



# San-Captions

2011-2012 District 6960 Sanibel-Captiva Rotary Club  
Organized 1979 \* Chartered March 18, 1980

www.sanibelrotary.org

## SANIBEL-CAPTIVA ROTARY CLUB

### Board Officers:

**President:** John Grey  
**President Elect:** Scot Congress  
**Vice President:** Bill Rahe  
**Secretary:** Adair Heath  
**Treasurer:** John Danner  
**Sergeant-at-Arms:** Don Russell  
**Past President:** Joel Ospa

### Board of Directors:

**Dan Cohn**  
**Bob Guggino**  
**Emily Kletzien**  
**Jack Luiszer**  
**Bunny Ospa**  
**Dick Waterhouse**

### Trust Foundation:

**Lee Almas, Chair**  
**Tony Gropp, Treasurer**  
**Robert Monk, Secretary**  
**John Bellino**  
**Jim Lavelle**  
**Chet Sadler, Rotary Foundation**  
**Joel Ospa, PP**

### R.I. PRESIDENT 2012-2013

**SAKUJI TANAKA**

**PEACE THROUGH SERVICE**



### DISTRICT #6960 GOVERNOR

**Steve Schlueter**

## SANIBEL-CAPTIVA ROTARY CLUB PRESIDENT'S THEME 2012-13

# "SHARING, IMAGINING, BEING"



## CLUB ASSEMBLY TODAY

Last week Club President, John Grey, asked us to think about the word PEACE and what defines that word for each of us. Hopefully some members thought about that this past week and will share their thoughts with us today.

### Just to get things started:

A verse from the song  
"Let There Be Peace on Earth"

by Jill Jackson Miller and Sy Miller 1955

Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me,  
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.  
With God as our Father, brothers all are we,  
Let me walk with my brother, in perfect harmony.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

April 15th (Monday)  
Installation Dinner Captiva Yacht Club  
April 26th (Friday)  
Breakfast Meeting at Heights Community Center  
May 14-19 Rotary 6960 District Conference - info. on Dist. Web-site back

## UP-COMING SPEAKERS

APRIL Carney/Almas Recruiters  
4/5 Keith Williams, Director Sanibel Dept of Public Works \*\* John Carney would like you to send your questions for Keith in advance to [johncarney@yahoo.com](mailto:johncarney@yahoo.com). Keith will then do the research, get the answers for you and respond when he is our guest speaker.  
4/12 Dennis Schofield - former Insurance Adjustor  
4/19 Dr. Sidney Simon

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS



**L-R William Palmer, Scot Herzoff, Scot Congress, & Janet Strickland**

Sanibel-Captiva Rotary Club President, John Grey aided by Club Membership Chair, Janet Strickland inducted and welcomed two local businessmen last week: **Scot Herzoff**, classification Retail Jewelry with Congress Jewelers **William Palmer**, classification Banking/Wealth Management-Client Advisor with SunTrust Bank, Sanibel. Both new members were sponsored by Rotarian, Scot Congress, San-Cap Rotary President Elect 2013-2014.

**BRING A FRIEND, NEIGHBOR, OR CO-WORKER TO JOIN US AT AN UPCOMING MEETING. LET THEM SEE FOR THEMSELVES WHAT A GREAT CLUB WE HAVE...**



THANKS TO DON & GEORGIA RUSSELL... GREAT PARTY LAST FRIDAY NIGHT...RECORD NUMBER OF ATTENDEES AT THIS FABULOUS END OF SEASON PARTY...OVER 60

**The Club Song** Giver of all things good, We Thank you for this food, With one accord  
Lead us we humbly pray, Onward in Rotary's way  
Of service day by day, Most Gracious Lord  
(Tune of My Country Tis of Thee)

# HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR'S STORY

W

hy did so many ignore the warning signs presented before them of the impending Holocaust atrocities? Why did they choose not to stand up to Hitler and the Third Reich? Complex questions that many don't want to examine and many just want to forget or worse yet, some don't even believe. Our Sanibel-Captiva Rotary Club speaker last Friday Sanibel resident, Steen Axel Metz, doesn't want us ever to forget this chapter in history of mankind. So many people were harmed; so many people didn't survive to tell their stories of the unthinkable evil in the intended annihilation of entire race of people from the face of the earth...the Holocaust. Hitler's plans of controlling Germany's centralize government and applying his doctrines with increasing power, first in Germany and then spreading to Austria, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Denmark and crossing the borders of most European Countries. "Hitler's goal was not only to exterminate the Jews in Europe but to destroy their culture as well: (Holocaust Museum of Southwest Florida, Naples).



