



# ROTARY SPOKES

*The Rotary Club of Ventura  
Weekly Bulletin*

*"The friendliest club in Rotary"*

*100% Paul Harris Club*



Editor: Maria Berntson [maria@lindsayandcompanycpa.com](mailto:maria@lindsayandcompanycpa.com)  
Assistant Editor: Betsy Chess [newwester@sbcglobal.net](mailto:newwester@sbcglobal.net)  
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Photographers: Dan Holmes, John McConica II,  
Jim Deardorff, Steve Doll  
June 8, 2011

**Meeting of June 1, 2011**

**Reporter: Curtis Cormane**

***HAPPY 95<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY, LEO !!!***

## Introductions:

John Williams led the introductions and called on us to reflect on the meaning of Memorial Day, and encouraged us to visit Ivy Lawn cemetery, bedecked with American flags in tribute to our fallen heroes. With much help from our song leaders, we sang our national anthem, followed by the introduction of visiting Rotarians and guests.

## Announcements:

President Hutch reminded us that June is Rotary Fellowship month. He thanked Dennis LaRochelle for hosting a wonderful party and encouraged Rotarians to attend the upcoming one-year anniversary of our very own Ventura Rotaract Club on June 6. President Hutch also invoked his recently-found presidential right to make proclamations, declaring that today is "Leo Tauber Day". The balance of the meeting was then given over as a tribute to one of our most beloved, and longest lasting, members on the occasion of his recent 95th birthday.



gracious emcee and chatted with Leo about his long

life: his beautiful family, his distinguished career in the Army and the medical profession and his generous commitment to service in Rotary and beyond. Leo was born in May 26, 1916 His parents, Clara and Sam, were recent immigrants from Eastern Europe, arriving 1913 in New York. He married his beloved Lucy, graduated from med school and joined the Army all in a very tumultuous 1942. His time in World War 2 saw him travel from Louisiana to California to Hawaii and into the conflict in Leyte, Phillipines and then on Apr 1 1945, Okinawa, in the 4th wave of invading troops as a battalion medic.

Leo was brought up to the podium from his usual place to the right of the dais, where his children, Valerie, Victor, Jonathan and Maria, sat. Barbara Asbell served as a very

life: his beautiful family, his distinguished career in the Army and the medical profession and his generous commitment to service in Rotary and beyond. Leo was born in May 26, 1916 His parents, Clara and Sam, were recent immigrants from Eastern Europe, arriving 1913 in New York. He married his beloved Lucy, graduated from med school and joined the Army all in a very tumultuous 1942. His time in World War 2 saw him travel from Louisiana to California to Hawaii and into the conflict in Leyte, Phillipines and then on Apr 1 1945, Okinawa, in the 4th wave of invading troops as a battalion medic.



After the war, Leo came to Ventura in January 1948 and joined Rotary that same year. He opened a private practice in 1950 and eventually cofounded the Buenaventura Medical Center in 1956. Particularly poignant was how Leo first met Lucy on a blind date as a college junior, outwitting a senior to date her. Happy Dollars went to PolioPlus, Leo's favorite Rotary cause. Generous Rotarians, some offering up \$95.00 in tribute to his age, praised a long and good life with heartfelt candor.

**continued**

**Web addresses: Club [www.venturarotary.org](http://www.venturarotary.org) – Photos: [www.rotarycov.smugmug.com](http://www.rotarycov.smugmug.com)  
District 5240 [www.rotarydistrict5240.org](http://www.rotarydistrict5240.org) – R.I. [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org)**

## Meeting Programs & Assignments

### Programs

Program Chair: PP Larry Emrich

June 8, 2011

*Craft Talks*

*Larry Rasmussen & Gary Young*

June 15, 2011

*Maintaining Optimism  
(Mitchell Perry)*

June 29, 2011

*Year-End Review*

### Introductions

Chair: Chris Brashears

*June 8 – Margo Byrne*

*June 15 – Steve Chadbourne*

*June 29 – Sally Craine*

### Rotary Moment

Chair: Barbara Asbell

*June 8 – Ajai Keshap      June 15 – Dan Holmes*

*June 29 – Ted Wrablik*

### Fining

Chair: Todd Binkley

*June 8 – Jim Newton*

*June 15 – Albert McCartney      June 29 – Kitty Lynn*

## 2010-11 Officers and Directors

### Officers

President ..... Hutch Hutchinson  
President Elect ..... Lynda Girtsman  
Secretary ..... Jim Deardoff  
Recording Secretary \* ..... Larry Emrich  
Treasurer ..... Jim Newton  
Assistant Treasurer \* ..... Mark Sauer  
Immediate Past President ..... Larry Emrich  
•Non-Voting Position

