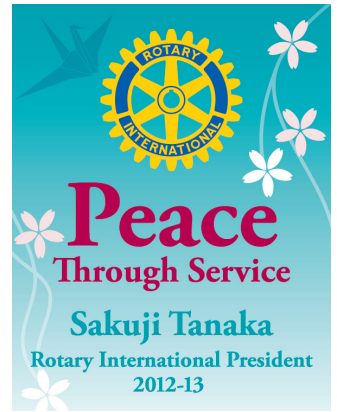


ROTARY SPOKES

The Weekly Bulletin of the Rotary Club of Ventura, est. May 1, 1919



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India Friends Association

Today's speaker is Madhu Bajaj, wife of club member Saurabh Bajaj, is the Administrative Director for Ventura Botanical Gardens. Her passion in life is serving her community and encouraging others to get involved.

Madhu is a first generation Indian American, born in Colorado and raised in Southern California. As a child she was fortunate to travel to India every other year and develop a deep sense of pride for her cultural heritage. She also felt a strong pull to find avenues to ease the harsh realities of poverty in India.

For the last 15 years, Madhu has volunteered with India Friends Association, an all-volunteer grassroots nonprofit



in Ventura County. IFA's mission is to help change the face of India by becoming a catalyst in the economic self-sufficiency and empowerment of the underprivileged segments of Indian society. Madhu will share stories of India Friends Association's successes in empowering the poor to create change

and some of the many challenges still to overcome.

Ventura police officer to combat human trafficking in India

In June, Cpl. David Ruggiero, 32, will take an unpaid leave of absence from the Police Department to work in India with the International Justice Mission, a Christian nonprofit that tries to rescue victims of trafficking and prosecute those who enslave them. He received an 11-month fellowship from the nonprofit to help with the cause. He will be taking his wife, two daughters and son to South Asia.

"Not any one of us can fix the problem but we can do what we can," Ruggiero said. "God's put me in a position to do more." Ruggiero was several years into his career with the Ventura Police Department when he fully began to understand how many people are forcibly sold for labor and services. Known as human trafficking, it's often referred to as slavery. He began seeing signs of trafficking in Ventura. He began studying the issue — reading, taking classes, getting to know groups that work with victims.

From mid-2010 to mid-2012, California's nine regional human trafficking task forces identified 1,277 victims, started 2,552 investigations and arrested 1,798 people, according to a 2012 report on human trafficking in

California. Those who work on the issue largely agree the problem is much bigger than the numbers show.

When Ruggiero received the fellowship, he approached the Police Department. Chief Ken Corney gave his support and granted a leave of absence. At a recent City Council meeting, Corney praised Ruggiero for his willingness to "actually look at the supply end."

Ruggiero will not be paid for his work abroad. He's raising money to cover the costs for the year, which he estimates will be about \$58,000. The Ruggieros haven't raised close to that, and they don't know whether they will sell or rent their Thousand Oaks house.

God calls on people to rescue the oppressed and help the poor, Ruggiero said. "There's modern-day slavery going on," he said. "We're a wealthy church in America. We're equipped to do something, so why aren't (we)?" Donations for Ruggiero's trip can be sent by check to International Justice Mission, P.O. Box 1132, Thousand Oaks, CA 91358. All donations are tax-deductible.

This story was adapted from a VC Star article.

Recap of April 10, 2013 meeting

Doug Halter kicked off the meeting with inspirational quotes from an unlikely source: the US passport. RoseAnn Hill and Clyde Reynolds led the club in a patriotic song. Christina Rust used her Rotary Moment to discuss her latest trip to Nicaragua to help coordinate the digging of a well. She also thanked the club members who reached out to her following the death of her son.

Dave Loe reviewed the latest Rotary magazine featuring the new RI president from Oklahoma. President Indy made his weekly stroll through the membership highlighting some newcomers: Courtney Lindberg, Jeannette Williams, Dave Wellik, Mahesh Talwar, Ajay Keshap, Mary Saputo and Linda Roos.

