

# ROTARY SPOKES

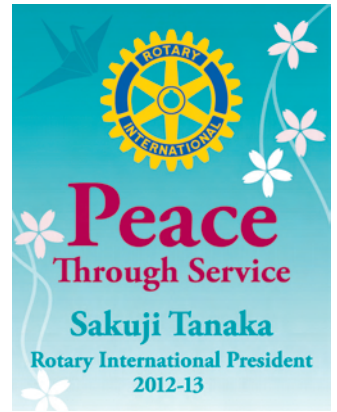
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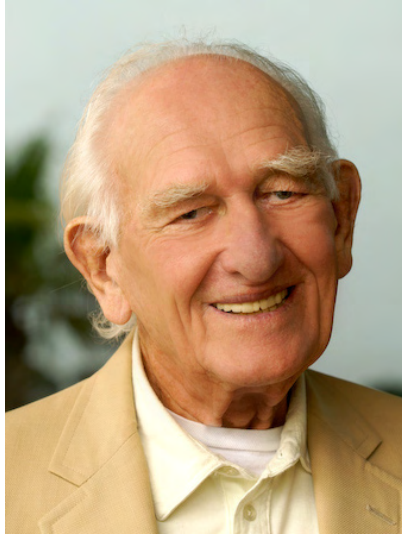
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17 APRIL 2013



## Jack Wood: "A History of the Oil Industry in Ventura"

Our very own club member, Jack Wood will speak to us of a very important industry in this area which has greatly shaped the community we live in now. Jack was formerly part of the local industry, as well as the head of the Ventura Realty Company, which owns many properties in the Downtown area, including the Bella Maggiore Inn. He joined Ventura Rotary in 1974.



By all accounts, the history of oil in our community has been very important. Ventura's oil fields were discovered in the early 1900's. By this time, oil was rapidly replacing coal as a fuel for locomotives, ships, and homes. In 1914, gasoline outsold kerosene for the first time, due largely to the increasing popularity of the automobile. The introduction of the Model T Ford in the 1920's led to an even higher demand for oil.

Ventura County experienced tremendous population growth during the 1920's due primarily to the discovery of the Ventura Avenue Oil Field in 1916. By 1926, this field was producing over 20,000 barrels of oil a day and its level of productivity brought in thousands of oilworkers, geologists, engineers, and oil-related businesses to the City of Ventura and outlying areas.

## Rotarians Honored by White House

Twelve U.S. Rotarians were honored at the White House on 5 April as Champions of Change for their efforts to improve communities locally and around the world. As part of the daylong event, more than 160 Rotarians attended a morning round of briefings by government officials on topics including polio eradication, health, violence prevention, and the environment.

"It is a great honor to see these dedicated Rotary members recognized by the U.S. White House as Champions of Change for their work to improve the lives of people around the world," said RI President Sakuji Tanaka. He said the honorees exemplify how Rotary brings people together to solve problems that are too large for one person to tackle. "Alone, we look at the problems of our community and our world and we feel helpless," he said. "But together, we are powerful. And through Rotary, we have the power to change our communities and communities throughout the world -- now and into the

future. We have the ability to build the world we dream of: one that is healthier, happier, and with hope for better things to come."

RI General Secretary John Hewko said the 12 Rotarians represent what Rotary is all about: "committed volunteers working together to improve communities not just in the United States but throughout the world." He said that Rotary is an early and continuing example of organizations that are neither government institutions nor private businesses, that increasingly are joining together to address the world's most pressing problems. He noted how Rotary's partnership with other organizations has nearly eradicated polio worldwide.

"When we defeat polio -- and, yes, we will defeat this disease -- we will prove that there is nothing we cannot accomplish for the good of humanity by working together."

## Recap of April 03, 2013 meeting

Dan Holmes started the meeting by sharing a Boy Scout prayer. In announcements, Dan Holmes will conduct another round of professional head shots on April 24 for use in the club directory. For a small fee, which Dan is donating to the club, you may have the images for your personal use.

