

# Rotary



## Club of Fox Chapel Area

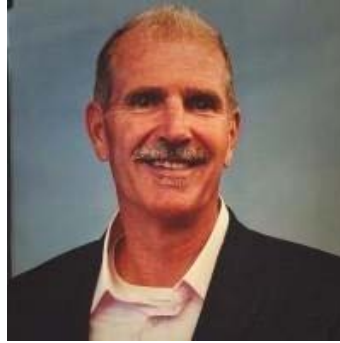
### Club Meeting

Fox Chapel Area  
Meets at Lauri Ann West  
Community Center  
1220 Powers Run Rd  
Pittsburgh, PA 15238  
Time: Wednesday at 11:45 AM

### Birthdays

James E. Herald  
March 27th  
David A Longhini  
March 30th  
William B. Gordon  
April 11th  
Clifford D Hendry  
April 11th  
Fred P Harchelroad  
April 16th  
Ellsworth T Bowser  
April 17th  
David Kelley Smith  
April 20th

## Community Center's Mark Rothert Speaks Wednesday



Our own Mark Rothert, Executive Director of the Lauri Ann West Community Center, which has been our home for the past year, will be our speaker this Wednesday, March 26.

Mark, an engineer by training, served nine years on O'Hara Township Council and 13 years as a board member of the Community Center. He will share some historical information about the Community Center and discuss the Center's mission and importance to the community.

We will begin as usual at 11:45 a.m. The Community Center is located at 1220 Powers Run Road in O'Hara Township.

### Link to attend via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82862414969?pwd=a4fa39amoELZwEScf54dGUfHah8Sim.1>

### Link to Website:

<https://foxchapelrotary.com/>

## In Memoriam - Loraine Murphey, Ralph Hutchinson

By Bob Trimble

### Loraine Murphey

**Steve Murphey's** wife, **Loraine**, passed away last Thursday, 3/20. A matched set if there ever was one. Steve met Loraine when he was a new doctor doing a fellowship at the old Children's Hospital and she was a bright, hard-working -- and attractive -- nurse. The story goes that Steve asked the nurses he knew to see if Loraine was open to meeting someone new. The backchannel cleared and Steve invited Loraine to the hospital cafeteria for ice cream. It worked!! The many stories began . . . .

Steve is working with the Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church to hold a memorial service soon after Easter (date TBD). Daughter Alison is helping Dad.

### Ralph Hutchinson

Hutch, sometimes known as **Ralph Hutchinson**, passed away Tuesday, 3/18.

Hutch, a past president and member of our club for 48 years, was an engineer by trade and temperament. Hard work and no barriers were his guiding star. He was a fine wrestler in high school and followed the sport to his final days. He not only played in our annual Golf Classic fundraiser, but usually entered a foursome, dressed in matching shirts.

There is a water well in Haiti because of the combined vision and sheer determination of Hutch as president of our Rotary Club. An ambulance materialized in Africa due to that same combo. Thinking small was not on the work order! He and Zelene were quite the team.

Hutch had a friend many years ago out west somewhere, Colorado perhaps. He and Hutch bought riding mowers about the same time. They started a decades-long "bragging rights" battle over who could keep their tractor running the longest. Just before Hutch and Zelene moved to Longwood last year, we saw Hutch cutting grass around some fence posts on his bright yellow tractor. He was moving fast with a determined look. All he needed was a flying scarf and goggles to capture that Eddie Rickenbacker Flying Ace look. Fun.

Thanks, Hutch for decades of being a Rotary leader and role model for us all!

The family will receive friends on Saturday, April 5th from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the WEDDELL-AJAK

## 16,000 American and British Paratroopers Cross the Rhine

By Thomas P. Benic

*This being the 80th anniversary of the final months of World War II, with nearly all our founding Fox Chapel Area Rotary Club members in 1970 involved in the conflict, we present this week-by-week history of that conflict. Some 405,000 Americans, nearly all servicemen, were killed in World War II, in which an estimated 70 to 85 MILLION men, women and children were killed worldwide.*

*March 23, 1945*

American, British and Canadian paratroopers finally cross the Rhine River, Germany's western border. They did so in spectacular fashion in Operation Varsity, featuring two airborne divisions of some 16,000 paratroopers flown by 1,700 aircraft, all under the command of Major General **Matthew Ridgway**, who would later become the hero of the Korean War, rise to the rank of Army Chief of Staff and move to Fox Chapel in the 1950s to lead Mellon Institute.



American casualties were high as the landing was in daylight, but it was successful, securing hundreds of square miles on the east side of the Rhine and capturing 3,500 German soldiers.

The airdrop, the largest in history, was so massive that the planes and gliders involved stretched 200 miles across the sky and took more than two hours to fly by any point in the attack.

The Western Allies were finally fighting on German soil, 10 months after the successful June 6, 1944 D-Day landing in France. With nearly 2 million American combat troops now leading the way, they had advanced through often fierce fighting 400 miles since D-Day -- but still had 400 miles to go to reach Berlin.

The Russian Red Army, meanwhile, although suffering incredibly high casualties, had virtually destroyed Hitler's German army on the Eastern Front, fighting its way 1,200 miles from the rubble of partially destroyed Moscow, Leningrad, and Stalingrad to the suburbs of the German capital of Berlin itself. Some 10 million Russian soldiers (and 14 million Soviet civilians) were killed fighting the Germans, who lost at least 4 million soldiers fighting the Russians in the East - and another 1 million fighting the Americans, British and Canadians in the West. Germany also had nearly 2 million civilian deaths.

The U.S. suffered 300,000 military deaths in Europe in World War II and more than 100,000 killed in the Pacific.

Great Britain, the smallest of the combating nations, with a population of 40 million, lost 384,000 in WWII, almost entirely in Europe. France, with a population of 41 million, was knocked out of the war by Hitler's armies in a few weeks but suffered 190,000 military deaths and 310,000 civilian deaths. Hitler's ally Italy, with a population of 44 million, was defeated in 1944, after sustaining 320,000 military and 153,000 civilian deaths.

Japan had 2 million military deaths and 1 million civilian. China lost 3 million military and 17 million civilians, almost all killed by the Japanese.

Poland, with a prewar population of 35 million, suffered nearly 6 million civilian deaths and 240,000 military deaths. This was the greatest percentage loss of any nation. Civilian deaths included 3 million Jews and 3 million non-Jews.

In 1940, Germany and Japan each had a population of about 70 million, while the U.S. had a population of 130 million, Russia 170 million and China 517 million.

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### Club Leaders

[Lanny Seed](#)  
President

[Daniel Stern](#)  
President-Elect  
Secretary

[Brian H. Baxter](#)  
Assistant Treasurer

[David A. Longhini](#)  
Secretary



Frank N. Domeisen  
Treasurer



George E. Dull  
Sergeant-at-Arms



A. Barry Leonard  
Membership Chair



Donald H. Shaw  
Club Programs Chair



Lyndall Huggler  
Director-at-Large



H. James Michaels  
Board Member  
Golf Outing Chair



Susan A. Stuart  
Director-at-Large



James Uber  
Director-at-Large



Richard O. Wolf  
Grant Coordinator



Bob Trimble  
iPast President

## Committee List 2025-26