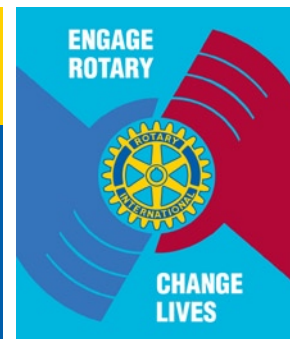


# ROTARY SPOKES

*The Weekly Bulletin of the Rotary Club of Ventura, est. May 1, 1919*



Volume XCXIII  
Number 31  
12 MARCH 2014



## So, What Good is Family Therapy?

The work of Robert L. Beilin, Ph.D., MFT at Cal Lutheran University incorporates both teaching and supervising MFT trainees and interns. He has found a home at CLU, and is proud to provide couples and family therapy to hundreds of people through his clinical supervision at his non-profit counseling and mediation centers in Oxnard and Thousand Oaks. He looks forward to discussing what it means to be a family therapist to the Ventura Rotary. He brings his private practice intern and one of our members, who is an MFT trainee at CLU, to assist him in this presentation.



the director of Family Court Services Division. This quickly became fascinating, and he found an area of specialization that he had never considered. Although he left that position to go into private practice as a marital and family therapist after seven years, he continued to work with divorcing families, as he still do. He also sees individuals who are traversing the divorce process, and see couples who are fighting to make their marriages work. He has learned a great deal about what makes a marriage the unique and intimate relationship that many people strive for.

Until he completed college, he wanted to be an attorney, but he decided at the last minute that he wanted to be a psychotherapist. Law school would have taken three years out of his life, and he would have to work within the rigidity of the legal system. Instead, he spent twelve years in graduate school, both at USC and at UCLA, and found himself working as a child custody mediator in the Ventura County Superior Court.

His career as a marital and family therapist started when he worked in a special needs summer camp with children on the autism spectrum. This was hard work, but allowed him to be outdoors, and allowed him to learn a great deal about providing the "least restrictive interventions" for these amazing children. Next, he worked for a psychologist as a therapist in a school for emotionally disturbed children and adolescents. He became the assistant director of psychological services shortly thereafter. He and his wife then moved to Ventura, and he worked as the clinical director for a non-profit family therapy center in Westlake Village.

Finally, he was a Family Court Services child custody mediator for the Ventura County Superior Court, and then

One fact that few people know is that, when our nation was stunned by the events of 9-11, one impact of this devastating event was that, for the most part, Americans stopped getting divorced and stopped fighting over their children. This attack on us provided a different perspective about what was and was not important. That was a good thing, but not for his practice. He found a job with Ventura County Behavioral Health as a therapist for a forensic mental health program, and later came to direct that program. Again, it was a position for which his prior training had not prepared him. He quickly learned to assess and manage persons who had become violent due to severe mental illnesses. This, too, became an intellectual and clinical challenge. After several years, he sought out a university teaching position, and taught social psychology at California State University, Channel Islands. He moved to California Lutheran University about five years ago, where he currently teach family mediation and family therapy to masters-level MFT students. This is a position that allows him to reflect upon what he have learned in his 38 years of practice and to prepare the next generation of family therapists for careers that he trust will be as diverse and useful as mine has been.

## Recap of March 12 Meeting

Roz Warner began the meeting by asking for a moment of awareness for the Ukrainian situation. The club was then led in singing "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" with the line, "Root, root, root for the [insert your team here]!"

Ventura Rotaract President Jen Livia announced some upcoming projects that her club is undertaking and is inviting Rotary club members to participate. This includes planting gardens for seniors, interacting with orphaned children and working with the Boys & Girls Club. Check out the Ventura Rotaract website or attend one of their meetings, the first and third Mondays of each month at the Crowne Plaza Hotel.

Reminders that March 13 at 8:00 am there is a red badge member meeting and the District Foundation gala is coming up.

Sarah Abrams conducted her fining about the history and functions of the YMCA. Brenda Allison, for her Rotary Moment recalled the sounds and smells of growing up in a Cuban household. When she bought her new house, Larry Emrich gave her pictures of porch scenes she now hangs in her dining room.

### Program

Mario de la Piedra introduce the speaker Gary Auer, a special investigator of medical fraud for Anthem Blue Cross in some western states, including California. The full extent of the fraud problem, he explained is really not fully understood: best estimates place the amount between 3-10%. Since the national healthcare expenditure for 2013 is estimated to be 2.48 trillion dollars, that would mean 80-248 billion in losses! The Government Accounting Office estimates that by 2016 4.14 trillion will be expended, or 19.6% of GNP.

Gary described the many ways they track down fraud, from overbilling, to unnecessary procedures to forming non-existent companies. A particularly dangerous fraud has led to some 68000 deaths nationwide due to overprescription of narcotics, mainly in the form of painkillers. New data tracking allows investigators to see doctors who perpetrate this fraud.

