



Mid San Fernando Valley

www.midsanfernandovalley.org

Service Above Self

Meeting at Denny's restaurant
Thursdays, 12:10 p.m.

16575 Sherman Way, Van Nuys, CA



Reach Within to Embrace Humanity

January 26, 2012

Invocation: Lisa Long

Flag Salute: Roz Dubrow

Attending Members: Frank Santucci, Lisa Long, Renée D'Auria, Rosielee Jones, Carlos Menjivar, Roz Dubrow, Bub Pickup, Martha Stulman, Rich Miller, Robin Kellogg, Barbara Pampalone, Marc Tapper, Judy Rockey, PDG Emilio Basile and Beth Ullman

Guests and Visiting Rotarians: Honorary member Mercedes Moreno; Todd Julkowski, a Senior Associate at collection agency Springer & Daly, and a friend of Rich's; Max Kellogg, Robin's son, and Betsy Meenk, our speaker

Let's Network!

To increase our networking and introduce business people to Rotary and our club, we'll be doing something different at our February 9 meeting. Please invite business owners and managers you know, as well as friends, to join us for lunch and the chance to share what they do. We'll give everyone (including current members) an opportunity to address the group and some space to showcase their products or services. Bring your brochures or product samples if you have them!

Announcements:

Dues Are Due and Next Year's Number

We have already submitted our dues payments and report to RI, so if you haven't yet done so, please get your club dues into Frank ASAP. It's \$100 for this six months, plus any contribution you are making to The Rotary Foundation. Thank you to everyone who has paid.

Thanks to great negotiating on PDG Emilio's part, our dues next year will go up just \$50 in the new district; \$250 for the year instead of \$200. This still includes money to send two students to RYLA, which we agreed is very important. (As Emilio told us, 90% of high school students at premier institutions say they believe they have high ethical standards, but 70% of them admit to cheating or lying about something substantive in the prior year.) In 5280 the district dues alone are usually \$250 for the year, plus RI dues of \$70 and our club dues of \$42. Thank you, Emilio!

Possible Club Merger

PDG Emilio reported on the multi-club meeting held Tuesday evening. The NSFV club is down to 12 members

Calendar

2/2	Elizabeth Harris , Santa Susanna Mountain Conservancy (<i>and Happy Groundhog Day</i>)
2/9	Networking Meeting – Invite businesses and guests to promote their services
2/16	Monique Bryher , How Short Sale Fraud is Stealing Your Home Equity
2/23	Club Assembly

and have decided they definitely need to merge with another club, but the combined club must still meet at noon on Thursdays. The Van Nuys club has gone back to meeting at noon on Wednesdays.

Meeting day aside, if we were to join in a merger with one or both of them, the combined club would be too big to meet at Denny's. The exploratory committee believes the best restaurant choices would be the 94th Aero Squadron, where the special lunch cost is \$15 plus tax and tip with a 25 person minimum, and The Orange Bistro (at CSUN), where we could get a buffet or regular lunches for \$15-20. At the Bistro we could also buy a gallon of tea and/or coffee for \$45 so people who choose not to eat could at least have a beverage. Not considered was the China Olive, which is in the process of a major renovation and where we found \$12 sufficient to cover both the meal costs and a surcharge sufficient to pay for our guests. The Van Nuys club charges every member \$10/month for that; we currently charge \$3/meeting attended. Parking at CSUN's Bistro has gotten easier – there is now access to their parking lot from Nordhoff.

If we voted to merge, the other clubs have said they would like Sara to be president for the combined club; other offices would be filled by those most interested or voted on for the positions. As Emilio told us, there are some advantages to merging, from a sharing of some expenses levied on a club versus per member or those such as weekly bulletins that are somewhat independent of membership total, to more support on projects. The issue of combining treasuries and foundations was not discussed. The Van Nuys foundation has approximately \$100,000 (including some major contributions from Emilio when he was president of that club), the NSFV's about \$30,000, and we don't have one.

Time did not permit discussing the disadvantages of a merger or taking a vote on whether or not to consider pursuing this possibility, so Emilio asked that we share our

concerns with him. For now, the other clubs would like us to have more joint meetings and events so we can get to know everyone.