Hutch Hutchinson acknowledged our club's newest benefactor, Connie Young. Want to become a Rotary benefactor? Ask Hutch or visit the Rotary International Kristin appealed for volunteers for the upcoming cycling fundraiser. Funds from that fundraiser supports the club's literacy efforts and SusAnne Lee Chung read thank yous from kids for the dictionaries given out by the club. A reminder that the meeting of April 24, Dan Holmes will be doing head shots for club members. Mario de la Piedra, our club's Interact director at Ventura High School, needs help Friday April 26th to help transport students for a Dodger game. He would appreciate any final support as well to help defray ticket costs.

Program

Norm Blacher introduced the speaker, Jack Wood, a longtime club member. Jack spoke about the early days of the oil industry in the West Ventura County.

George G. Briggs purchased the Rancho Santa Paula y Saticoy, about 18,000 acres in 1862, for about \$10,000, planning to plant fruit orchards. In 1872, Nathan Weston Blanchard, purchased 2,700 acres from Briggs and founded Santa Paula. Thomas R. Bard, representing Thomas Alexander Scott of the Philadelphia and California Petroleum Company arrived in Ventura in 1867 with the intent of purchasing land for oil exploration, ultimately acquiring some 265,000 acres of mineral rights. During the early 1880s, Pennsylvania oil men Wallace Hardison and Lyman Stewart established the Hardison and Stewart Oil Company in Santa Paula. In 1890 several small oil companies owned by Hardison, Stewart and Bard

Today's Agenda

Madhu Bajaj

"India Friends Association"

Introductions

Curtis Cormane

Rotary Moment

Sally Crain

Fining

Dave Loe

combined to become the Union Oil Company. Shell Oil developed most of the Ventura Avenue Oilfields in the early 1900s with the height of the industry coming at the time of World War II and immediately after. The industry created many jobs, including in related businesses like construction and trucking.



Doug Halter handled the invocations and introductions.



Speaker Jack Wood recounts the history of oil and gas production in Ventura County.



Hutch Hutchinson presents Connie Young with an award for becoming the latest Rotary Benefactor.



Christina Rust delivers a heartfelt Rotary Moment.



Dave Loe keeps club members apprised of the latest Rotarian magazine.

Upcoming Events

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



President Indy acknowledged many new Rotarians and their contributions, including Courtney Lindbergh.

THE TIME TO ERADICATE POLIO IS NOW

polio cases worldwide
2012 = 223 / 3 endemic countries

polio cases worldwide
1988 = 350,000 / 125 countries

Year	Polio Cases
1988	343,000
1989	261,000
1990	233,000
1991	184,000
1992	137,000
1993	76,000
1994	73,000
1995	60,000
1996	31,000
1997	18,000
1998	13,000
1999	13,000
2000	4,000
2001	548
2002	1,302
2003	191
2004	1,204
2005	2,203
2006	2,002
2007	1,307
2008	1,732
2009	1,763
2010	1,408
2011	650
2012	223

Children still need to be vaccinated against polio.
If we were to stop our current vaccination efforts, within a decade we would see a resurgence of polio that could paralyze more than 200,000 children worldwide every year.

10 million
Since 1988 polio vaccine has prevented more than 10 million cases of paralysis

Since 1988 more than **500,000 deaths** from polio have been prevented

\$40-\$50 billion
The economic benefits of polio eradication are \$40-50 billion through the year 2035 – over 80% of these savings will be in developing countries.

The net benefit of other services such as vitamin A delivery alongside polio vaccination:
up to **\$90 billion in additional savings** and the prevention of up to **5.4 million child deaths**

Polio eradication is within our reach.
It will save money.
It will prevent disability.
It will save lives.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

NEW MEMBER PROPOSAL

The following are proposed for membership:

- **Danny Balitski**, proposed with classification of “Real Estate” by Gary Wolfe
- **Stephenie Brown**, proposed for New Generations, with classification of “Health Management” by Rosa Lee Measures

If you have any objection to membership of these individual in our club, please contact the President or Secretary in writing within seven days.

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

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

Rotary Spokes

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