

Rotary International  
1998  
**Rotary  
International**  
Convention  
Program



14-17 June 1998

The 89th Annual Convention  
of Rotary International

Indiana Convention Center  
and RCA Dome

Indianapolis, Indiana, USA



**Sid Liberman 1998 - 1999**



*President  
Sid  
1998-1999*

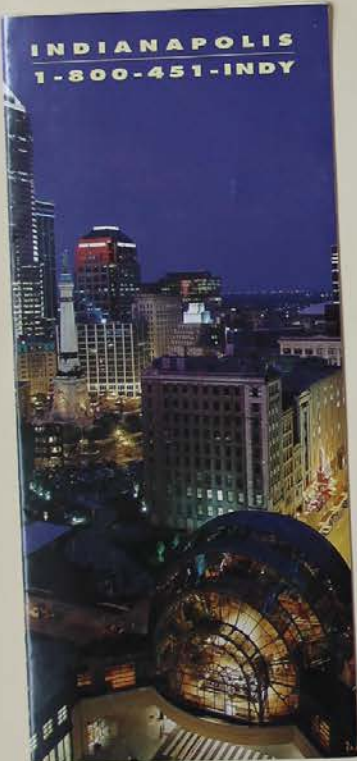


**indy**

**SURROUNDING INDIANAPOLIS**



**Indiana Welcomes Rotary!**



*Baebna  
Liberman  
in  
Indianapolis  
June 1998*





De Ott and Sharon Auel



Doug and Eileen Wieber



**THE STAR**  
TUESDAY  
JULY 21, 1998  
**SECTION B**  
Bureau chief:  
Tom Pfeifer,  
581-6719



## Festival sponsors seek site

**SIMI VALLEY:** They are looking for ideal grounds, since old spot is being sold for development.

By Dana Bartholomew  
Staff writer

Festival sponsors are searching for fresh grass since the ideal grounds for staging gala events are being sold to an out-of-town developer.

Such fetes as the Cajun Creole Festival and Country Music Festival, in addition to the Simi Valley Lesbian and Gay Pride Festival, have been celebrated at Los Angeles and Surveyor avenues.

But organizers have been wondering since June where to move such events when the three-acre site, owned by Wells Fargo Bank, is sold to an Anaheim company with plans to develop the property.

Wells Fargo has allowed free use of its park to community organizations such as the Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise for years.

"I'm concerned, because it's such an excellent site — with grass and trees, its good size, its fencing, (and parking)," said Rotary member and Councilman Paul Miller. "It has everything going for it."

"I hope the new owners would consider allowing us to continue to use it."

If the property clears escrow, the land will be turned over to Louis Schmid of Schmid Development, based in Anaheim. Company officials said there has been no discussion about whether to contribute the property for festival use.

"He has talked about possibly doing development on that area," said Sae Johnson of Jones Lang Wooten, the property management company that manages the site.

What worries festival sponsors is the shortage of land in Simi Valley suitable to staging local fund-raisers. Grass is a requirement, they say, as is fencing to keep out gate crashers.

Because public land lacks fencing and poses regulatory restraints, staging a Cajun Creole Festival on park land would be difficult, they say.

"Whether the property is sold or not, we'll find a place for it," said Paul Erickson, head of a Rotary committee recently formed to find a new festival site.

Erickson said the committee may again consider pooling resources with other nonprofits to buy a festival site, an idea that's been discussed for years.

Or it may ask about using the planned site of a future mall, currently being bulldozed at First Street and Highway 118 for Simi Valley Days, for its Cajun Creole and Country Festivals.

Rotarians also will ask the new owner for continued use of the land.

"Aside from that, we're back to the drawing board," Erickson said.

Wednesday, July 8, 1998 S.M The Star

### COUNTY

#### Simi Sunrise wins Rotary competition

The Simi Sunrise Rotary Club won the Best Rotary Club Award in Rotary District No. 5240, which includes approximately 54 Rotary clubs in the counties of Ventura, Kern, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo.

The Rotary Club of Ventura-East came in third in the competition. In addition, the Rotary Club of Ventura-East received the Service-Above Self Award for the International Projects Conference in Ensenada, Mexico, in October. It was co-sponsored with the Rotary Club of Tijuana-La Mesa.

Other awards received by the Ventura club include the Super Club Award, which requires achievement in 11 categories; the President's Citation Award; and the District Governor's Foundation Award.

Children's Chorus Indianapolis





"We hope it never gets used, but unfortunately we know it will."

— Judy Mikels, county supervisor



Staff photo by Joseph A. Garcia

**CARE AND COUNSELING:**  
Ventura County Supervisor Judy Mikels, left, chats with Amy Zuccherro, right, rape crisis program manager with the Ventura County Coalition to End Domestic Violence, during the inauguration Monday for the new Medical-Legal sexual assault room, serving the eastern county, at Simi Valley Hospital. In 1997, 195 women countywide received treatment for sexual assault.

## Opening of treatment center alleviates long trip

**SEXUAL ASSAULT: Victims need only to venture to Simi Hospital for help.**

By Dana Bartholomew  
Staff writer

Rape victims in east Ventura County will receive quicker medical care and counseling thanks to a newly opened examination room at Simi Valley Hospital.

The opening of the East County Sexual Assault Treatment Center Monday was celebrated by officials who credited service groups in Simi Valley for raising the necessary funds.

"The objective is to get care and comfort for the victims quickly," County Supervisor Judy Mikels said. "We hope it never gets used, but unfortunately we know it will."

"And now we'll be able to serve the people in the east end of the county."

The \$30,000 emergency room facility, operated in conjunction with specially trained staff from Ventura County Medical Center, will provide medical legal exams to gather evidence for prosecution.

Counselors will also be on hand to lend emotional support.

"We're very happy to be able to provide support for the sexual assault victims in the area," said Cecilia

Cuevas of the Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence. Previously, Ventura County Medical Center had the only facility capable of performing such examinations, often forcing rape victims from the east county to travel 40 miles in the back of a police car for an exam.

"We finally see the opportunity to stop the sexual assault victim from further trauma," Police Chief Randy Adams declared.

Adams said an average of 24 rape victims a year from Simi Valley are currently served at VCMC.