Steve Doll reminded club members to sign up to help with the Ventura-Ojai Century cycling event on April 20th. Proceeds will help our Club's dictionary project. Scott Patterson is again working with the Rotarians at Work Day, April 27, this year at the Veterans Home in Saticoy. Lucas Johnston asked us to consider being a host family for a new Rotary exchange student arriving here in August. The commitment is about three months and it can be very rewarding.

President Indy roved among the membership again today, this time pointing out some past presidents and all that they have given to the club even after their presidential years. This included Steve Doll, John Johnson, Ed McCombs, Lynda Girtsman and Curtis Cormane.

Kristin Taylor was finemaster and quizzed us on hypothetical ethical situations and how we might react.

### Program

Norm Blacher introduced the speaker, who happened to be his wife, Joan Blacher. Her talk would cover "how mystery writers make their stories of murder and menace.

Joan briefly described her previous life as an educator: she holds a Ph.D. in Educational Psychology. Her long career culminated in her professorship at the School of Education at Cal Lutheran University. Upon her retirement from there, Joan decided to give up her technical, scholastic writing and become a fiction writer, specifically of mysteries, of which she has penned two novels. This kind of writing was introduced to Jan early in life, as her father would read her Sherlock Holmes novels and her mother was an Agatha Christie fan.

Joan spoke of the process by which mystery writers come to their stories. There are three basic elements: a twisting plot, compelling characters, particularly the main protagonist and 'dark sins' that draw the reader in. The

## Today's Agenda

**Jack Wood**

### "A History of the Oil Industry in Ventura"

Introductions

*Doug Halter*

Rotary Moment

*Mystery Guest*

Fining

*Ed Campbell*

research required for writing a novel can be voluminous and she has often drawn on personal experience to make the stories more authentic.



*A very dapper Norm Blacher introduces the guest speaker, who also happens to be his wife.*



*Speaker Joan Blacher talks about the elements of good mystery fiction writing.*





*President Indy acknowledges Past President John Johnson's contributions to the club.*



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



*Steve Doll appeals to members to volunteer for the April 20 bicycle ride.*

## Upcoming Events

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

**Cycle Event for Literacy**-*after today's meeting !*  
starts at VUSD Headquarters  
April 20, 2013

**Professional Headshots by Dan Holmes**  
Before and after club meeting  
Apr 24 2013 05:00 PM

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

**Rotarians at Work Day- *ask Scott Patterson!***  
Veterans Home, Saticoy  
Apr 27, 2013 08:00 AM

**President Indy's Demotion**  
Crowne Plaza Hotel  
Jun 18, 2013 05:00 PM



*Kristin Taylor conducts a unique fining session dealing with ethical situations.*





The White House honored 10 U.S. Rotary club members from across the country as Champions of Change for their volunteer work to improve the lives of others. Rotary club members are grassroots volunteers and successful business leaders who want to give back to make the world a better place, and embody what being a Champion of Change is all about.

### Rotary Club of Ventura 2012-2013

#### Officers

President	Indy Batra
President Elect	Irene Henry
Secretary	Jim Deardoff
Recording Secretary *	Larry Emrich
Treasurer	Connie Young
Assistant Treasurer *	Mark Sauer
Immediate Past President	Lynda Girtsman
	*Non-Voting Position

#### Rotary Spokes

Editor	Curtis Cormane (curtisvta@gmail.com)
Assitant Editor	
Photographers	Jim Deardorff, Dan Holmes, John McConica II

#### Avenues of Service

##### Club Service

Director	Dan Holmes
Assistant Director	Mario de la Piedra

##### Community Service

Director	Ellyn Dembowski
Assistant Director	Ron Calkins

##### International Service

Director	Ed McCombs
Assistant Director	Christina Rust

##### New Generations

Director	Gary Young
Assistant Director	Courtney Lindberg

##### Vocational Service

Director	Doug Halter
Assistant Director	Lynda Girtsman