

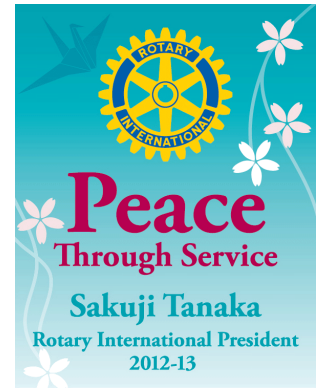
Rotary Club of Greater Van Nuys

www.greatervannuysrotary.org

Service Above Self

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

16320 Raymer St., Van Nuys, CA 91406



August 2, 2012

Flag Salute: Marc Tapper

Invocation: Razi Sheikh

Attending Members: Martha Stulman, Mauricio Aranda, Renée D'Auria, PDG Eli Gauna, Alice Gauna, Judy Coates, Frank Santucci, PDG Les Grossman, Tom Harris, Robin Kellogg, PDG Emilio Basile, Barbara Pampalone, Rich Miller, Don Reinken, Razi Sheikh, Mac Shamieh, Ed Viramontes, Jim Tenner, Ron Wolf, Roz Kogler, Don Fetherolf, Peter Satuloff, Rosie Jones, Clinton Jones, Marc Tapper, Zoraida Suarez; Beth Ullman

Guests: Sandra Santucci; Jan Goforth, Van Nuys Airport PR; Max Kellogg, and Maxine Meyer, our speaker

District News

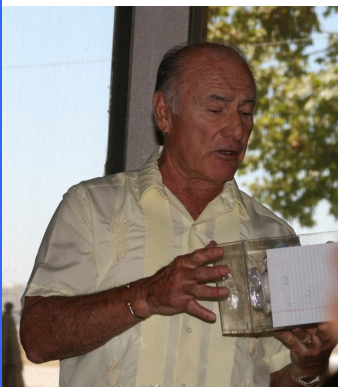
Friday, August 10, there is a district-wide Literacy Breakfast from 7:00 – 9:00 a.m. at Lawry's Restaurant, 100 N. La Cienega, Beverly Hills. Featured speakers are Dr. Bob and Carole Donahue, founders of the Rotary Nutritional Literacy Project, SOSMentor, a program that educates, motivates, and empowers under-served L.A. youth to make healthy eating choices, live an active lifestyle, and become health advocates in their communities. This event is free but please RSVP to Gerry Turner by August 1, 562-439-2111; gerryturner@msn.com.

See Calendar for additional upcoming events.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / Reminders

Priscilla Pig for PolioPlus

With so many people in the room, Priscilla takes a long time to make the rounds, so Martha started her on her way at the beginning, with an introduction by PDG Eli Gauna,



who told us about PolioPlus. This 27 year old program has helped eliminate polio in the western hemisphere and in all but 3 countries around the world: Nigeria, Pakistan and Afghanistan. We are so very close, but need to keep going to eliminate it everywhere, or it could have a major resurgence. Thank you to everyone who contributed to Priscilla today. Remember,

Calendar

- 8/9 **Frank Banos**, Hypnotherapy
- 8/10, Fri. **Literacy Breakfast**, 7:00 – 9:00 a.m., Lawry's Restaurant, 100 N. La Cienega, Beverly Hills
- 8/13, Mon., **6:00 p.m. Bingo** planning meeting, Rich's office, 7120 Hayvenhurst Ave. #108, VN
- 8/16 **Ken Craft**, **Hope of the Valley Mission**
- 8/18, Sat., **E-Waste Collection Fundraiser**, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., LA Valley College
- 8/22, Wed., **Board Meeting**, 6:00 p.m.
- 8/23 **Shelley Bell**, Laughter Yoga
- 8/25, Sat. **Afghanistan Dental Clinic Fundraiser** 5:00 – 9:00 p.m. at Barbara's house
- 8/30 **TBD**
- 9/9, Sun. **District Picnic**, Seaside Lagoon, 11 - 4:00
- 9/15, Sat. **Polio Plus Dodger Game Night**, Dodger Stadium, 6:10 p.m.
- 9/28 – 30, Fri. – Sun. **Bishop Safari**
- 9/29, Sat. **Granada Hills Rotary Blood Drive**
- 10/10, Wed., **Bingo**, 6:30 p.m. Union Hall
- 11/1 **DG Lew Bertrand**, **Governor's visit**
- 1/9, Wed., **Bingo**, 6:30 p.m. Union Hall
- 4/10, Wed., **Bingo**, 6:30 p.m. Union Hall

we will be drawing a member's name periodically and that person will receive Foundation credit toward a Paul Harris Fellow for the amount collected.