Add victims from Moorpark, Thousand Oaks and unincorporated county areas and the new treatment center

will likely serve about 50 people a year, Adams said.

In Ventura County, 195 women received treatment for sexual assault in 1997.

Monday's celebration took place in the hospital cafeteria and was attended by county, city and health-care officials in addition to representatives of service groups that had contributed to the center.

Contributors include Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise, Kiwanis Club of Santa Susana, Ventura County Medical Resource Foundation, Peace Officers Association of Ventura County and Women's Council, Building Industry Association of Greater Los Angeles.

## Sex-crime exam room gets funds

Simi Valley Hospital to open treatment facility in August

By Lisa Mascaro  
Daily News Staff Writer

**SIMI VALLEY** — A new examination room for victims of sexual abuse will open next month at Simi Valley Hospital, said officials who presented donations for the center Tuesday.

The room, scheduled to open now that grants from local service organizations have been secured, will be used to examine victims of rape, child abuse or other sexual crimes who previously had to make the drive to Ventura County Medical Center for the procedure.

"It's ridiculous that rape victims or child-abuse victims have to travel 45 minutes," said Simi Valley Councilman Paul Miller, a member of the Kiwanis Club of Santa Susana, one of the groups donating funds for the center Tuesday.

"This is something we have wanted for a long time," Miller added. "It's finally come together, and I'm very happy about that."

The \$22,000 room, organized through county Supervisor Judy Mikels, was funded by the Kiwanis Club, Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise, Ventura County Medical Resource Foundation, Peace Officers Association of Ventura County and the Los Angeles Building Industry Association's Women's Council.

The room has been planned for the Simi Valley Hospital emergency department, where it was to open in June, but will open next month now that funding is secured.

Police and health-care officials have long been concerned about the added stress to sexual-assault victims who have had to make the trip to Ventura, often in a patrol car, for the health examination that follows a sex crime.

Establishing a local center, they say, could help residents from throughout the east county communities of Simi Valley, Thousand Oaks, Moorpark and Camarillo by reducing an already traumatic situation.

The final donations were presented to the hospital Tuesday during a Kiwanis club meeting in Simi Valley.

"We're very pleased that we're a part of the service," said hospital spokeswoman JoLynn de la Torre. "Most of us have been waiting a long time for this service to become a reality."

A spokesman for Mikels said it is among the growing services east county residents need.

"It's been an ongoing endeavor to bring... services to the east county," said Keith Jajko, an aide to the supervisor. "This is just one example of the kind of services the east county should have."

"This is just one example of the kind of services the east county should have."

— Keith Jajko  
Aide to county Supervisor Judy Mikels

THE  
STAR

FRIDAY  
SEPT. 4, 1998

SECTION B

Bureau chief:  
Karen Hildon,  
581-6719



## Mayor paints rosy picture at end of term

**STATE OF SIMI: Stratton stresses shopping, housing, infrastructure in informal address to Rotary.**

By Karen Hildon  
Staff writer

The year 2000 seemed a "long way away" when Simi Valley Mayor Greg Stratton took office in 1986.

The millennium is almost here, but for the city, he says, it will be business as usual.

Stratton, who's not seeking re-election in November, painted a rosy profile of the state of the city Thursday morning in an informal address to members of the Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise.

"The economic base of the community continues to grow," Stratton said, noting the addition of the Wal-Mart, Office Depot and Home Depot development in the west end and the developing center near City Hall where a theater and TGI Fridays restaurant will be attractions.

Stratton stressed the \$1 million city effort to revitalize the Tapo Street area by adding lighting and landscape enhance-

ments to attract new business. Still looming on the horizon is the long-awaited mall. "I suspect in the next two years we will see a mall breaking ground," Stratton said.

But, he stressed, there's still the need for "distributed shopping around town so we can keep (existing) businesses viable."

"The demand for shopping in this city is tremendous," Stratton said.

Keeping residents shopping here is the challenge. "Studies continue to show that we leak like a sieve in terms of where people are shopping," the mayor said.

In addition to commercial growth, the city is experiencing a resurgence of housing development.

"We implemented growth control 10 or 12 years ago, but the last five or six years we didn't need it because no one was building," he said. "As the economy is coming back, they are starting to build."

The infrastructure of the community continues to improve with projects like the major overlay of Cochran, Stearns and Alamo. By mid-October, the extension road linking First Street with the Long Canyon development in Wood Ranch is expected to open.

Two-hundred affordable senior housing units are slated to open this fall. Support for the Cultural Arts Center is continuing, and the city, sparked by need after the 1994 Northridge quake, has developed a citywide Geographic Information System.

Leading the city's move into next century is the state-of-the-art \$3,000-square-foot police station at Alamo Street and Tapo Canyon Road. The \$14 million facility is expected to open this fall, with dedication ceremonies set for Oct. 10 — the 25th anniversary of the city's incorporation.



September 11, 1998

TO: Impact II Business Partners  
FROM: Kerry Roscoe, Coordinator KR  
Impact II Program

Thank you again for your support of the 1998 IMPACT II program. Enclosed is the latest catalog of the IMPACT II grant recipients' innovative curriculum ideas. Copies are sent to schools countywide so every teacher can have access to these ideas. They will also be available through the County Schools Office website.

Thanks to you, our business partners, this past year has been a good one. We had 35 donors, and with that support we were able to fund 28 individual and team grants.

The Ventura County Star as a title business partner has given the IMPACT II program and your businesses expanded exposure with quarter page ads during the year and a two page centerfold featuring the teachers and their business partners at awards time. We are working with several chambers of commerce who will include our flyer in their mailings and feature articles on the IMPACT II business partners in their newsletters. We also have pictures available to use in your in-house publications.

Classroom visits by some of the business partners have been growthful and informative for all concerned. If you have not already done so, we encourage you to take advantage of that opportunity with your grant recipient.

Your continued support is important to the IMPACT II program. We hope that again this year your company will make an impact on education.

Mark your calendars: Our first business partners meeting will be 7:30 a.m. on Wednesday, October 14 At the Ventura County Superintendent of Schools Office, 5189 Verdugo Way, Camarillo in the Superintendent's Conference Room.

