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Loma Linda University, "TODAY - February 24, 2012" (2012). TODAY. https://scholarsrepository.llu.edu/today/54

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PREVENTION AND WHOLENESS

U.S. health administrator to keynote Healthy People: aging healthfully through lifestyle

By Heather Reifsnyder

Healthy aging begins now, and it means a better life at every stage. This will be the message of the Healthy People 2012 conference at Loma Linda University on March 6 and 7, headlined by Don Wright, MD, MPH, deputy assistant secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Dr. Wright's address is titled "National Prevention Strategy and Healthy People 2020," and will be presented on March 6.

The conference will use the latest and best scientific evidence to demonstrate that lifestyle drives one's health—both today and down the line—and show that prevention is the key to healthy aging and whole living. Specifically, Healthy People 2012 will define 10 lifestyle priorities necessary for healthy aging.

- Healthy eating
- Active living

- Prioritizing rest (more than just sleep)
- Mental and emotional well-being
- Creating health-sustaining environments
- Preventing substance and alcohol abuse
- Stress reduction
- Reproductive and sexual health
- Social support networks
- Spiritual support

Recommendations for policy and program development will take center stage, with preference given to sustainable efforts for impacting large numbers of people.

"Things can be better than the way they are now," says conference coordinator Krystal Gheen, MPH. "People can be liberated from prolonged ill health that begins at a young age. Instead, they can experience a full life both now and throughout their golden years. We want this conference to move the country closer to that goal."

The conference curriculum draws inspiration

from the Surgeon General's National Prevention Strategy, as well as decades of federally funded research through Loma Linda University's Adventist Health Studies. Thirteen units of continuing education will be offered.

Participants of Healthy People 2012 may choose from three specialized tracks to address healthy aging: clinical preventive strategies, empowered people, and healthy community environments.

Health care practitioners will benefit from the clinical preventive strategies track. The empowered people track is designed for the informed public, senior citizens, caretakers, and educators. The healthy community environments track will guide community organizers and organizations, policy makers, and public health professionals.

Working together, these groups could drive the change needed for Americans to lead longer and healthier lives.



Don Wright, MD, MPH, deputy assistant secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, will be among the speakers slated to address those attending Healthy People 2012.

The conference offers 12 continuing professional and medical education units.

To learn more about Healthy People 2012, visit <www.healthypeopleconference.org> or call (909) 558-4595.

HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR

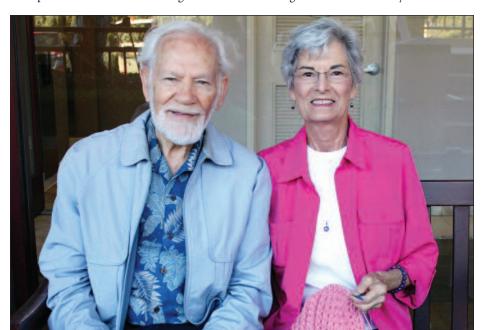
Prostate cancer survivor at Loma Linda University Medical Center tells of Holocaust

By James Ponder

The proton patient support group meeting pulsates with the sort of high-handed

camaraderie depicted in certain rowdy passages from Mark Twain.

The large auditorium at Drayson Center is



Ralph and Nora Neuman are enjoying life a lot these days. Facing prostate cancer at Loma Linda University Medical Center wasn't nearly so much of a challenge as surviving the Holocaust in Nazi Germany, but Ralph has done both. Nora is his biggest fan. "I think he was born wise," she observes.

packed with guys who are happy to be healthy thanks to Loma Linda University's James M. Slater MD Proton Treatment and Research Center. Many have brought their wives; it's standing room only and everyone appears ready to celebrate.

Although he doesn't know it yet, Ralph Neuman, a retired engineer from Ashland, Oregon, is about to give them a reason to do just that. Ralph, as he would rather be called, rises and introduces himself. The multitude erupts in heartfelt and spontaneous applause.

