



# Swarthmore Rotary Cog Notes

P.O. Box 4, Swarthmore, PA 19081



SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES

January 27,  
2022

Shekhar Mehta  
RI President 2021-22  
Roger Taylor  
District 7450  
Governor

Swarthmore  
Rotary Leaders

Kathryn Jones  
President

Heather Saunders  
President-Elect

Brian Casey  
Club Executive  
Secretary  
Webmaster

Brian H. Craig  
Secretary

Theresa O'Malley  
Treasurer

Perri Ann Evanson  
Public Relations  
Chair

Carr Everbach  
Membership Chair

David Firn  
Club Director

Betty Ann A. Flynn  
Club Director

William Clinton Hale  
iPast President

Anne C. Hansen  
Club Director

Lori Markusfeld  
Service Projects  
Chair

Hillard Pouncy  
Club Programs Chair

Barbara Whitaker-  
Shimko

## Meetings and Events

January

27th - [Swarthmore Weekly Club Meeting](#)

Speaker: Senator Tim Kearney, 26th District

Subject: Report from Harrisburg

February

3rd - [Swarthmore Weekly Club Meeting](#)

Speaker: Nicole Pollard, Curator of Lived Culture, Philadelphia Contemporary

Subject: Say Hi to Philadelphia Contemporary

10th - [Swarthmore Weekly Club Meeting](#)

Speaker: Julie Zantopoulos, author, A Curse in Ash

Subject: From Idea to Publication: Writing a Fantasy Novel

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## Table Grace

By Frederick E. Christian

**Lord God, we come with thankful hearts for the blessings that we enjoy here week-by-week. We cannot fathom why we are so fortunate. But we know that “to whom much is given, from him or her, much will be required.” Help us, individually and as a Club, to be good stewards of all you entrust to us that at the year’s end, we may hear within us a voice saying, “Well Done.” Amen.**

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## 4 Way Test

Of the things we think, say or do

1. Is it the TRUTH?
  2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
  3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
  4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?
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## Club News

**Heather Saunders presided.**

**Heather told us that the Strategic Planning Committee has met once. The Committee will interview Swarthmoreans about their**

Rotary Foundation  
Chair

Kenneth J. Wright  
Club Director

Greg Brown  
President-Nominee

Cathleen Darrell  
Attendance  
Secretary

Richard Shimko  
Bulletin Editor

Karen Aleta  
Mazzarella-Russo  
Assistant Governor

awareness and perception of Rotary. The Committee will then do a Community Needs Assessment about what is needed in Swarthmore.

Carr Everbach said Cathy Darrell will follow up with members who haven't been attending meetings.

For her Rotary Moment, Elizabeth Church talked about Bernice King, the daughter of Martin Luther King, Jr. Bernice spoke at the Rotary Peace Conference in 2021. She noted the troubling political polarization in American society. She called on people everywhere to reach across political divides.

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## Last Meeting Summary

What I know about life in concentrations camps is mostly from novels and movies. Mel Laytner in his talk about his book "What They Didn't Burn", told us many facts about life in the camps that were new to me. This book is the story of his Father's experience in Auschwitz.

There was bribery of camp officials to stay alive. Though Mel's Father was in Auschwitz for three years, he survived. In addition, Nazi documents indicate that he was caught dealing in the black market. He was even caught trying to escape. How did he survive? Mel thinks he bribed Nazi camp officials. There was an active black market. Mel told us about his Father's involvement in the black market included dealing with diamonds (of all things), electric heaters, clay figures, and sketches. According to Mel, these objects were traded for food. There were interactions between Jewish prisoners and POW's. Mel related that some of his Father's black market customers were British POWs. I didn't know POW's were imprisoned at Auschwitz.

One of the most surprising facts that Mel told us is that there seemed to be "due process" of sorts in the camp. Mel told about finding a Nazi document that said his Father was not punished for a crime because there was insufficient proof that he committed the crime of which he was accused.

A final interesting fact was the extent to which the Nazi documented everything. In fact, there originally was much more documentation. The Nazi guards evidently burned a lot before the Allies took over the camps. This fact was the basis for the title of Mel's book "What they didn't burn".

Mel's Father did not talk very much about his experiences at Auschwitz very much. Mel was able to find Nazi documents and was able to interview other Jewish prisoners at Auschwitz who

## Service Quotation

The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others. ~ Gandhi

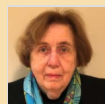
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## Rotary Celebrations!

### Birthdays

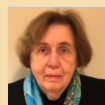
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### Wedding Anniversaries



Gladys D.  
Snively  
January 29th

### Years of Service



Gladys D.  
Snively  
01-31-1997  
25 Years



Raymond F.  
Hopkins  
02-01-2006  
16 Years

## Happy Dollars

pledge \$2,454

2020-21 : \$3,892

2019-20: \$3,344

2018-2019: \$3,845

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## Guests Last Meeting

Kerry Kelly

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knew his Father. Mel said he wanted to get his Father's story down for future generations before it was too late. He was successful.

Below is a review of Mel's book from the Museum of Jewish Heritage website: <https://mjhnyc.org/blog/what-they-didnt-burn-book-launch/>.

“What if you uncovered a Nazi paper trail that revealed your father to be a man very different from the quiet, introspective Dad you knew... or thought you knew? Growing up, author Mel Laytner saw his father as a quintessential Type B: passive and conventional. As he uncovered documents the Nazis didn't burn, however, another man emerged—a black market ringleader and wily camp survivor who made his own luck. The tattered papers also shed light on painful secrets his father took to his grave.”

“Melding the intimacy of personal memoir with the rigors of investigative journalism, [\*What They Didn't Burn: Uncovering My Father's Holocaust Secrets\*](#) is a heartwarming, inspiring story of resilience and redemption. A story of how desperate survivors turned hopeful refugees rebuilt their shattered lives in America, all the while struggling with the lingering trauma that has impacted their children to this day.”

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----- [www.SwarthmoreFair.org](http://www.SwarthmoreFair.org)