

ROTARIAN PEACE HALL OF FAME

GRAND OPENING & DEDICATION GALA

FEATURING THE CHICAGO PREMIERE OF

NICKY'S FAMILY



www.PeaceHallofFame.org

WHAT'S ROTARY?

Rotary is the world's premier international humanitarian service organization. We are a diverse global network of community, business, and professional leaders who address relevant social causes to change lives and build goodwill and peace at home and abroad.

We focus our time, energy, and efforts on service projects encompassing:

- Peace and conflict prevention/resolution
- Disease prevention and treatment
- Water and sanitation
- Maternal and child health
- Basic education and literacy
- Economic and community development

Rotary's 1.2 million members are part of 34,000 Rotary clubs in more than 200 countries and geographical areas.

Learn more at www.rotary.org or connect with us:

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SCHEDULE

6:00	Reception <i>Museum Hall</i>
6:45	 Welcome Pledge of Allegiance Four Way Test Invocation Special Guest Introduction Dedication Ceremony Renata Laxova: a few words pre-Q/A Session Gerard Friedenfeld: a few words pre-Q/A Session
7:05	 Proceed to Goodman Theater
7:15	 Nicky's Family feature film <i>96 minutes</i>
9:00	 Question/Answer session with Renata and Gerard
9:30	Event Ends



ROTARIAN PEACE HALL OF FAME

Since 1905, service-minded individuals have joined together in Rotary Clubs throughout the world. These Rotarians emulate Rotary's motto, "Service Above Self." Rotarians' service takes on many forms to address their respective community's most pressing needs. Armed conflict within neighborhoods and countries as well as wars between countries are the most devastating acts mankind inflicts upon ourselves. Once the aggression begins, the final toll is measured by lives maimed and lost. Even prior to World War One, Rotarians have been directly involved in preventing and resolving armed conflicts, as well as helping the victims. Like so many deeds, Rotarians focus on the results, not on self promotion. As such, many Rotarians and their incredible peacemaking deeds have gone unnoticed and forgotten.....until now.

The Rotarian Peace Hall of Fame is established to recognize Rotarian's energy and efforts to create peace and conflict prevention and resolution. Their efforts often required tremendous personal sacrifice and risk. They personally reduced suffering, and some even saved lives during intense political turmoil and armed conflict.

Who are these Rotarians? What did they do? Who did they help?

Nicky Winton is one such Rotarian. His deeds and modesty are well documented over forty years after the fact. We honor him as our first Inductee. However, hundreds and perhaps thousands of other Rotarians have been and are Peacemakers. We seek to identify and document other "Nicky Wintons" and their respective deeds. The exemplary will be inducted in to the Rotarian Peace Hall of Fame.



SIR NICHOLAS WINTON

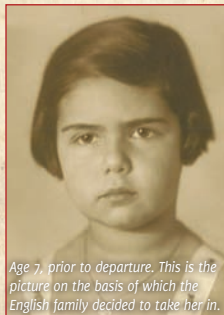
Nicholas Winton (b. May 19, 1909-), an Englishman, organized the rescue of 669 Czech and Slovak children just before the outbreak of World War II. Winton, now 104 years old, did not speak about these events with anyone for more than half a century. His exploits would have probably been forgotten if his wife, fifty years later, hadn't found a suitcase in the attic, full of documents and transport plans. Today the story of this rescue is known all over the world. He was knighted by Queen Elisabeth II and the U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 583 recognizing his remarkable deed. Winton's story is a very emotional one, and thousands of children in many countries have decided to follow in his footsteps and do something important. They think up various charity projects and even help in the saving of lives of undernourished and sick children in Cambodia and Africa. 120,000 children in the Czech Republic signed a petition to award Nicholas Winton the Nobel Prize for Peace. Dozens of Winton's "children" have been found and to this day his family has grown to almost 6,000 people, many of whom have gone on to achieve great things themselves.

To sign the petition to award Nicholas Winton the Nobel Peace Prize, visit: www.change.org/petitions/nobel-prize-committee-award-sir-nicholas-winton-the-nobel-peace-prize



RENATA LAXOVA

- Nicky's Children -



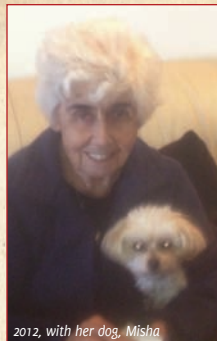
Age 7, prior to departure. This is the picture on the basis of which the English family decided to take her in.

