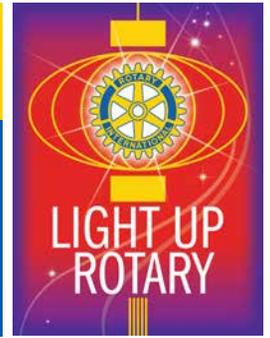


ROTARY SPOKES

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Ivor Davis: The Beatles and Me on Tour

Our speaker today, London-born Ivor Davis, first came to America in the early sixties and was appointed West Coast correspondent for the 4-million-a-day circulation London Daily Express in 1963.

His first big assignment came the following year: to hang out, travel with and get to know the four members of a new pop group from Liverpool who were tearing up the world with their music: the Beatles.

He was the only British daily newspaper correspondent to cover the Fab Four's first American tour from start to finish, given unparalleled access to John, Paul, George and Ringo on the road, in their hotel and during long nights of card and Monopoly games as they talked frankly about their bizarre new life. He also ghosted a regular newspaper column for George.

Ivor's first-hand, insider's memoir is a fascinating travel back in time where for the first time he chronicles, frankly and humorously, 34 days with the world's most famous band on the road—at a critical moment in the history of rock.

Over more than four decades as a writer for the Express and the Times of London, Ivor covered major events in North America. He penned a weekly entertainment column for the New York Times Syndicate for over 15 years, interviewing some of the biggest names in show business, from Cary Grant to Elizabeth Taylor, Richard Burton to Tom Cruise and Muhammad Ali.

In 1962 he was smuggled onto the campus of the riot-torn University of Mississippi when James



Meredith was enrolled and three years later was in the front lines as Los Angeles' Watts riots erupted.

He covered Robert Kennedy's 1968 presidential bid and was in the Ambassador Hotel the night Kennedy was assassinated. He was one of the Boys on the Bus chronicling the life of actor-turned-politician Ronald Reagan, first in his campaign for governor of California, then for president.

He was a co-author of the 1969 political book *Divided They Stand*, which chronicled the Presidential election; and witnessed some of the biggest trials in American history: Sirhan Sirhan, convicted of killing Bobby Kennedy in 1969; black-power militant Angela Davis, acquitted of murder in 1972; a year later, Daniel Ellsberg's trial for leaking the Pentagon Papers, and, in 1976, he was in San Francisco to see heiress Patty Hearst convicted of robbery after being kidnapped by the Symbionese Liberation Army.

In 1969 he co-wrote *Five to Die*, the first book ever published about the Sharon Tate murders. (The book was updated in 2011.) As a foreign correspondent, he traveled throughout the western hemisphere covering riots, floods, earthquakes and politics. As Editor at Large for Los Angeles Magazine, he and his late wife Sally Ogle Davis wrote over 100 major magazine and cover stories. He has reported on four World Soccer Cups for CBS radio.

He currently lives in Southern California and is working on two new books: one about movies the other a true crime story.

Recap of November 19 Meeting

President Rob vanNieuwburg began the meeting with a prayer for victims of Mideast violence. RoseAnn Hill led us in "My Country 'Tis of Thee."

Terry Schaeffer reminded members to sign up for the annual holiday party at Ann Deal's house on December 5th and mark the dish they will be bringing to share. Kristin Taylor and Sally Crain appealed for donations, material and monetary for more Furry Friends. Kristin also appealed for more donations to Coats for Kids. Steve Doll appealed for volunteers for the Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot. Proceeds from the event will go to Polio Plus. Dick Hatcher asked members, for the last time, to participate in the Polio Plus UCLA vs. USC football pool: ten dollars gets you a spot in the pool, with the prize of a Paul Harris Fellowship. Indy Batra again offered to match every pick members made.

There was a presentation to the Ventura College Foundation for \$22,000.00, which will provide two scholarships to VC students.

