

ROTARY SPOKES

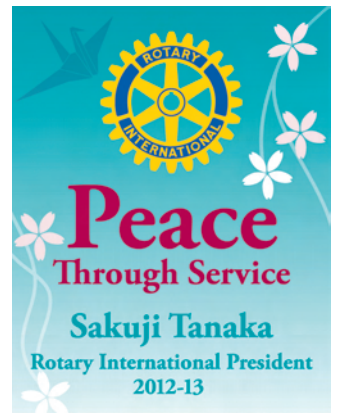
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Author Joan Blacher : “Solving the Mystery”

Joan Blacher, PhD, is our speaker today. Many may know Joan as longtime club member Norm Blacher’s better half, but today she appears before us as an accomplished author. Her topic is “Solving The Mystery: A Behind The Scenes Glimpse At How We Write Murder & Mayhem.”

Award winning author Dr. Joan Blacher, a licensed psychotherapist in private practice for the past nineteen years, is a former university professor and director of a counseling and guidance graduate program. She is the author of the mystery novels, Lethal Lake, Murder Canyon and co-author of Difficult Teens: A Parents Guide for Coping. Her works have been published in counseling and educational journals, mystery publications, magazines, newspapers, and she is a former member of a counseling journal’s editorial board. The California Association of Marriage Family Therapists awarded her the Carl Vincent Award for her literary contribution to mental health with the publication of Difficult Teens.



She has lectured and given workshops on writing, psychological and educational topics throughout the United States and has served on mystery writers’ panels. Radio appearances have included NPR interviews about dysfunctional and abusive families, difficult teens and mental health issues. She is a member of Sisters in Crime, Mystery Writers of America, the American Psychological Association and the California Association of Marriage Family Therapists. In addition, she has served on community boards that provide services to troubled children and families, including the Ventura County

Mental Health Board, where she served as its chair, and Interface Children and Family Services Board where she served as chair of its Council Against Domestic Abuse. She and Norm live in Somis, California among avocado and lemon orchards.

RI President Sakuji Tanaka: *Ichiban*

Early on in my year as president-elect, when I was in a meeting with Rotary staff members, I had with me a Japanese interpreter. I spoke in Japanese, and she interpreted what I said into English. We had a pleasant and productive meeting. After it was over, one member of the staff came up to me and asked, “There is one word I heard you use many times in Japanese. I would like to know what it means. What is the word *ichiban*?” I told her that *ichiban* in Japanese does not convey any philosophy or complicated thought. It simply means to be the best.

But it made me think. Of all the words I had used in Japanese, of all the words she had heard over and over, this was the word she had heard the most. I did not realize I had used it so often. But for me, that one word, *ichiban*, is essential to how I feel about my job as a Rotarian, and as president of RI.

For me, Rotary service means being *ichiban*. It means doing your best, and being the best you can be. It means working as hard as you can – not for yourself, but for others. It means achieving as much as you can, to make other people’s lives better.

In the dictionary, *ichiban* means “best.” But in Rotary, “best” means something different. It means bringing Service Above Self into all of your thinking. It means looking at your own effort, not in terms of what it costs you, but in terms of what it can give. In this way, we are inspired to do so much more. It is our job to see to it that our Rotary service is *ichiban* – so that we do the most we can to build Peace Through Service.

Recap of March 27, 2013 meeting

As part of his invocation and introductions, Dave Loe called up a bible passage, "Judge not lest ye be judged." Which Dave seemed to turn into an indictment of Ron Bamieh; in jest, of course. RoseAnn Hill led us in a patriotic song.

President Indy regrettably announced the resignation of Rosa Lee Measures, who is moving to the Palm Springs area to better care for her beloved Albert. Rosa Lee joined the Club in 1997 by Sherry Scott and served as Club president in 2003-04. Rosa Lee has always been the most enthusiastic of Rotarians and personally brought in three dozen new Rotarians! She will be splitting time between the desert and Ventura, so we will be able to see her at the club from time to time. We wish the best for Rosa Lee and Albert!

President Indy then recounted the sometimes turbulent history of Rotary and women. The 1987 Supreme Court decision allowing the inclusion of women in Rotary changed the organization for the better. For Ventura Rotary, the momentous day was September 1, 1987, when Roger Case brought in Felice Ginsberg as the first woman member. Felice would also become our first woman president in 1995. Indy then thanked Ellyn Dembowski, Kristin Taylor, Sheila Fatarelli, Connie Young, and Betsy Chess for their contributions to our club.

