

Canoga Park Northridge



Reseda Van Nuys

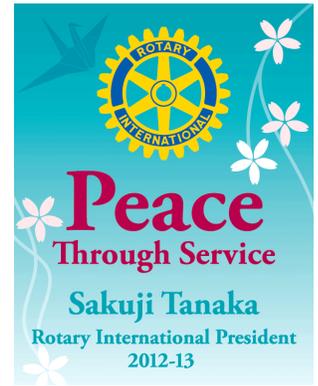
Rotary Club of Greater Van Nuys

www.greatervannuysrotary.org

Service Above Self

Meeting at 94th Aero Squadron
Thursdays, 12:10 p.m.

16320 Raymer St., Van Nuys, CA 91406



April 4, 2013

Flag Salute: James Tenner

Invocation: Wynne Ritch

Attending Members: Alice Gauna, Barbara Pampalone, Bill Parks, Carlos Menjivar, Don Fetherolf, Don Reinken, Ed Viramontes, Elaine Bern, Guy Mangia, James Tenner, Judy Coates, Ken Worthen, PDG Les Grossman, Marc Tapper, Marco Padilla, Marie Valencia, Mauricio Aranda, Mike Quiroga, Patrick Fahey, Rich Miller, Robin Kellogg, Ron Wolf, Roz Kogler, Steve Bertolino, Wayne Slappy, Wynne Ritch Ron Wolf, Tom Harris; Beth Ullman

Guests: Jan Goforth; Dora Esparza, Field Representative for Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian (who attended our 4/21 awards dinner at New Horizons); Victor Bernal, guest of Wayne's and the club who is in construction; Coach Scott King with students Jasmine Dixon and Mark Lopez from Birmingham Charter High School; and our speaker, Tommy Gilenas, with his associate, Travis Piper

ANNOUNCEMENTS

District Conference

Jim urged us all to attend this year's District Conference, especially those who have never been to one. It's a great chance to see what all 64 clubs are up to, make new friendships and increase your understanding of Rotary. Though more expensive than our former conferences, if this fits within your budget it is very worthwhile. It will be held at Fess Parker's Doubletree Resort in Santa Barbara, May 2-5. There are still a few rooms for just \$179, but book soon – once the reserved rooms are gone they go back up to \$400/night. Reservations have to be made through the hotel. Conference registration forms are on the website: rotary5280.org.

April 7 Eye Clinic

Mauricio reminded us of this Sunday's eye clinic and got a few more volunteers. This is the first local clinic – usually VOSH and Dr. Barry Leonard do this in Mexico, but the situation there makes going too dangerous.

Sunday – we had lots of patients show up, starting before 7:30 a.m., and at times had a very long waiting line, but with great student optometrists and volunteers, everyone was seen and helped. Some needed only "readers" – glasses with just magnification, some needed prescriptions, including bifocals, and there were sun

Calendar

- 4/11, **Wolfgang Kovacek; New Horizons Honorees**
- 4/13, **Sat. Van Nuys Track Meet**, Birmingham H.S.
- 4/17, **Wed. 6:00 p.m. Board Meeting**, Rich Miller's office
- 4/18 **Steve Bertolino; Tierra Del Sol Honorees**
- 4/25 **Open**
- 4/21, **Sun. Calabasas Rotary Club Canine Classic Dog Walk & Festival**, 10:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., Juan Bautista de Anza Park, 3701 Lost Hills Rd., Calabasas; visit www.canineclassic.org for more info
- 4/27, **Sat. Rotarians at Work Day**
- 5/2 – 5/5, **Thurs. – Sun. District Conference**, Fess Parker's Doubletree Resort, Santa Barbara
- 5/18, **Sat. District Assembly**
- 5/22, **Wed. Bingo**, 6:30 p.m. at Union Hall, 14800 Devonshire St. (SW corner at Woodman)
- 6/1, **Sat. Reverse Raffle Fundraiser**, 6-10 p.m., Union Hall, 14800 Devonshire St. (SW corner at Woodman) \$15/person for buffet

glasses available just in case any had cataracts or other medical conditions where sun exposure is a problem. Many thanks to all those who volunteered, including Ed Viramontes, Mauricio Aranda (who helped get us all organized), Barbara Pampalone, Robin Kellogg, David Friedman, Bill Parks, Beth Ullman, Judy Coates, Mike Quiroga, Zoraida Suarez, Rich Miller, Wynne Ritch and Helen and Ken Worthen.



