

HOME OPENER

Warrenton beats Silex for season's first win, **1B**



HERE COME CHRISTMAS

THE FORGOTTEN HERO

Carl Lutz made a crucial life decision in Warrenton that ultimately saved as many as 50,000 people

Story and by Jason Koch ♦ EDITOR

Somewhere between 30,000 and 50,000 Hungarian Jews survived the Holocaust and World War II because of a decision made in Warrenton nearly 20 years before the war began.

That's because it was here, on the campus of Central Wesleyan College, a Swiss-born immigrant named Carl Lutz learned that, despite being a devout Christian, he wasn't a great public speaker and gave up his dream of becoming a pastor or missionary, instead turning to diplomacy.

"There's two things I think his time in Warrenton really revealed a lot about who he is," says Amy Lutz, the director of marketing and communications at the Louis Kaplan Feldman Holocaust Museum in St. Louis.

Amy Lutz said she is not sure if she's related to Carl, but she gave the keynote presentation during an event Nov. 28 at the Warrenton Scenic Regional Library.

The event was organized by Kerry Christian, the library's adult programmer. Christian said the idea for the

WATCH A VIDEO ONLINE

• See part of the presentation and more photos from the event.



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Amy Lutz said she is not sure if she's related to Carl, but she gave the keynote presentation during an event Nov. 28 at the Warrenton Scenic Regional Library.

The event was organized by Kerry Christian, the library's adult programmer. Christian said the idea for the presentation was brought up by a lady named Janine Davis

"I had never heard of the story," Christian said. "I was fascinated by it."

And then she wanted to make sure the story of one of the most unsung and hidden heroes in world history was told in a community that played an important role in developing that hero.

"The fact that most people have never heard of him or even knew the story I thought was very sad," Christian said. "So I really wanted to get the word out about this."

So did Amy Lutz, whose typical 40 minute trip from St. Louis took significantly longer after a semi took out a utility pole Tuesday afternoon near the Casey's on Highway 47. But she made it to the library, and unveiled a story worthy of a movie.

About 100 people came out to hear the story.

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Classifieds.....9A Obituaries.....4B Real Estate.....3B TO SUBSCRIBE CALL
 Do You Remember...8A Legals.....6-8B Shot of the Week...6A 636-456-6399

LOCAL SCENE

THURSDAY, NOV. 30

- Warren County Commission, County Administration Building, 9 a.m.
- Kids Club, College United Methodist Church, 3:15-5:30 p.m.
- Warrenton Artisan Guild, Warrenton Scenic Regional Library, 6 p.m.
- Saving Lives/Cocaine Anonymous, Warrenton Christian Church, 6 p.m.

FRIDAY, DEC. 1

- First Friday Christmas Festival, downtown Wright City, 5 p.m.
- Reese's Reads Book Club, Warrenton Scenic Regional Library, 5:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, DEC. 2

- Pancake Day Bazaar and Bake Sale, College United Methodist Church, all you can eat. \$9 adults, \$4 children, younger than 5 free. 7 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- Christmas Cookie Walk, Friends United Church of Christ, 8 a.m. - 11 a.m.
- Alcoholics Anonymous, Warrenton Christian Church, 9 a.m.
- The Warren County Chapter of Missouri Right to Life, Fellowship Baptist Church, 9:30 a.m.
- Truesdale Community Christmas, MaryLou Center in Truesdale, 3-7 p.m.
- Lighted Parade, Truesdale and Warrenton, 5:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, DEC. 3

- American Legion Post 180 Bingo, Marthasville, 1:30 p.m.

HERO

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

THE STORY OF CARL LUTZ

Upon realizing that he wasn't a public speaker, Lutz moved to George Washington University where he graduated in 1924 and became a diplomat.

He spent quite a bit more time in the United States, and ended up being posted in St. Louis. While he was serving in St. Louis, he made several trips back to visit friends in Warrenton.

But in 1936, Lutz was posted to British Palestine, and was serving there when World War II began. Much of the territory of British Palestine would become the country of Israel in 1948.

Lutz would serve as a neutral diplomat in the British territory, negotiating the return of several Germans in the territory and helping them return to their homeland. The role is typical when two countries are at war.

"He's given the job to help those German citizens, many of whom were diplomats and their families, get back to Germany," Amy Lutz said during her presentation. "And so apparently he works 20



Above, Amy Lutz gives her presentation on Carl Lutz at the Warrenton Scenic Regional Library on Nov. 28. On the cover is Carl Lutz, who sits on the rubble of a bombed out Budapest before being expelled by the Soviets.

Jason Koch photo

major organizers of the Holocaust.

Hungarian Jews — 440,000 in total — were soon being deported to the concentration camps after the invasion. Most were killed upon arrival, Amy Lutz said.

The Jewish Council for Palestine came to Lutz and asked for help.