The reason: prostate cancer isn't the first enemy Ralph has battled for his life.

"I am a survivor of the Nazi Holocaust in Germany," he tells the group.

According to J. Lynn Martell, DMin, director of special services for the department of radiation medicine, Ralph and Nora, his devoted wife, seemed genuinely surprised at the enthusiastic reaction

"It was heartwarming to see the response from both the audience and from Ralph and Nora," Dr. Martell says. "Many of us had tears in our eyes from the emotional impact of the experience. It was a touching moment of solidarity and support for Ralph and all that he, and so many others, had been through."

Ralph's story highlights the struggles of millions of people—Jews as well as blacks, artists, intellectuals, and others—who bravely fought to survive the unspeakable tyrannies of the Nazi era. It is especially timely today when hate groups brazenly assert that the Holocaust is merely a fictional concoction. It was all too real for Ralph.

Born into a loving Jewish family in Berlin, Germany, in 1926, he felt insulated, as a boy, from the dangerous political currents sweeping the country.

"When I was a kid," he recalls, "there was a strong feeling of nationalism, but I actually became aware of Adolf Hitler's anti-Semitic plans rather late. The laws that stripped all rights for the Jewish people were passed in 1935. That started the ball rolling for him to legally persecute the Jews and then exterminate them. For me personally, however, anti-Semitism was not an issue. I was a little kid."

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LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY | LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER | LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL | LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY BEHAVIORAL MEDICINE CENTER | LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER – EAST CAMPUS | LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY HEALTH CARE | LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY HEART & SURGICAL HOSPITAL FACULTY MEDICAL GROUP OF LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE | FACULTY PHYSICIANS & SURGEONS OF LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Prostate cancer survivor at Loma Linda University Medical Center tells of Holocaust ...

Continued from page 1

His innocence was soon shattered. Before the atrocities of the Nazi era were over, Ralph would lose his mother, a brother and a sister to the hateful regime. To this day, he walks a tightrope between resentment and forgiveness when he thinks about the barbarous genocide that took the lives of seven million Jews.

Nora shares that Ralph still suffers from terrifying nightmares of being chased by the Nazis two or three times a week.

"To live as a Jew under the Nazi regime was very frightening," he discloses. "The inhumanity, injustice, and brutality is unimaginable for anyone who did not experience it. The loss of my mother, siblings, and many relatives is still largely hurtful and unforgettable for me. As a Christian, I struggle to forgive those responsible for their suffering and death. A higher power needs to deal with that. However, I do believe that those souls who committed evil deeds will have to reconcile those misdeeds in their spiritual existence."

Surprisingly, there isn't a hint of bitterness in his voice

"I'm not bitter," he admits. "I personally witnessed what bitterness can do. It is a negative emotion that hinders you from going forward with your life."

"I think he was born wise," Nora adds.

Ralph resumes the story in tones of philosophical reflection.

"My impression is that the reason Hitler got the population to go along with his way of thinking had to do with the Treaty of Versailles," he states. "That generation of Germans suffered badly under the terms of the treaty. Unemployment was between 30 to 40 percent because the Allies dismantled Germany's industrial capacity.

"After the war," he continues, "Winston Churchill referred to the treaty as corrupt and responsible for causing the subsequent events. In *The Gathering Storm,* he makes the statement that it was the wrong thing to do because it made life impossible for the Germans and paved the way for Hitler's rise to power."

The family of Ralph's mother had been in Germany for several generations before the war. "My father's side settled in East Prussia, north of Poland beside the Baltic Sea," he notes. "I had uncles. One was a dentist and the other owned a jewelry store. They were prospering."

He believes the trouble started long before Adolf Hitler.

"Historically, anti-Semitism was a problem since the middle of the 19th century in Germany," he says. "It was at the worst in Eastern Europe, Poland, and Russia."

He suspects that state-sponsored pogroms—massacres of minorities in the name of ethnic cleansing—were responsible for his father's family leaving Russia decades before Hitler's rise in Germany.

