



Rotary Club of Centennial Colorado



Centennial, Colorado

October 4, 2016



Today's speaker was Victor Moss speaking about his and his parent's life during the later part of World War II and live in the United States. Victor Moss, formerly Victor Moskalkov, was born in 1944 in Poland during the German occupation. His parents were from Baranovichi, Belarus (formerly Poland). His talk started with the following statements:

- If Hitler's grandiose ideas for Europe and invaded Belarus, his parents would not have had their lives turned topsy-turvy,
- If my father were not a doctor he would not have survived a Nazi prisoner of war camp,
- Approximately 40,000 were ushered into the POW camp with his father, and 500 were released a year later,
- If my mother had not taken the chance to avoid the evacuation order from Stalin, she would not have been where his father desperately need her to be,
- If a German office had not been on the verge of death from a middle ear infection, my father, as a prisoner, would not have been ordered to save him. He lives, you live.
- My performing a successful surgery he was granted a conditional release from the POW camp,
- If my mother had not been fluent in German, and not been forced to work for the Nazis as a translator and was fortunate to have a kid German officer overlooking her

- She was able to travel the hundreds of miles to Minsk to deliver his diploma so his father could be released,
- Had they not needed a ear, nose, and throat doctor in German occupied Poland, his father would not have been ordered to set up a medical practice there,
- Had his mother not attended medical school which was interrupted by the war, she would not have been able to help his father in his practice
- If the Red army had not changed the tide of war, reclaiming conquered land, and pushing its way towards Slovna, his parents would not have had to escape the Soviets.

The Soviets when they occupied Germany, sought out Russians for return to Russia for probable death in the Gulags in Siberia. Soviet soldiers were told to save their last bullet for themselves.

Victor read the following passage from his book, "While Vladimir hid in his office, watching the forceful roundup of refugees in the camp from a window, Slava had decided to take Victor for a walk around the neighborhood. She had no idea of the danger lurking around her. She dressed up in her favorite elegant beige suit, white frilly blouse, and a wide-brimmed brown hat. She wore comfortable fine brown leather shoes with two-inch heels. She out fitted Victor in the typical German style for boys—short pants with suspenders over a white shirt. After she locked her door and descended the steps, she happened to glance at the neighbor's porch, and to her dismay, her eye caught two Soviet soldiers talking to the older German lady. Her previous communication with the woman was limited to an occasional friendly wave.

"Overhearing parts of the conversation, Slava instantly became aware that the soldiers were canvassing the area in proximity to the camp searching for former Soviet

Continued on the next page

2015-2016 Club Officers

President—Randy Earnest
President Elect—John Berry
Secretary—Mary Alice Jackson
Treasurer—Barbara Medina
Sergeant at Arms—Paul Horiuchi/ John Weksler
Past President—Randy Pye

Directors

Club Administration—Roxy Hahn
Community & Club Innovation—Andrea Tagtow/Elle Vatterott
Local & International Service—Mike Tagtow
Technology Innovations—John Peterson
Membership Growth & Enrichment—Trip Butler
Rotary Foundation—John

UPCOMING EVENTS

OCT 5—BOARD MEETING
OCT 11—RANDY EARNST, QUARTERLY CLUB ASSEMBLY
OCT 18—RANDY FERGUSON, THE LOVE, COURAGE, AND ACHIEVEMENT PROJECT
OCT 25—TBD
11/8—CLASSIFICATION TALKS: MIKE TAGTOW, SAMATHA JOHNSON

citizens. All the air whooshed out from her lungs when she saw the woman point her out as she earnestly talked to the Russians. Stepping on the sidewalk, Slava decided to continue walking as casually as she could manage on her shaky legs, telling herself not to panic or show any fear. She began speaking with Victor in German even though her heart beat as fast as a hummingbird and her knees threatened to buckle as she fought down a rising feeling of terror.

“The soldiers followed her for some distance, walking just a few feet away. She felt sweat pour down every pore from sheer fright. Even though Slava felt light-headed, her heart thudding in her chest At the moment when she was certain she would be stopped and questioned, to her tremendous relief, she heard one of the soldiers following them tell the other ‘Let’s go, she is obviously not one of us’”

It took 5 years for Victor’s family to get approval to move to the United States. They originally settled in Oklahoma and then moved to Kansas where Victor’s father was able to practice medicine.

NOTE: I have provided a lot of material from the speech. I felt it was important for us to know what it was like for people living under the Nazi’s and Soviet’s.



Victor getting the bookplate from Randy.

Club Business

- A club flag from Austria was sent to us by a former guest.
- AlloSource project with No One Left Behind has collected over 800 items for refugees.
- Santa Clothes for Philippines is receiving a \$2,500 from our Foundation.
- \$500 is being given to Mending Faces.
- \$250 is being given to Grandview unified sports program.
- J McCarty told us that Rotary Foundation recently received a score of 100, 1 of only 3 charities to get a perfect score.
- Chalk Art tips of \$140 are going to be donated to Polio +.
- Club Assembly is next week. This is a revised date.
- Oct 22 is the last food collection for the year.

Samantha provided a travel gift from Oahu.

Jeanne provided a travel gift from Trail Ridge Road.

Ken provided travel gifts from Canada

John McCarty provided another Irish gift.

There was no winner for the Blue Marble.



Karen Berry appears to have set a record for getting her blue badge.



We got a look at the work being done at Embassy Suites.



Barbara asked John to sit while he looked for the blue marble. Barb could not hold the bag high enough to prevent John from looking into it while picking the marble. The prize kicks over and it worth more than \$800.00.