KR:cc  
Enc.

"Commitment to Quality Education for All"

## Two clubs win award for Rotary projects

**HELPING OUT:** Efforts of organizations help them receive national recognition.

From staff reports

The Rotary Club of Simi Valley and the Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise were presented with community service awards for their volunteer efforts.

The honors were bestowed upon the two organizations during the Camp Rotary dedication ceremonies Oct. 17.

"It is my distinct pleasure to present the two hard-working volunteer groups with the National Recreation and Park Association's special contributor citation," said Jim Meredith, chairman of the Rancho Simi Open Space Conservation Agency.

The national award included the words "For outstanding contributions over many years which have enhanced the park and recreation opportunities for the citizens of Simi Valley."

The two rotary clubs and their Camp Rotary project had to compete against dozens of other similar worthwhile projects submitted by public agencies from all over the United States, Meredith said. The award is one of several given out annually.

"The fact that the Camp Rotary project was chosen from the best of the best testifies to the merits of this project and the people who made it happen," Meredith said.

Camp Rotary, which is funded by the Sunrise Rotary Club of Simi and the Rotary Club of Simi Valley, will be directing outdoor education sessions in an open-air pavilion for fourth, fifth and sixth graders. The education program will also entail hikes through the recently opened park and include a historical overview of the old Corriganville movie ranch.

Each club was also presented with an annual Board of Directors Award from the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District.

The award is given periodically to individuals and groups who display distinguished and sustained achievement in recreational service to the community, said Gene Hostetler, park district chairman.

"This is the first time the district has presented two Board of Directors in one year," Hostetler said. "Because of the unusual partnership between the two clubs and because of the magnitude of the project, the board decided to award both rotary clubs with the district's highest award."

Friday, Oct. 16, 1998 S.M The Star

### Public invited to Camp Rotary

The grand opening of Camp Rotary is planned for 10:30 a.m. Saturday at Corriganville Park off Smith Road in Simi Valley's far east end.

The camp, which will offer area young people an outdoor experience, is a project of the Simi Sunrise and Simi Valley Nontime Rotary clubs and is scheduled for use soon. The public is invited to Saturday's opening.

Special guest speaker will be Joyce Mahdavian, new superintendent of the Simi Valley Unified School District.

Once inside Corriganville Park, Camp Rotary is a short walk from the east end parking lot.

### News 118

Handicapped transportation will be provided.

COUNTY

Sunday, Oct. 18, 1998 EC The Star

## Rotary club sets up camp for kids at 'perfect place' after three tries

By Alicia Doyle  
Staff writer

The third time was a charm for Simi Valley's Rotary clubs.

Though their goal to create a camp for youth didn't work out the first two times, finding the right spot was well worth the wait.

"It was a blessing in disguise," said Skip Faria of the Rotary Club of Simi Valley. "We ultimately got the best location. This is the perfect place."

Parents, children, city and school officials and other community members gathered Saturday for the grand opening of Camp Rotary, an urban campground that provides kids with a serene and inspirational environment.

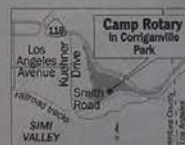
The camp is a joint venture of the Rotary Club of Simi Valley and the Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise. It enables youth to encounter the beauty of nature, learn the concepts of ecology and be exposed to concepts that encourage decision-making and character-building which will reinforce positive life directions, said John Shanahan of the Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise.

"It's a great learning environment for them," said Shanahan, who is the camp's co-chairman along with Faria. "It's been a lot of hard work. But we're happy to see it finally come together."

Camp Rotary is located within a portion of Corriganville Park, which is owned by the Rancho Simi Open Space Conservation Agency (RSOSCA). RSOSCA is a joint venture with the city of Simi Valley and the Rancho Simi Recreation and Parks District. The park is operated and maintained by the parks district.

Both Rotary clubs have obtained a 10-year lease with RSOSCA with an option to renew for an additional 10 years. In return, the Rotary clubs are to provide \$150,000 worth of improvements, including an open-sided educational center and barbecue sites.

"We need to have options, we need to have support and we need to have activities for them."



The project is funded with a Community Development Block grant of \$50,000 awarded by the city of Simi Valley. A \$20,000 matching grant from Rotary International has been obtained, which includes funds from Club Rotario Celaya and Club Rotario Nat-Tia-Hi in Mexico. The balance is expected to come from donations.

Educational programs under way include ecology, astronomy, physical training, survival skills, Indian culture and international cooperation. A significant element is intended to promote self-esteem among at-risk youth and provide an alternative to the gang lifestyle.

Joyce Mahdavian, Simi Valley's new superintendent of schools and Saturday's guest speaker, praised the efforts of those who brought the project to fruition.

"It's sensational to have these options for our children," she said.

COUNTY

Saturday, Oct. 17, 1998 S.M The Star

## Rotary scholar back to say thanks

**FROM NAMIBIA:** Sally Aaron is special guest at gathering during Simi Valley visit.

By Nancy Needham  
Correspondent

She was in town for only a week, but Sally Aaron knew she had to visit some very special friends.

The 26-year-old college student, a 1990 Royal High School graduate, was here recently for a wedding and to visit her parents, Bill and Patty Aaron, 30-year Simi Valley residents.

In addition, the young woman was the special guest at an informal gathering of members of the Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise. Her mission: to thank the group for helping to make Namibia, Africa, her new home.

Aaron is the recipient of a Rotary Club Ambassadorial Scholarship that paid a year's tuition, room and board and air fare so she could study international development at the University of Namibia.

"The scholarship is very hard to get and is worth about \$22,000," said Simi Valley Rotarian Jim Lowery, at whose home the gathering was held.

Aaron attested her appreciation for the opportunity provided by the Rotary Club. She loves living in Africa, she said.

"Where I live there are modern conveniences, but close by there are people living in grass huts," Aaron said.

At the university she studies traditional religions so that she can better follow her passion and serve the people who live in developing countries, she said.

With her scholarship year up, Aaron plans to stay another year in Namibia, serving an internship for International Public Health, a group involved in public marketing.

"We provide necessities to the needy at prices they can afford," Aaron said. Needs include condoms, vitamins, mosquito netting, oral contraceptives and female condoms, she said.