RoseAnn Hill fined concerning a video about believing in yourself. The video is about a Persian Gulf War veteran who was essentially immobile at 300 lbs. Through working out and support from a personal trainer, he was able to overcome his disabilities and become fully functional. RoseAnn has followed a similar path, having lost over 50 pounds and now running half-marathons. She thanked members of the Club for their support.

The final Polio Plus football pool was won by Hutch Hutchinson who received a Paul Harris Fellow.

Program

Dale Jaedtke introduced Victor Cai, president of Ventura Rotaract Club, who shared a visual presentation of his club's international project in Playa Gigante, Nicaragua. Three Rotaractors, a couple of friends and one Rotarian (Dale, who is our club's advisor to Rotaract) travelled to the Central American nation to provide humanitarian

Today's Agenda

Joan Blacher

"Solving The Mystery: A Behind The Scenes Glimpse At How We Write Murder & Mayhem"

Introductions
Mystery

Rotary Moment
Barbara Fitzgerald

Fining
Kristin Taylor



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assistance. With a donation of \$1,000.00 from Ventura Rotary, they purchased backpacks and Health and Education school supplies for a remote rural school. They also spent time repairing the school desks, outhouses and the school well. They also worked on an art project with the children, played baseball and held a big pig roast for all the town children.

In addition to continuing working with the area schools, future projects that the Rotaractors want to focus on include building footbridges, since the dirt roads are easily compromised by frequent rains; establishing a health clinic in the town of Playa Gigante, as well as a animal spay and neuter clinic.



Rotaractor Victor Cai speaks about his trip last November to Nicaragua.



Rosa Lee Measures and Sherry Scott enjoy the tribute to Rosa Lee by President Indy.

Upcoming Events

2013 District 5240 Assembly (Coastal)
Pacifica High School, Oxnard
April 13, 2013

Cycle Event for Literacy
starts at VUSD Headquarters
April 20, 2013

Board Meeting - *note special day!*
71 Palm Restaurant
Apr. 25, 2012 11:45 AM - 1:30 PM



President Indy acknowledges the important work of our Treasurer, Connie Young.



President Indy points out the many contributions that Ellyn Dembowski has made over the years.



Hutch Hutchinson receives a Paul Harris award from Dr. Dick Hatcher.



Dave Loe starts the meeting with a biblical quote.



The following AP article was written by Esha Chhabra, whom you might recall has visited us as a 2009 Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar. Now a writer, the La Reina High graduate holds a MSc, Global Politics and has spoken to our Club on several occasions.

New world strategy aims to eradicate polio by 2018

WASHINGTON (AP) — A new global plan aims to end most cases of polio by late next year, and essentially eradicate the paralyzing disease by 2018 — if authorities can raise the \$5.5 billion needed to do the work, health officials said Tuesday.

Part of the challenge will be increasing security for vaccine workers who have come under attack in two of the hardest-hit countries. And the plan calls for changing how much of the world protects against polio, phasing out the long-used oral vaccine in favor of a pricier but safer shot version.

Intense vaccination campaigns have dropped cases to a historic low, a good opportunity for what's being called the "endgame" strategy for this paralyzing disease, noted Dr. Rebecca Martin of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"We have a chance now, with the fewest cases in the fewest

places," she said, joining officials from the World Health Organization, Gates Foundation and Rotary International to discuss the strategy that will be finalized later this month.

Officials acknowledged that financing the six-year plan upfront will be difficult given tight government budgets. The money would cover vaccinations as well as the monitoring required to be sure polio really is gone. Last year, authorities counted 223 cases of polio worldwide, down from 650 the year before. Once a worldwide scourge, vaccinations began in the 1950s, and were successful enough in developed countries that a global fight for eradication began in 1988. Now polio remains endemic in parts of just three countries — Pakistan, Afghanistan and Nigeria — where all but six of last year's cases occurred. Other countries remain at risk, as travelers can spread the infectious disease to the unvaccinated.

Recent killings of vaccine workers in Pakistan and Nigeria have made the anti-polio campaign more difficult, but it hasn't stopped and it won't, said WHO polio director Dr. Hamid Jafari. Despite the attacks, those countries made progress against polio last year, he said.

The new strategy says countries also must deal with a smaller but real risk: polio cases caused by the vaccine itself. The highly effective oral polio vaccine contains live, weakened virus that can occasionally regain strength and cause the very disease it was intended to prevent. A shot version of the polio vaccine is made of a killed virus that poses no such risk. The polio-free U.S. switched to the shots over a decade ago, but 144 countries still use the oral vaccine. The new strategy calls for them to begin phasing out oral vaccine in 2016.

Rotary Club of Ventura 2012-2013

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