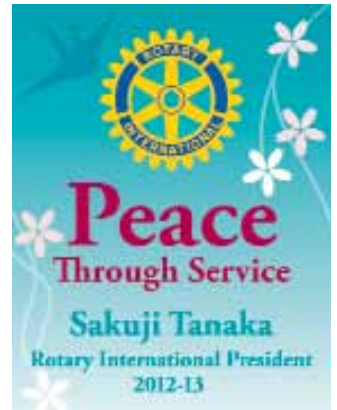


# ROTARY SPOKES

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## Nobel Peace Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi Receives Award at Rotary Global Peace Forum



Aung San Suu Kyi, leader of Myanmar's democracy movement and recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, delivered the keynote address at the Rotary Global Peace Forum held in Honolulu, Hawaii, USA, 25-27 January.

She was honored with the Hawaii Peace Award for her longstanding pursuit of democracy through peaceful, nonviolent means. After 20 years of house arrest, Suu Kyi was released in November 2010, and last year was elected to Myanmar's parliament as a member of the pro-democracy opposition party.

Suu Kyi told the attendees that absolute peace is an unattainable goal, but one that we must nevertheless continue to endeavor toward. She said that democratic institutions are necessary to guarantee human rights. "The kind of peace we want is very simple. We want permanent peace," said Suu Kyi.

She also noted that young people have an important role

to play. The Honolulu forum emphasized the importance of getting youth involved in the peace process.

"We must help our young people so that they may be able to take over our task of nation building," Suu Kyi said. "We depend on our young people to take us forward."

More than 1,800 Rotarians, Rotary alumni, and supporters of Rotary's peace program took part in this event, the second of three peace forums planned by RI President Sakuji Tanaka. The first was held in Berlin in November, and a third is planned for Hiroshima, Japan, 17-18 May.

"Rotary builds peace and international understanding through education, humanitarian service, and connecting with youth," Tanaka said. "To ensure a lasting legacy in this arena, we must engage young people and the new generations to come in a meaningful way, and empower them to carry Rotary's peace-building efforts into the future."

### Jim Bell named DG for 2015-16

Jim Bell (Rotary Club of Bakersfield Twilight) has been named to serve as our District 5240 Governor for 2015-2016. He was selected by the District Governor Nominee

Designate (DGND) Committee on October 20th in Santa Maria. The proceedings were led by PDG Deepa Willingham, with oversight by District Parliamentarian Doug Hoffman. DGND Jim can be reached at [jimbelldg1516@gmail.com](mailto:jimbelldg1516@gmail.com)



## Recap of January 23, 2013 meeting

Dan Holmes shared the poem “I Wish You Enough” as his invocation to start the meeting. Clyde Reynolds and RoseAnn Hill then led us in “God Bless America.”

For his Rotary Moment, Ed Campbell recounted for us the origin of ‘Happy Dollars’ and how it came to our club and worldwide.

President Indy called our exchange student Martine to the podium to conduct a flag exchange with his home club in Chile. Lynda Girtsman reminded the Club that tickets for a fundraiser in support of Martine’s Rotary Train tour at the end of his exchange year are available. The event is on March 2 at the beautiful new hillside home of Doug Halter. Tickets are available from Lynda and Ellyn Dembowski.

Keep your thoughts with Barbara Asbell, as she is having some surgery performed this week.

According to Larry Emrich, it is not too last to enter the Super Bowl Pool. Buy a square for ten dollars and you could win a Paul Harris fellow!

You are reminded that our new attendance person is Michael Scar. Learning the names and faces of 130 members is a daunting task so take time to introduce yourself to him so that your attendance will always be accounted for!

President Indy inducted a new member, Jim Duran. Jim was sponsored by RoseAnn Hill and he is the new executive director for Project Understanding.

### Program

Bill Kearney introduced our speaker. George Leis became president of SBB&T in April 2007 right before the banking crisis.

George spoke of the efforts that his bank had taken to avoid the fate of other banks in the country. He said that the most positive aspect was the bank’s relationship with the communities it served, so that they were able to hold on to their accounts. The bank’s most perilous portfolio was in Residential Construction, so right after the collapse, SBB&T took 171 million in TARP funds.

## Today’s Agenda

*Fifth Wednesday*  
Club Social Meeting

Introductions  
*Jim Duran*

Rotary Moment  
*Bill Kearney*

Fining  
*Rosa Lee Measures*



2008 was tough, 2009 was worse, and the belt was tightened in available finances. The overseeing government agency insisted that commercial real estate was the next domino to fall and that the bank must restructure its debt with capital, although SBB&T’s commercial portfolio was not problematic. He set out vigorously to raise capital in 2009-10 and talked to 97 private equity firms. The bank was able to renegotiate their TARP and renegotiate their debt structure.

Recently, SBB&T merged with Union bank and the transition has already begun. George’s title in Union Bank is now regional district president and he will be handling the central coast area with some \$5 billion in assets



*President Indy performs a flag exchange with Martine, our Chilean exchange student.*

## Upcoming Events

**Super Bowl Party**  
Sherry Scott Residence  
Feb 03, 2013 2:30 PM

**Exchange Student Fundraiser**  
Doug Halter Residence  
Mar 02, 2013 05:30 PM - 09:00 PM

**President Indy's Demotion- DATE SET**  
Crowne Plaza  
Jun 18, 2013 05:00 PM - 09:00 PM



*Jim Duran was officially inducted as the newest member of the Ventura Rotary Club.*



*Connie Young shares her fining story as she sits among fellow bankers.*



*Tom Naylor, the WONC (World's Oldest Newcomer) announces the next meeting for new members.*



*Steve Doll announces plans to continue on the bike race with proceeds benefitting literacy.*



*The Rotary International Float, entitled "All the Places We Go" makes its way down Colorado Blvd. in the 2013 Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena.*

### 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