Once the persecution of Jews and other "undesirable" minorities began in the late 1930s, Ralph's family played a deadly game of cat and mouse with the authorities. Most of the time,

his Germanic good looks—Ralph was a blueeyed blond in his younger days—shielded him from suspicion and allowed him to ride his bicycle unhindered around Berlin while keeping a watchful eye on what was going on.

But in February of 1945, ten years after the passage of laws designed to exterminate his people, his luck ran out. Ralph was arrested, whisked downtown, beaten several times, and interrogated for hours.

When his name turned up on a list of wanted Jews, Ralph was thrown in prison pending deportation to a concentration camp. He firmly believes he would have been executed were it not for the fact that rail transportation to the death camps was delayed several times due to advancing Russian troops.

One fateful day, however, Ralph was informed that he and sister Rita, who was also being held at the same prison, would be deported the next morning to die like millions of others in a concentration camp.

That night, as sirens announced the resumption of Allied bombing against Berlin, Ralph and Rita managed to sneak upstairs to the third floor of the facility.

Slipping unnoticed into a room filled only with bunk beds, they quickly closed the door. Hearing footsteps in the hall, they slid under two beds. Looking up, Ralph spied a heavy duty washing line tied to the bedsprings. When a guard opened the door to inspect the room moments later, the siblings held their breath.

When the door finally closed and the guards' muffled voices moved away, Ralph swung into action, untying the rope and leading Rita across the room.

"Normally, guards were posted in front of the building, even during air raids," he reports. "But because of the previous night's near hit, no guards were patrolling the street below. This was a tremendous break for us!"

Working feverishly, the couple tied the line to a desk and threw the other end out the window. Rita panicked when the rope stopped seven feet above the ground.

Ralph reminded her that escape was their only hope. Gripping the rope so tightly that he felt friction burn, he slid down three stories and landed on the ground. Then he told Rita to follow

"All during this time," he remembers, "bombs were falling nearby, the ground and building shook, and the noise was frightening. The sky lit up to almost daytime brightness, illuminating the street and surrounding area. I kept signaling to Rita to slide down."

At his insistence, Rita finally swallowed her fears and grabbed the rope, flinging herself out the window. When she landed, she and Ralph noticed their hands were covered with blood from the rope burn. It was the least of their worries; in a heartbeat, someone would spot the dangling rope and send the dogs after them.

Ralph Neuman's first-person account of his experiences in Nazi Germany can be found at <www.gdw-berlin. de/en/offers/publications/general_infor mation/i_publications_in_english/>.

Miraculously, they vanished into the merciful arms of the underground resistance movement without getting caught. A bit more than two months later, the Allies announced the defeat of the murderous Third Reich and declared victory. The date was May 2, 1945. The dark epoch had come to an end; the war was over.

After an initial outburst of exuberance, Ralph lapsed into depression. He had seen enough violence and loss in the first 20 years of his life to last a thousand years.

"The report that millions were killed in the Holocaust was devastating news," he explains. "The suffering and sorrow inflicted on humanity was incomprehensible. It is assumed that at least 55 million people lost their lives in this immense struggle during the Second World War."

Fifty-five million people had been murdered. Ralph and Rita recoiled at the thought. They knew that several of their kin were among the casualties, but didn't know how many or which ones. With heavy hearts, they set out to learn the awful details.

"We made inquiries about our missing family members through the local Jewish community office as well as the International Red Cross," he says. "All reports were bad news. Our Mom had died in June 1943 in Gestapo custody in Berlin. Gerhard was killed in a concentration camp, and our sister Waltrout, whom we thought was safe, was killed in 1941 in Tunis, Algiers, in North Africa. Our other brother, Freddie, was living in South Africa.

"Emotionally, I hit bottom," he confides. "Feel-

ings of grief, anger, and injustice came over me, and I became quite depressed. I started blaming myself for not having done enough to save my mother's life. I felt guilty to be alive."

