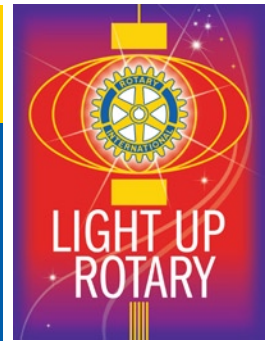


ROTARY SPOKES

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SERVICE

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Ron Bamieh: Gangs and the Death Penalty

After graduating from law school, Ron was awarded a Presidential Appointment, and worked for George Herbert Walker Bush Whitehouse staff in 1991. In January of 1992 Ron was appointed to the United States Department of Justice as Assistant Chief Deputy. He tried cases in the Federal Court on behalf of the federal government.



In 1993, Ron joined the Ventura County District Attorney's Office and became one of the youngest attorneys ever promoted to Senior Deputy District Attorney. In 1997, Ron took on an unsolved murder case of a woman who had disappeared in 1992. Through the use of innovative techniques, Ron solved the case and convicted the perpetrator, who is now on California's Death Row. (People v. Justin Merriman). Ron and his investigator were featured on NBC's Dateline Show during a one hour broadcast. While at the District Attorney's office Ron tried numerous felony cases, and was known as the prosecutor who never lost a felony case, including 9 murder trials.

In December 2002, Ron founded Bamieh & Erickson with his good friend Philip Erickson (1959-2005). Under Ron's leadership, Bamieh & Erickson has developed a practice handling personal injury cases, as well as criminal defense cases. The firm represents interests in some of Ventura and Santa Barbara County's most high profile cases. In 2003, the Pacific Coast Business Times named Ron as one of the "40 Under 40" top businessmen in Ventura County. In January of 2004, Ron was given a positive image award by Baseballers against Drugs. In 2007 Bamieh and Erickson, PLC was named small

business of the year by Ventura's Chamber of Commerce. In 2011, the Ventura County Criminal Bar Association awarded Ron the Richard Erwin Award as Ventura County Defense Attorney of the Year. The award symbolizes excellence in advocacy and a dedication to clients. Ron is now the only individual in Ventura County history to be named both Prosecutor of the Year (1996, 2000) and Defense Attorney of the Year (2011). In 2013 Ron was one named a "Super lawyer" by the California Lawyer, a

distinction given to the top 5% lawyers in the State. Ron is believed to be the only lawyer in Ventura County's History to have successfully defended 8 consecutive murder cases.

Ron has been a volunteer mock trial coach for the 18 out of the last 20 years, recently ending his tenure as La Reina High School's mock trial coach when his daughter graduated in May 2014. At La Reina, Ron mock trial teams won three consecutive state championships, two world mock trial titles, and finished second in the nation in 2013. He was a board member of Big Brothers/Big Sisters, he was on the Board of the Rubicon Theater, and he is member of Downtown Rotary and the Ventura Chamber of Commerce. Ron is also a key fundraiser for the Children's Cancer and Blood Disease Program and Children's Resource Library at the Ventura County Hospital, which named after Ron and Jennifer's daughter Remy (2000-05).

Ron and his wife, Jennifer, and their three children reside in Ventura.

Recap of July 09 Meeting

as reported by Christina Rust

Dick Hatcher kicked off the meeting with an invocation about our club. He was followed by RoseAnn Hill and Staci Johnson singing 'America the Beautiful.' An unfortunate technical error prevented former member and District Governor Marc Vertin from making a Polio Plus appeal, but President Rob explained the pitch. In order to meet our Club's target, he suggested donating \$25.00 per month for the year.

In announcements, Curtis Cormane acknowledged the members who volunteered at the Fourth of July event. Ellyn Dembowski reminded the club of the upcoming backpack-stuffing event and the need for more supplies.

Lynda Girtsman's Rotary Moment concerned the ease at which Rotarians say 'yes' to volunteering.

Program

Irene Henry introduced and emceed a panel of young women who show the impact that Rotary, and, specifically, our club, through the Rotary Youth Exchange Program and sponsorship of the Ventura High School Interact Club, has on youth.

Gillian Wenzel was our outbound exchange student to Italy two years ago. She spent a year in Italy, and



Gillian Wenzel, went to Italy as a Rotary exchange student, is now a Ventura Rotaractor.

