

ROTARY SPOKES

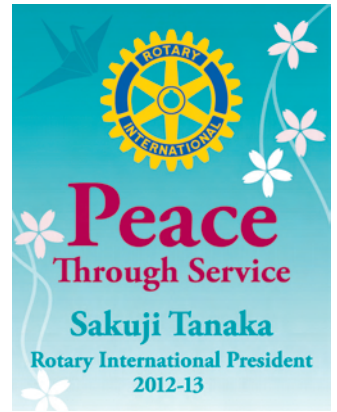
The Weekly Bulletin of the Rotary Club of Ventura, est. May 1, 1919



Volume LXXXII

Number 31

27 MARCH 2013



Ventura Rotaract in Nicaragua



Today's speaker is Victor Cai. Victor is the current president of the Ventura Rotaract Club and traveled with other Rotaractors down to Nicaragua as part of that club's ongoing international project in the village of Playa Gigante. He is presenting an overview of their humanitarian efforts, particularly for the children of that area. Ventura Rotary has been working in the same area as an ongoing international project as well.

Victor was born in China and raised in the Bay Area. He is a mechanical engineer, and is a private contractor at the Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) in Port Hueneme. He holds a 2009 Bachelor degree in mechanical engineering from Boston University.

He is also an accomplished juggler, having performed in the Zoppé Family Circus traveling the United States in 2006 as part of a seven man juggling routine and three high pyramid. Currently he is a member of the Gold Coast Juggling Club.

Nicaragua

As the second poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, Nicaragua is a developing nation that faces many economic

Ventura Rotaractors pose with Nicaraguan school children at their school in Playa Gigante.

and political challenges. The national language is Spanish, although many residents of the Caribbean coastal areas also speak English and indigenous languages. The climate is hot and humid, with the "summer" dry season running mid-November through mid-May and the "winter" rainy season running from mid-May through mid-November. Terrain ranges from the hilly and volcanic to coastal beaches and tropical jungles. Geological faults, along which active volcanoes are situated, run through the country. Tremors are common, and a major earthquake destroyed most of downtown Managua in 1972.

Nicaragua presents many opportunities for tourists. There is a growing tourist infrastructure with comfortable resorts and several large, international chain hotels in Managua catering to business and government clientele as well as tourist travelers. However, support infrastructure is still basic. A good highway network exists along the Pacific littoral and central mountain region and streets in most cities are in decent condition, but most rural roads are unpaved. Public transportation is undependable and sometimes unsafe.

Recap of March 20, 2013 meeting

RoseAnn Hill kicked off the meeting serving double duty: she handled the introductions and invocation as well as led us in a patriotic song.

Tom Naylor returned after a long hiatus to conduct his fining from his bag of tricks. Obscure items that stumped Rotarians included various items around the house, turkey trussing equipment and boat and auto parts. For his Rotary moment, Ed Summers recounted his recent participation in the dictionary project and enjoying the delight of all the eight years old getting a book of their own. Again President Indy took the opportunity to thank club members for their years of service: , Jack Wood, 1974; Gary Wolfe, 1976; Roger Case, 1977; John McConica II, 1980; Norm Blacher, 1984; Dave Loe, 1985; Tom Naylor, 1987; Rob vanNieuwburg; 1989 and a posthumous thanks to Don Leach.

Program

Chris Collier started off Craft Talks. After achieving his business degree at USC, Chris stayed on in Los Angeles working with a bridge maintenance firm before moving back to Ventura where he prefers the proximity to nature. After working for a local campaign, Chris decided that his passion lay in that field so he founded Rincon Strategies which specializes in political campaigns, government affairs and public relations.

Chris has recently opened an office in Mammoth Lakes, working on campaigns there, as well as getting in some major ski time! He is also off to spend time in Fresno to advise on local issues there.

Ajay Dhebar's parents are originally from India, but moved to Toronto, Canada, where he was born in 1973. Ajay remarked how culturally unique they were in Canada at that time. For young Ajay, sports was a big part of his life. He particularly excelled in track and field. He chose Ventura to relocate because of the beauty and climate of the area.

Ajay's career has revolved around marketing and public relations and he has traveled extensively. He has successfully organized everything from fashion shows to motivational speaking engagements, from sporting events to concert promotions. He founded the company Power Within which has featured speakers such as Bill Clinton

Today's Agenda

Victor Cai

"Ventura Rotaract in Nicaragua"

Introductions

Mystery

Rotary Moment

Mystery

Fining

RoseAnn Hill

and 'Dr. Phil' McGraw speaking to large audiences. He heads up the firm IMC Group, which specializes in galas, events and concerts.



Chris Collier speaks about his life as a campaign manager and avid hiker.



Ajay Dhebar describes his life in Canada and his relocation to Southern California.



RoseAnn Hill takes on the invocation and introductions.

Upcoming Events

2013 District 5240 Assembly (Coastal)
Pacifica High School, Oxnard
April 13, 2013

Cycle Event for Literacy
starts at VUSD Headquarters
April 20, 2013

**1:30 pm
Meeting
Today!**

President Indy's Demotion
Crowne Plaza Hotel
Jun 18, 2013 05:00 PM - 09:00 PM



Mike Anderson holds a microphone to Roger Case who answers a fining question.



Ed Summers uses his Rotary Moment to highlight the Dictionary Project.



Tom Naylor beholds a turkey trussing device during his fining session.



David Gonzalez visited from the Ventura Rotaract Club, where he serves as Membership chair.



TOP DONORS TO THE FIGHT AGAINST POLIO

BILL & MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION

\$1B+

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

\$1.08B

USA
\$1.89B



UK
\$939M



INDIA
\$1.58B



JAPAN
\$427M



Figures 1985-2011

HELP TO END POLIO NOW. SHARE YOUR VOICE AND TAKE ACTION.

ENDPOLIONOW.ORG

Rotary Club of Ventura 2012-2013

Officers

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

Rotary Spokes

Editor	Curtis Cormane (curtisvta@gmail.com)
Assitant Editor	
Photographers	Jim Deardorff, Dan Holmes, John McConica II

Avenues of Service

Club Service

Director	Dan Holmes
Assistant Director	Mario de la Piedra

Community Service

Director	Ellyn Dembowski
Assistant Director	Ron Calkins

International Service

Director	Ed McCombs
Assistant Director	Christina Rust

New Generations

Director	Gary Young
Assistant Director	Courtney Lindberg

Vocational Service

Director	Doug Halter
Assistant Director	Lynda Girtsman