Aaron is the first ambassadorial scholar sponsored by the Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise.

"Many people apply worldwide for the Rotary Club Ambassadorial Scholarships and the competition for them is very tough," said Sid Liberman, Sunrise president.

"A 4.0 means nothing. That's not enough. It's what else you've done to pursue your goals," Liberman said.

The opportunity is worth applying for if a student wants to study abroad, he added. "It's an educational experience that can't be matched anywhere else."





# SIMI VALLEY

## Volunteer ready to fight malaria

**OTTO AUSTEL: He and a fellow Rotarian will go to Africa for abatement effort.**

By Alexandra Lin  
Staff writer

After decades of volunteer service locally and abroad, Dr. Otto Austel is still fighting vigorously for the causes he holds particularly dear.

Austel, 69, a longtime Simi Valley resident, and fellow Rotarian Dick Strayer, 64, are planning to travel to Africa next month as part of a malaria abatement effort — one of many humanitarian projects with which Austel and Rotary International are involved.

Representatives from Rotary Clubs from Indianapolis, Brazil and New Zealand will join the two men for the trip tentatively set

for Dec. 2.

As district Malaria Project Chair for Rotary, Austel is leading the charge to establish a mosquito net industry in Namibia, Mozambique and Angola. The nets, dipped in insecticide, are the most effective way to prevent malaria, Austel said.

Mozambique and Angola have the highest death rates from malaria in Africa, Strayer said.

The hope of Rotarians is that the nets can be imported from Thailand and distributed and sold around the most affected areas.

"We have to ensure (the nets don't) get sidetracked by the powers in the country," Strayer said. "There are a lot of logistics that have to be worked out."

In 1996, 2.7 million people died of malaria.

"We're trying to sensitize the world that

Malaria is a problem," Austel said. "We want to educate the population about a program that has shown to be effective."

The disease kills about 2,800 children a day in Africa, according to research conducted by an international coalition of scientists from Canada, England and the World Health Organization's Research and Training in Tropical Disease team. Studies of 200,000 people in Ghana and Kenya also indicate that sleeping under treated mosquito nets could save 500,000 children in those two countries each year from killing the parasite that causes malaria.

"We're becoming more of a world community," Austel said. "We have a responsibility worldwide."

Austel knows well the horror of Malaria. In 1959, while Austel was visiting central Brazil for the first time as a missionary and linguist, his 8-year-old son contracted

malaria and died.

In most cases the victims are young children.

Symptoms of the disease include fever, chills, muscle aches, vomiting and headaches. In some cases, the liver and kidneys fail, the person goes into convulsions and may lapse into a coma and die.

"If you don't die, you wish you would," Austel said.

Since malaria cannot yet be eradicated, abatement is the next best thing.

"If the entire population of the U.S. were killed do you think people would take notice?" asked Austel, noting the number of people worldwide who have died from the disease in the past few years.

Austel says the Rotarians don't want to take the place of government agencies but would like to assist in those areas where help doesn't reach the people who need it.

The Rotary Club of Simi Valley, CA USA  
The Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise, CA USA  
Rotary District 5240, CA USA  
and  
Club Rotario Celaya, Mexico  
Club Rotario Nat-Tha-Iti, Mexico  
Distrito Rotario 4160, Mexico

Proudly Present  
The Dedication of

## CAMP ROTARY



Saturday, October 17, 1998  
10:30 AM

Corriganville Park  
Simi Valley, California

"SERVICE ABOVE SELF"

Our Times (from tables)

2 Monday, November 16, 1998

### BRIEFLY

#### Free Thanksgiving dinner offered

If you have no other plans for Thanksgiving or don't want to be alone, you are invited to attend a free Thanksgiving dinner from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Nov. 23 at the Simi Valley Senior Center, 3900 Avenida Simi, Simi Valley.

The dinner is sponsored by the Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise, the Simi Valley Police Department's Reserve Unit and Simi Valley Council on Aging.

Transportation is available through Dial-A-Ride by calling 583-6464 no later than Nov. 24. For more information, call 583-6363.

## Volunteers reach out to needy

**SHARING: Church serves up food and holiday cheer to homeless and hungry.**

By Alexandra Lin  
Staff writer

No one was going to go without a hot meal or eat alone if some Simi Valley residents had their way on this Thanksgiving.

Homeless and those who would otherwise spend the holiday alone gathered Thursday at St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church in Simi Valley.

The Banks and Karim families rolled up their sleeves for the second year to help the needy. Jalal Banks, his wife, Pary Chah, and son, Nader, along with Jim Karim and wife, Orlan, and their son, Rames, were up at 7 a.m. preparing to serve about 100 meals.

Church parishioners and Samaritan Center volunteers also pitched in.

"As a foreign student I was invited to American homes for Thanksgiving every year. I decided to say 'America thank you,'" said Banks, a Westlake Village resident who is originally from Iran.

"We love it," said Jim Karim of Thousand Oaks, who was also a foreign student from Iran.

"It's a pleasure — we feel at least we're giving something back," Karim



**FOOD FOR A FRIEND:** Cindi Barnett shares leftovers with a friend's dog.

said. Those who had no one to spend the holiday with were thankful for the meal.

"My kids are alive and well and healthy — and I've got a good man," said Pat Coatsy, a homeless woman who currently lives in her car. Coatsy has been interviewing recently for several jobs and is optimistic she will find something soon.

For Robert Jackson, a homeless man living out of a tent, the hot meal itself was greatly appreciated. "I'm certainly thankful for the dinner," he said.

On Wednesday night, a free Thanksgiving dinner at the Simi Valley Senior Center was sponsored by Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise, Simi Valley Police Reserve Unit and The Council on Aging. More than 300 seniors and homeless were served meals.

Among the dignitaries who volunteered to serve turkey with all the trim-

mings were Mayor-elect Bill Davis, Mayor Greg Stratton, Simi Valley School District Superintendent Joyce Mahdesian and State Sen. Cathie Wright.

"The support we got out of the community has been tremendous," said Sid Liberman, president of Simi Sunrise Rotary.

