

ROTARY SPOKES

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Member Spotlights: Sarah Abrams and Joe Shaaf



Today's presentation features the ever-popular "Member Spotlights" (formally known as 'Craft Talks') where members get to learn a little bit more about our newest Rotarians.

Sarah Abrams has been a part of the Ventura community just short of 4 years, after migrating south from Eugene, Oregon

(Go Ducks!) to Modesto, California, and Modesto to Ventura. While she has set down roots in the area with friends and work, more significantly she has started her personal roots here when she started her family by marrying Greg Abrams in May of 2012. Sarah is the Youth Programs Director at the Ventura Family Y serving youth from birth through high school.

She was a charter member of the Rotaract Club of Ventura and served in that club until August of 2013, when she joined the Rotary Club of Ventura. She has been involved in many club activities and has stepped up as photographer for several meetings. So although Sarah is new to our club, she has already been an active and committed participant of the Rotary Family!

Joe Schaaf is a Geologist who owns and manages his own environmental consulting firm, GeoEnviro Services, Inc., based in Ventura.

Joe grew up on Long Island, NY and went to work for Chevron in oil exploration in Houston after graduating from Stony Brook State University in 1981. From there, he was moved to the San Francisco Bay Area and then

to Ventura in 1985. Facing another transfer in 1990, Joe decided to leave Chevron and took a consulting job, working for Fugro, Inc. and Padre Associates, Inc. His work focused on soil and groundwater contamination studies and cleanup. This work included local projects in the Ventura Oil Field as well as others located throughout California, Alaska, Hawaii, and Ecuador.

It was in 2004 that Joe opened up his own firm and now specializes in the assessment and remediation of commercial, industrial, and agricultural properties. These projects allow property owners to reclaim the value of their land and also protect our State's fragile drinking water supply.

In 1986, he married his lovely wife Debbie. While they have no kids, Joe says their four dogs (shelties) demand enough attention. Also, for many years, Joe has served as a volunteer with the Ventura County Sheriff Upper Ojai Search and Rescue Team.



Recap of January 29 Meeting

The special combined meeting of the three Ventura Rotary Clubs was held at the Poinsettia Pavilion with some 150 attendees. As the hosting club, Ventura East president Tim Hughes led the proceedings by welcoming all Rotarians. Our own club president, Irene Henry, offered up a prayer by Mother Teresa, while Ventura South president Dante Honorico offered the flag salute.

John Bourneman, the longtime songster of the East club, offered the song “Shaking Hands”, sung to the tune of “Auld Lang Syne.”

Ellyn Dembowski officially announced the polio fundraiser our club is hosting in honor of Larry Emrich. (See the ad in today’s bulletin for more info.) Sally Crain and Jeff Hata, who sit on the Board of the Poinsettia Pavilion announced an upcoming fundraiser with food trucks in support of the building.

District 5240 Governor Jack McClenahan joined us to speak on the many ways to give to Rotary and distributed literature for members to review before they give to very these very worthwhile programs.

Program

Dr. Bob Pazen introduced the guest speaker, Dr. Frochtzwajg, the Chief Medical Officer of Community Memorial Health System. He holds an undergraduate degree from the University of California, Los Angeles and graduated from the University of California, Irvine, College of Medicine. He did his residency at Ventura County Medical Center and has practiced in Ventura in Family Medicine for over 30 years.

As the CMO, he explains needs of doctors to the administrators, and explains the workings of the health systems to the doctors. He is responsible for overseeing the quality of care.

Dr. Frochtzwajg covered three broad topics. Firstly, he spoke of the vast electronic health record conversion taking place since 2009 so that patient information can be kept to cut down on errors. Secondly, he spoke of the transition of all medical records belonging to the patient, with the ultimate goal of creating a Patient Portal which empowers patients to have more control of their health issues. He lastly spoke of the sweeping changes coming

Today’s Program

Craft Talks with Sarah Abrams and Joe Schaaf

Introductions:

Brenda Allison

Rotary Moment:

Curtis Cormane

Fining:

Christina Rust

to the Medicare system, including the so-called Dual Midnight rule which creates distinctions between hospital treatment for observation and for inpatient stays and the big effect that has on out-of-pocket costs.



