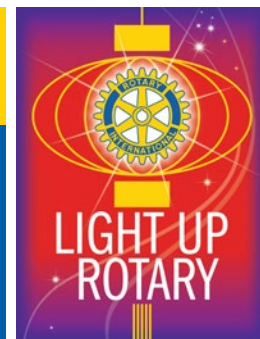


ROTARY SPOKES

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

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Braille Institute

Today's speaker is Brenda Birdwell, a Certified Senior Advisor (CSA) and the Field Services Manager of Braille Institute in Santa Barbara. She will be giving a brief history of the Braille Institute, providing information on the services Braille offers in Ventura County, and giving tips on how to interact with low vision people.

Brenda manages community outreach programs through staff and volunteers, including low vision consultations and orientation and mobility training. She develops,



prepares, and conducts community outreach seminars to promote Braille Institute's programs and services for the visually impaired.

She also represents the Braille Institute at health fairs and other venues in the community, making presentations and promoting programs. She is always looking for opportunities to bring the Braille Institute's programs to new venues, and to let more people know about the Braille Institute's services to empower visually impaired people to live fulfilling lives.

Ventura Rotarians on the Ground in Nepal

Ventura Rotarians Mark Kirwin and Steve Doll have recently returned from Nepal, having travelled there to assist in relief efforts following the massive 8.1 magnitude earthquake of April 25. With contacts provided by fellow club member Anup Rimal, who comes from Kathmandu, Mark and Steve

collaborated with the Rotary Club of Bagmati, Kathmandu.

Mark's foundation KIRF (Kirwin International Relief Foundation), along with the support of

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Steve Doll and Mark Kirwin worked directly with the people affected by the earthquake to provide needed aid. Funds raised by our club and other Venturans directly aided the Nepalese.

Meeting Recap of May 20

Dave Bianco started the meeting with a quote from Mark Twain. Clyde Reynolds, Staci Johnson and RoseAnn Hill led us in singing all of the Armed Forces songs in anticipation of Memorial Day.

Sherry Scott reminded members of the upcoming June 2 food truck social at Pinettia Pavilion/. The next Newcomers meeting was announced: Thursday May 28th, 7:30-9:00 a.m. at Poinsettia Pavilion. A birthday cake was presented to celebrate Leo Tauber 99th birthday. Unfortunately, he was unable to attend the meeting, so a video was made of the club singing the "Birthday Song" to Leo.

Mary Saputo invited Rotarians to visit the Reading Faire at Ventura High School on Wednesday, before heading to the Rotary meeting. JGMF president Lynda Girtsman presented a \$1,000.00 check to VHS for the event and Larry Emrich accepted the donation

RoseAnn Hill fined on all things concerning the State of Hawaii. Jim Newton shared a Rotary Moment from his youth in the 1940s; the Rotary magazine had a children's section 'Broken Spokes' with puzzles and riddles. He shared one of the riddles.

Program

The spotlight was on two new members to the club. Raj Bajwa is an optometrist, who recently relocated to Ventura County, acquiring the practice of club member Dick Hatcher. He had relocated to New Mexico to practice, but eventually moved back to California. He now splits time between his practice in Bakersfield and Ventura. He married last August. His wife is a clinical pharmacist. Raj was born in the US but his parents are from India: Sikhs from Punjab and he is currently trying to learn the language.

Raj shared that he joined Rotary because he comes from a family of teachers and wants to give back to the community He was once an Interactor.

Tommy Slater, still recovering from recent knee surgery, has been a longtime Rotarian. He has also been in banking for quite a while, currently with

Today's Program *Braille Institute*

Introductions:	Ron Bamieh
Rotary Moment:	Ellyn Dembowski
Fining:	Dan Holmes

Future Programs

Jun 03	Dr. Trudy Arriaga
Jun 10	"Nest Egg Hunter" w/Cynthia Marshall
Jun 17	Ventura Botanical Gardens Update

Club Social, Tuesday, June 2, 2015

FOOD TRUCK TUESDAY **At Poinsettia Pavillion, 5:30-7:00**

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

County Commerce Bank. He was born to a military family in Colorado, but was brought up in the Goleta/ Santa Barbara area. He has been in Ventura the last 22 years. His parents were important to him and his father was a big influence on him. His dad was a well-rounded man who instilled in Tommy a love of reading and learning.

