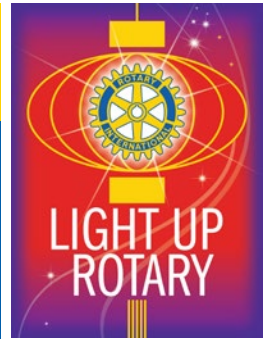


ROTARY SPOKES

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World War II Stories with Kevin Seelos

Kevin Seelos will be speaking about his father's experiences in World War II as a B-17 pilot, his time spent as a prisoner of war, and his life afterwards.



Kevin was born in Los Angeles in 1954, the third of five children. He attended elementary schools in Los Angeles before moving to Glendale. He graduated from Hoover High School in 1972 where he was a classmate and friend of Steve Doll. He was on the golf team both at Hoover and Glendale College

before transferring to UCLA where he graduated with a degree in Economics in 1976. He moved to Ventura that year to help open a family business in Downtown Ventura, which was originally known as Dream Weaver Waterbeds, then Dream Weaver Furniture and since 1994, For Your Home Furniture. They celebrated 38 years in business last September at the same location-443 East Main Street.

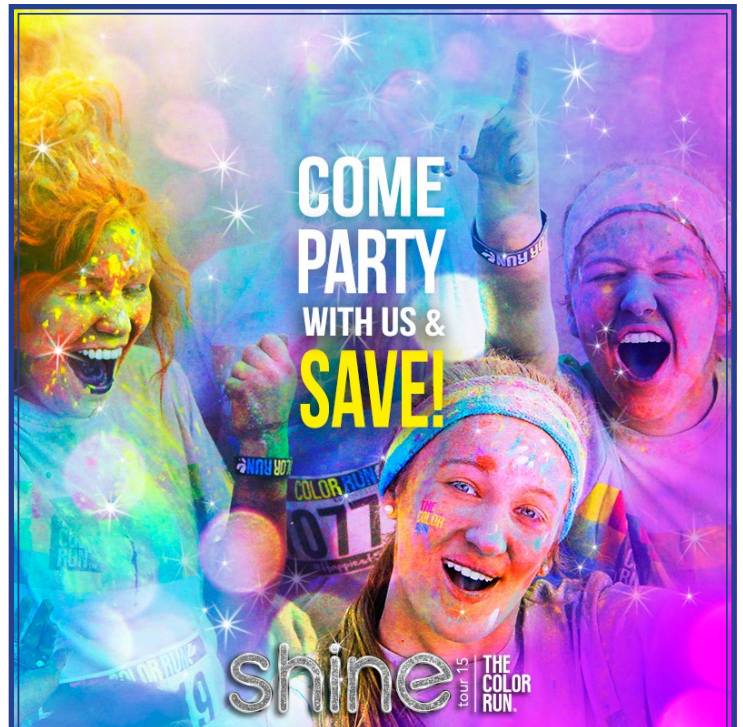
He has three children, all boys, and was married for 33 years before being widowed last year. He has been an active member of the Downtown Ventura Lions Club since 2000 and has been a board member for the club as well as a board member of the Cottage Home Foundation, which oversees a foster care home in Ventura that is affiliated with the Lions Club.



The B-17 "Flying Fortress"

On July 28, 1935, a four-engine plane took off from Boeing Field in south Seattle on its first flight, simply known as the Model 299. The new plane, with its many machine-gun mounts, was dubbed the "Flying Fortress," a name that Boeing quickly adopted and trademarked. The U.S. Army Air Corps designated the plane as the B-17.

In response to the Army's request for a large, multiengine bomber, the prototype, financed entirely



Saturday, October 17, 2015
Downtown Ventura
Spread the Word!

Meeting Recap of April 29

Dr. Mel Cheatham, for his introduction, recited a prayer from President Roosevelt about courage. "God Bless America" was led by a solo RoseAnn Hill. President Rob pointed out Hoot Bennett's return to the club.

JGMF chair Lynda Girtsman announced the receipt of a bequest of \$357,000 from the estate of former member Joe Taylor.

In announcements, Larry Rasmussen asked for sponsors for the Fourth of July event. Sponsorships are at around \$25,000, which is down from last year. Steve Warner thanked the members for their participation in the clean up at the Veteran's home. Ed Campbell had helped to set it up. Irene Henry asked for members to help with the upcoming VUSD Summerfest. Mary Saputo encouraged Rotarians to participate in the Aspire program project reviews.

BJ Jelaca earned his blue badge, given to him by President Rob. Jorge Arman delivered the Rotary Moment.