The first thing he did was change their name to the Department of Immigration of the Swiss Legation, essentially giving them diplomatic protection.

He also was able to access the protective papers he negotiated while stationed in British Palestine.

in their country who did a good job," Amy Lutz said.

Others, though, were quicker to honor Lutz and his wife for their acts. Lutz himself was named Righteous Among Nations by Yad Vashem in 1963. His wife would receive the same honor in 1976.

That title is granted to non-Jews who risked their lives to save Jewish individuals during the Holocaust.

Lutz was also nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize, and earlier in 2023 was nominated for the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian award bestowed by the U.S. Congress.

But Lutz didn't act to save his fellow humans for awards or recognition. He laid out his motivation in a report he wrote in 1949.

"He writes that he did not want to be a Christian in name only," Amy Lutz said. "He considered it a matter of conscience to save people condemned to die. And that's why he did what he did."

Because of that, Carl Lutz is recognized as having organized the largest diplomatic rescue mission of the entire Holocaust. While the total number of people he saved is unknown, Amy

Wright City parade, Santa breakfast set for next weekend

Wright City will celebrate its annual Christmas Parade at 6 p.m. Dec. 7.

City officials encourage anyone who wants to be a part of the parade to show up, similar to the Strassen-bash parade worked.

The city will also have its Breakfast With Santa event from 7 to 11 a.m. Dec. 9 in the Helliger Building at Diekroeger Park.

AMAZON

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

"The project has a long-term, power purchase agreement with Amazon to sell them the electricity and renewable energy credits. Amazon does not own the project. DESRI is extremely excited about working with Amazon to further their environmental goals with new solar energy that creates new investment in communities across the U.S."

An Amazon spokeswoman clarified and confirmed that the company will not be building its own solar farm, but provided no additional details in an email to The

- Lighted Parade, Tuesdale and Warrenton, 5:30 p.m.
- SUNDAY, DEC. 3**
- American Legion Post 180 Bingo, Marthasville, 1:30 p.m.
- Saving Lives/Cocaine Anonymous, Warrenton Christian Church, 5:45 p.m.
- Recovery Class, Community Center, High Hill, 6 p.m.
- MONDAY, DEC. 4**
- Warren County Commission, County Administration Building, 9 a.m.
- Al-Anon, College United Methodist Church, 7 p.m.
- Alcoholics Anonymous, Fellowship Baptist Church, 7 p.m.
- TUESDAY, DEC. 5**
- Warren County Commission, County Administration Building, 9 a.m.
- First Day to pick up applications for election, local city hall buildings, 9 a.m.
- Preschool Storytime, Warrenton Scenic Regional Library, 10 a.m.
- Winter Paint Night, Warrenton Scenic Regional Library, 5:30 p.m.
- Warrenton Board of Aldermen, City Annex Building, 6 p.m.
- WEDNESDAY, DEC. 6**
- Take Off Pounds Sensibly, First Baptist Church, Wright City, 9 a.m.
- Preschool Storytime, Wright City Scenic Regional Library, 10 a.m.
- Wright City Kiwanis Meeting, Wright City Scenic Regional Library, 12 p.m.
- Teen Wildcat Wednesdays, Wright City Scenic Regional Library, 1-4 p.m.
- VFW Auxiliary 2180, VFW Hall Warrenton, 2 p.m.
- Recovery Class, Misfits Church, Warrenton, 7 p.m.
- Alcoholics Anonymous, Fellowship Baptist Church, 7 p.m.
- Warrenton VFW Post 2180 Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

help those German citizens, many of whom were diplomats and their families, get back to Germany," Amy Lutz said during her presentation. "And so apparently he works 20 hour days. He works really hard. He impresses his superiors. He does such a good job that word of him actually reaches the Fuhrer's office back in Germany."

But not all of the Germans in the British mandate wished to return, as there were approximately 2,000 Jewish Germans living in the territory. "And as you can probably expect, Jewish people in 1939 had no interest in going back to Germany," Amy Lutz said.

Lutz, in his role as the diplomat, was able to negotiate protection papers created by the British for about 1,000 Jewish people, allowing them to remain in the territory. Those 1,000 individuals survived the war, Amy Lutz said.

But there were about 10,000 protection papers actually created. And they would play a big role in Lutz's ability to save tens of thousands of more people from the gas chambers at Auschwitz. His desire to help Jewish people at the time came after he saw a group of Jewish men lynched in the streets. It was then he made a promise to help.

SAVING THOSE IN BUDAPEST

In 1942, Lutz received a promotion and was transferred to Budapest,

papers weren't. "They knew if they just allowed all of them through, it would be obvious what they were doing and none of the papers would be valid from then on."

Anyone with a paper Lutz identified as forged was immediately put on a train.

Lutz and his wife said it was one of the most haunting experiences of their lives, Amy Lutz said. "Those people were no longer under their protection," she said.