Today's Program Club President's Address

Introductions:	Indy Batra
Rotary Moment:	Mystery
Fining:	Mystery

Future Programs

Jul 23	'Reins of Hope'
Jul 30	Offsite: Discovery Ventura

found it to be more than she expected and she learned a broader meaning of friendship and community and that at the core, we are all the same.

Laura Sasse is our current inbound exchange student from Brussels, Belgium; this was her last meeting with us as she is just finishing her year. She graduated from Ventura High and plans to study nursing back in Belgium. While here, she learned to be more open and loved learning our traditions.

Amber Pupa is a recent graduate of Ventura High School. She has studied Italian for four years, and in August she will begin her Rotary Exchange in Castellammare di Stabia, Italy. This will be her first trip outside the US. She has connected with her host family over social media and already consider her their 'daughter.'

Continued on last page.



Laura Sasse and Amber Pupa share stories of being a Rotary Exchange student.



Unfinished business: past-prez Irene Henry hands awards to Staci Johnson and Indy Batra.



Curtis Cormane honors President Van Nieuwburg with the colors of his favorite World Cup team.



Dick Hatcher started off the meeting with an invocation.



Ellyn Dembowski reminds members to help with the backpack project.



Sarah Abrams receives her plaque for New Rotarian of the Year from past-prez Irene..



Lynda Girtsman uses her Rotary Moment to celebrate volunteerism..



President Rob's Corner

Nigerian business leader and philanthropist Sir Emeka Offor announced a \$1 million gift to The Rotary Foundation for polio eradication efforts at the Rotary Convention in Sydney.

Sir Emeka, who is executive vice chair of the Chrome Group, has made contributions to Rotary's campaign to rid the world of this deadly disease totaling more than \$3.1 million, including a \$1 million gift he announced at the 2013 convention. He told the attendees that his commitment to ending polio is a personal one. "Scores of my friends and classmates fell victim to this dreaded disease," said Sir Emeka, a member of the Rotary Club of Awka GRA who serves as Rotary's PolioPlus ambassador in Nigeria. "As a young man I vowed that I would someday do something significant to end polio in Nigeria."

Sir Emeka told the crowd he recently opened a PolioPlus Ambassador's Office, at no cost to Rotary, in Abuja. The office serves as a hub for his ambassadorial activities and supports the work of the Nigeria PolioPlus Committee.

Nigeria, Afghanistan, and Pakistan are the only countries where polio has never been stopped. Despite tremendous progress — only two documented cases of polio reported in the last 12 months — Offor says the country still faces unprecedented insecurity and inaccessibility in a number of northern states.

"The Nigerian government, now supported by the international community, is doing all that it can to eliminate the widespread violence, abductions, and terrorism," he says. "Peace would facilitate polio eradication, but we cannot sit by and wait until that time comes. We must do what we can to find ways to end polio now."

July Birthdays

Barbara Asbell, Jul 10
 Ron Calkins, Jul 11
 Rob van Nieuwburg, Jul 13
 Jim Newton, Jul 14
 Roger Case, Jul 20
 Robert Donaldson, Jul 22
 Michael Scar, Jul 23
 Dave Bianco, Jul 25
 Lucas Johnston, Jul 25

July Anniversaries

RoseAnn Hill, Jul 02
 David Wellik, Jul 18
 Mike Anderson, Jul 24
 Sandra Laby, Jul 24
 John R. Brant, Jul 26
 Norm Blacher, Jul 27



Kelsey Sherman, alongside her mother, has been a three year member of the VHS Interact Club.

Program (continued)

Kelsey Sherman had her mother read her story, as she recently had surgery on her jaw, relayed her experience at RYLA, Rotary's leadership training for youth. Despite suddenly having to attend the event without her peers, she pushed aside her fear and it turned out to be the most exciting experience for her. The other participants were supportive and encouraging. They developed leadership skills through activities and she felt empowered to be a leader!

 Rotary Club of Ventura Club #691 Gary C.K. Huang Rotary International President Loretta Butts District 5240 Governor Rob vanNieuwburg Club President venturarotary.org  Find us on Facebook	OFFICERS	President Rob vanNieuwburg President Elect Christina Rust Secretary Jim Deardoff Recording Secretary * Larry Emrich Treasurer Connie Young Assistant Treasurer * Mark Sauer Immediate Past President Irene Henry <i>*Non-Voting Position</i>
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