But one serendipitous afternoon, the unexpected occurred: Ralph met a beautiful young woman. Her name was Gretel Kirch and she worked as a teletypist. "I loved the tone of her voice," he says, "and the way she communicated. I was instantly smitten." Nothing would ever be the same.

"The first time I asked her out, we attended an outdoor concert given by the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra," he reminisces. "After the concert, we took a long walk around the scenic lake and park. We talked and shared our thoughts on many topics. There was so much we had in common. It was a marvelous feeling to be near her, the beginning of a new and exciting phase in my life. I was in love and my depression vanished."

At this point, Ralph pares the story to the essentials: he immigrated to America in 1946. Gretel joined him in June of 1949; they married the very next week. Since Americans couldn't properly pronounce her name, she changed it to Margaret.

Margaret and Ralph raised two sons, and over the years—while he pursued a fulfilling career in aircraft instrumentation, nuclear energy, and semiconductor electronics—she introduced him to anthroposophy, a spiritual tradition founded by clairvoyant Rudolf Steiner in Switzerland. The philosophical belief system derives some of its principles

Please turn to page 5



Gedenkstätte Deutscher Widerstand

German Resistance Memorial Center

German Resistance 1933 – 1945





Ralph Neuman

Memories from My Early Life in Germany 1926 – 1946

Calimesa Community Concerts • 27th Season





Saturday, March 3, 7:30pm **University of Redlands**

Memorial Chapel 1200 E. Colton Avenue, Redlands

Ticket Prices

Golden Circle (prime front center): \$100 Other: \$75/\$50/\$30/\$20/\$10

Tickets and Information

- Call (909) 558-7193 (VISA and MasterCard accepted)
- Adventist Book Center, Loma Linda (cash or check only)

Also Featuring 16-year-old violinist Miclen LaiPang "A violin virtuoso that plays with all



120 men singing with power, passion, and perfect harmony!

Masters of Harmony present a dynamic repertoire that encompasses music from the classics to jazz, from patriotic to sacred, and rounded out with a generous selection of familiar standards and the best of Broadway.

DEDICATION TO SERVICE

Alumni Student Convention 2012 dedication service held February 10

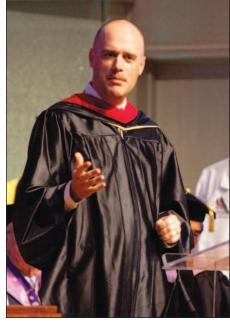
By Doug Hackleman

First-year and fourth-year dental students, their families, friends, faculty, staff, and returning alumni of the Loma Linda University School of Dentistry gathered at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, February 10, for the traditional dedication service.

Since 1996, in a tradition suggested by then fourth-year dental student Polly Sprague-Nichols, late on the Friday afternoon of each annual School of Dentistry Alumni Student Convention, a dedication service is held for the first-year and graduating class students.

As gifts from the school's alumni association, first-year doctor of dental surgery, dental hygiene, and international dentist program students are presented—one by one—a leather-bound Bible embossed with each student's name, while the graduating class members from each of the three programs also take the platform individually to receive—and don—a white lab coat embroidered with their names and the school's logo.

In an expansion of this tradition, the 2012 dedi-



Michael Knecht, MDiv, project manager, department of mission and culture, Loma Linda University Medical Center, presented the dedication message.

cation ceremony included the presentation of personalized Bibles to nine new School of Dentistry faculty members.

This year's dedicatory homily was presented by Michael Knecht, MDiv, project manager, department of mission and culture, Loma Linda University Medical Center.

"Do the things that make you proud," said Pastor Knecht, in a brief address that focused on the story of Eddie "the Eagle" Edwards, Britain's greatest ski jumper, and his last place finish in that event at the Winter Olympics of 1988.