Despite that, Lutz was able to save thousands of people from the death camps before the city was put under siege by the Red Army.

Unfortunately for Lutz, once the Red Army took the city, they expelled all neutral diplomats.

He was put on a train and a ferry, and briefly stop in Istanbul on their way back to Switzerland. While in Istanbul, Lutz ordered a glass of orange juice.

He would later be chided by the finance department telling him he wasn't authorized to buy that juice. Then his superiors would punish him for helping to save tens of thousands of people from the Nazis.

"They considered it to be a violation of their neutrality," Amy Lutz said.

The Swiss buried his heroism, and when Lutz died in 1975, he left the world thinking his reputation had been ruined.

Lutz is recognized as having organized the largest diplomatic rescue mission of the entire Holocaust. While the total number of people he saved is unknown, Amy Lutz said the number is likely between 30,000 and 50,000.

"And so many people don't know his name," she said.

BRINGING IT BACK TO WARRENTON

Christine Raab was one of the almost 100 people who attended the Nov. 28 presentation.

"Our library has such interesting programs and this is one that really sounded like it'd be a primo program," she said.

It was made even more interesting to her because she had never heard of Carl Lutz.

"I'm always looking to learn something new," she said. "So this was an opportunity."

The presentation exceeded her expectations, she said, and it also hampered home that despite Warrenton's small town feel, the city has the ability to influence the world.

"You think this small town is kind of a nothing town," Raab said. "There's so much more that you don't even realize until you hear something like this. We have a lot of influence we don't even realize."

For Kerry Christian, the adult programmer at the library who organized the event, the

An Amazon spokeswoman clarified and confirmed that the company will not be building its own solar farm, but provided no additional details in an email to The Record.

The initial information about Amazon's investment in the solar farm in the county was announced in a news release from the company sent Nov. 14 to multiple news sites in the region, including The Warren County Record.

POLICE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

She also said it would take four to six weeks to get the new vehicle.

Aldermen approved the request 4-0. Aldermen Jack Crump and Steven Cullom were absent.

The new vehicle is needed because of additions to the Warrenton Police Department.

"They need police vehicles because we have a bunch of people in the process. Which is a good thing," Director of Operations John Struckhoff said during the meeting. "Haven't said that in probably the two years I've been doing this."

Police Chief Larry El-lard said there are seven people in the process of joining the department. Two started Nov. 21. El-lard said an officer previously with the department has returned, and

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- Narcotics Anonymous, College United Methodist Church, 7-9 p.m.
- Marthasville Chamber of Commerce, Katy Trail Depot, 7:30 p.m.

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SAVING THOSE IN BUDAPEST

In 1942, Lutz received a promotion and was transferred to Budapest, Hungary, where he would serve as the Swiss vice consul in charge of foreign interests.

At the time of Lutz's arrival in Hungary, the country was an ally of the Nazis and had not yet been invaded. That would change in 1944, when Germany invaded to stop a potential peace agreement between Hungary and the allies. The Germans were led by Adolf Eichmann, an SS officer and one of the

and a ferry, and briefly stop in Istanbul on their way back to Switzerland. While in Istanbul, Lutz ordered a glass of orange juice.

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LUTZ'S HEROISM COMES TO LIGHT

It would be 50 years before the Swiss acknowledged Carl Lutz's heroic acts.

That move came in 1995, and coincided with a report that the Swiss government had been holding property stolen by the Nazis in their banks.

"Since then, Switzerland has been really big on promoting some guy

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For Kerry Christian, the adult programmer at the library who organized the event, the presentation helped her take steps to achieve the ultimate goal of informing people about the life and works of Carl Lutz.

"We always hear about Schindler. There's movies about him," Christian said. "That's always the name you hear when you hear about the Holocaust rescues, and here (Lutz) saved so many more. It's just such a shame that very few of us have heard of this man. He needs to be recognized."

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Police Chief Larry Ellard said there are seven people in the process of joining the department. Two started Nov. 21. Ellard said an officer previously with the department has returned, and some officers are coming in as SROs.

"After this process is over, we should be flush," Ellard said during the meeting.

During the meeting, aldermen also approved a change amending an ordinance regarding overplats in both The Meadows at Walnut Hollow and Seger Farm Subdivision, and approved a boundary adjustment at a lot at 406 N. Highway 47.



PITMAN FUNERAL HOMES



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103 East Booneslick
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Office Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8:30 am-4:00 pm

- Westplex Media Group, LLC
- Tim Schmidt, Publisher
tim@mystandardnews.com
- Jason Koch, Editor
jason@warrencountyrecord.com
- Kelley Wright, Sales Manager
ads@warrencountyrecord.com
- Scott Dupree, Production Manager
scott@warrencountyrecord.com
- John Rohlf, Sports Editor
john@warrencountyrecord.com
- Karen Meyer, Office Assistant
kordclass@warrencountyrecord.com