He loves golf and dogs. He has 2 clumber spaniels and a 150 gallon reef tank.



Tommy Slater described his early life and his father's influence



Raj Bajwa talks about his life and why he became a Rotarian.



Larry Emrich accepted a donation to Ventura High School for the Reader's Faire.



Dave Bianco kicked off the meeting with some Mark Twain bon mots.



Jim Newton harkened back to his youth for his Rotary Moment.



RoseAnn Hill fined on one of favorite places, Hawaii.



President Rob and Mario de la Piedra took exchange student Cristhian Pazmino to see the Dodgers.



Photos taken by Mark Kirwin and Steve Doll show the extent of damage.

Nepal

Continued from front page.

many Venturans worked directly with the affected, interviewing villagers to assess their immediate needs.

As a result, they procured locally sourced materials, including zinc sheet metal roofing to provide shelter for the coming monsoons to approximately 150 homes in the villages of Hille, Kharse and Champi. They also provided a week's worth of food, rice and soy protein, for the low caste community (putuwar) of Ichango, plus some tarps.

The earthquake killed more than 8,000 people and injured more than 19,000. It demolished more than half a million homes, most of them in rural areas cut off from emergency medical care.

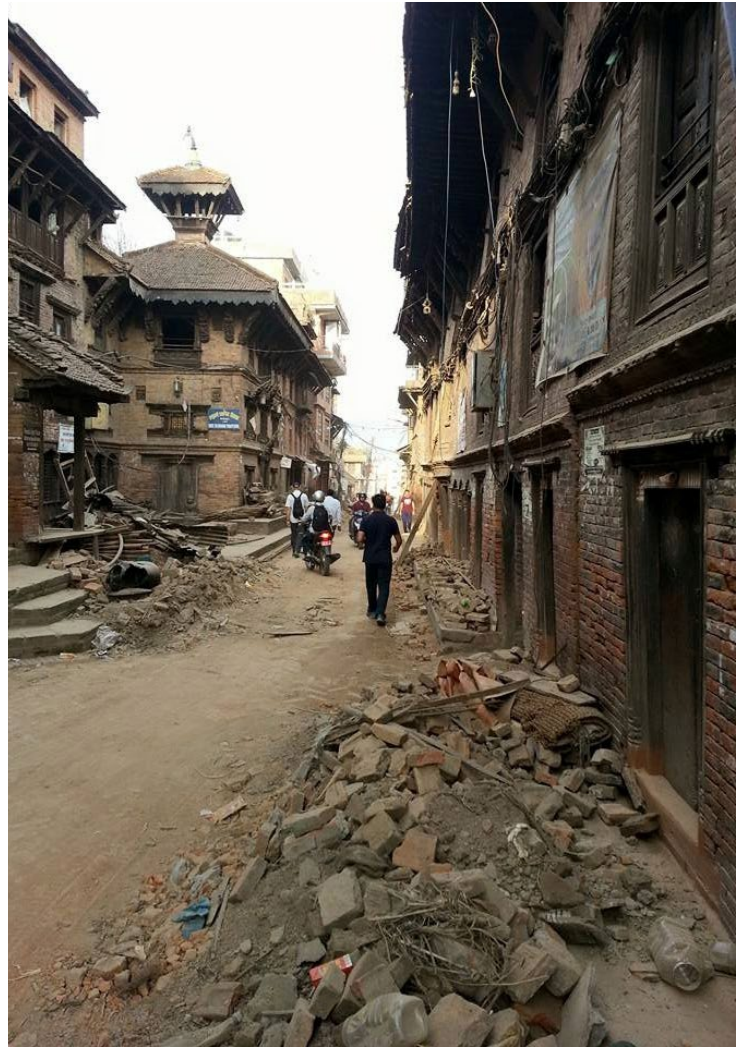
The country remains perilously unstable with the risk of landslides from ongoing aftershocks, forcing thousands to leave their homes and camp out in open fields, just weeks before the start of seasonal monsoon rains.


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



 Rotary Club of Ventura Club #691 Gary C.K. Huang Rotary International President Loretta Butts District 5240 Governor Rob vanNieuwburg Club President venturarotary.org  Find us on Facebook	OFFICERS	President Rob vanNieuwburg 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 <i>*Non-Voting Position</i>
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