Steen has written a book of his own personal recollections and reflections of being a Holocaust Survivor. Odense, Denmark...It was the fall of 1943, and a small boy of eight and his family is awoken in the middle of the night and told they were under arrest by German soldiers. They were ordered to collect a few belongings and some bread and then were transported in a small open truck to a school in downtown Odense. There were around 60 persons assembled in the schoolyard. From there the group was transported in trucks to Kolding, Jutland and then transferred into crammed railroad cattle boxcars...destination the Theresienstadt concentration camp. Conditions in the boxcars were horrendous throughout this 84-hour journey: people had

very little food, only two bottles of water, no bathroom facilities (using buckets for human waste, the smell was unbearable) and unable to lay down. After arriving at Theresienstadt each prisoner was assigned a number and a barracks by gender and age. Steen was allowed to stay with his mother but his father was assigned to another barracks. All adults were given work assignments and some of the children were given jobs. Steen writes, "My father (an attorney) was forced to perform hard physical labor as a road worker and also sweeping the streets. A relative remembers that these men got an extra piece of bread as payment, but that was not nearly enough! Steen's father could not handle the situation and died from starvation and malnutrition on March 13, 1944, after less than six months in the camp." His father was only 40 years old when he passed away. Steen's mother was assigned duty in the mica factory-splitting mica used to insulate planes or washing the floors in the factory. The cruel guards in the factory would sometimes kick over the water buckets just to taunt the prisoners. Steen himself worked as a messenger in the camp, the only mode of authorized communication within the camp. Some of the young children were used for this essential task. Steen his mother and other relatives were imprisoned at Theresienstadt for eighteen months in hell. It wasn't until after his father died (six months after the family had been brought to the camp) that packages arrived for prisoners. The packages sometimes included food, if not confiscated by the soldiers. This food was shared and added to the daily meager portions of potato soup. This helped keep up strength and aided the survival of some.

The worst and omnipresent threat of not knowing what the future would hold for the prisoners along with unbearable and the cruel abusive treatment received from the guards brought despair. Each morning some fellow prisoners would be missing, never to be seen again. Germans deported Jews from all over Europe to concentration camps, and eventually most of them were transported to gas chambers and died. The resilience and personal strength of many of the prisoners was tested and some found ways to survive this unspeakable period in their lives. When the war ended many survivors never wanted to think or speak of that time again. Only within the last twenty-five years or so does it seem that the importance of speaking up about this time in history and the atrocities of the Holocaust has survivors recording for history the facts of the horrifying experiences they witnessed in the concentration camps. Recorded for history and used as an important teaching tool with the goal that this type of evil should never be allowed to happen again.

The name of Steen's book is A DANISH BOY IN THERESIDENSTADT-Reflections of a Holocaust Survivor by Steen Axel Metz and can be found at the Sanibel Library.

## Club Service:

1. Membership chairperson Janet Strickland has hosted 3 membership gatherings for all members and potential new members. All were very well attended.
2. Sergeant of Arms Don Russell hosts all members for a wine and dinner event every year. This is a very big event for the club.
3. The club sponsors a Christmas party each year with a sit down menu and entertainment.
4. The club has a decorated vehicle in the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade with 8 to 10 Rotarians helping through Rotary pencils.
5. Theatre night at Herb Strauss Theater; almost sixty Rotarians and family members attended.

## Community Service:

1. Our club distributes dictionaries to all the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders in the Sanibel and Ft Myers Beach School.
2. We provide parking for the Annual Shell fair at the community center.
3. We contribute over \$20,000 to organizations in Sanibel such as; CROW, SCCF, Big Arts, Sanibel School, blessings in a back pack, low income housing, and Sanibel Sea School.
4. Once a month the club participates in cleaning a 2 mile section of the road coming on the island.
5. Four scholarships for students living in Sanibel or children of parents working on the island.

## International Service:

1. We just completed a matching grant with the Rotary Club of St Marc Haiti building a restroom for a school with over 700 students. Total cost \$75,000.
2. Participated In a joint project the Rotary Club of Estero Florida providing 12 high efficiency wood burning stove for villagers in Guatemala.
3. Completed a joint project with the Rotary Club of Lakewood Ranch providing a water filter system at a school in Santa Cruz Mexico.
4. Provided 110 wheel chairs to be distributed by the Rotary Club in Jamaica WI.
5. The club over \$10,000 for various international projects like; El Hogar and neo-natal monitors, Clinica Verde, and 3 shelter boxes.

## Vocational Service:

1. Club President John Grey owner of John Grey Painting Co took part in a community rehab project. The company supplied paint, brushes, and ladders. Training was given on how to set-up projects for painting process, how to paint, and project cleanup.
2. Sanibel Rotary funds an Arts & Training center in the low income community of Heights. \$25,000 was provided to equipment and supplies for the "Sanibel Rotary Room". Rotary members are donating their time to provide mentoring, job training, and tutoring.

## New Generations Service:

1. Each year the Sanibel Captiva Rotary Club supports one or two students at the S4TL program in Lakeland Florida's Florida Southern College. The high school students that attend the S4TL give a talk at our weekly meeting telling what it meant to them.
2. Sanibel Captiva Rotary supports the Rotaract Club at FGCU. They have participated in our annual fund raiser and we have contributed to their effort to send school supplies to children at a school in Guatemala.
3. Discussions are ongoing with the Sanibel School to have a 4 Way Test Essay. The school is in favor of the project. It should be in place before the end of the year.

## Public Relations:

1. The Sanibel Captiva Rotary Club has a Public relations person on its payroll. Pictures are taken at every meeting. Articles are written for both Sanibel news papers and the weekly Rotary SanCaptions news letter.
2. Special PR programs were put together for the International matching grant programs.

**SANIBEL-CAPTIVA ROTARY SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION AND APPLICATION IS NOW ON OUR CLUB WEB-SITE WWW.**

**SANIBELROTARY.ORG**

**If you know someone who might be eligible, encourage them to apply.**