In support of earthquake relief in Nepal, Prajesh Acharya and Anup Rimal are raising funds and are in contact with Nepalese Rotary clubs. They have made up boxes for money donations which are available at Anup's Himalaya Restaurant. Mark Kirwin and Steve Doll announced that they will soon be heading to the disaster area. Also in support of the effort, Kristin Taylor's fining made an appeal for giving to this cause. **By meeting's end, over \$5,500 had been raised for this cause!**

Program

The program was "Member Spotlights" showcasing two new members.

Kevin Stevenson was born in Lakewood of three generations of Californian. He lived in Chicago for 17 years before returning to California in 1997. He is an accomplished pianist, having won the Illinois State championship. He is a mortgage banker loan officer, but also a restaurateur, having turned his love of Chicago food, particularly deep-dish pizza,

Today's Program *World War II Stories*

Introductions: Sally Crain
Rotary Moment: Steve Bradvica
Fining: Indy Batra

Future Programs

May 13 Interact Bake Sale
May 20 Member Spotlights
May 27 Braille Institute

into a local restaurant.

Kevin is married with six children, He has belonged to the Nipomo Rotary and is very active in his church. He has also worked for the volunteer organization Compassion International. He also loves to travel.

Ken Leandro is married and has two children. He has lived in Ventura for 17 years. He was originally raised in the Bay Area but attended UCSB. After college, he joined the Peace Corps, serving in the Eastern Caribbean island of Nevis.

Ken joined the publication, Islands Magazine, doing a lot of travelling . Realizing he was missing time with his family, he established a mobile marketing company, 805Insider, which focuses on digital loyalty for companies.



Kevin Stevenson shared his story as both a mortgage banker and restaurant owner.



Ken Leandro ended his presentation with an informal poll of digital usage by members.



Dr. Mel Cheatham began the meeting with a prayer.



Anup Rimal and Prajesh Acharya make an appeal for Nepal earthquake relief.



Jorge Arman presented the club with his Rotary Moment.



Larry Rasmussen, who serves with the Fourth of July Committee, appeals for sponsors.



Kristin Taylor turned the final session to a heartfelt appeal for the Nepal earthquake relief.

B-17

Continued from front page.

by Boeing, went from design board to flight test in less than 12 months.

The B-17 was a low-wing monoplane that combined aerodynamic features of the XB-15 giant bomber, still in the design stage, and the Model 247 transport. The B-17 was the first Boeing military aircraft with a flight deck instead of an open cockpit and was armed with bombs and five .30-caliber machine guns mounted in clear “blisters.”

The first B-17s saw combat in 1941, when the British Royal Air Force took delivery of several B-17s for high-altitude missions. As World War II intensified, the bombers needed additional armament and armor.

The B-17E, the first mass-produced model Flying Fortress, carried nine machine guns and a 4,000-pound bomb load. It was several tons heavier than the prototypes and bristled with armament. It was the first Boeing airplane with the distinctive — and enormous — tail for improved control and stability during high-altitude bombing. Each version was more heavily armed.

In the Pacific, the planes earned a deadly reputation with the Japanese, who dubbed them “four-engine fighters.” The Fortresses were also legendary for their ability to stay in the air after taking brutal poundings.

Seventy-five years after the B-17’s first flight, an 88 year-old veteran sent The Boeing Company a letter. After explaining how he returned to England after a bombing raid over Germany with 179 flak holes and only two out of the four engines, he wrote: “I’m glad to be alive. Thank you for making such a good airplane.”

May Birthdays

Jim Deardorff, May 06
 Joe Schaaf, May 08
 Connie Young, May 13
 Hutch Hutchinson, May 14
 Neal Andrews, May 15
 Betsy Chess, May 24
 Leo Tauber, May 26
 Mel Cheatham, May 29

May Anniversaries

Gary Young, May 11
 Hoot Bennett, May 13
 Greg & Sarah Abrams, May 19
 Erik Feingold, May 27
 Connie Young, May 27
 Mel & Sylvia Cheatham, May 30
 Matt LaVere, May 30
 Jeff King, May 31



Ready for prom: our exchange student Cristhian Pazmino poses with host brother William Brashears.

Gen. Carl Spaatz, the American air commander in Europe, said, “Without the B-17 we may have lost the war.”

Boeing Plant 2 built a total of 6,981 B-17s in various models, and another 5,745 were built under a nationwide collaborative effort by Douglas and Lockheed (Vega). Only a few B-17s survive today, featured at museums and air shows; most were scrapped at the end of the war.



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