



Great Speakers

After a very eventful May with the tour of Warner Brother's Studio and the Memorial Day parade, Roscoe Frazier scheduled great speakers for our Monday meetings.

June 6, 2016 Ernest Dutcher



On the anniversary of the Normandy Invasion of Europe, one of our members who directly participated in the invasion force, Ernest Dutcher, told us about his activities in the days leading up to the invasion and the participation of the 9th Air Force which provided the transports and gliders that supported the invasion.

Ernest was a Radar Officer and was one of the few men allowed to leave the base on the days leading up to the invasion. In that capacity he observed firsthand the preparation and secrecy the Allies were making.

When D-Day finally arrived the 9th AF flew the planes and towed the gliders dropping troops and equipment. Many missions took place the night before D-Day. Ernest lost several friends on the missions.

As the Allies fought across northern France the 9th AF provided troop and equipment support. Most notable was their support of the Battle of the Bulge. Their supply drop turned the tide of the battle.

Ernest also supported the invasion of Southern France and spent time in the Italian Theater. He has written about his experiences during the war and has a lot of stories to share with us. His was a very timely talk.

June 13, 2016 Lawrence Powell



On June 13, Lawrence J. Powell, Jr. was the featured speaker. He was born on May 17, 1923, in Chicago, Illinois. His family moved to Glendale, California where he graduated from Hoover High School, and was married in September, 1942. Four months later, he enlisted in the Aviation Cadet Program of the U.S. Army Air Forces on January 30, 1943 and was the last man selected for training from his group of enlistees.

Because he was from the greater LA area, he told us he was assigned locally for processing at Fort MacArthur. As he was standing in line waiting to be processed on a Friday they stopped processing enlistees just after he was selected and the rest of the men in line were told to return Monday. Over the weekend, a decision was made to stop accepting Aviation Cadets enlistees and those men had to go into the Army.

Lawrence successfully completed pilot training and was commissioned a Second Lt and awarded pilot wings at Moultrie Field, Georgia, on December 5, 1943. Initially he was assigned to the replacement-training unit (RTU) at Waycross Georgia, flying P-39 and P-40 aircraft.

(Continued on page 2, column 1)

He was eventually shipped overseas in April of 1944, trained on P-51 Mustangs and assigned to the 505th Fighter Squadron of the 339th Fighter Group in England in June 1944 where he flew 68 combat missions during which he was credited with the destruction of 2.5 enemy aircraft in aerial combat, plus 3.5 on the ground while strafing enemy airfields.

On January 14, 1945, he was shot down and belly-landed his aircraft without getting injured. He escaped the area but was eventually captured in Holland on January 16, and was held as a Prisoner of War until the end of the war. After the war he returned to the area and met a man who saw him crash land. The man told him that soon after he escaped the area Nazis arrived looking for him.

Lt. Powell left active duty and joined the California Air National Guard on January 19, 1947, serving with the 195th Fighter Squadron at Van Nuys ANGB, California, from January 1947 to February 1955, and then with the 146th Fighter Bomber Group at Van Nuys from February 1955 to September 1958. Lt Col Powell served as commander of the 195th Tactical Fighter Squadron at Van Nuys from September 1958 to February 1960, followed by service as operations officer for the 146th Tactical Fighter Group at Van Nuys from February 1960 until his retirement from the Air National Guard on May 1, 1963.

In 1959 he joined the movie industry as an Assistant Director and rose to director specializing in aircraft scenes. He was told when he started as an assistant Director he didn't know what he specifically was supposed to do. When he asked what he should be doing they told him to run around carrying a handful of papers. At the end of the first week he was complimented on his running around skills. He retired as a director in 1995.

June 20, 2016

Marthe Hoffnung Cohn



On June 28th we had the great pleasure of having Marthe Hoffnung Cohn speak to us about her fascinating experience during WWII. Born in Metz, France near the German border in 1933 during the rise of Hitler in Germany. She was raised as an Orthodox Jew.

In 1939 when Germany invaded Poland and war was

declared Marthe's family of 5 girls, 2 boys and a cousin, relocated to Poitiers in western France to escape the Nazi threats on Jews. In Poitiers her family had to wear the Star of David to indicate they were Jews.

After Germany invaded France the country was divided by the Axis with Germany occupying the north and west, Italy a small occupation zone in the south-east and an unoccupied zone, the zone libre, would be governed by the Vichy government led by Marshal Pétain.