### Avenue of Service Directors

Club Service ..... Maria Berntson  
Community Service ..... Dennis LaRochele  
International Service ..... Albert McCartney  
Vocational Service ..... Scott Patterson

### Elected Directors

2<sup>nd</sup> Year 2009-11:

Ellyn Dembowski  
Erik Feingold  
Sonny Shah  
Juan Soto

1<sup>st</sup> Year 2010-12:

Barbara Asbell  
Dale Jaedtker  
Kristin Taylor  
John Williams

### **Leo Tauber Birthday continued**

Through the whole celebration, including a presentation



by councilman Neal Andrews from the City of Ventura, Leo was his usual quiet and demure self. But it was, all in all, a fitting tribute to a wonderful man and an exemplary Rotarian. Of course, he didn't see the hectic "cake relay" that was going on in the back, to make sure

everyone could enjoy a piece of Leo's Birthday cake ....

### **Program:**

Ken Cooper introduced **Peggi Preston, the regional director of .Ventura County Special Olympics.**

Special Olympics Ventura County is a grassroots



organization whose funding comes from and remains in Ventura County. Donations are used to support over 700 Ventura County athletes, ages 8 and up (the current oldest athlete is 75), in 10 different year-round

sports programs (Spring/Summer and Fall/Winter) at over 20 different training sites, county-wide. All programs are provided at no cost.

All of the athletes have some degree of intellectual disability, and many have physical challenges as well. The program not only provides these athletes with physical fitness and athletic competition, but also social interaction and community involvement, a very important aspect of integrating into the community. In fact, a study found that the Special Olympics:

- Improved physical fitness and sports skills
- Enhanced self-confidence and social competency
- Greater readiness for employment
- Better preparation for independent living
- Increased ability to make personal decisions,
- Improved friendships and family relationships.

Peggi invited us to watch the Torch Run, sponsored by several county law enforcement agencies, which passes through Ventura on June 9th, starting at City Hall. She particularly encouraged us to be at the Target on Main Street at about 9:30 am, where a young special Olympian will be bearing the torch.

### **Final Thought:**

To end the meeting, President Hutch drew on Mark Twain: "The best way to cheer yourself is to try to cheer someone else up".



## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

### June 15: Maintaining Optimism



Dr. J. Mitchell Perry is a human performance expert, executive coach, trainer, speaker and author. His Ventura-based company, JM Perry Learning technologies, is a leading training and performance firm. He has presented his program in over 30 countries with great success. He has made over 1000 presentations to Fortune 500 Companies and has regularly

appeared on radio and television programs around the country.

Dr. Mitchell is the author of two books:

*The Road to Optimism – Change Your Language – Change your Life* (March '95, Manfit Press)

*In the Zone – Achieving Optimal Performance in Business As In Sports* (April '97, Contemporary Books)

### 4<sup>th</sup> of July Event Count-Down

Here is the latest heads-up:

More Vendors are still needed! Website for sign-up [www.venturafireworks.com](http://www.venturafireworks.com).

Sign-Up sheets will be on tables Wednesday for the following volunteer opportunities:

- Golf cart driver
- Carnival booth helper
- Wright Library Rubicon volunteer
- Kids chalk art (Curtis Cormane)
- Help with bands (Gary Young)
- Ticket sellers and takers at booths
- Ticket sellers at downtown street fair and more! Lots of jobs for a day of fun!

Come to the meeting on Wednesday @ 11:30 to learn more!



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### June 21 (Tuesday)

**Prez Hutch's Demotion Party at Crowne Plaza**

*Don't want to miss this, so sign up early at club meetings!*

### June 22 (Wednesday)

**DARK – Recovery from Demotion Party**

### June 25 (Saturday)

**DG Deepa's Demotion & District Awards Celebration – Santa Ynez Valley Marriott.**

*To register for this sure-to-be-fun event, go to the district website*

[www.rotarydistrict5240.org](http://www.rotarydistrict5240.org) and follow the bread crumbs (oops - instructions)

### July 4<sup>th</sup> (Monday)

**Family Fireworks & Fun Festival at Ventura College**

*To volunteer and for more information, please see Ellyn Dembowski or Lynda Girtsman*

### July 6, 2011 (Wednesday)

**DARK – Recovery from 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration**



*More pictures from Leo's Birthday Celebration*