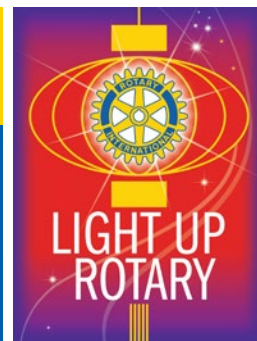


# ROTARY SPOKES

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

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## Member Spotlights: Raj Bajwa and Tommy Slater

Ranjeet Singh Bajwa, OD, or "Raj" to family and friends, is a recent addition to the health care arena of Ventura. After purchasing the longstanding private practice of fellow Rotarian Dick Hatcher just over a year ago, Ranjeet has diligently worked



to maintain the high level of care and compassion for the patients of his newly acquired practice.

Ranjeet is a native Californian, born and raised in the small town of Porterville and graduating from the University of California, Davis. After graduating from the Southern California College of Optometry in Fullerton, Ranjeet dedicated an additional year to a hospital based residency serving the Navajo nation for the Crownpoint Indian Health Services hospital in Crownpoint, NM. In addition to his clinical training, Ranjeet has also been awarded Diplomate certification from the American Board of Optometry as well as the Fellow in the American Academy of Optometry, an achievement attained by less than 10% of optometrists nationwide. For the past four years, Ranjeet has been associated with private Optometric and Ophthalmologic practices in Bakersfield. During his time in Bakersfield Ranjeet volunteered as the President of the Kern County Optometric Society, as well as for the California Optometric Association's Communications Committee and currently serves on the Board of Trustees for the California Optometric Association.

Just before coming to Ventura Ranjeet was awarded the Young Optometrist of the Year by the California Optometric Association. Ranjeet has been a



featured contributor for articles in US News & World Report in addition to over a dozen appearances on local TV and radio news programs speaking on eye health and wellness.

Ranjeet was recently married to his wife, Renu, who works

as a clinical pharmacist for Community Memorial Hospital in Ventura. They live with their dog, Dubbu, a King Charles Cavalier spaniel, in Port Hueneme.

Tommy Slater is new to our club, but not to Rotary, having been a member of the Rotary Club of Ventura-East. He even served that club as president.

Tommy is a Commercial Loan Officer with County Commerce Bank and previously worked for Wells Fargo and Santa Barbara Bank and Trust.



**Club Social, Tuesday, June 2, 2015**  
**FOOD TRUCK TUESDAY**  
**At Poinsettia Pavillion.**

Bring your partner and join the fun from 5:30ish to 7:00ish. You buy your food, the club provides Beverages: Beer, Wine and Soda.

Then, we are invited to President Rob's home at 773 Skyline Road for dessert and a coffee bar.

## Meeting Recap of May 13

Dan Holmes started the meeting with an interesting parable. In the spirit of the day's program, Staci Johnson and RoseAnn Hill sang "A Spoonful of Sugar."

District 5240 Governor Loretta Butts, accompanied by her husband, made a special presentation involving club members who have served in the military. Eleven members were on hand to receive the honor.

Our exchange student, Cristhian Pazmino, who is nearing the end of time with us, showed us a presentation of his life in Ecuador as well as the past year in Ventura. He was effusive in his thanks to those who had made his experience so wonderful. Cristhian will graduate with his friends at Ventura College and then head out for the month-long train trip around the country.

Ron Bamieh conducted his usual fining-as-retribution, while Mary Saputo used her Rotary Moment to thank Rotarians for their service.

### Program

The Annual Interact Bake Sale was conducted as desserts, prepared by the Ventura High School students, were auctioned off. Over \$1,900.00 was raised for the students' projects. Thanks go to Interact advisor Courtney Lindberg and to Doug

## Today's Program *Member Spotlights*

Introductions:

Dave Bianco

Rotary Moment:

Jim Newton

Fining:

RoseAnn Hill

### Future Programs

May 27 Braille Institute

Jun 03 Dr. Trudy Arriaga

Jun 10 "Nest Egg Hunter" w/Cinthia Marshall

Halter and Randy Encinas for allowing use of their home to prepare the food.