Marthe told us a lot about her sister Stephanie who was imprisoned by the Nazis and eventually sent to Auschwitz. It was a devastating experience for her whole family. Marthe entered Nurses' training in Marseille, France and was shielded from the Nazis by Nuns at the nursing school. When she completed the training she lived in Paris after the Allies had recaptured the city and worked for an agency from August to November 1944.

She then joined the French Army as a Nurse but was assigned as a Social Worker. Her duties included saving over 100 people by arranging transportation and papers to help them avoid the Nazis.

Eventually she ended up in Switzerland and transferred to the Intelligence Service.

Her blond hair and German accent enabled her to wander behind German lines posing as a young German nurse who was desperately trying to obtain word of a fictional fiancé. By traveling throughout the German countryside and approaching troops sympathetic to her plight, risking death every time she did so, she learned where the troops were going and was able to alert Allied commanders.

She would travel back into Switzerland and report the information she learned in Germany to the Allied Intelligence Service.

Marthe has written a book about her experiences titled: "Behind Enemy Lines". Her husband was selling copies after her talk

The following are some of the medals she was awarded for her service "Behind Enemy Lines".



June 27, 2016 John Duffy



On June 27th John Duffy, a Director, Producer, and Line Producer was our guest speaker. John was born in South Bronx, New York the son of Irish immigrants. He is very proud of his Irish blood and talked about how Irish immigration had such great effect on the development of the United States.

His love of acting and the movies led him to California where he produced and directed films

He had been given the American Dream by his immigrant parents but didn't appreciate it growing up but he does now.

His father served in WWII in the Philippines. That has lead him to involvement with Veterans Support Causes such as:

- Operation Gratitude
- USMC Training Videos
- Vets on Set - Non Profit
- Speaker for VFT at SONY
- GI Film Festival

John talked about the making of the USMC Training Videos and several other of his films that have a military and/or veteran theme.

Quote from George Baby Jacobs, - Operation Gratitude

"If it wasn't for God, we wouldn't have a country. If it wasn't for the veterans who fought for this country to make it the home of the free and the brave, none of us would be here."

He closed his talk by telling us:

"I'm Lucky, I'm a Born Again American and I'm proud to be here speaking with American patriots who made it possible. Thank You"

Member Profile **SWERDLICK; HABERDASHER and AIR RAID WARDEN**

By Ray Rosenbaum



Photo by Harlis Brand

Most of our Wings Over Wendy's members are veterans. Our non-military people, however, are major contributors, and the number-one guy is Howard Swerdlick, seen every Monday morning bounding around the restaurant introducing first-timers and then jumping back to his pass-the-tickets post next to the chairman.

Howard is our air raid warden, alerting us on upcoming events, acting as our haberdasher as he each week peddles hats and shirts and is hard to keep away from the microphone.

"I have a lot to do, so I am constantly on the move," he explains.

He sells the shirts and hats for a bargain. First, he offers a hat for \$25, then says he'll throw in a shirt included. If that doesn't work, he pitches the shirt for \$25 and offers to include the hat. Either way, he usually makes a sale. What a pitchman! He personally designed the outfits, all embroidered by a company he discovered

Swerdlick, Boston-born, joined us in 2004, only two years after our formation in '02. When he was only 19 he married his Malden high school sweetheart, Gail, they honeymooned in Los Angeles for two weeks, then moved back to Massachusetts. After encountering a Boston blizzard, they decided L.A. would make a better home. Smart decision.

Trained to be a meat cutter by his father, David, Howard gave up his interest in veterinary medicine and followed his dad's footsteps (or were they gravy prints?) to become a butcher in Boston when he was just a kid. That wasn't unusual because his father had opened his own butcher shop when he was only 18. (Continued page 4)

His dad said Howard had golden hands, so he would make a good meat cutter.

Now in Southern California, Swerdlick launched a career in supermarkets and wound up working at Westward Ho in management and in the union, which was unusual. He retired at the age of 56. His one regret was that he passed up an opportunity to buy a McDonald's franchise in 1965 for about \$100,000.

It's right across from the Wendy's where we meet and now is worth millions. He and his wife had just purchased a home in West Hills (he still lives there) for \$26,000, and one hundred grand was too much an investment for them. Bad decision.

Gail died in 2004, and he started hanging around Wendy's, moving closer and closer to Fred "Crash" Blechman and his air force buddies.