District Meeting

Robin was our only club representative at Tuesday's district-wide meeting of the 63 clubs. She reported that we should all attend at least one – it was very interesting, and very different from 5260 meetings. She picked up a bag of tickets for drawings that will be held at two events: the first for prizes and a chance to meet the Dodgers on the field after the September 15 game (6:10 p.m.) that will help support PolioPlus. The second for a chance to win \$3000 (or \$1500 for second; \$500 for third prize) at the

Masquerade Ball to be held October 27. Jim has the supply of tickets for both raffles, which are \$10 each. The ball is a fundraiser for the district foundation and will be held at the Westin Bonaventure in Los Angeles. Tickets for the ball are \$125 each. You can buy tickets for both events on the district website, www.rotary5280.org.

Outgoing President Presentation

Zoraida had the pleasure of presenting a plaque to Immediate Past President Razi Sheikh in honor of his service to the club last year. Sorry it wasn't ready in time for the party, but it's always nice to have another opportunity to thank you for all your hard work!



Zoraida and Razi

Bingo – Planning Meeting 8/13

Our next bingo game is scheduled for October 10, but Rich announced a meeting to discuss holding another one sooner, plus other items, at his office Monday, August 13 at 6:00 p.m. Please RSVP to him at 818-994-8234 or by email to rtm@richardtmillerlaw.com.

Let Others Know About Rotary

Rich passed out the business card sized "What's Rotary" handouts as well as lunch invitations to our meetings, both of which Don Reinken passed on to him as the new Director of Membership. If you'd like more, please see Rich.

E-Waste Collection – It's a Win-Win-Win

Mauricio reminded us that August 18 is our next E-Waste Collection Fundraiser, from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at LA Valley College. It will be in Lot B, where the car show was held. Please, spread the word! You'll help friends recycle their electronic waste and help the club make \$\$\$.

Afghanistan Dental Clinic Fundraiser

Robin wrote a great article about the ADRP dinner fundraiser for the dental clinic in Afghanistan that is featured on the front page of the NVCC newspaper this week! Barbara presented her with a special thank you for that accomplishment.

Barbara also told us the Evening in Kabul dinner on August 25 from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. has gotten new support from a gentleman in the Afghan community. He is not only publicizing the project and event within that community, he negotiated terrific dinner prices with a caterer when he realized the number of attendees could overwhelm the volunteers. Please help us support the Afghan Dental Relief Project and Dr. James Rolfe by buying tickets (\$35 each), donating a silent auction item or spreading the word about this event – it will be great fun. RSVP by August 23 to 818-882-2395 or by email to bpampalone@gmail.com.

Thank You

Holly Ransom, our speaker last week, sent Jim a thank you for having her as our guest, and letting him know the video interview she made with him will be on YouTube soon.

Other Reminders

As Martha noted, we get a monthly **district newsletter** by email, and this month's highlighted a number of Valley clubs. Don't miss it! Hopefully we'll soon be among those featured.

Contact Emilio or Robin if you need help correcting our on-line club **roster** or uploading a new photo.

Contact Razi if you have not yet received your monthly **invoice**.

Speaker: Maxine Meyer, SOVA Resource Manager

Mauricio introduced Maxine, who has spent the last 10 years working at SOVA, helping those in need. "SOVA" is a Hebrew word that means "eat and be satisfied," Maxine told us in her introduction of the organization. Since its start in 1977, it has been non-sectarian, serving *all* the disadvantaged populations within the county. Those they help range from infants to the elderly, from every ethnic and religious background. And they are working hard to meet the rapidly growing demand for services caused by our current economic climate.

Maxine showed us an 8 minute video of SOVA's history and current operations. Much more than a food pantry, SOVA provides free groceries and an array of supportive services to over 12,000 individuals of all ages, ethnicities and religions in an average month, with numbers as high as 15,000 in August and November. (The number was 5000 in 2008 before the economic downturn.) At three centers in the Los Angeles area, they offer free, nutritious food and free on-site services, including food stamp enrollment, legal advocacy, job counseling, nutrition counseling, information and referrals to a wide range of services.

Now part of Jewish Family Services (JFS), the oldest charity in Los Angeles, SOVA benefits from contributions through them from the Jewish Federation, as well as the public, churches, synagogues and grocery stores. Not long ago most groceries were trashing food still on the

shelves on their “sell by” date; now many give them to food charities. SOVA has been fortunate to get wonderful fresh food from Trader Joe’s in Toluca Lake, Gelson’s, Target and a few other stores, so that they can, in turn, provide fresh food to their many clients. From 800 – 1000 pounds a day come from Trader Joe’s alone, picked up by volunteers. When food donations don’t cover needs, SOVA will buy items such as meats, eggs and peanut butter – protein is considered an essential – using donated funds, and buying in bulk at a discount. (Why large individual donations are better in cash.)

