3rd	Gerry Meek — Calgary Public Library
June 10th	John Gilchrist — Calgary Herald Food and Restaurant Reporter
June 15-18th	Rotary International Conference, Los Angeles — “See The Stars”
June 17th	Ashleigh Morrison and Kwan Uansri, Exchange Students
June 24th	Pat Hutchinson and Bob Montgomery — Changing of the Guard
July 1st	No meeting
July 8th	Fort Calgary Rotary event (details later)
July 15th	Lisa Cyr, former Chinook Outgoing Exchange Student
July 22nd	Joe Carbury, Voice of the Chuckwagon Races
August 5th	Galib Abdullah — Islam
August 12th	George Loades — North American Bluebird Society
September 9th	Constable Jim Amsing — A Day in the Life of a Cop
September 19-21	Waterton-Glacier Peace Park Assembly
September 30th	Martin Schiavetta, Calgary Police Officer — Gang Violence
October 14th	Lionel Conn — Numismatics
October 28th	Tom Huffaker, United States Consul General

Who Me ?

by Bruce McDonald

How’s your Heart? Do you ever think about it? I doubt it. I’m sure Al Pettigrew didn’t think often about his, the day he was dancing on the ship with wife, Bev, but he got a lot of attention from medics and a ride on a helicopter to the Athens, Greece hospital. Thanks to Al’s popularity he shocked and surprised many people including all of us in this Rotary club when we learned he had not one but two serious heart attacks. Bev had to wait a couple days until the ship docked in Athens before she could visit Al in the hospital.

It can happen to any of us. You maybe but not me. Hey when I got short of breath and had some pain between the shoulder blades and in my lower breast bone while walking, it was because I needed to see my chiropractor or get off my fat butt and get some exercise, right? Bones Bowman helped, I thought, and I definitely knew I needed the exercise, but being married to a nurse, that logic somehow didn’t wash.

A visit to my General Practitioner soon had me on the way to an Internist for a check up and a stress test. He thought I would do well, and exercise would likely be the only prescription I would need. See I told you I was in good shape. But ... “lets try it” he says “no harm done”. I failed miserably, gasping for air with a real tightness in my chest in under 10 minutes. “Where did that come from” I gasped. The test team looked very concerned and was eyeballing the jump-start machine.

Before I could blink, I found myself on the way to a cardiologist. Another exam, no not the rubber gloved middle finger type, just more high tech tests, then the diagnosis. I knew I’d be given a clean bill of health. “You’re a prime candidate for a heart attack. We are making an appointment for you to have an angiogram, but it could take a month or more to get you in”. “However if you have the attack sooner it will shorten the waiting time.” Gee thanks. But hey, I feel OK. I don’t mind waiting. My wife straps the Nitro-glycerine to my forehead and says don’t fall.

It was absolutely amazing how the next 30 days went. Must be the power of suggestion. On most walks to the mail-box or through the park, I was slowing to a crawl. The number of chest pains increased and I was testing this Nitro stuff. Tastes funny but it worked. At least it made me feel better so I could get on with my jogging ... yeah right.

Strange things were happening ... I’d wipe the windshield and need a shot, I’d step into the tub and need a shot. I’d wake up at night and need a shot. I was hooked. But spend a weekend in the yard cutting grass, raking, transplanting, repairing and painting the fence, or moving the concrete bird bath and everything was OK, not a niggle. Go figure.

Angiogram day arrives and I’m convinced that they aren’t going to find what they are looking for – I’m just out of shape and I’ll be back to my old self with more real exercise. Wrong. One artery is totally blocked and one other is 80% blocked. “Stay in bed and don’t get off your back. We’re going to do an angioplasty and put a stent into your heart”. One piece of good news was that the totally blocked artery had repaired itself by growing its own bypass. My own internal surgeon. Ain’t the human body amazing. The bad news was I had to lie there for four more hours without moving before they wheeled me in. Then another four hours [no moving] to recoup. Also don’t lift your head, keep your arms down. OK. OK.

Been in a hospital bed lately ? It isn’t your perfect sleeper.

Well I got my heart circulation back and I feel just fine. The next six weeks will tell. That’s when the cardiologist gives me the green light to get back to eating the four food groups again. French fries, hamburgers, corn chips and milkshakes. I’ll bet Al can’t wait for his green light so he can get back to the comfort of his own home.

Greeters

June 3rd	Norm Myden, Bob Depledge
June 10th	Harry Nazarchuk, Dick French
June 17th	Paul Gaudet, Garth Plunkett
June 24th	Terry Green, Peter Robison

If you are unable to GREET on your assigned day, please arrange a substitute.



This and That

Polio Updates



New polio Web site!

Rotary International News - 7 April 2008

Rotary has launched a new "mini" Web site to give the general public an opportunity to help end polio by contributing to Rotary's US\$100 Million Challenge from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

View the three-page site at www.rotary.org/endpolio. The new site will be marketed throughout North America starting this month. All funds raised will go directly to The Rotary Foundation in support of polio eradication, helping Rotary fulfill its pledge to match the \$100 million challenge grant received from the Gates Foundation in November 2007.

Rotarians should continue to contribute through the Member Access Portal at www.rotary.org, but are encouraged to help spread the word about the new Web site within their communities.



Somalia passes polio-free landmark

25 March 2008, Geneva, Switzerland – Somalia is again polio-free, the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) announced today, calling it a 'historic achievement' in public health. Somalia has not reported a case since 25 March 2007, a major landmark in the intensified eradication effort launched last year to wipe out the disease in the remaining few strongholds.

Against a backdrop of widespread conflict, large population movements and a dearth of functioning government infrastructure, transmission of poliovirus in the country has been successfully stopped. This landmark victory is a result of the efforts of more than 10,000 Somali volunteers and health workers who repeatedly vaccinated more than 1.8 million children under the age of five by visiting every household in every settlement multiple times, across a country which is one of the most dangerous places on earth.

The use of innovative approaches tailored to conflict areas was pivotal in stopping polio in the country. These included increased community involvement and the effective use of

monovalent vaccines to immunize children in insecure areas with several doses, within a short period of time.

"This truly historic achievement shows that polio can be eradicated everywhere, even in the most challenging and difficult settings," said Dr Hussein A Gezairy, Regional Director for the World Health Organization's Office for the Eastern Mediterranean.

Polio, which can cause lifelong paralysis, has been stopped nearly everywhere in the world following a 20-year concerted international effort. Only four polio-endemic countries remain – Afghanistan, India, Nigeria and Pakistan – and the eradication of polio globally now depends primarily on stopping the disease in these countries.

Poliovirus travels easily and, in the world of modern travel, can cover long distances. Until transmission of the virus has been interrupted in the four remaining endemic countries, the risk to the rest of the world remains high. Somalia, which had already eradicated the disease in 2002, became re-infected in

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