Community Dental Project

Barbara announced she and Drs. Shannon and Chetty have ordered the equipment they need, including the portable chair and a compressor for the portable dental setup. It will be housed mainly at New Horizons, where it will also get a lot of use. Almost all the promised funding has been received. *Editor's Note: Saturday after the meeting we received \$500 from the Glendale Sunrise Rotary Foundation – thank you!*

Rotary Minute: PolioPlus

PDG Emilio Basile gave a brief history of PolioPlus and our club's involvement, including former member Johann Van Nimwegan's struggle with the disease and first treatment in a Rotary established clinic, and the late PDG Dr. Bill Frank's enormous effort in getting the entire project started and funded. Sheri Polak is doing a story on Bill's efforts and that of a young mother who came down with the disease the day after her daughter was born – for the two years she was confined to a hospital she was not allowed to see her new child. Emilio also told us the Gates Foundation's new grant is actually \$55 million. India's last NID will be in April. Some of the Woodland Hills club are going, so please contact them if you'd like to participate. We should see a polio-free world for the first time in our lifetime!

Speaker: Betsy Meenk, USA Regional Director ZOE International

ZOE was formed 10 years ago to rescue children from the human trafficking that is rampant in Thailand. The children are trafficked for all types of labor, especially the sex trade. Betsy said the children they have rescued from these terrible conditions range from a 6-year-old girl whose alcoholic father was trying to kill her to a 10-year-old boy sold into prostitution. Sadly, such stories are not limited to Thailand; they occur in every country, even ours. But Thailand's reputation as an international sex market makes the number of slaves, particularly children, especially large.

Human trafficking is now the second largest source of revenue for organized crime worldwide, and moving quickly up to first. Drugs and weapons, the other two, are sold once, even though to repeat buyers; people can be sold over and over, whether by the hour or the month. Each year 800,000 souls are trafficked across the international borders.

Of the estimated 12.3 – 27 million people enslaved in the world, two-thirds are children; 80% are female. Exact numbers are difficult to come by, in spite of governmental efforts to find and stamp out these practices. In Thailand between 200,000 and 2.8 million are slaves in the lucrative sex trade – it's a big tourist draw! In the U.S. 14,500-17,500 foreigners are trafficked every year, and an even larger number of citizens, most of whom are child runaways. Within 48 hours of leaving home, they are approached by traffickers and pimps.

The business of human trafficking is fueled by greed; the trade is made possible because of demand: for child porn, pedophilia and prostitution. Those living in poverty are most vulnerable, both here and abroad. Parents desperate for money send their children into cities for "work", believing the lies of traffickers, never to see any money or the child again, or they sell the child outright, knowing what will happen.

ZOE is the Greek word for "life", and that is what the organization tries to provide. Their Prevention, Intervention and After Care multi-pronged approach to the problem includes education, ministry, alliance with law enforcement and rescue. They try to make people aware of the problem and the false job or schooling promises made by traffickers. They expose the lies, work to protect children before they are enslaved and rescue those they can once they have been. Most of those rescued are orphans, but seldom can even those with one or both parents be returned to their families. ZOE houses them in a beautiful mountain complex, far from the cities and the traffickers.

In their education efforts, ZOE workers do outreach to the villages, educating families on the tactics traffickers use and working with local social workers and law groups to identify the most vulnerable children, working to prevent their being taken in by traffickers. They also try to break the cycle of poverty by teaching business skills, eliminating the temptation for families to sell their children. Or kill them, as one widower tried to do with his 6-year-old daughter, tossing her to her rescuers when they intervened and saying he never wanted to see her again. Had ZOE not rescued her, she almost undoubtedly would have been sold or killed.



Barbara Pampalone and Betsy Meenk

Betsy told us of another young girl who was part of a beggar ring under the control of a modern day fagin which ZOE staff had tried to infiltrate. She had heard stories about ZOE, but didn't quite believe them. One day she

walked to a village where they were working to see if the stories were true, that there really was a safe place that would take care of her. Once she became part of the group she told the staff about a friend of hers still in the beggar ring, whom she had promised to rescue if ZOE turned out to be real. It took months to find the group again, as the fagin kept moving them, but they did eventually rescue the second girl as well. They are in protective custody because they will be testifying against their fagin.

