



ROTARY SPOKES

*The Rotary Club of Ventura
Weekly Bulletin*

"The friendliest club in Rotary"

100% Paul Harris Club



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Photographers: John McConica II, Dan Holmes
Jim Deardorff, Steve Doll
January 25, 2012

Meeting of January 18, 2012

Wine Making – Larry Rasmussen

Reporter: Betsy Chess

Introductions



Invocation, flag salute and introductions of visiting Rotarians and guests were provided by Norbert Tan, who offered quotes from Martin Luther King Jr. and Confucius.

Announcements

Steve Kipp announced that he would be collecting business cards for the Placemat Project. He needs cards by March 31st.

Margo Byrne was thrilled with the great start delivering dictionaries and thanked **Dan Holmes** for the wonderful pictures of the children.

Ed McCombs reminded us about the offsite meeting February 8th at the Thomas Aquinas College in Santa Paula. He encouraged car pooling. Cars will leave the DerbyClub at 10:30 AM; meeting will go from 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM.



Tom Hutchinson presented a **Bequest Society Award to Lynda and Steve Girtsman**. To be a member of the Bequest Society, one must make a \$10,000 bequest

to The Rotary Foundation.

Rosa Lee Measures and Todd Binkley auctioned off two tickets to the opening night at the Rubicon.

Rotary Moment

Dave Wallace, newly returned after a leave of absence, said that his Rotary Moment was "right here, right now", and being part of our exceptional group.

Fining

Fine Master Dan Holmes quizzed us on eastern Sierra geography. We received a passing grade.

Happy Dollars

Lots of reasons to cheer, including Clyde Reynolds' announcement of a half million dollar grant to Turning Point towards building an 11-bed shelter. Albert McCartney celebrated Scotland's bid for independence from the UK, and Kathy Scroggs called for a new name for tax season – "just have a quick question" season.

Program

Brenda Allison introduced he-who-needs-no-



introduction, **Larry Rasmussen**, who spoke about his family wine venture in Paso Robles.

Larry and Elaine bought the property in 1988, planted the first grapes in 1995, and enjoyed their first harvest in 1997. They

grow three varieties – Cabernet Sauvignon, Syrah and Merlot.

Larry said "great wine is made in the vineyard"; he went on to list all the elements that must be attended to before the first grape is picked: water, topography, temperature, site orientation, what to plant, what clones to use? Then the soil must be prepared, deer fencing.

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Web addresses: Club www.venturarotary.org – Photos: www.rotarycov.smugmug.com
District 5240 www.rotarydistrict5240.org – R.I. www.rotary.org

Meeting Programs & Assignments

Programs

Chair: Larry Emrich

January 25, 2012

The Miracle Brain: How to think & work smarter

Joel Rauch, M.D.

February 1, 2012

Limoneira

President Harold Edwards

February 8, 2012

OFFSITE – Thomas Aquinas College

Program begins 11AM

Introductions

Chair: Ron Calkins

Jan 25 – Doug Wood

Rotary Moment

Chair: Terri Adams

Jan 25 – Dick Hatcher

Feb 1 – Hutch Hutchinson

Feb 8 – Sonny Shaw

Fining

Chair: Ron Bamieh

Jan 25 – Ellyn Dembowski

Feb 1 – Doug Wood Feb 8 – Terry Schaeffer

2011-12 Officers and Directors

Officers

President	Lynda Girtsman
President Elect	Indy Batra
President Elect Nominee	Irene Henry
Secretary	Jim Deardoff
Recording Secretary *	Larry Emrich
Treasurer	Connie Young
Assistant Treasurer *	Mark Sauer
Immediate Past President	Hutch Hutchinson
•Non-Voting	

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

and the irrigation installed, trellises designed and installed. The varieties are then planted, first the Cab followed by the Syrah and the Merlot.

The tasks of Spring – watering, pest and bird control, leaf pulling, fruit culling, are followed by the Fall harvest where timing is of the essence.