Before the front doors opened, an anonymous donor dropped off dozens of loaves of bread, pizzas, coffee, flowers and other items were donated by local businesses. The 12-member Santa Susana Jazz Combo provided music and Boy Scout Troops 618 and 622 made paper mache centerpieces for each table.

The police reserves had been sponsoring the dinners for eight years before approaching the Rotarians for their financial and volunteer support.

"That's part of what we do," Liberman said. "We raise money to give it away."

11/16/98 Simi Valley Star #83

## Seniors, those in need will get full dinner

**THANKSGIVING EVE: Simi Rotarians, Police Reserve Unit gear up to provide annual feast.**

From staff reports

A Thanksgiving Eve turkey dinner with all the trimmings will be dished up for senior citizens and the homeless, thanks to the continued generosity of the Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise and the Simi Valley Police Reserve Unit.

This is the eighth time for the event, which is slated Nov. 25 at the Simi Valley Senior Center, 3900 Avenida Simi. Dinner will be served from 5:30 to 8 p.m.

The dinner was launched by the reserve officers and two years ago the Rotarians stepped in to help. This year Rotary has taken the helm, assisted by the officers.

Free transportation to the dinner is available from the city's Dial-A-Ride service, but requests for rides must be received no later than Nov. 24. Call 583-6464 for a ride.

"This is a community event," said Barbara Liberman, dinner chairman. The project has received support from individuals and Simi Valley merchants.

"We are indeed a community that cares," Liberman said.

Turkeys for the dinner have been donated by Sen. Cathie Wright, R-Simi Valley and Technical Precision Products. Chicks at Mavericks and Home Town Buffet restaurants will cook the turkeys.

"Last year it rained and we

"Last year it rained and we didn't get as many people as expected, but this year we're hoping it will be dry and we get at least 300."

— Barbara Liberman, dinner chairman

didn't get as many people as expected, but this year we're hoping it will be dry and we get at least 300," Liberman said.

"We make sure we have plenty of food and keep going until we run out. This year, everybody will eat."

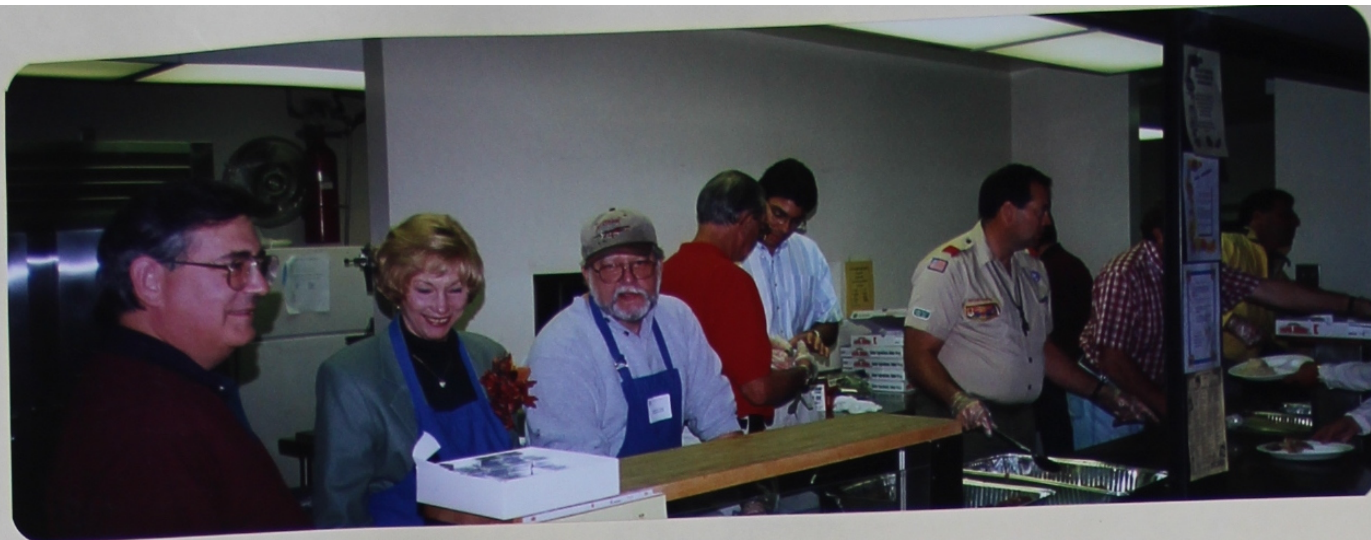
Members of Boy Scout troops 618 and 622 will be serving dinners, as will Mayor-elect Bill Davis, Police Chief Randy Adams, members of City Council and other community leaders.

This year each table will include a centerpiece created by Michael's Flowers, and entertainment has been added. Students from the Santa Susana High School instrumental music program will perform throughout the evening.

## Operation Thanksgiving Turkeys







## Commendations

Tuesday, Dec. 8, 1998

EC

The Star

### Special evening

On Thanksgiving eve, the Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise and the Simi Valley Police Reserves sponsored a Thanksgiving dinner for the seniors and the homeless at the Simi Valley Senior Center. I want to thank Mayor Greg Stratton, Mayor-elect Bill Davis, Councilman-elect Glen Becerra, state Sen. Cathie Wright, Supervisor Judy Mikels and Superintendent of Schools Joyce Mahdesian for their assistance in serving the more than 300 people that evening.

I also want to thank the

various individuals and merchants for their time, efforts and contributions that were made to make the dinner a success: McDonald's (Yosemite), Coco's, Marie Callender's, Hometown Buffet, Maverick's Restaurant, The Big Oooh, El Patio Restaurant, Java Island, Schwan's Ice Cream, Smart & Final, Vons (Tapo), the Clarion Hotel, Michael's Flowers, Papa John's Pizza and Technical Precision Products.

Very special thanks goes to the Boy Scouts of America, who served, cleaned up and assisted the elderly in getting their food, drinks and desserts. And another big thank you to the students of Santa Susana High School who provided entertainment all evening long. We had a

wonderful evening thanks to the communitywide support we received.

— **Barbar Liberman,**  
chairwoman for the Rotary Club  
of Simi Sunrise





District Governor 1998-1999

Sunae Doh



ChungSam Doh



Sid Liberman



Miller Vargas

Steve Smith



William Walter (What's to eat?)



