# **ROTARY SPOKES**

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## **The Rotary Youth Exchange Service**

The program today will feature recent Rotary Youth Exchange students that our Rotary Club has sponsored. They will give us a glimpse into their year abroad. One outbound student is Gillian Wenzel, who went to Italy for the Rotary Year 2011-2012, She has just graduated from

Ventura High School, and will attend university next year in New York. Another outbound student is Jillian Lopez who spent the last school year in Chile and will be a junior next year at Foothill Technology High. The third student, with whom we are most familiar is



our inbound student, Martin Rodriguez, from Chile, who spent the school year at VHS.

The Rotary Youth Exchange Service is a component of Rotary International's New Generations Service. This year almost 7,000 students from more than 71 countries will enrich their lives. They will see the world the way it is best seen – from the inside out – through Rotary's Youth Exchange.

The most powerful force in the promotion of international understanding and peace is exposure to different cultures. The world becomes a smaller, friendlier place when we learn that all people, regardless of nationality, desire the same basic things: a safe, comfortable environment that allows for a rich and satisfying life for our children and ourselves. Youth Exchange provides thousands of young people with the opportunity to meet people from other lands and to experience their cultures. This plants the seeds for a lifetime of international understanding.

SCANEX is a non-commercial organization formed by ten Rotary International Districts (5000, 5240, 5280, 5300, 5320, 5330, 5340, 5420, & 5490) who have pooled their resources to provide you effective & efficient services. They have an established network of trusted



Rotarians involved in Youth Exchange throughout the world helping to ensure successful and safe exchanges. For the high school year inbound students, they make available an incredible 30 day Amtrak tour of America.

Who can participate? The youth exchange program is open to qualified young men and women between the ages of 15 & 19. The sons and daughters of non-Rotarians and Rotarians are eligible. Applicants are to be approved by a local Rotary club on the basis of a written application and personal interview.

Rotary club volunteers administer the program at the local level, which helps keep costs low for students and their families. These volunteers often offer years of experience with students, host families, and fellow Rotarians who are involved in the program

Students will learn a new way of living, a great deal about themselves, and maybe even a new language. They'll also be an ambassador, teaching people they meet about their country, culture, and ideas. They can help bring the world closer - and make some good friends in the process. It's the opportunity of a lifetime.

## Recap of July 17, 2013 Meeting

Hutch Hutchinson started off the meeting with a humorous benediction of sorts. "God Bless America" was then sung. Ellyn Dembowski reminded members that we still need school supplies to stuff the kids backpacks. The actual filling of the bags will take place on Saturday, August 10, 9:00 am to noon, at the Ventura Unified School District offices on Stanley Avenue. If you can volunteer to help there or if you can assist delivering the bags to the schools, please let Ellyn know. She also announced that the Lions Club has donated \$1500.00 to this effort.

President Irene announced that the upcoming Ventura County Fair parade on August 3rd. Rotarians can join in the Rotary float. She also announced our club's representation at a recent Ventura Rotaract meeting, where our club was honored as a sponsor.

Ellyn Dembowski then fined the club on all things American Independence. For his Rotary Moment, Ron Bamieh recounted a time a few years ago when his daughter Ryanne was very ill and was having treatment in Los Angeles. An appeal went out for donors of platelets for her. Despite the distance and time necessary for the procedure the sign up sheets were filled with Rotarian names.

Indy Batra was able to award a visiting Rosa Lee Measures her Rotarian of the Year plaque and Paul Harris Fellowship.

Martin Rodriguez returned from his youth exchange train trip which took him for a month to San Francisco, Portland, Seattle, Glacier National Park, Chicago, Niagara Falls, Boston, New York City, Washington, DC, and New Orleans, It was all 'super cool'. Indy thanked the three host families who were in attendance and Lucas Johnston, the exchange student counselor. Plaques were given to those families.

## Program

Our Group 7 Assistant Governor Bob Braitman, introduces the Rotary International District 5240 Governor, Jack McClenahan, who has been a Rotarian for 35 years.