ZOE rescued a 10-year-old boy who was kidnapped and sold into prostitution at a brothel – the day after he screamed to the sky late at night “Is there a God? Is *this* my life?” Healing and happy, he says his rescue the very next day was God’s answer to his plea.

There are 20 American missionaries in Thailand and about 35 local Thais working for ZOE, plus a staff of 6 here in California. Soon they hope to expand their efforts with a center here in the Los Angeles area. In Thailand they work with local officials and village leaders, but get no funding from them. They received a substantial donation for their building and are in the process of expansion, planning on a business school and 60-bed boys home, for which they have already received a donation of \$250,000 from Regency Lighting here in the Valley. Eventually they hope to be able to handle 2,500 (currently 250) on their site in Thailand.

Betsy is dedicated to eradicating trafficking, or die trying. She works with ZOE in part because no other organization tackles the problem in Thailand in all the ways ZOE does, making it much more effective. Besides prevention and intervention, ZOE raises these children, educating, clothing, housing, feeding, nursing and loving them. When they turn 18 they are helped to start a job or go to college. These kids are never abandoned.

Betsy can be reached by email at betsy@gozoe.org, or by phone at 661-255-7963. The organization’s websites are www.zoechildren.org and www.gozoe.org.

Reminders:

Rotary Zone Meeting

There will be a Zone meeting February 4 at the Boy Scouts of America Facility, 1211 E. Dyer Road, Santa Ana and everyone is welcome. Our PRLS committee will refund the \$30 cost, which includes lunch. Registration starts at 7:30 a.m.; the day ends at 3:00 p.m. For more information, visit the district website: www.rotary5260.org.

PolioPlus: Thank you to everyone who contributed to PolioPlus today.

Happy Bucks: Thank you to everyone who contributed today. These contributions go into our general fund for expenses and projects that aren’t self-supporting.

Raffle: Barbara won the \$5 *and* the chance to try for the joker, but pulled the king of clubs. The pot is now \$732, and there are just 20 cards left.

Notable Quotable:

“First keep peace with yourself, then you can also bring peace to others.” Thomas Kempis

“Some cause happiness wherever they go; others whenever they go.” Oscar Wilde

2011-2012 Club Officers:

President: Barbara Pampalone	H 818-882-2395
Immediate Past President Martha Stulman	H 818-708-8947
Administrator & Club Chair: Beth Ullman	H 818-701-6889
Secretary: Rosielee Jones	C 818-703-3201
Treasurer: Frank Santucci	C 818-652-7529
Membership VP: Marc Tapper	H 818-425-6667
Projects VP: Rich Miller	W 818-994-8234
Foundation VP: PDG Emilio Basile	H 818-886-4142
Sara Vasquez	H 818-368-6682
Public Relations VP Robin Kellogg	H 818-993-5378
Bulletin Editor pro tem: Beth Ullman	H 818-701-6889
Community Chair: Judy Rockey	C 818-683-3510
Int’l Chair: Sara Vasquez	H 818-368-6682
New Generations Chairs: Clinton & Rosielee Jones	C 818-609-7105
Vocational Chair: Carlos Menjivar	818-620-2569
Programs Chair: Robin Kellogg	H 818-993-5378
Sgt. at Arms: Renée D’Auria	H 818-882-1659

Selected Nearby Clubs and Meeting Information

Granada Hills, Thursdays at 12:10 p.m.

Porter Valley Country Club
19216 Singing Hills Dr
Northridge CA 91326-1716

North San Fernando Valley, Thursdays at 12:10 p.m.
IHOP, 1225 Truman St.
San Fernando CA 91340

Northridge/Chatsworth, Tuesdays at 12:10 p.m.
Porter Valley Country Club
19216 Singing Hills Dr.
Northridge CA 91325

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

Van Nuys, Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.
94th Aero Squadron
16320 Raymer St.
Van Nuys

West San Fernando Valley, Thursdays at 12:00 p.m.
Canoga Park Bowl
20122 Vanowen Street
Winnetka CA 91306

Greater San Fernando Valley **E-Club**, Mondays at 12:00 p.m., Online 24/7, <http://www.rotaryclubgreaterfv.org>

*Beth Ullman
17426 Napa St.
Northridge, CA 91325*