Tim Lowry

Paul Miller



John Shanahan

Sid

Jesse



Dennis & Phyllis Barber

Jesse Shanahan



Carol Hoppe

Cynthia Wells





# Holiday Party



Dana  
Neumann

Elaine  
Freeman

Beverly  
McGrath



Kathy  
Lowry  
George  
& Ann  
Bereau



Max  
Brue  
Michelle  
Foster  
Linda  
Bereau



Rodney  
Linda  
Michelle



Roma Marvin  
Richardson



Rodney &  
Michelle  
Skidmore



Gregg & Sharon  
Hartman



Alex & Janet  
Gardel



Rodney

George Kerr



Maggie  
Kestly



Jim Lowry



Linda Brue



Mike  
Nellis







# SIMI VALLEY

## Rotary club launches specialized library

Center will provide people with learning disability resources in an effort to 'stamp out illiteracy in the world'

By Alicia Doyle  
Staff writer

Children and adults affected with learning disabilities will soon be able to tap into a variety of informational materials when a Learning Disability Resource Library comes to town.

The specialized library, launched by the Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise, will provide resources with the most recent information about learning disabilities including dyslexia, attention deficit disorder and other conditions. Video and audio tapes, as well as books on these subjects, will be made available through the Simi Valley Library.

"These are materials that will go into a public library so anyone can check them out,"

said Douglas Wieben, past district governor of Rotary District 5240 and a member of Simi Sunrise.

The idea for the project was sparked about two years ago when Wieben was the Rotary district governor attending a district conference. It was there he discovered a resource program that would help people with learning disabilities.

The library project was later funded through a Rotary International Humanitarian Literacy Matching Grant, which was funded with contributions from Rotarians of Korea District 3720, Bolivia District 4690, the Rotary International Matching Grant Fund and the Simi Sunrise Rotary Club.

About \$32,000 was raised to provide 32 libraries with learning disabilities materials,

Wieben said.

The goal of the program, he said, is simple. "We want to stamp out illiteracy in the world."

The material is expected to be available to the public at the Simi Valley Library some time this spring.

Dale Redfield, Simi Valley Library principal librarian, said inquiries about learning disabilities are common.

"Some of the most critical questions we get are from families trying to help their children get through problems they're having in learning," Redfield said. Though the library has some resources available addressing such issues, "it's really hard to keep materials in the library because they are so popular. To have supplemental material will really be an

asset."

For Michelle Foster, the program hits close to home. The mother of a child with learning disabilities, Foster said the library will provide a much needed service.

"There's a huge need for resources for families or adults with learning disabilities," said Foster, a Rotary club member whose 10-year-old daughter has multiple learning disabilities.

"As a parent, this means there is one more place where I can get information so I can best help my daughter," Foster said. "If you don't know where to look, it becomes very difficult and you feel very isolated. If you know there are resources out there available, it makes you that much more empowered to help your child."

### Read all about it

**WHAT** Learning Disability Resource Library dedication ceremony. The library will provide resources on learning disabilities such as dyslexia and attention deficit disorder.

**WHEN** 11:30 a.m. Thursday.

**WHERE** Simi Valley Library, 2969 Tapo Canyon Road.

COUNTY

Tuesday, April 13, 1999 S.M The Star

### Club News

SIMI VALLEY

#### Rotary District No. 5240 Assembly

This year's District No. 5240 Assembly will be held at the Radisson Hotel in Simi Valley.

The main purpose of the District Assembly is to prepare the incoming Rotary leaders for their role in 1999-2000 Rotary year.

The keynote speaker will be Otto Austel, district governor 1999-2000.

Rotary District includes 56 Clubs, located in the counties of Ventura, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo and Kern.

Also attending the Assembly this year will be members of Interact Clubs (for boys and girls of high-school age) and of Rotaract Clubs (for men and women between the ages 18 and 25).

The Assembly will be held April 23 and 24.

The schedule for April 23 is: A golf tournament at Simi Hills, 10 a.m. (fee is \$45); a barbecue at Corriganville Movie Lot, 4:30 p.m.

The schedule for April 24 is: Breakfast, 7:30 to 8:30 a.m.; District Assembly, including total group and committee meetings, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. (registration fee is \$39); Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum reception, dinner and special tour, 4:30 to 9 p.m.

For any additional information on the assembly call George Berrow, registrar, at 522-3970 or at [www.rotarydistrict5240.org](http://www.rotarydistrict5240.org).

THE ROTARY CLUB OF SIMI SUNRISE &  
THE SIMI VALLEY POLICE RESERVE UNIT  
ARE GRATEFUL  
TO ALL THE CONTRIBUTORS TO THE THANKSGIVING EVE DINNER AT  
THE SIMI VALLEY SENIOR CENTER

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A SPECIAL THANKS TO THE COUNCIL ON AGING FOR THE USE OF  
THEIR FACILITY

Sincerely,

*Colleen Janssen*  
Colleen Janssen  
Supervisor-Marketing and Volunteers

*Doug Gale*

Doug Gale  
Recreation Supervisor II  
Halloween Carnival Chairman





THE  
STAR

MONDAY  
MARCH 29, 1999

SECTION B

Bureau chief:  
Karen Hibdon,  
579-1946



# SIMI VALLEY

"Every year we try to sponsor one event that is just for the kids. And this year we decided to get the kids involved with spring and planting and have fun, too." — Roger Cogger, Rotarian



Staff photo by Rob Varela

**CAMP FUN:** Forrest Seeger, 4, left, Tyler Meyers, 5, and Bryce Seeger, 2, hop to the finish line, as Simi Valley Sunrise Rotary Club member Dennis Rast points the way during a spring celebration at Corriganville Park on Sunday sponsored by the Rotary Club of Simi Valley and its sister club the Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise.

## Clubs celebrate spring break

Young, old enjoy Camp Rotary barbecue, games at Corriganville

By S.L. Salomone  
Correspondent

Five-year-old Tyler Meyers went fishing at Corriganville Park Sunday and caught a glow-in-the-dark plastic centipede.

"Fishing for Treasures" was just one of the games children visiting Camp Rotary could take part in on the sunny, spring afternoon.