Aaron Tenzer (dentistry class of 2012), credited with 463 local and international service learning hours, was the recipient of the Award for Christ-like Service presented by Mike Boyko, MPH, assistant professor, department of oral and maxillofacial surgery.

The ceremony was graced musically by Felix Mendelssohn's "Andante Con Moto," from the piano trio in D Minor through the artistry of LLUSD alumnus Andrew Ordelheide (violin), and School of Dentistry students Douglas Baasch (cello) and Elizabeth Ordelheide (piano).



Chanise Bragg, dental hygiene class of 2012, receives congratulations and a lab coat from Steven Morrow, DDS, MS, professor, endodontics, and director, patient care services and quality assurance.



Ron Dailey, PhD, executive associate dean, reads the names as Dean Charles Goodacre, DDS, MSD, presents Debra Zawistowski, assistant professor, dental hygiene with an embossed Bible. Graham Stacey, PhD, associate dean, student affairs, assists.



Class of 2012 dental students sport their newly acquired white lab coats.



Yara Abdulla, international dentist program class of 2012, is congratulated by Dean Goodacre as her class representative, Saad Sagman, looks on.



Sara Cheek, dental hygiene class of 2013, receives her Bible. Classmates Mone Citró (background left) and class president Angela Hemenway (background right) are behind her.



Class of 2012 members (from left) Andrew Elmarsi, Scott Ellis, and Mo Dossantos receive their new lab coats.

Prostate cancer survivor at Loma Linda University Medical Center tells of Holocaust ...

Continued from page 2 from Christianity and theosophy.

Ralph was intrigued. After reading Steiner's writings, he adopted the teachings as his own. Besides Margaret, he credits the influence of Christian schools he attended as a boy, and the

many Christian pastors and leaders who helped him as members of the German Resistance with inspiring his new faith.

Altogether, Ralph and Margaret enjoyed 46 wonderful years of love and devotion until she passed away in 1995.

Once again, Ralph wasn't sure what course his life should take. But three years later, during a trip to Olympia, Washington, for a choir rehearsal—he sang bass with the Northwest Singers—he met Nora.

He liked what he saw. Nora did, too. When the

choir traveled to New York to perform Mozart's "Mass in D Minor" at Carnegie Hall, Ralph asked her out.

"We spent time there as friends," Nora notes. "We were there about a week."

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Saturday, April 21 5:00 PM Campus Hill SDA Church, 11057 Hill Drive, Loma Linda





BRING YOUR RECYCLABLES to benefit the Venez Enfants et Vivez Mieux Orphanage in Haiti

For the past two years, the School of Allied Health Professions has established a school-wide recycling program which directly benefits Haitian orphans. We'd like your help raising money through the redemption value of glass, plastic and aluminum. Please bring these items to the concert as we strive to touch the world and change lives!

Prostate cancer survivor at Loma Linda University Medical Center tells of Holocaust ...

Continued from page 5

After performing at the fabled venue, the choir returned to the Pacific Northwest and Ralph went home to Oregon. For some reason, he kept finding reasons to return to Olympia. For

the second time in his life, he was falling in love.

"We married about six months after we met," Nora says. The couple exchanges a smile before she adds, "I consider being married to Ralph something the Lord has prepared me for all my life!"

The couple moved to Ralph's home in Ashland, Oregon, where they raised fruit,

vegetables, and roses in their orchard and garden. In 2006, they flew to Germany to attend the dedication service for a Holocaust memorial. In 2008, they returned as guests of Continued next page

APC

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, SCHOOL OF

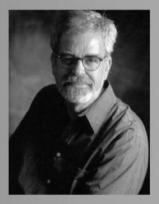
80th Annual Postgraduate Convention



KEYNOTE SPEAKER RICHARD H. CARMONA, MD, MPH, FACS

17th Surgeon General of the United States (2002-2006)
Vice Chairman, Canyon Ranch
President, Canyon Ranch Institute
Distinguished Professor, Zuckerman College
of Public Health, University of Arizona