Most of those clients are among the working poor, with most or all of the adults working but at low-income jobs, and with large, often extended, families. They would rather not have to ask for help, but too often the food runs out before the next paycheck, or they have to choose between feeding their families or providing medicine. SOVA helps fill those gaps, and in a way to maintain their clients’ dignity. There is very little red tape: on their first visit clients provide a picture ID and a birth certificate for any children. They may need to show the ID on the second visit, but not after that. Clients work with a volunteer to select their own food, which is then bagged by another volunteer. People get only what they want and will use. If they have special needs, those are honored, whether the food needs to be vegan, gluten-free, kosher or some other special type. Everyone is given fresh fruit, vegetables, pastries and eggs.

With only two paid staff, SOVA is big on volunteerism. Hundreds of people of all ages work together each week to support the program and the community, including many former clients. With our diverse population, it can be very comforting for a client to find someone with whom they can talk in their own language and explain their needs, whether Russian, Armenian, Farsi, Korean or Spanish.

As supplies permit, SOVA gives a book or two to the kids who come with their parents for food, figuring that people who don’t have money for food are not buying books, either. Literacy is a key skill for elevating people out of poverty.

One way SOVA earns money for its programs is by renting out pre-made centerpieces – lovely wood, copper or woven wicker “baskets of hope” filled with non-perishable food items, wrapped in cellophane and tied with ribbon – for organizations or individuals to use at parties. They cost less than many other decoration choices, and the cost is tax-deductible. (We used SOVA’s centerpieces at last year’s District Foundation Luncheon.) After the event, the baskets are delivered to families in need.

In thanking Maxine for her presentation, Jim noted that his Masonic Lodge had donated over 20,000 pounds of food to SOVA. He said they also spend \$20,000 each month for food, up from \$10,000 just a few years ago, and still can’t keep up with the demand.

If you would like to volunteer or know someone who needs their help, SOVA’s Valley office is at 16439 Vanowen St. in Van Nuys; phone 818-988-7682; website <http://www.jfsla.org>. They are closed Saturdays and Thursdays, and have limited hours of operation, so call or check their website before going. Donations can also be made online. You can reach Maxine at 818-988-7682 ext. 116, or by email to MMeyer@jfsla.org.

Don gave Maxine a book to sign for Casa Esperanza and Martha gave her a certificate of appreciation along with information about Rotary.



Martha Stulman, Don Reinken and Maxine Meyer

Happy Bucks

Thank you to everyone who contributed to Happy Bucks today, including PDG Les whose birthday is this week – but paid to have us sing only “To you”!

Opportunity Drawing

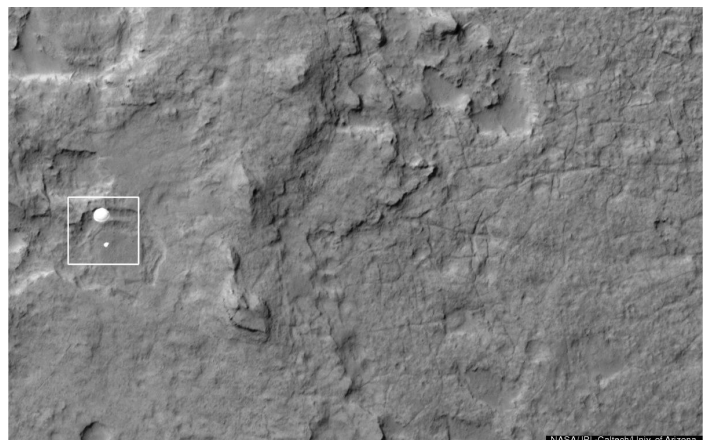
This week Ron Wolf won half of the \$90 pot.

Notable Quotables:

“The most dangerous of all falsehoods is a slightly distorted truth. Georg Christoph Lichtenberg, scientist and philosopher (1742-1799)

“If you want to build a ship, don’t drum up people together to collect wood and don’t assign them tasks and work, but rather teach them to long for the endless immensity of the sea.” Antoine de Saint-Exupery, author and aviator (1900-1945)

The success of longing for the heavens...



Parachute dropping Curiosity safely on Mars 8/5/12

Meeting Information for Nearby Clubs

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

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, <http://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.
Coco's on Victory and Topanga
Topanga

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

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

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

President Van Nuys Rotary Foundation:

Donald Fetherolf

Director, Public Relations

Raul Castillo

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 818-788-883

New Generations Co-chairs:

Rosielee Jones W 818-782-0022

Mauricio Aranda W 818-634-4043

Vocational Chair:

Programs Chair:

Mauricio Aranda W 818-634-4043

Sgt. at Arms:

Beth Ullman
17426 Napa St.
Northridge, CA 91325