



From the Desk of Roundtable President Charles Holt

March 2022 Newsletter www.WWIIroundtable.com

Wow! What a great presentation by our very own Marlene Mendonsa on the over 1M black men & women who served in WWII. Unfortunately, TOO often totally overlooked. This month we bring in an outside speaker, none other than the son of Gary Powers, whose CIA U-2 spy plane was shot down over Russia in 1960! As always, tell all interested about EVERY monthly dinner/hybrid program and all need to RSVP ASAP with Karl Kleinbub at 317 607-6948. We only get the meeting room for free if we have enough folks signing up for the delicious buffet. Gary Powers, Jr., will have books to sign and sell, as well!

Charles Holt, D.O.

Mar 28, 2022, 7:00 PM In-Person & Zoom

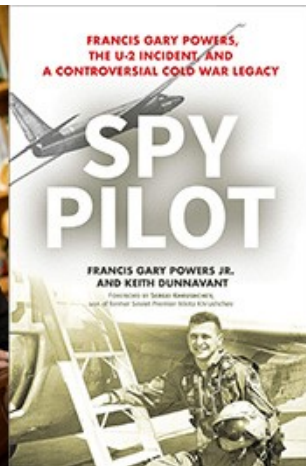
INDIANAPOLIS
ERNIE PYLE CHAPTER
WWII
ROUNDTABLE
WWIIroundtable.com
Where history comes alive!

Northside Social Club
2100 E 71st Street
Indianapolis,
IN 46220

6:00 Dinner served
\$11 + table tip++
7:00 Program
In person & Zoom

Dinner 6-7:00 at North Side Social!

Special Event Speaker: Francis Gary Powers, Jr.



Francis Gary Powers, Sr. U-2 Flight & Spy Pilot

7:00 "Trivia Report" by Brad Damon & 7:15 Program

As the Founder and Chairman Emeritus of The Cold War Museum in Virginia founded in 1996, Gary Powers, Jr. is fulfilling a mission to honor Cold War veterans, preserve Cold War history, and educate future generations about this time period.

Francis Gary Powers, Jr., MPA, MA US History

The Cold War Museum Board Member — The SAC and Aerospace Museum —
Honorary Board — The International Spy Museum

DATES FOR 2022

JAN 24	AUG 22
FEB 28	SEP 26
MAR 28	OCT 24
APR 25	NOV 28
MAY 23	DEC 5
JUN 27	
JUL 25	

NOTE PRICE FOR MARCH SPECIAL SPEAKER EVENT — DINNER \$15

Join us in person if you are able! Be sure to send your RSVP to Karl Kleinbub ASAP: knj1002@myinestarnet.net or phone 317-607-6948. **no later than MAR 24!** A head count for Northside Social is very important. Also, please have CASH in exact change \$15 ++ tip for your meal. You do not want to miss the opportunity either for the book / artifact drawing: \$5.00 per ticket. Alan Andrews always has a great selection of "gems" as does Travis Petrie with WW2 era books and more. **Our speaker will also bring his books for purchase and to sign. We need 150 reservations to guarantee large room.**

Can you remember where you were when this happened: U-2 Overflights and the Capture of Francis Gary Powers, 1960 ?

From US Department of State: Office of the Historian

On May 1, 1960, the pilot of an American U-2 spy plane was shot down while flying through Soviet airspace. The fallout over the incident resulted in the cancellation of the Paris Summit scheduled to discuss the ongoing situation in divided Germany, the possibility of an arms control or test ban treaty, and the relaxation of tensions between the USSR and the United States.

A little review may be in order! . . .

As early as 1955, officials in both Moscow and Washington had grown concerned about the relative nuclear capabilities of the Soviet Union and the United States. Given the threat that the nuclear arms race posed to national security, leadership in both countries placed a priority on information about the other side's progress. At a conference in Geneva in 1955, U.S. President Dwight Eisenhower proposed an "open skies" plan, in which each country would be permitted to make overflights of the other to conduct mutual aerial inspections of nuclear facilities and launch pads. Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev refused the proposal, continuing the established Soviet policy of rejecting international inspections in any form. Meanwhile, Khrushchev also claimed that the Soviet Union had developed numerous intercontinental ballistic missiles, which only motivated the United States Government to look for new ways to verify developments in the Soviet nuclear program.

The U-2 spy plane program grew out of these concerns. The U-2 was a special high-altitude plane that flew at a ceiling of 70,000 feet. Because it flew at such heights, it was thought it would be possible for the planes to pass over the Soviet Union undetected by radar on the ground. It was important that the overflights be undetected, because normally an unauthorized invasion of another country's airspace was considered an act of war. Operated through the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), the first flight over Moscow and Leningrad (St. Petersburg) took place on July 4, 1956. The flights continued intermittently over the next four years. It was later revealed that the Soviets did pick up the flights on radar, and the United States lost a plane over the Soviet Union in 1959, but as long as there was no definitive proof connecting the flights to the United States there was no advantage for the Soviets to raise the issue publicly lest it draw attention to the Soviet inability to shoot down the offending flights. . . .