PERCY T. MAGAN MEMORIAL LECTURESHIP The Future of Health Care - The Role of Preventive and Integrative Medicine



GILBERT BURNHAM, MD, PHD

Professor, Schools of Medicine and Public Health Co-director, Center for Refugee and Disaster Response Johns Hopkins University

JACK PROVONSHA LECTURESHIP
International Health and Human Rights



REBECCA J. PATCHIN, MD

Past Chair (2009-2010) Boards of Trustees; Executive Committee Member; Chair, Membership Committee; American Medical Association Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology, Loma Linda University

WALTER E. MACPHERSON MEMORIAL LECTURESHIP How Sure is the Future of Our Health Care Reform?

Scientific Program

Friday, Sunday, & Monday March 1,2,4,& 5 Centennial Complex

The Future of Medicine is Now: Medicine in the 21st Century - Part II

- Plenary Sessions
 Anesthesia, Ethics, General Surgery,
 Internal Medicine, Nutrition,
 Pediatrics, Primary Care, Transplant
- Specialty Symposiums
 General Surgery Ophthalmology,
 Orthopaedic Surgery, Plastic Surgery
- New Symposiums
 Biothics, General Sugery
- Chairpersons: Laren D. Tan '09, Shirley Tan '71, & Takkin Lo '86
- 23.5 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™
- Application for CME credit has been filed with the American Academy of Family Physicians. Determination of credit is pending.



SAUL BARCELO
Chaplain
LLU Children's Hospital

Morning Devotionals

Friday, Sunday, & Monday March 2, 4, & 5, 7:45-8:00 a.m. Centennial Complex

For More Information:

(909) 558-4633 (phone)

(909) 558-4638 (FAX)

Continued from previous page the German Resistance Memorial Center.

Things were going well until prostate cancer crossed their path in 2009. "Three years ago, I was given a PSA reading," Ralph discloses. "I've

had prostatitis for decades, so it might have been cancer for a while."

When his Gleason Scale test—a measure of how fast the cancer is growing—came up on the high side, Ralph investigated treatment options.

"Prostatectomy and radiation therapy seemed like aggressive procedures," he shares. "Radiation was out of the question because my prostate was too enlarged. I opted for hormone therapy with Lupron. It's a type of androgen therapy that suppresses testosterone almost

completely. The side effects are unpleasant: lots of hot flashes and sweating, and there's no sex life."

Three years later, when a medical newsletter
Please turn to page 8

MEDICINE OF LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY

March 1-5, 2012

FRIDAY EVENING VESPERS

Friday, March 2, 7:00 p.m.

"We've a Story to Tell to the Nations"

Sponsored by Alumni Association, SMLLU

and National Auxiliary SMLLU

Loma Linda University Church

WINTLEY A. PHIPPS World-renowned vocal artist and Founder of the U.S. Dream Academy



GREG BOYLE

Known by some as "the Gandhi of the gangs of Los Angeles," and author of Tattoos on the Heart



SATURDAY NIGHT PROGRAM

Saturday, March 3, 7:30 p.m. University of Redlands Memorial Chapel

Masters of Harmony

Southern California s Premier Men s Chorus 2011 International Barbershop Chorus Champions



MICLEN LAIPANG

16-year old violinist a violin virtuoso who plays with all the power of an adult performer The Sun



APC GALA

Monday, March 5 6:00 p.m., Social Hour 7:00 p.m., Dinner Ontario DoubleTree Hotel

DAVE CAPERTON Author, Speaker, Humorist His many clients have described his programs as

"insightful," soul-searching," and "frankly hilarious!"

Honoring the Classes of 1962, 1987, & 2012



PHILANTHROPY

Spirit Stores raise \$52,305 for LLU Children's Hospital child life services

By Nancy Yuen

E ach year in early September, one of the first signs of fall's soon arrival is when stores selling theme costumes arrive in local malls.

Since 2007, Spirit Stores has hosted a campaign, "Spirit of Children," to raise money for child life programs in children's hospitals.