The event, a celebration of the beginning of spring break, was sponsored by the Rotary Club of Simi Valley and its sister club the Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise. The picnic and many of the games took place under the Rotary Pavilion in the park where Rotarians, their children and grandchildren gathered.

"Rotarians meet once a week, but the children never do," said Barbara Liberman, Rotarian in charge of the event. "This is a

great way for them to mingle with other children and because it's an outdoor affair, everybody has fun."

Using a fishing pole that had a plastic sandwich bag attached to the end of a fishing line, Tyler leaned back and cast the line into a tall cardboard box.

A teen-ager on the other side of the box filled the little bag with prizes.

"I got a pet," the delighted boy told his grandmother, Phyllis Grinstead. He also got a small, bright yellow, happy face top to spin.

Grandma showed him how to spin the top, after which, he shoved it into his pants pocket and ran to show Grandpa his new pet.

With food to eat and games to play for every age level, it was a perfect day. But with an eye to

safety, organizers invited the help of members of Simi Valley Boy Scout Troop 622, who were on hand to patrol the area for stray tots and snakes.

"It's a great day for everybody," said Scoutmaster J.R. Walworth. "Snakes like this kind of weather, too, but we haven't spotted anything so far."

The event started with a barbecue at about 1 p.m. With the sound of a train in the background, everybody, including the Scouts, sat down to a meal of hot dogs or burgers, chips and sodas, with pie for dessert.

Little Parker Wismar, 21 months, was not all that interested in lunch, however. Fascinated by tar oozing out of the railroad ties used as the steps to the pavilion, he had just had his hands washed.

"Oh, it was there, so he had to

touch it," said grandpa, former Simi Valley mayor, Greg Stratton. "He's been out here before and on nature walks. Kids love being outside."

By the time the games got under way at 2 p.m., roughly 50 people were in the park and about 20 youngsters were involved in the activities.

An egg hunt, using brightly colored plastic eggs, took place in a roped off area under the tall trees and a sack race got the little ones screaming with laughter.

The highlight of the afternoon was the planting of four, young oak trees.

"Every year, we try to sponsor one event that is just for kids," said Roger Cogger, Rotarian. "And this year we decided to get the kids involved with spring and planting and have fun, too."







# SIMI VALLEY

The Big Event

## Zesty food, music at weekend festival

Rotary Club's Cajun Creole event will feature authentic tastes, dance lessons and some hot musical acts

From staff reports

Authentic Cajun food and music are coming to Simi Valley this Memorial Day weekend.

The 10th annual Cajun Creole Music Festival, presented by the Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise, will have even more authentic Cajun and Creole food booths than before, and some spectacular bands, organizers say.

"Expect to dance and let your spirits go the Mardi Gras way," said Louis Kruglow, music festival chairman and member of the Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise. "It's a family, fun-filled event."

On Saturday, gates will open at 11 a.m. Music will run from noon to 8 p.m. The entertainment schedule includes Steve Reilly & the Mamou Playboys, Danny Pollard & California Cajun Orchestra, Crawdadboy, Boune Musique Zydeco Band and JT & Zydeco Zippers.

On Saturday and Sunday at noon, the Confederate Air Force will be presenting a fly-by demonstration that will coordinate with the live presentation of the "Star-Spangled Banner."

On Sunday, gates will open at 11 a.m. and music will run from noon to 7 p.m. The entertainment schedule includes Doug

Kershaw, Lisa Haley and the Zydecats, Joe Simien Memorial presented by Lisa Haley, plus Andre Thierry & Zydeco Magic.

Dance lessons will be interspersed between the live sets.

A safe and shaded area will be provided for children, where organized crafts and games will be available throughout the day. Children and adults will have the chance to make Mardi Gras masks, and take part in a Mardi Gras parade that will run through the festival park.

Authentic food to be served will include red beans and rice, crawfish, crab cakes, alligator on a stick and sweet potato pie.

"If you've never gone before, it's great, great fun," said Richard Shaw, one of several event organizers. "It's a great way to spend Memorial Day weekend."

The Cajun Creole Music Festival is presented each year by the Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise. In the past, the club has raised more than \$75,000, all of which goes directly to charitable organizations, locally, nationally and internationally.

Supporters include many volunteer Rotarians, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Explorers and the Simi Valley Police Department. Corporate sponsors supporting this year's festival are Simi Valley Star, AT&T

Wireless Services, Budweiser, Comcast Cablevision, Countrywide, Daily News, KHAY Radio, Los Angeles Times, Toyota Towne of Simi Valley and Wells Fargo Bank.

Tickets are \$10 at the gate. Children under 12, accompanied by a paying adult, will be admitted free. The festival is off Highway 118 in Simi Valley, off the Tapo Canyon off-ramp, south to Los Angeles Avenue.

For more information, call the Simi Sunrise hot line at 520-4894. You may also visit the Simi Sunrise Web site at simi2000.com/rotary/cajun.html.

THE STAR  
SUNDAY  
MAY 30, 1999

## Cajun and Creole Rhythms Spice Up Simi Festival

By MATT SURMAN  
SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

SIMI VALLEY—It sounds like a grade-school joke. How do you get an alligator on a stick?

On Sunday, the answer was easy. Just hop in line at the 10th annual Cajun Creole Music Festival in Simi Valley, where not only could you get the aforementioned reptile-on-a-stick, but also heaps of jambalaya, gumbo, oyster po' boys and a day full of turns on the dance floor.

On the crowded floor, seasoned old-timers in fringe and cowboy boots shared twirling space with young people sporting buzz cuts dancing

to the bobby zydeco and Cajun swing music played by such favorites as Doug Kershaw and Louisiana from Ventura.

Even lifelong Californians couldn't resist the lure of experiencing New Orleans' percolating southern charm.

"It gets you going, gets your toe tapping," said Tom Spumato of Simi Valley, who arrived in a Memorial Day outfit of red, white and blue, complemented by Mardi Gras beads.

"Everyone's mellow and cool."

Hosted by the Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise, proceeds from the annual event go to several charities. Organizers were expecting about

12,000 celebrants for the two-day event, hoping to raise about \$100,000.