After extensive questioning by the KGB, Powers was convicted of spying and sentenced to three years in prison and seven more of hard labor. In February, 1962, however, he and a detained American student were traded for a captured Soviet spy, Rudolf Abel.

Go to these sites for more information: <https://history.state.gov/milestones/1953-1960/u2-incident>
or

Smithsonian Wall of Honor: <https://airandspace.si.edu/support/wall-of-honor/capt-francis-gary-powers>

Be sure to mark your calendar now for a really special event: Francis Gary Powers, Jr. will talk about his father on March 28, 2022

Generally our speakers do not charge a fee, but high demand and travel expenses require that we charge a bit more for this dinner program.

As this will be a very popular event, reservations will be necessary! The Round Table board needs a minimum of 150 reservations to ensure we can request the main hall. We hope that this will be possible. Email or call Karl Kleinbub ASAP!

UKRAINE'S RECENT HISTORY & ON-LINE INFORMATION

Déjà vu? It seems like it was just yesterday we were stuck in a Cold War with the Soviet Union. In the summer of 1989 I was following the departure of East Germans to Hungary and beyond and the Cold War was a part of our curriculum. At this time, I also discovered a superb documentary: "The Singing Revolution" about Estonia breaking away from the Soviet Union. The documentary was both inspiring and memorable—can culture hold a people together? Consider now, how Ukrainian culture unifies this country as they fight to defend their country. Here is a list of links to short online clips that you may also find informative: **Estonian Singing Revolution:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4njksFKyycY> You may also appreciate the following clip from Latvia and its human chain of protest:

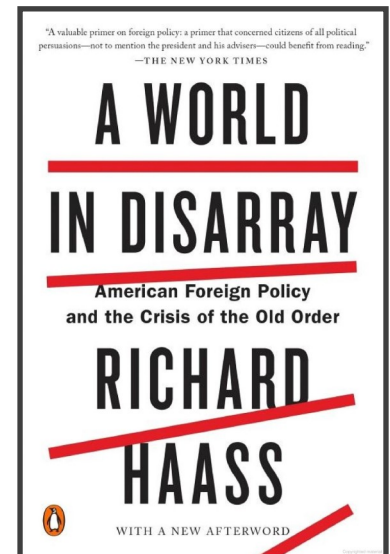
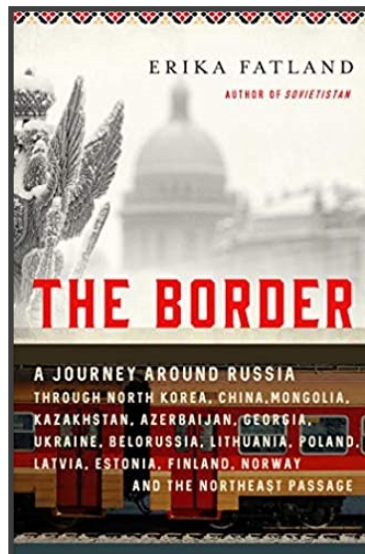
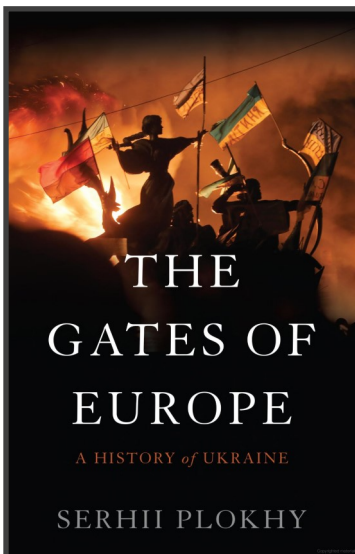
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UKtdBAJGK9I> or <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0KoKq20RUI0>

Twenty plus years later, there is a new world in Estonia. See **Estonia: Baltic Tiger** (40 minutes) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GqLJA7sXD-c> Lesley Riddoch and filmmaker Charlie Stuart travelled to Estonia in late February 2020 to make a film about one of the most recent small north European states to become independent. Tiny Estonia (pop similar to Wales) sees itself as a forgotten Nordic nation, sharing its language, forest and bog-covered topography and Baltic location with Finland. And its widely regarded as Europe's Digital Tiger economy, performing an incredible transformation from terrible poverty in the wake of reestablishing independence just 30 years ago.