Renata was born on July 15, 1931 in Brno, in what was then Czechoslovakia, with the name Renate Polgar. She was an only child in an average middle class Jewish family, raised to speak Czech and German. In her 2nd grade of elementary school, Hitler marched into the country which became the Protectorate of Bohemia and

Moravia. Toward the end of her 2nd grade year, she began to realize that Jewish children were no longer allowed to participate in the activities which she enjoyed so much, such as swimming, ice-skating and gymnastics. Her parents took the initiative to include her in one of Sir Nicholas Winton's Kindertransports.



Graduation from high school, 1950.



2012, with her dog, Misha

At midnight on July 31, 1939, Renata said a tearful goodbye to her parents at the Prague railway stations and left on the fifth Kindertransport from Czechoslovakia for England. She spent seven years there, cared for by a Lancashire Quaker family. In 1946, Renata returned to Brno, completed high school and attended medical school.

Renata married Tibor Lax in 1951, and later had two daughters, Daniella (b. 1955) and Anita (b. 1957). Anita had a son, Alexander, in 1992, for whom Renata wrote her memoir.

Renata and her family emigrated to England in August 1968, and then to the USA in 1975. Renata worked as a pediatric geneticist at the University of Wisconsin – Madison Medical School. Tibor worked as a veterinarian until his death in 1997. Since retirement, Renata has served on several committees, mostly at the University, and has tried to help whenever possible in her community.



GERARD FRIEDENFELD

- Nicky's Children -



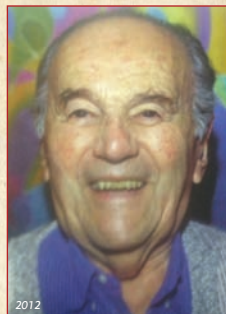
Gerard was born in 1924 in Lundenburg Czechoslovakia. On April 12, 1939, his family was living in a refugee camp in Eibenschitz,

Czechoslovakia. On this day the SS troops tortured Jewish men there by kicking them in the shins with heavy jackboots or by forcing them to jump from a tall ladder onto cobblestones. When Gerard was forced to jump, he broke his right leg, fell to the ground, and fainted. This injury ended his torture and prevented worse things from happening to him. He was treated in the camp infirmary. Later, he was approached about emigrating to England on the Kindertransport. He has no idea how he was lucky enough to be approached but his life was saved at this point. On May 31, 1939 he was put on a train with other 2 to 15 year old children. After passing through

Germany and Holland he was put on ferry to England and then a train to Victoria Station on June 2, 1939 just 3 months before the war broke out.

In 1943 he joined the Czech Independent Army Brigade (part of the British Army) where he drove a tank. Upon discharge from the Army in January 1946, he returned to Czechoslovakia but never found his parents. He believes they were sent to Poland where they may have perished during the Warsaw Ghetto uprising. As the Communists ascended to power in February 1948, Gerard fled Czechoslovakia to Austria.

He arrived in the USA on December 22, 1950, sponsored by his cousin who lived in York, PA. His wife joined him in America almost a year later. They had one daughter, and moved to Wisconsin in 1958, where he worked for several manufacturing companies. A self-taught person who's formal education ended when he left Czechoslovakia, he holds USA patent #3,834,752.



A PARTNERSHIP

The Rotarian Peace Hall of Fame (RPHF) and the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center (ILHMEC) have a common mission: Educate and inspire the public about the many ways individuals can prevent conflict and create peace. By highlighting real people and their actual deeds, we present numerous role models over many years situations, and locations.

Since its opening in 2009, the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center has promoted peace and conflict resolution. Over 100,000 people annually visit ILHMEC. Their mission statement includes educating people not only to stand up to intolerable situations, but conflict prevention. They encourage visitors to be "Upstanders" and show how "The Heroes of the Holocaust were people like you." Throughout the facility, visitors learn about and are inspired by numerous role models.

The Rotarian Peace Hall of Fame recognizes individuals, like Sir Nicholas Winton, who are peacemaking role models. "Service Above Self," Rotary's motto, could very well be the same message ILHMEC wants to impart to its visitors. Since ILHMEC is located nearby to Rotary International's headquarters in Evanston, it is an ideal physical location that allows Rotary headquarters visitors to also visit RPHF. Likewise, with the vast majority of ILHMEC visitors being non-Rotarians, it enables RPHF to educate the public not only about outstanding Rotarians, but also Rotary International.



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“Service Above Self”

The Four-Way Test

- 1. Is it the TRUTH?**
- 2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?**
- 3. Will it build GOOD WILL and
BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?**
- 4. Will it be BENEFICIAL
to all concerned?**

Rotarian Peace Hall of Fame
c/o Lincolnshire Rotary Charitable Fund, Inc.
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