



# ROTARY SPOKES

*The Rotary Club of Ventura  
Weekly Bulletin*

*"The friendliest club in Rotary"*

*100% Paul Harris Club*



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May 23, 2012

**Meeting of May 16, 2012**  
**International Disaster Relief**  
**Featuring Mark Kirwin**  
**Reporter: Betsy Chess**



**Greg Kincaid** handled Introductions and read an Invocation inspired by outgoing RI President Banerjee and **Clyde Reynolds** and **RoseAnn Hill** led us in *It's a Grand Old Flag*.

#### **Presentations and Announcements**

**Prez Lynda** – Club Bar BQ was a great success and many thanks to all who came.

**John Brant and Indy Batra** presented club banners from Bangkok they brought from the International Convention in Thailand.

Hutch presented **Ajay Keesha and Ellyn Dembowski Paul Harris Fellowships** for creating Project Compassion.

**Fining** – **Ellyn Dembowski** quizzed us about ... Rotary! What knowledgeable Rotarians we are!

**Rotary Moment** – **Gary Wolfe** said he has been involved with this club since he was eight when his father joined. Heard names of many of Ventura's movers and shakers whom he then met when he himself joined in 1976.

**Program** - Prez Lynda introduced **Mark Kirwin** a returning member. With his wife, he runs the non-profit **Kirwin International Relief Foundation (KIRF)**. Does 2nd stage disaster relief i.e. a few weeks after the initial disaster. Education and orphan issues are a special focus.

Began in Thailand in 2004 on vacation – tsunami hit. Escaped by chance! Jumped immediately into relief efforts. Started KIRF upon return - using skills we all have. Nothing too small. Collected some money and returned. "We find what is needed (assessment) and then purchase this and deliver ourselves," said Mark, First project was to build a fish farm. Another was to provide books to a village. Gifts to leaders are important to open doors. He finds out whom to talk to first so no one is offended. Tribe called Moken was stranded – food, water, storage tank and two fishing boats were provided 2005 – Cambodia – food, school supplies to orphanage in Phnom Penh.

2006 – USA – Hurricane Katrina - living supplies,

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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

Chair: Larry Emrich



**May 23, 2012**

**The Annual Interact Bake Sale**

*Don't miss it!!!*

**May 30, 2012**

**Drugs and Professional Bike Riding**

**June 6, 2012**

**D Day plus 4: The 68<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Initial invasion on Omaha Beach**

### Introductions

Chair: Ron Calkins

**May 23 – Jeff King**

**May 30 – TBA**

### Rotary Moment

Chair: Terri Adams

**May 23 – Jack Wood**

**May 30 – Gary Young**

### Fining

Chair: Ron Bamieh

**May 23 – Curtis Cormane**

**May 30 – Dennis LaRochelle**

### Program continued

backpacks and Patagonia jackets.

2006 – Tanzania – school and farm supplies, rain catchment via Jane Goodall's Roots and Shoots

2006 – India – drought relief, textbooks and Patagonia jackets. (Bihar) Two trips.

2006 – Thailand – orphan scholarship aid. Plus help to HIV + kids – ice cream business.

2007 – Burma – medical supplies and textbooks. Help to refugees who had lost limbs due to land mines.

Something as simple as soccer balls provides a bridge.

2007 – Peru – earthquake relief via help from Peruvian firefighters.

2007 – Mexico – pre-Christmas relief to Tijuana orphans and a women's shelter.

2008 – Burma – cyclone relief via underground "monk network".

2009 – India – Kirwin James International School in Bihar. Also built wells, sewing center.

2010 – Haiti – earthquake relief. – 22,000 lbs of food in a week.

2011 – New Zealand – Christchurch, Polynesian community relief blankets, hats, clothes helped by local police force.

2012 – sewing center and well in Bihar.

Mark's parting advice – Enjoy the gift of giving since you can't always own the project!

## 2011-12 Officers and Directors

### Officers

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

### Avenues of Service

#### Club Service

Director .....	Terry Schaeffer
Assistant Director .....	Dan Holmes

#### Community Service

Director .....	Curtis Cormane
Assistant Director .....	Nanci Cone

#### International Service

Director .....	Mario de la Piedra
Assistant Director .....	Ed McCombs

#### New Generations

Director .....	Ellyn Dembowski
Assistant .....	Ken Cooper

#### Vocational Service

Director .....	Bill Finley
Assistant .....	Todd Binkley





## **Disaster Preparedness for Business**

Last week's speaker, our own Mark Kirwin, wears yet another hat – he is working with the Ventura Business Prepared Committee and the Sheriff's office to help business owners prepare for disasters that may hit our own back yard.

He alerted us to the following website, which he promises contains a wealth of information on the subject: [www.readyventura.org](http://www.readyventura.org) – click on the business prepared tab.

Thank you, Mark!



## **ROTARY RECOGNIZED FOR PARTNERSHIP IN POLIO ERADICATION**

In a recent LA Times article, authored by Ban Ki-Moon, Secretary General of the United Nations, ***Rotary International was recognized for its partnership with the United Nations in driving the global campaign to eradicate POLIO.***

"Rotarians, volunteers, political and religious leaders (not to mention parents) ... have worked for decades to ensure that every child is protected."

The article states that, thanks to these efforts, India, which just two years ago was home to half of all the world's children with polio, is celebrating its first polio-free year in history.

Mr. Ban Ki-Moon goes on to say that eradication in the remaining polio-endemic countries – Nigeria, Pakistan and Afghanistan – depends heavily on government resources, but that will not be enough. Neither will the dedication of the workers on the front lines. "The Global Polio Eradication Initiative has only half of the \$2 billion it needs to procure vaccines and deploy staff to the last outposts of the disease."

"This week, the world's health ministers will declare a **global public health emergency** and call on the world to respond to the threat of resurgent polio. Let's heed those calls, so that we can make the threat of polio a distant and fading memory."

***Thanks to Jim Deardorff for bringing this article to our attention.***

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**May 25 (Friday) 7:30 – 8:30 AM at  
Crowne Plaza C Street Restaurant  
Monthly Newcomers' Meeting**

**June 19 (Tuesday)  
President Lynda's Step Down Dinner**



**Crowne Plaza Hotel  
Reception at 5:00 pm  
Buffet Dinner at 6:00 pm**



**June 20 (Wednesday) – DARK (no meeting)  
Day after step-down dinner**

**June 23 (Saturday) – District Luncheon at  
Moorpark Country Club  
DG Wade Nomura's Step Down &  
2011-12 Club Awards Celebration  
More information to come**