Jack first acknowledged club member Larry Emrich with a Service Foundation Award for his work in Polio Plus for the Disitrict He then spoke at length on how much he

## Today's Program *Rotary Youth Exchange Service*

Introductions: Rotary Moment: Fining: Ron Calkins Doug Halter Dave Bianco

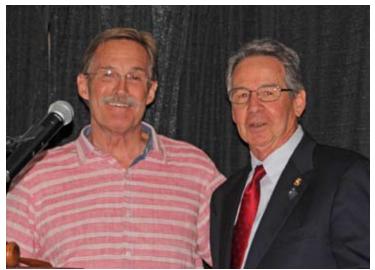
### **Future Programs**

July 31 Community Memorial Hospital (Offsite visit) Aug 07 Ventura County Maritime Museum (Offsite visit)

loves the fellowship aspect of Rotary and his favorite past annual themes included "Enjoy Rotary", "Lend a Hand" and the "Family of Rotary."

DG Jack also acknowledged Rosa Lee Measures' prolific effort for gaining membership. Despite the economy our District has had a net gain of 90 members. He said we need to create stronger defined roles in Rotary for members and really increase the appeal to women. There are efforts to bolster Vocational services and business networking, returning to early principles in Rotary

He spoke of the recent RI Conference in Lisbon where the Gates Foundation had issued a new fundraising challenge. He said that there was talk that this may be the year when we see the last case of polio on earth!



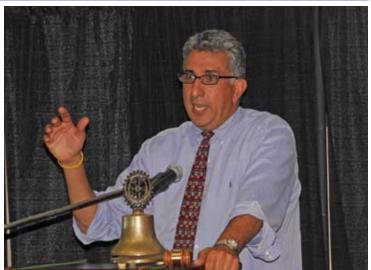
DG Jack McClenahan presented Larry Emrich with a District Service award before addressing the members.



Hutch Hutchinson led us in the flag salute, invocation and introductions.



Look who's back! For a few weeks, at least. Rosa Lee Measures was honored by Past President Indy Batra.



Ron Bamieh spoke of a very personal occassion that connects him with Rotary and Rotarians.



President Irene looks on as announcement are made at the dais.



The Executive Board held their first meeting of the Rotary year, no doubt figuring out ways to make ourRotarin experience as wonderful as possible.



This image won honorable mention in the Rotary Photography Contest. It shows polio eradication in Sonipat, India. By Keith Marsh, Rotary E-Club of the Southwest, Arizona, USA

#### **Upcoming Events**

July 31 Offsite Meeting Noon CMH, 8th Floor Auditorium 147 N. Brent St., Ventura

**August 7 Offsite Meeting** Noon Channel Islands Yacht Club 4100 Harbor Blvd., Oxnard

#### **July Birthdays**

Kathy Wertheim, Jul 01 Barbara Asbell, Jul 10 Ron Calkins, Jul 11 Rob van Nieuwburg, Jul 13 Jim Newton, Jul 14 Roger Case, Jul 20 Bob Donaldson, Jul 22 Michael Scar, Jul 23 Dave Bianco, Jul 25 Lucas Johnston, Jul 25

**Backpack Stuffing!** Saturday, August 10 9:00 am to noon Ventura Unified School District offices 255 West Stanley Avenue.



**July Anniversaries** RoseAnn and David Hill, Jul 02 David and Rebekah Wellik, Jul 18 Michael and Annie Anderson, Jul 24 Sandra and Jordan Laby, Jul 24 John and Cherie Brant, Cherie, Jul 26 Norm and Joan Blacher, Jul 27



**Rotary Club of Ventura** Club #691

**Ron Burton Rotary International** President

Jack McClenahan District 5240 Governor

**Irene Henry Club President** 

venturarotary.org



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	E	Assistant Treasurer *	Mark Sauer
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		Community Service	
		Director	Ron Calkins
		Assistant Director	Steve Warriner
		International Service	
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	IRE	Assistant Director	Albert McCartney
		New Generations	
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