Current Events Early March 2022:

Met Opera chorus singing Ukrainian national anthem March 10, 2022 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2TWu6GKrnca> and Royal Albert Hall: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ngyCBPPTHjE> See also: Europe stands with Ukraine: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YGjicPkb0s> . The Ukrainian Anthem 'Ще не вмерла України' (Oekraïne is nog niet verloren) was played all over Europe the week of March 7. Here also is a beautiful clip from Kyiv. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=einTXaSeGAI>

BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CURRENT EVENTS



The first book is a history of Ukraine with maps (2021), *Border* skirts around Russia and goes through Ukraine (2020), and finally consider reissue of Richard Haass, *A World in Disarray* (2018). All are available on Amazon and in public libraries.

REMINDER: 2022 WWII Round Table Dues are Payable Now

Please pay via website or bring exact cash or check to dinner in March. At dinner sign-in, you will also be able to confirm correctness of your membership information. This will help us update our membership list. **Veteran Family \$20.00; Non-Veteran Family \$25.00; WWII Veterans FREE Membership**

Reserve NOW for the March 28th program with Gary Powers, Jr. The Round Table needs to confirm **150** reservations to hold the large hall no later than ASAP **March 21st**

Dinner cost, including tip will be \$ 15.00 each (please mail check with this reservation slip to:

Lucy Parker by March 21st: **WWII Roundtable, Inc. PO Box 1965 Noblesville, IN 46061 and email Karl with RSVP Thank you!**

Name: _____ (phone or email: _____)

Number of guests: _____

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BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MARCH MEETING

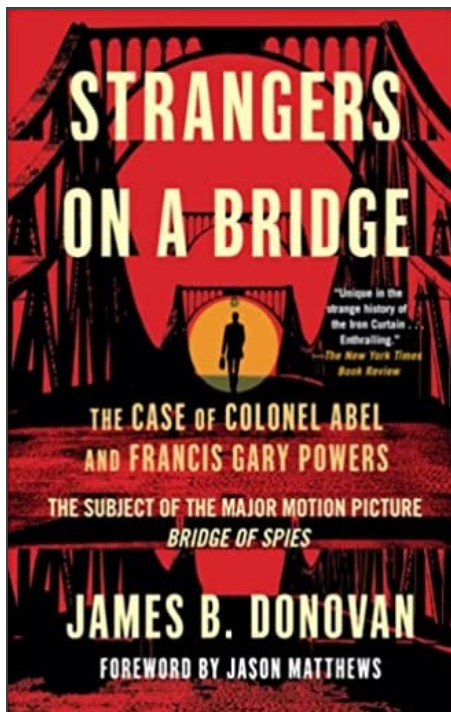
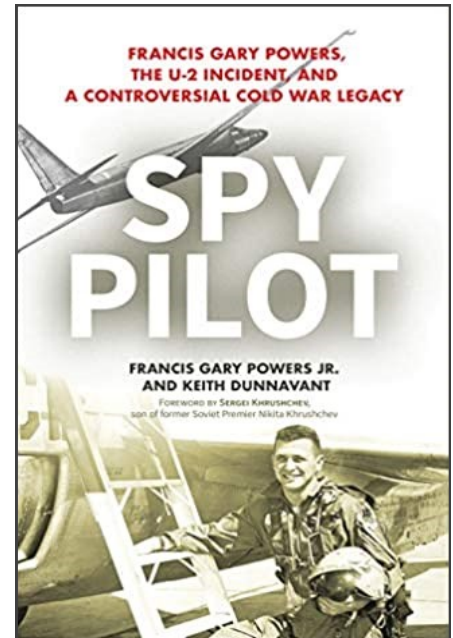
Our guest speaker will bring the following book for sale:

Spy Pilot: Francis Gary Powers, the U-2 Incident, and a Controversial Cold War Legacy
Published January 22, 2019

Also recommended:

Strangers on a Bridge: The Case of Colonel Abel and Francis Gary Powers
Published August 2015

Both books are also available through Amazon.com.



The #1 *New York Times* bestseller and subject of the acclaimed major motion picture *Bridge of Spies* directed by Steven Spielberg, starring Tom Hanks as James B. Donovan. Originally published in 1964, this is the “enthraling...truly remarkable” (*The New York Times Book Review*) insider account of the Cold War spy exchange—with a new foreword by Jason Matthews, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Red Sparrow* and *Palace of Treason*.

In the early morning of February 10, 1962, James B. Donovan began his walk toward the center of the Glienicke Bridge, the famous “Bridge of Spies” which then linked West Berlin to East. With him, walked Rudolf Ivanovich Abel, master spy and for years the chief of Soviet espionage in the United States. Approaching them from the other side, under equally heavy guard, was Francis Gary Powers, the American U-2 spy plane pilot famously shot down by the Soviets, whose exchange for Abel Donovan had negotiated. These were the strangers on a bridge, men of East and West, representatives of two opposed worlds meeting in a moment of high drama.