"Fred accused me of spying on them, but finally invited me to join Wings Over Wendy's," says Howard. The rest is history.

Howard has no military background. Now 79, he missed the wars with flat feet and glasses. And he already had twin sons and another boy. He has two brothers, one four years older and another four years younger. One brother was in the air force and an uncle was in the army. Swerdlick is a true blood civilian.

Now retired, he walks a lot, likes to eat and no longer plays golf. He claims he shot in the '80s and once played in Scotland. (Was that golf, Howard?).

We could have made a book out of this story. To conclude, he's had lots of pets, dogs, cats, mice, fish and a cockatoo, whom he trained to warble the Dodger theme song.

He's traveled all over the world: Israel, the Middle East, Scotland, mostly with his sister, because Gail wouldn't fly. Land bound, he drives a Corvette and a Camry.

Had enough? Just drop by the front of Wendy's and ask him questions. He loves to talk.

New Members

We welcomed the following new members during the month of June:

Richard Burns

Sam & Bruce Schultz

Lawrence Powell

Loretta Ehrig

July Birthdays

Donna Brend	July 2, 1941
Joe Birg	July 2, 1932
Kevin LaRosa Sr.	July 3, 1950
W. Bob Turner	July 3
Chuck Slezak	July 4, 1943
Dave Steinbacher	July 6, 1937
Steve Morse	July 6, 1948
Howard Davis	July 7, 1936
Gary Lapook	July 8, 1947
John Kuzma	July 8, 1939
John Kennedy	July 9, 1926
Avery Willis	July 11, 1943
Bob Thomas	July 13, 1924
Thomas Cleaver	July 14, 1946
Louis Kridelbauh	July 14, 1944
Warren Phelps	July 16, 1936
Anita Green	July 17, 1938
Sip Madsen	July 17
Chuck Helm	July 21, 1945
Ken Sobel	July 21, 1944
Joe Goldfarb	July 22, 1926
Clint White	July 23, 1922
Jack Taube	July 23, 1927
Keith Patri	July 26, 1960
Elmo Maiden	July 27, 1919
Steve Green	July 28, 1961
Art Sherman	July 29, 1921
Ray Johnson	July 29, 1928
Richard Myers	July 31, 1951

Happy Father's Day

By Peggy Jean Bassett

To all of you handsome crew of rusty old "Nuts and Blokes", "Jim Dandies", and "fellows alike."

Being the Mom and Dad (mostly) of my family, my lovely granddaughter "k-k-k Katy", and cute Emma Mae, my great granddaughter, treated me to a visit to the Waypoint Café at the Camarillo Airport.

After a delicious and generous lunch, we visited the new hangers of the Commemorative Airforce (CAF). The new housing of the CAF's B-25 PBJ-1J, "Semper Fi" and the AAF's B-25J, "The Executive Sweet" (She's my girl. We shared the skies many times in recent years.).

We caught up with WOW's own Peter Helm, the "The Executive Sweet" Photographer, polishing her belly. L.O.L.



Photos by Peggy Jean Bassett

A 'thank you' to, Pete, for helping my girls visit "The Sweet", they climbed all the way to her nose. Signing off, - Plane Peggy.

Wings News Staff

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The following is a list of WOW members who have contributed \$10 to fund the publication of the Wings News for 12 months.

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Toni Mattlock	Tony Velarde

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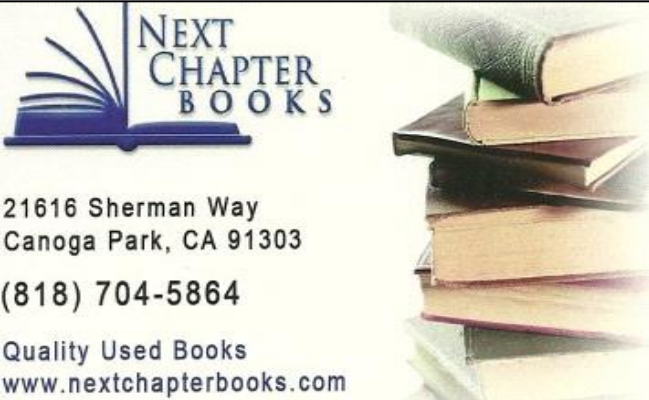
No later than the Last Wednesday of the Month

Email to: Ed_ReynoldsJr@MSN.com

We all want raffle prizes!



Please search your closets and garages and bring your items to the next "Wings Over Wendy's" meeting!



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