Bingo

Rich reported that we had a small but productive turnout for last night's game, including some regulars and a few newcomers. Our next bingo game will be **Wednesday, May 22.**

Club Survey

Rich also asked that those who haven't yet responded to the online survey please do so – he'll be using the results for discussion points and possible changes. And if you haven't joined a committee or taken an office, please think about which groups you would like to join. We have a lot of committees for you to choose from, doing lots of fun and worthwhile projects. Get involved!

Track Meet April 13

Don told us the planning is going well, but the coaches are still not signed up, and got Scott's promise that he will be before the deadline. We've gotten a pretty good cadre of volunteers, especially for the morning, but **still need to fill a number of slots in the afternoon.** If you have friends or family who can help, please sign them up! Email Don at dreinken@socal.rr.com, or call him at 818-368-3341.

June 1 Fundraiser

PDG Les let us know the forms to sign up raffle ticket buyers are now on the website. (Thanks to PDG Emilio for emailing both forms and our website link to everyone). Please start selling! The money raised will fund many of our major projects and scholarships. Prizes include the \$10,000 first prize, a \$500 second, and a large screen TV third. In addition to the reverse raffle, entertainment and buffet, the event will also have a silent auction and a "Chinese" auction. Please note the event is open only to friends, family and other Rotarians, not the general public, for legal reasons.

Recognition

After Mauricio's introduction to our recognition program, Coach Scott King took a moment to thank us for the annual track meet at Birmingham Community Charter High School (BHS), and for touching the lives of so many children and families who have not experienced success before or gotten public recognition for their achievements.

Today we recognized the efforts of two of Scott's students: senior Jasmine Dixon and junior Mark Lopez. Jasmine was a cheerleader the first three years at BHS, but this year got interested in track. She also expressed her thanks for the track meet, and for all of Coach King's support of her and the other students. Next year she'll be majoring in biochemistry at Arizona State University.

Mark is new to the school after one year at Santa Monica High and a second at another school that really didn't meet his needs. But he's already doing very well, with 5 A's, 1 B and voted "most valuable player" by his cross-country team. Unfortunately transfer rules won't allow him to compete, but that makes his "most valuable" honor even more remarkable. Mark knows about Rotary – he was in Interact at Santa Monica High, attended one of the Catalina trips Rotary put on, and treasures the 4 Way Test coin he received. He said he guides his life by that.



Coach Scott King, Jasmine Dixon, Mark Lopez and Mauricio Aranda

Speaker: Tommy Gilenas, San Fernando Valley History

A native of the San Fernando Valley, Tommy Gilenas has been fascinated with its history since he was 10 years old and started asking questions about the buildings he saw being torn down or modified. It was sparked by a sepia-toned mural in a local bank depicting the Valley in the very earliest days of settlement, making him wonder what life was like then.

In his descriptions of the Valley "back when" he entwined his own and the area's histories. His dad was an actor, and living not far away were lots of others, including Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz in Canoga Park. Acting has always been a difficult way to make a living, and his dad was very creative, so he was one of the early inventors (with 15 patents) of items for the growing number of swimming pools. Tommy's dad invented the system for using diatomaceous earth for filters, the sand grid and underwater lighting, among other things.

After severe personal struggles, including a motorbike accident that broke his back in four places and took him to the hospital "DOA", not expected to survive much less walk again, Tommy put his life back together. He decided to go into the clothing business, among other things, and sold T-shirts door-to-door. That started to go well, and he found a small printing operation operating from a garage to work with. Eventually he bought that out and grew his operation to its current 20,000 square feet factory and 100 employees. Customers range from Target to music groups. Having overcome his addiction to pain pills and alcohol after the accident, Tommy also put a lot of effort into helping young people get clean.

Twenty years ago he decided to save what historical remnants he could, and started collecting everything from old maps to one of the original Bob's Big Boy statues. All of that is now housed in a large warehouse near his business, but he brought 4 display cases of items to share with us.