Once the right sugar to acid balance is reached, the grapes should be picked within 24 hours. After that the fruit will begin to lose water and weight. Since the grower is paid on weight, the longer the fruit hangs, the less he is paid. The contractors hold the power and either send out picking crews right away if they have capacity, or allow the fruit to hang if they do not.

The Rasmussens can produce up to 40 tons of grapes, but only keep enough to bottle 300 – 500 cases themselves. The rest of the fruit is sold to brokers.

Larry showed pictures of the first harvest when friends and family did the picking and crushing. Like all of wine making, the process of fermentation, storage and bottling is complex and critical.

Larry said after the frenzy of the Fall come the cool months of Winter, when the vines color, drop their leaves and are pruned. Then ... Spring, and the whole process begins again!

Many thanks to Larry for the interesting presentation and fro the wonderful wines we all got to try!

Note to absent Rotarians --- See what you are missing!



SUPERBOWL PARTY SUNDAY FEBRUARY 5TH

Location: Sherry Scott's & Tim Jack's home
969 Scenic Drive, Ventura

Time: 5 pm until game is over and clean-up complete
(about 8:30 pm)

Format: Usual Rotary Potluck – bring appetizer, main or side dish or dessert to pass.

Service, water, soft drinks, napkins etc will be provided. You may bring your own favorite beverage (beer or wine).

We have issued a challenge to the club to feature **“food on a stick”**. This is only a suggestion and not a requirement, but Prez Lynda will be giving “extra credit” for those who comply.

What is “food on a stick”? Popsicles, Iowa corn dogs, fondue, cocktail wieners, shish kabobs, chocolate covered strawberries, Asian meat skewers and sauce, veggie skewers or fruit kabobs (toothpicks count as a stick).

If your specialty is a tuna noodle surprise, by all means bring it!

Any questions – call Terry S. at 479-0067

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Jan. 25 – The Miracle Brain

Brenda Alison will introduce Joel Rauch, M.D. author of Dr. Joel's Be Super Fit for Life!

YOUR MIRACLE BRAIN!



Feeding Your Miracle Brain: *How to Think and Work Smarter*. **Joel Rauch M.D.** medical doctor, sports doc, and nutrition expert, has spent 50 years teaching people the steps they need to take each day to create a state of high energy, vitality & good health.

"Why don't all doctors talk like this?"

What makes Dr. Rauch unique in the field of whole body health, is his vast knowledge of science, medicine, brain function, nutrition, biochemistry and physiology, as well as the fundamentals of good digestion, human psychology, meditation, cybernetics, and biofeedback.

DrLongevity.org

**Invite Dr. Joel As A Guest Speaker
303-443-3697**

As an inspirational speaker, he is also star of a 10 DVD series on Whole Body Health produced by the Education Exchange. Dr. Joel's inspirational message lifts everybody who hears it, so you don't want to miss this program!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan 27 (Friday) 7:30 AM, Crowne Plaza Newcomers' Meeting

Jan 28 (Saturday) 8 AM – 4PM, UCSB
District 5240 Annual Poverty Conference
(S.T.E.P.S.). Free for Rotarians,
Rotaractors and Interactors. Non-
Rotarians \$25. Breakfast is included. For
more information, go to the District
website www.rotarydistrict5240.org

February 5 (Sunday), 5 PM

Sherry Scott's home

Super Bowl Party & Potluck – see details
on page 2 of this bulletin. Questions -
contact Terry Schaeffer

February 8 – OFFSITE MEETING

Thomas Aquinas College, Santa Paula

NOTE: Program starts at 11AM; car
pooling is encouraged.

There will be a tour of the campus, focusing on the very interesting architectural treatment of the buildings, and a briefing on the great books curricula used to what is acknowledged to be an outstanding liberal arts education. A picnic style lunch will be provided in the student common.

Contact Ed McCombs for more detail.

UPCOMING PRLS DATES:

Basis PRLS:

2/18/12 (Saturday) – Inn at Morro Bay

3/30/12 (Friday) – CLU Oxnard (before
District Assembly)

For a complete schedule of PRLS &
MPRLS sessions, go to www.prls.org