Another recent trend involves voluntary cosmetic surgeries which are not usually covered by insurance. Doctors are

## Today's Program

### *So, What Good is Family Therapy?*

Introductions:	Cessy Figueroa
Rotary Moment:	Steve Doll
Fining:	Jim Newton

#### Upcoming Programs

Mar. 19 City Water Resources with Shana Epstein

colluding with patients to carry out these procedures and billing fraudulently to insurance companies.



*One of the Interact projects coming up include distributing environmentally-conscious reuseable bags.*



*Speaker Gary Auer talks about the economic impact of healthcare fraud.*



*Indy Batra and Albert McCartney enjoy the Polio fundraiser at Doug Halter and Randy Encinas' home.*



*Roz Warner and President Irene Henry pose in front of the food table with the special cake.*



*DG Jack McClenahan and PDG Jane McClenahan talk with Doug Halter at the fundraiser.*



*Jeff King announces the efforts of the club vocational services.*



*Ron Calkins announces the board approval of moving forward with the Fourth of July event.*

# Polio Possibly Spreading to Lebanon as Syrian Children Suffer

A young child lies on a hospital bed, the small body floppy on the right side. The 19-month-old, a refugee from the conflict in Syria, has not been vaccinated: polio is suspected.

The child has been isolated with polio-like symptoms. Dr. Zaher Haider, a pediatrician at the hospital filled with Syrian refugees in Taanayel, Lebanon, and officials from the World Health Organization have sent throat and stool samples from the baby to Cairo for confirmation of the deadly disease. A spinal tap for meningitis was negative. If tests come back positive, this will be Lebanon's first documented case of polio among Syrian refugees in Lebanon, a great concern because the disease can spread quickly, especially in crowded refugee camps.

As the conflict enters its fourth year, millions of children in war-torn Syria and in refugee camps in neighboring countries are suffering from a severe lack of medical care. One in 10 children — more than 1.2 million — has fled Syria; there are over 500,000 Syrian children living as refugees in Lebanon. Since an outbreak of polio in Syria last year, world health officials have rushed to vaccinate children in the camps against the paralyzing disease.

Polio, a disease that has been mostly eradicated in most of the world, returned in Syria in October of 2013. Vaccination rates in Syria have fallen from 91 percent in 2010 to just 68 percent in 2012 — and the number today is most likely much lower. Twenty five cases of polio have been confirmed in Syria, in addition to 84 cases of measles in the first week of 2014, according to the World Health Organization.

The conflict in Syria has taken a heavy toll on the country's youth. The war has left more than 5.5 million Syrian children deprived of food, medical help, schooling




or safety, according to UNICEF statistics.

The United Nations estimates that more than 10,000 kids have died because of the violence. But a report from Save the Children found that Syrian children are also perishing due to a lack of health care.

As many hospitals have been destroyed, doctors have escaped the country and supplies have grown scarce, the report found that families are unable to get their children vaccinated, leading to a rise in polio, meningitis and measles.

- |                         |                            |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>March Birthdays</b>  | Ann Deal, Mar 24           |
| RoseAnn Hill, Mar 03    | Sandra Burkhart, Mar 26    |
| Sarah Abrams, Mar 04    | Steve Doll, Mar 27         |
| Danny Belitski, Mar 07  | Marc T. Vertin, Mar 27     |
| Ed Campbell, Mar 09     | Mario de la Piedra, Mar 30 |
| Ellyn Dembowski, Mar 10 |                            |
| Felice Ginsberg, Mar 10 | <b>March Anniversaries</b> |
| Laurie Rozet, Mar 10    | Robert Orth, Mar 10        |
| BJ Jelaca, Mar 16       | Larry Emrich, Mar 21       |
| Terri Adams, Mar 24     | Tom Naylor, Mar 25         |

 <p><b>Rotary Club of Ventura</b> Club #691</p> <p><b>Ron Burton</b> Rotary International President</p> <p><b>Jack McClenahan</b> District 5240 Governor</p> <p><b>Irene Henry</b> Club President</p> <p>venturarotary.org</p>  Find us on Facebook	<b>OFFICERS</b>	President Irene Henry President Elect Rob vanNieuwburg Secretary Jim Deardoff Recording Secretary * Christina Rust Treasurer Connie Young Assistant Treasurer * Mark Sauer Immediate Past President Indy Batra <i>*Non-Voting Position</i>
	<b>DIRECTORS</b>	<b>Club Service</b> Director Mario de la Piedra Assistant Director Roz Warner <b>Community Service</b> Director Ron Calkins Assistant Director Steve Warriner <b>International Service</b> Director Christina Rust Assistant Director Albert McCartney <b>New Generations</b> Director Courtney Lindberg Assistant Director Dale Jaedtke <b>Vocational Service</b> Director Jeff King Assistant Director Mary Saputo
<b>SPOKES</b>	Editor Curtis Cormane (curtisvta@gmail.com) Assitant Editor David Wellik Photographers Jim Deardorff, Dan Holmes, Dave Wellik, Sarah Abrams	