Irene Henry fined the club, while Terry Schaeffer's Rotary Moment concerned a phone conversation with an Indian gentleman, introducing him to the work Rotary has performed in service to his country.

Program

Greg Abrams is originally from Modesto, CA and has two siblings. He moved to Ventura in 2010, which he considers his "best move ever." He attended CSU Sacramento and now works for Fidelity National mortgage. He is married to fellow Rotarian Sarah Abrams and served in Ventura Rotaract, helping to establish that club. His main interest is community service, but he also loves to travel with Rotary, having been to India, Mexico and Nicaragua. His hobbies include anything outdoors and he collects motorcycles.

Greg Gillespie grew up in Yakima WA. Grew up on a pear and apple orchard, so he grew up appreciating natural resources. His early career featured research in crop sciences, but he moved into education, teaching community college in Yakima. He is the

Today's Program *"The Beatles and Me on Tour"*

Introductions: Steve Dato
Rotary Moment:
Fining: Staci Johnson

Future Programs

Dec 10 Children's Holiday Party
Dec 17 Rubicon's Merry Elves
Dec 24 DARK

current president of Ventura Community College. His wife is Kristen and has five children ranging from 21 to 35 and has four grand kids.



Greg Abrams shared his California upbringing and hobbies, including motorcycles.



Greg Gillespie shares his background and current role as Ventura College president.



Our Club donated \$22,000 to the Ventura College Foundation. Greg Gillespie, Ellyn Dembowski, Dave Bianco and Norbert Tan receive the gift from President Rob vanNieuwburg.



RoseAnn Hill flew solo with the patriotic song.



Terry Schaeffer shared his Rotary Moment about a phone encounter with an Indian technician.



Irene Henry conducted the fining.



Kristin Taylor and Sally Crain appeal for donations and funds for Furry Friends.

Children's Holiday Party

Rotarians shopping with children will receive a \$90 gift card, clothing wish list and name tag. Please be at Penney's December 10, between 8:00 and 8:15 to pick up envelope from person holding poster with your name. Shop, return children to bus by 10:00



and drive to VUSD headquarters on Stanley Ave. for party. Rotarians not shopping should plan on being at VUSD by 11:00 for lunch and Santa. Festivities will end by noon.

Ken Leandro, Sheila Fatterelli and Amy Fonzo wrap presents for the Childrens Holiday Party. Indy Batra and Jim Deardorff help out at the Turkey Trot.

Turkey Trot a Success

The 8th annual Ventura Turkey Trot had the largest turn-out yet in seven years with 764 finishers in the 5K and 130 finishers in the Kids' free 1K. 929 lbs of food for Foodshare was collected and a check for Polio will be forthcoming. It would not have been possible without the hard-working packet pick-up crew, course marshals, timing assistants, food drive team, set-up and break-down crew, many volunteers including Ventura Lions Club and Ventura Rotary.



Coats for Kids

Our Club, in collaboration with Four Seasons Cleaners is once again collecting coats and jackets of all sizes, cleaning them and distributing them to families in need throughout the greater Ventura community. Since its inception eleven years ago, over 58,000 coats have been donated, cleaned and distributed to our underprivileged citizens. This year there are 50 collection sites throughout the county. To find the one nearest you click on this link: <http://bit.ly/Coats4kids>. The map will show you the locations. Click on each collection site icon to get the address and access directions to the location.



December Birthdays

Sonny Shah, Dec 03
Jorge Arman, Dec 05
Clyde Reynolds, Dec 07
Dick Hatcher, Dec 08



Stephen Kipp, Dec 08
Courtney Lindberg, Dec 25
Matt LaVere, Dec. 27
December Anniversaries
Stephen Kipp, Dec 12



Rotary Club of Ventura
Club #691

Gary C.K. Huang
Rotary International
President

Loretta Butts
District 5240 Governor

Rob vanNieuwburg
Club President

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Director Albert McCartney
Assistant Director Mark Kirwin

Youth Service
Director Dale Jaedtke
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