Ventura East president Tim Hughes led the meeting that included all three club presidents.



Dr. Frochtzwajg, Chief Medical Officer from CMH System speaks on the changes in medical information.



A full house of Rotarians from the three Ventura clubs watches announcements prior to the speaker's presentation.



Sally Crain and Ventura East member Jeff Hata invite members to a fundraiser for the Poinsettia Pavilion.



Ellyn Dembowski announces the March 8 polio fundraiser in honor of Larry Emrich.



District Governor Jack McClenahan describes ways to give to Rotary with gifts large and small.



Ventura South president Dante Honorico leads the assembled Rotarians in the Pledge.

U.S. Commits \$205 Million to Polio Eradication

President Barack Obama signed an omnibus appropriations bill in January that provides \$205 million to support polio eradication in 2014, through the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and U. S. Agency for International Development.

The largest government donor to polio eradication, the U.S. has contributed more than \$2.3 billion since the mid-1980s, when 125 countries were polio endemic and the disease afflicted 350,000 people annually. Today, only Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Nigeria are endemic, and in 2013, the combined incidence of polio in those countries fell to a record-low 157 cases. Last month, India reached a three-year milestone without polio, paving the way for the entire Southeast Asia region to be certified free of the disease.

“Eradicating polio will leave a lasting legacy of health care infrastructure, experience, and expertise that is already being used to benefit a broad range of global public health efforts,” says James Lacy, chair of Rotary’s Polio Eradication Advocacy Task Force for the United States and past president of Rotary International.

The task force leads Rotary’s efforts to inform the U.S. government and other funding sources of the urgency and benefits of supporting the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI). One of Rotary’s chief responsibilities in the GPEI is advocacy. In addition to contributing more than \$1.2 billion to the initiative, Rotary has helped secure over \$9 billion from donor governments since the GPEI was launched in 1988.

Membership Updates:

A Leave of Absence has been granted to the following:
Gary Young from 2/01/2014 to 4/30/2014.

February Birthdays

Lynda Girtsman, Feb 04
John Hammer, Feb 04
John J. Johnson, Feb 06
Cessy Figueroa, Feb 12
Norbert Tan, Feb 13
Gary Young, Feb 21
Albert McCartney, Feb 23
Chris Brashears, Feb 29

February Anniversaries

Clyde Reynolds, Feb 07
Jim Duran, Feb 11
Warren Lovell, Feb 13

Dinner at the Villa on the Hill

Help Rotary raise money to end polio and honor Larry Emrich for his lifetime support.

When: Saturday, March 8, 2014 6:00pm to 9:00pm



Where: Home of Doug Halter and Randy Encinas

Tickets: \$75 - ONLY 100 BEING SOLD!

Music arranged by the Children of the Harmony project.

Dinner served by **Sheriff Geoff Dean, Superintendent Trudy Arriaga, Retired Chief Mike Tracy, Mayor Cheryl Heitmann, and others.**

**No parking on site. Shuttle service available at Cemetery Park.*

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	President	Irene Henry
	President Elect	Rob vanNieuwburg
	Secretary	Jim Deardoff
	Recording Secretary *	Christina Rust
	Treasurer	Connie Young
	Assistant Treasurer *	Mark Sauer
	Immediate Past President	Indy Batra
	<i>*Non-Voting Position</i>	
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Rotary Club of Ventura Club #691	Director	Mario de la Piedra
	Assistant Director	Roz Warner
	Community Service	
	Director	Ron Calkins
	Assistant Director	Steve Warriner
	International Service	
	Director	Christina Rust
	Assistant Director	Albert McCartney
	New Generations	
	Director	Courtney Lindberg
Jack McClenahan District 5240 Governor	Assistant Director	Dale Jaedtkke
	Vocational Service	
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