

# Rotary



## Club of Fox Chapel Area

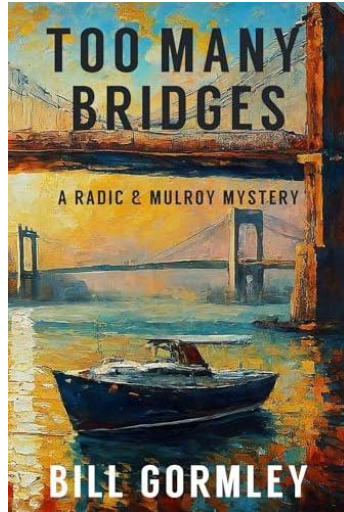
### Club Meeting

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

### Birthdays

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

## Pittsburgh Author Discusses His New Murder-Mystery



Here's the plot of a new novel by Wednesday's speaker, Pittsburgh native **Bill Gormley**:

"An eyewitness to a murder calls the Pittsburgh police from one of the city's 446 bridges, then disappears. To solve the case, the police must find the bridge. But where to start? Detective Branko Radic and Officer Kathleen Mulroy seek help from a nun, a professor, a mechanic and a tattoo artist. They learn of a family feud, a business in trouble, some sketchy Harry Potter merchandise and a missing young woman. If only they can find the right bridge, they might be able to put it all together. But sometimes a case is like a funhouse mirror at an amusement park. You must adjust the distortions to perceive the truth . . ."

We meet April 2 at the **Lauri Ann West Community Center** located at 1220 Powers Run Road in O'Hara Township starting at 11:45 a.m.

Pittsburgh's many bridges is something author **Bill Gormley** knows quite a bit about. He grew up in Pittsburgh and now lives in Arlington, Va.

From 1990 to 2023, Bill was University Professor of Public Policy and Government at Georgetown University, where he co-directed the Center for Research on Children in the U.S. (CROCUS). He is the author of *Too Many Bridges*, a murder mystery published by Level Best Books in August, 2024 and set in Pittsburgh. He is also the creator of *Profs of Cops*, a podcast that features interviews with criminologists and social scientists who are doing cutting-edge research on police practices and behavior. Please join us as Bill tells us about his book and how it fits in with the broader mystery genre. Copies of his book will be available for purchase.

**Link to attend via Zoom:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82862414969?pwd=a4fa39amoELZwEScf54dGUfHah8Sim.1>

**Link to Website:** <https://foxchapelrotary.com/>

## Battle of Okinawa, Bloodiest of the Pacific, Begins

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.***

April 1, 1945 –The Battle of Okinawa, an island just 400 miles from the Japanese main islands, began today with 50,000 American troops landing against little initial resistance. But, as in the just-concluded Battle of Iwo Jima, the Japanese defenders, numbering more than 100,000, are well dug in and intent on fighting to the last man from tunnels and other defensive fortifications.

The Battle of Okinawa would last 82 days, until June 22, and be the bloodiest of the war in the Pacific. The Americans would suffer 50,000 casualties, including 12,400 dead, while 96,000 Japanese soldiers are killed. At least 150,000 Okinawan people, including children enlisted to fight by the Japanese, are killed, died by coerced suicide or went missing.

The American navy now rules the Pacific. Okinawa is surrounded by a huge fleet, primarily American, of 39 aircraft carriers, 18 battleships, 27 cruisers, and 177 destroyers. British and Australian military craft also participated. The Japanese had only one battleship to deploy, plus one light cruiser and eight destroyers. The U.S. Navy, Marine and Army Air Force deploy more than 3,000 military aircraft over the course of the battle, including fighters, attack aircraft, scout planes, bombers and dive-bombers.

The Japanese main defense is suicide attacks by **kamikaze** pilots – 1,500 in all, in seven separate engagements over two months. These attacks are quite terrorizing – and effective. Nearly 400 American ships are damaged, including 13 destroyers sunk.

The United States Army Air Forces also begins Operation Starvation, laying naval mines in many of Japan's seaways. The U.S. Navy, controlling all the waters around Japan, sink, by mistake, a Japanese ocean liner-turned-hospital ship, the Awa Maru. Of the 2,004 passengers and crew, there is only one survivor.

In Europe this week, Adolf Hitler moves his headquarters in heavily bombed Berlin to a bunker, 60 feet underground, a few hundred yards from the Reich Chancellery, the official seat of German government before and during the war.

The Soviet 3rd Ukrainian Front launches the Vienna Offensive to capture the city of Vienna.

Thousands of prisoners of Buchenwald concentration camp in Germany are forced to evacuate and march away from the Allied advance.

The Soviet Union renounces the Soviet–Japanese Neutrality Pact of April 1941, freeing it to attack Japan at any time.

## Club Leaders



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Secretary



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Secretary



[Frank N. Domeisen](#)  
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Club Programs Chair



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Director-at-Large



[H. James Michaels](#)  
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Golf Outing Chair



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Director-at-Large



[James Uber](#)  
Director-at-Large



[Richard O. Wolf](#)  
Grant Coordinator



[Bob Trimble](#)  
iPast President

## Committee List 2025-26