"Every year it just gets bigger and better," said Louis Kruglow, a Rotary Club member and chairman of the event, who could have passed for Mardi Gras royalty in his tall hat and heavy layers of beads.

For Jerome Stevens, who with his partner runs Southern Delite's, a New Orleans-style caterer out of Santa Maria, the event was like a quick trip back home to Lafayette, La., where he grew up eating the kind of fare he now serves to Californians.

Please see FESTIVAL, B2

## Festival brings cajun tastes, sounds to Simi Valley

Creole event adds spice to afternoon

By S. L. Salamone  
Correspondent

With the spicy cuisine of Louisiana's bayous and cajun music to match, thousands of Simi Valley residents had a hot time on a cool day at the Cajun Creole Music Festival.

Cool weather that threatened rain did not deter families from the event Saturday. In its 10th year, the festival is the major fund-raiser organized by the Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise, with the proceeds going to local charities. The festival continues today.

The event is at the corner of Tapo Canyon Road and Los Angeles Avenue, and people had to park and then walk as much as a quarter of a mile to get to the entrance. Armed with blankets and lawn chairs, most came to stay the day.

"This is my fourth time here," said Mark Slotnick, sitting on the grass on a lawn chair, his children Max, 4, and Annie, 5, on a blanket around him. "We're here for the rest of the day. We go to New Orleans frequently and I can tell you this is a pretty authentic time."

With the weather looking like rain any second, J.J. and R.C. Jems, selling hats and hat accessories, said business wasn't exactly brisk.

"We've been here for six years," J.J. Jems said. "You never know what you're going to get. Last year, I think it did rain a bit and the year before, oh, it was just as hot as can be. We're just going to hang in there."

Craft booths sold everything from T-shirts and clothing to hair accessories and house decorations.

After about two hours of operation, the children's mask-making booth had seen 100 children.

"We do this every year," said Beverly McCormick, booth coordinator. "Sometimes the parents sit down with the children, but mostly the kids get to do this by themselves. After they finish their masks, we hang them to dry and then they can wear them in the parade we have in the afternoon."

Around the perimeter of the festival were the food booths. Everything hot and spicy you could ever wish for, from mouth-watering shrimp etouffee over mashed potatoes or rice to voodoo chicken and boiled crawdads.

And if that was too tame, there also was alligator-on-a-stick. For

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Staff photo by James Glover II

**SOUTHERN SOUND:** Les Soper, of Simi Valley, plays the washboard at the Cajun Festival in Simi Valley on Saturday. Soper is a member of a group called "Nostalgia Ragtime."

the kids there were the requisite hot dogs and hamburgers.

"I thought the alligator was icky," said Rory Zidel, 9, making a pretty icky face to emphasize his point. "But I had some sausage that was really good."

Besides the crafts and the food there was the music.

Highlights included appearances by the Ventura County band

Acadiana, JT and the Zydeco Zippers and Steve Riley and the Mamou Playboys, a Cajun band from south Louisiana.

"Cajun music has a real following," Jems said. "This festival practically doubles in size every year. That's why they've been able to get top quality entertainment. I know that's why I keep coming back."

B2 MONDAY, MAY 31, 1999 / VC

VENTURA



Photo by STEVEN WICKER / Los Angeles Times

Patty Nagel and dance partner Fritz Turner twirl to the beat of zydeco and Cajun music in Simi Valley.

## FESTIVAL: New Orleans Charm Lures Crowds

Continued from B1

"I grew up in the same neighborhood as all these zydeco stars," he said.

Zydeco and Cajun music, he notes, aren't necessarily the same thing. Zydeco is more bluesy, influenced by African American culture; Cajun leans toward country and western, he said.

"Both tell a story," he said. "They're history," a reminder of all the influences—Caribbean and French, country and blues—that created the regional culture.

Shrimp boils served up the Cajun and Creole classics: steaming ladles of spicy gumbo, thick with shrimp, chicken and ribs, and racks of ribs, with a sharp and tasty sting of heat. Stevens, of Creole descent, liked to taste the spices.

"We use a lot of cayenne pepper," he said of the Creole people, whose ancestors are African. "We like it hot."

And there was coffee, too, coated in sour cream, and grilled steers of ribs, and heaping helpings of red beans and rice.

In the balmy spring weather, many who attended were ventilated Panama hats or wore peacock feathers to keep cool, and cowboy boots or short skirts just right for spinning.

They swanned booths, eyeing jewelry and crafts. Their kids hopped in the inflated jump house, and fashioned Mardi Gras masks from left and glitter for an afternoon parade.

And even some of those who felt they had two left feet ventured onto the dance floor.

"I like to watch the dancers," said Clara Wilson of



Event chairman Louis Kruglow, draped with Mardi Gras beads, is all decked out for the 10th annual New Orleans-style music festival in Simi Valley.

Camacho, who stood in a twirling line waiting for a chance at a mound of boiled-red crawfish. "I'm not a good dancer, but I've been out there."

"They'll dance on this floor until the last moment," said Kruglow. "They're here until you have to ask them to leave, when the band's packing up and we're shutting down."

Packing up and shutting-down time was scheduled to be 7:30 p.m.

## Los Angeles Times

MONDAY  
MAY 31, 1999 VCCC

## HIGHLIGHTS

VENTURA COUNTY NEWS



SIMI VALLEY

**SOUTHERN CHARM:** With the help of Sydney Sexton, Alicia Noeman, Fritz Turner to the beat of zydeco and Cajun music at the Cajun Creole Music Festival. B1







# Kicking off summer fun



Our Times  
photos by B.C. HELM

Julie Baxter of Simi Valley, above, tries on a headdress at the 10th annual Cajun Creole Music Festival in Simi Valley. Festivalgoers enjoyed arts and crafts, live music and food. Above right, Les Soper of Simi Valley plays his "Improved washboard" for passers-by. At right, Peter Oliver of San Diego and Marilyn Kass of Los Angeles share a dance. The event was sponsored by the Rotary Club of Simi-Sunrise.



Rotary Infr. Booth

Ann B



Kids Booth







SID LIBERMAN'S DEMOTION  
THE BOOKWORM  
JUNE 1999



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