Tommy has filed to turn his collection into a non-profit museum that would be open at no charge to the public. Many of the items he has are true treasures, such as the

earliest known letter from Isaac Newton Van Nuys, writing about leaving the east coast and what he found here. Van Nuys married Lankershim's daughter and was key to the development of the San Fernando Valley. Other items include an early dairy wagon, the wagon wheel from the old White Horse Inn. and much more. A larger space than the storage area is needed to display it all, including many items donated by Travis Piper. A recent donation of photos from the 1920's came from the 80-year-old wife of Bob Simmons – of the Sunshine Ranch (they raised race horses) family and one of the early mall developers. Their daughter was helping them move and wanted to throw the photos out, but luckily Mrs. Simmons reached Tommy – every other group had not been interested or not returned calls. Now those glimpses into the past are part of what will hopefully become a full museum.

“Worth begets in base minds, envy; in great souls, emulation.” Henry Fielding, author (1707-1754)

Just for Fun each of these is two words in one – very “meta”. Do you see them?



Tommy Gilenas and Jim Tenner

Meeting Information for Nearby Clubs

Calabasas, Tuesdays, 12:15 p.m.
 Wolf Creek Restaurant
 26787 Agoura Rd.
 Calabasas, CA 91302

REMINDERS:

Calabasas Rotary Canine Classic Dog Walk & Festival,

The 3rd annual Canine Classic Dog Walk & Festival will be put on by the Calabasas Rotary club from 10:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Sunday, April 21, at Juan Bautista de Anza Park, 3701 Lost Hills Rd., Calabasas. This fun event is for dogs, their people and folks who would just like to have a good time. Go to www.canineclassic.org for more information or to register, or you can call: 818-880-2993 or email info@canineclassic.org.

Bingo

Please contact Rich or Marco at 818-994-8234 to volunteer or get tickets.

No PolioPlus collection today

Opportunity Drawing

Congratulations to Mike, who won half the \$95 pot.

Notable Quotables

“Everyone, in some small sacred sanctuary of the self, is nuts.” Leo Rosten, author (1908-1997)

2012-2013 Club Officers:

Co-Presidents:

Martha Stulman H 818-708-8947
 Jim Tenner H 818-241-9435

Immediate Past Presidents:

Barbara Pampalone H 818-882-2395
 Don Reinken H 818-368-3341
 Razi Sheikh C 818-621-4841

President-Elect: Rich Miller

W 818-994-8234

Director, Administration:

PDG Emilio Basile H 818-886-4142

Secretary: Robin Kellogg

H 818-993-5378

Treasurer: Razi Sheikh

C 818-621-4841

Director, Membership:

Rich Miller W 818-994-8234

Director, Projects:

Mauricio Aranda W 818-634-4043

Director, Foundation:

PDG Les Grossman H 818-757-0157

Director, Public Relations *Open*

President Van Nuys Rotary Foundation:

Donald Fetherolf H 818-986-1460

Bulletin Editor pro tem:

Beth Ullman H 818-701-6889

Community Co-chair:

Marie Valencia H 818-929-7118

Int'l Co-chair: Zoraida Suarez

W 818-788-8838

New Generations Co-chairs:

Rosielee Jones W 818-782-0022

Mauricio Aranda W 818-634-4043

Programs Chair: Mauricio Aranda W 818-634-4043

Granada Hills, Thursdays at 12:10 p.m.
Porter Valley Country Club
19216 Singing Hills Dr.
Northridge, CA 91326-1716

Greater San Fernando Valley **E-Club**, Mondays at 12:00
p.m., online 24/7, www.rotaryclubgreatersfv.org

Northridge/Chatsworth, Tuesdays at 12:00 p.m.
The Olive Garden
19724 Nordhoff Pl.
Chatsworth, CA 91311

Studio City-Sherman Oaks, Tuesdays at 12:10 p.m.
Sportsmen's Lodge Hotel
12825 Ventura Blvd., Vista Room
Studio City, CA 91604

Tarzana Encino, Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.
John O'Groats
16120 Ventura Blvd.
Encino, CA 91436

West San Fernando Valley, Thursdays at 7:15 a.m.
Gables 818-347-2437
20920 Ventura Blvd.
Woodland Hills, CA 91367

Woodland Hills, Wednesdays at noon
Woodland Hills Country Club
21150 Dumetz Rd.
Woodland Hills, CA 91364

Beth Ullman
17426 Napa St.
Northridge, CA 91325