



# ROTARY SPOKES

*The Rotary Club of Ventura  
Weekly Bulletin*

*"The friendliest club in Rotary"*

*100% Paul Harris Club*



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August 24, 2011

## **Meeting of August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2011** **Program – Floating Doctors** **Reporter: Kathy Scroggs**

### **Introductions**

The meeting started with a moving invocation from Curtis Cormane, followed by a hearty rendition of "It's a Grand Old Flag."

### **Presentation of Blue Badge**



Kathy Wertheim was presented with her blue badge (pictured above with presenter Christina Rust and president Lynda, all smiles). Kathy joined our Club in July 28, 2010. Earning the blue badge takes a lot of time – congratulations Kathy, well done!

### **New Member**



We inducted Mike Anderson as a returning member. Mike was an outstanding member of our Club before he moved to the Bay Area. His accomplishments with our Club earned him New Rotarian of the Year – he headed up many projects for

the Club. We are happy that Mike moved back

to our area and are pleased to welcome him back into our ranks. He thanked the Club and shared his mission statement, "Make your future greater than your past." Indeed, we have plans for your future, Mike. Welcome back.

### **Rotary Moment**

Indy Batra shared a memory from the International Convention in New Orleans. While at the convention, he encountered a young man on a bus. This man had a physical disability, and had received assistance from Rotary. He spoke up when he recognized the Rotarians around him, and expressed his thanks. It goes to show, you never know how far and wide Rotary's reach will go.

### **Fining**

Neil Andrews stumped six members with questions that no one could answer, but made us all laugh. Nice work, Councilman.

### **Program**



David Shea introduced us to Dr. Benjamin LaBrot, Physician, who founded Floating Doctors, an all-volunteer, 501(c)(3) non-profit medical relief team dedicated to reducing the present and future burden of disease in the developing world. They promote improvements in health care delivery

worldwide. They bring medical relief to remote coastal

**Web addresses: Club** [www.venturarotary.org](http://www.venturarotary.org) – **Photos:** [www.rotarycov.smugmug.com](http://www.rotarycov.smugmug.com)  
**District 5240** [www.rotarydistrict5240.org](http://www.rotarydistrict5240.org) – **R.I.** [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org)

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## Meeting Programs & Assignments

### Programs

Chair: Larry Emrich

August 24, 2011

*Ventura County Community Foundation*

August 31, 2011

*Steve Warriner – Craft Talk*

*Gillian Wenzel – Upcoming Youth Exchange  
to Italy*

September 7, 2011

*Travels Through Life*

*With Dave Bianco & His Elderhostel Chapter*

### Introductions

Chair: Ron Calkins

**Aug 24 – Ed McCombs    Aug 31 – Barbara Asbell**

### Rotary Moment

Chair: Terri Adams

**Aug 24 – Ken Cooper    Aug 31 – Doug Wood  
Sep 7 – Nanci Cone**

### Fining

Chair: Ron Bamieh

**Aug 24 – Bill Finley    Aug 31 – Chris Brashears  
Sep 7 – Gary Wolfe**

## 2011-12 Officers and Directors

### Officers

President ..... Lynda Girtsman  
President Elect ..... Indy Batra  
Secretary ..... Jim Deardoff  
Recording Secretary \* ..... Larry Emrich  
Treasurer ..... Christine Tonello  
Assistant Treasurer \* ..... Mark Sauer  
Immediate Past President ..... Hutch Hutchinson  
•Non-Voting Position

### Avenues of Service

#### **Club Service**

Director ..... Terry Schaeffer  
Assistant Director ..... Dan Holmes

#### **Community Service**

Director ..... Curtis Cormane  
Assistant Director ..... Nanci Cone

#### **International Service**

Director ..... Mario de la Piedra  
Assistant Director ..... Ed McCombs

#### **New Generations**

Director ..... Ellyn Dembowski  
Assistant ..... Ken Cooper

#### **Vocational Service**

Director ..... Bill Finley  
Assistant ..... Todd Binkley

### *Program continued*

communities of the world.

Dr. LaBrot showed us pictures of Floating Doctors missions. This was a slide show not for the faint of heart, as it presented clinical medical photos. Since May of 2010, Floating Doctors' dedicated permanent crew and its many visiting volunteers have voyaged from Haiti to Panama along the Atlantic coast of Central America. They are on a medical mission to provide supplies and assistance to existing relief groups, and to carry health services to remote locations that are cut off from care.