Collection jars are placed at checkout stands at each store, and each time a customer makes a donation for Spirit of Children, a bell is rung in celebration.

On February 6, Jose Velaquez and Nick Casagrande, Spirit Stores district managers, and Alta Miller and Crystal Cardenas, Spirit Stores managers, presented a check for \$52,305 to Randy Possinger, executive director of the LLU Children's Hospital Foundation.

The funds, nearly two times greater than last

year's donations, will be used to benefit LLUCH and child life services.

Spirit Store employees enthusiastically promote the program, informing customers that 100 percent of their donations will benefit hospitalized kids, and that donated funds are distributed within the region where they were received.

"We are thankful," says Mr. Possinger, "for the hard work Spirit Stores employees have done for kids at Loma Linda University Children's Hospital. It is because of wonderful contributions like this that we are able to enhance the quality of life for our young patients."

Throughout the country, customers and vendor partners have made the Spirit of Children campaign a success. Since 2007, Spirit Stores have raised more than \$7 million to benefit child life programs in more than 120 children's hospitals in the United States and Canada.



On February 3, 8-year-old David Lamorie (holding thank-you card) expressed gratitude to representatives from Spirit Stores on behalf of kids at LLUCH. Joining David for the check presentation are (from left): Tiffany Hoekstra, LLUCH Foundation; Jose Velaquez, district manager, Spirit Stores Southern California; Nick Casagrande, district manager Spirit Stores; Alta Miller, manager, Spirit Stores; Crystal Cardenas, manager, Spirit Stores; and Randy Possinger, executive director, LLUCH Foundation.

Prostate cancer survivor at Loma Linda University Medical Center tells of Holocaust ...

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advised individuals with prostate cancer to make a beeline for Loma Linda University Medical Center, Ralph and Nora reached out to the James M. Slater MD Proton Treatment and Research Center.

He's very happy with the results. Well, almost.

"Overall, my experience at Loma Linda was very good!" Ralph exclaims. "But I wasn't too happy with one detail."

When pressed to explain, he says nobody told him, during orientation, that he could schedule his appointments for the morning instead of late afternoon. "After I'd had 35 treatments, I asked the technician why I couldn't have morning appointments. He said I should have requested them earlier. But no one had told me! So my last nine treatments were in the morning. I wish they all would have been."

With that off his chest, Ralph repeats his earlier statement about his gratitude for the new lease on life he received at Loma Linda.

"It was a great experience!" he says. "The support systems, the potlucks, the Wednesday night meetings—all of that was very positive. I enjoyed meeting great people, too, among the staff and the patients and their wives."

Looking back across the span of his pilgrimage, Ralph offers a poignant insight on he overcame the challenge of adapting to life in the New World.

"When I arrived in this country, I said to myself, 'I came out of this, God willing. I'm going to embrace life and leave this behind.' I pushed the bad memories down and lived my life. It was a good life. I was married to two wonderful women, and had two sons. This country gave me tremendous opportunities."

Dr. Martell explains why the support group identified so strongly with Ralph.

"While overcoming one's fears and conquering prostate cancer may not be as intimidating as escaping from a Nazi death camp," he states, "it still represents a challenge today. Those who take the first step by reaching out to learn more about proton therapy and other treatment alternatives usually find that the process is a lot less intimidating than they thought.

"Ralph is to be commended," he concludes, "for his bravery and will to live during the war, and his determination to overcome all that he went through. All of us in the room realized what an amazing individual he is."

To read the rest of Ralph's story in his own words, including his involvement with the underground resistance movement in Germany, go to: http://www.gdw-berlin.de/en/offers/publications/general_information/i_publications_in_english/. Titled Memories from My Early Life in Germany 1926-1946, the free 46-page booklet features photos of Ralph and Rita on the cover.



German Resistance Memorial Center, Berlin, Germany



Volume 25, No. 3 | Friday, February 24, 2012

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