*DG Loretta Butts joined our club today to honor veterans.*



*The Ventura High School Interact Club joined us to auction off sweet treats to raise funds for their club. Courtney Lindberg, who is the Interact advisor of our club, joined the students for the photo.*





*DG Loretta Butts honors our club's veterans: Larry Rasmussen, Jack Wood, Norm Blacher, Terry Schaeffer, Gary Wolfe, Hank Chandler, Greg Kincaid, Mel Cheatham, Larry Dawes, Dick Hatcher and Mike Montoya.*



*Mary Saputo expressed her thanks to fellow Rotarians in her Rotary Moment.*



*Cristhian Pazmino, our exchange student, showed a presentation of his year with us.*



*Interact president Stacie Perez shared the club activities that funds raised will help.*



*Dan Holmes served as auctioneer as students paraded around their sweet treats.*



## Rotary to Thank Congress

Rotary will recognize five members of Congress for their support of the humanitarian service organization's top priority to eradicate polio, a vaccine-preventable disease that still paralyzes children in parts of the world today.

The following lawmakers will be presented with Rotary's Polio Eradication Champion Award during an event at the Capitol Building in Washington, D.C. on May 13, 2015: Sen. Lamar Alexander (Tenn.), Sen. Patty Murray (Wash.), Rep. Charlie Dent (Pa.), and Rep. Barbara Lee (Calif.). Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (N.H.) will be accepting the award earlier in the day in her D.C. office.

These five lawmakers serve as advocates for securing U.S. government funding for polio eradication activities through the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). As key allies, they influence both their constituents at home and Congressional colleagues to support a



*Rotary Trustee Mike McGovern, CDC's Dr. Tom Frieden, Rep. Barbara Lee and PolioPlus Chair John Germ.*

polio-free world.

As the world's largest funder of polio eradication, the U.S. government has contributed more than \$2.6 billion since the mid-1980s. To support the final push to end polio, Rotary and its partners are asking for \$227.8 million in U.S. funding in 2016 through the CDC and USAID. To date, Rotary has contributed more than \$1.3 billion and countless volunteer hours to fight polio.

## New Member Proposals

The following are proposed for membership:

**Kirk Hamilton**, proposed by Ben Unseth with classification of "Christianity- Evangelical."

**Jason Ritchey**, proposed by Ellyn Dembowski with classification of "Banking."

**Danny Saldana**, proposed by Irene Henry with classification of "Brew Pub."

If you have any objection to membership of these individuals in our club, please contact the President or Secretary in writing within 7 days.

### 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



	<b>OFFICERS</b>	
	President	Rob vanNieuwburg
<b>Rotary Club of Ventura</b> Club #691  <b>Gary C.K. Huang</b> Rotary International President  <b>Loretta Butts</b> District 5240 Governor  <b>Rob vanNieuwburg</b> Club President  <a href="http://venturarotary.org">venturarotary.org</a>  Find us on Facebook	President Elect	Mario de la Piedra
	Secretary	Jim Deardorff
	Recording Secretary *	Larry Emrich
	Treasurer	Connie Young
	Assistant Treasurer *	Mark Sauer
	Immediate Past President	Irene Henry
	*Non-Voting Position	
	<b>Club Service</b>	
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	Assistant Director	Ellyn Dembowski
<b>DIRECTORS</b>	<b>Community Service</b>	
	Director	Steve Warriner
	Assistant Director	Mike Anderson
	<b>International Service</b>	
	Director	Albert McCartney
	Assistant Director	Mark Kirwin
	<b>Youth Service</b>	
	Director	Dale Jaedtke
	Assistant Director	Dave Wellik
	<b>Vocational Service</b>	
<b>SPOKES</b>	Director	Mary Saputo
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