This medical relief mission is floated throughout the world on a ship called the Southern Wind. "A ship in harbor is safe. But that is not what ships are for." The Southern Wind was built in 1981, (right here in the Ventura harbor!), on the design of a commercial fishing double-ended sailboat. (Our esteemed President, Lynda Girtsman, worked on that project.) With an enormous cargo capacity (the boat can carry 10,000 pounds without sinking more than two inches deeper in the water!), she accommodates up to 20 people working onboard. Her sturdy construction and shallow draft make her the ideal vessel to navigate safely through shallow, treacherous waters to reach the isolated peoples served by the Floating Doctors.

Our very own David Shea and Albert McCartney served with the Floating Doctors in Roatan last year. They are planning another trip this fall, and have room for one or two more volunteers. If you are so called, please contact David or Albert. The donation of time and talent is the ultimate sacrifice whose rewards are intensely worthwhile.

### **Announcements**

A member of the Oxnard Rotary Club announced that they are rounding up donations for Direct Relief International. You can contact them at [directrelief.org](http://directrelief.org).



*Inbound and Outbound Rotary Youth Exchange students for 2011-12, sponsored by our club. Inbound student, Florence Fayn (right) is from Saint Badolph, France, and will be attending Ventura High School. Outbound student, Gillian Wenzel (left), will give us a peek into her upcoming school year in Italy on August 31<sup>st</sup> – don't miss it!*

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

### August 24:

#### **Ventura County Community Foundation**

Hugh Ralston, President and CEO will discuss VCCF's mission and impact on our community

### August 31:

#### **Steve Warriner – Craft Talk**

Steve is a financial advisor and his wife Tracey works at Harley Davidson. Steve and Tracey met working overseas with Raytheon; they have been married for 17 years. Their 16-year old son Tristan is a junior at Buena High, and 14-year old daughter Kera is a freshman there. Steve is originally from Wisconsin.

#### **Gillian Wenzel – Upcoming Youth Exchange**

Gillian is going to the small city of Gorizia, in the region of Friuli Venezia Giulia. She will be living with Renato and Patrizia Scalia' whose daughter Maria Sole is an inbound exchange student, hosted by R C of Cambria. Gillian will be attending an art magnet school.

### **SEPTEMBER – NEW GENERATIONS MONTH**

#### **September 7:**

#### **Dave Bianco – Elderhostel and More**

Dave will reveal his many life lessons, his co-founding of Elderhostel and his passion for almost everything Italian

#### **September 14**

#### **Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic**

Jim Schwartz, area director, will discuss how this national organization uses volunteers to record textbooks for students who learn best through listening.

## **Membership Corner**

#### **Eliane Alabe-Padua**

R I has transferred Eliane's membership from her club in Brazil to our club effective July 1, 2011. Eliane has been attending our meetings for several month and we are happy to welcome her officially as a member!

#### **Harald Wulff**

The board approved a Leave of Absence for Harald from 8/20/2011 to 9/15/2011 because of travel out of the country.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **August 26 (Friday) - 7:30 AM**

#### **Newcomers Breakfast at Crowne Plaza C Street Restaurant**

*Contact Tom Naylor for more information*

### **September 15 (Thursday) – 11:45 AM**

#### **Board Meeting at 71 Palms**

*Attendance qualifies as a make-up if within the make-up period.*

### **September 25 (Sunday)**

#### **Group Study Exchange arrives from South Korea**

*For more information go to the District website [www.rotarydistrict5240.org](http://www.rotarydistrict5240.org)*

### **October 20 – 23 (Thursday – Sunday)**

#### **District 5240 Conference – Carpinteria**

*For more information go to the District website [www.rotarydistrict5240.org](http://www.rotarydistrict5240.org)*

#### **PRLS & MPRLS Schedule:**

**Basic PRLS – Oct 8, TBA (South)**

**MPRLS 1 – Sep 17, Santa Maria**

**MPRLS 2 – Sep 24, Santa Maria**

**MPRLS 3 – Oct 29, TBA**

**MPRLS 4 – Aug 27, Santa Maria**

**MPRLS 5 – Oct 08, Santa Maria**



This picture arrived in my mail box after last week's bulletin was sent out. It shows Warren Lovell and Mario de la Piedra at the Commemorative Air Museum, in front of a B-25 – like the one Warren flew during WW II.