



# ROTARY SPOKES

*The Rotary Club of Ventura  
Weekly Bulletin*

*"The friendliest club in Rotary"*

*100% Paul Harris Club*



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Volume LXXXII Number 17

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November 2, 2011

## **Meeting of October 26, 2011** **Program – Homeless Programs in Ventura** **Reporter: Nanci Cone**

### **Introductions**

President Lynda called the meeting to order at 12:30ish. Sonny Shah led the pledge and



introduced our only visiting Rotarian as well as several lucky guests anxious to check out the lunch offering – this week we had chicken for a change. Rotarians sang a somewhat rousing version of "America the Beautiful."

Madame President called on Ron Bamieh to be recognized for leading the La Reina School to national championship in the Mock Trials. He was fined \$50 – a bargain price.

### **Announcements**



The soft-spoken Kristin Taylor informed everyone that the Coats for Kids boxes, donated by Sally Crane and Scott Patterson were downstairs to be picked up as everyone strained to hear what she had to say. She warned

everyone, under pain of death, not to leave before they met with her and picked up the correct boxes and packets. Lynda noted that the South Korea delegation at the District Conference were so impressed with this program that they are going to start a Coats for Kids in their country.

Our esteemed president called PE Indy Batra up to the podium to receive his 4th Paul Harris Fellowship – he seems to be making a career of this! He was honored for the Homeless Prevention Project which he has been spearheading. So far, pledges from 21 people have raised almost \$20,000; the funds will be used to pay one-time emergency bills to keep families from losing their home.

Larry Emrich reminded everyone about the football pools for the End Polio Now Fundraiser. Ventura routed Buena with a score of 20-6 and Steve Bradvica was the first winner. He noted that anyone who had been fined was eligible to put their names on a square which caused a stampede at the end of the meeting. Bob Cheatham, representing the family in "getting to know you", announced that his father had designed an airplane pillow that is being touted as being the most effective one on the market. Rotarians who purchase the pillow will receive a 40% discount. The question is – can they also get 40% more foot room?

### **Rotary Moment**



glad to have you back, Larry!

Larry Dawes was back and spoke movingly about how touched he was by the response from his "extended Rotary family" while he was in the hospital recovering from heart surgery. We are so

### **Fining**

Jim Newton had a grand old time asking questions about football trophies no one had ever heard of, such

*cont'd p. 2*

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

**November 2, 2011**

*Craft Talks: Ajay Keshap &  
RYE Inbound Florence Fayn*

**November 9, 2011**

*Rowing on Lake Casitas  
(Wendy Gillett)*

**November 16, 2011**

*The Rotary Foundation (TRF) –  
What it means  
(IPP Hutch, Prez Lynda and her sister)*

### Introductions

Chair: Ron Calkins

Nov 2 – Andy Soter      Nov 9 – Mike Anderson  
Nov 16 – Brenda Allison

### Rotary Moment

Chair: Terri Adams

Nov 2 – Ellyn Dembowski      Nov 9 – Christina Rust  
Nov 16 – Margo Byrne

### Fining

Chair: Ron Bamieh

Nov 2 – Nanci Cone      Nov 9 – Irene Henry  
Nov 16 – Katherine Wertheim

## 2011-12 Officers and Directors

### Officers

President ..... Lynda Girtsman  
President Elect ..... Indy Batra  
Secretary ..... Jim Deardoff  
Recording Secretary \* ..... Larry Emrich  
Treasurer ..... Christine Tonello  
Assistant Treasurer \* ..... Mark Sauer  
Immediate Past President ..... Hutch Hutchinson  
•Non-Voting Position

### 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

### *Fining continued:*

as “The Apple Trophy” and “The Keg of Nails Trophy.” Scott Patterson was the only one with the correct answer (everyone thinks he cheated!)

### Program

Indy Batra introduced the tag team of **Peter Brown**, Community Services Manager for the City of Ventura and **Rob Orth**, Executive Director of Project Understanding. Rob announced that November is National Homeless Awareness Month and that he and a team of professionals including Rotary members **Clyde Reynolds** and **Bill Finley** are working together to help the chronically homeless as well as those who just need help to keep them from becoming homeless.



Rob noted that one out of six individuals is close to becoming homeless – something that caused everyone to look around nervously. He is working hand-in-hand with Indy, Clyde and Bill to “give a hand up, not a hand out” to these individuals. He explained that often a family only needs help with a rent payment. He and his staff will sit down with the family, look at their finances, talk about budget adjustments and then they will make a payment directly to the landlord – only if the family can prove they will be able to stay in their homes at least another three months. It was pointed out that the average payment is \$752 which is a lot cheaper than the \$10-12,000 to re-house a family.

Peter Brown said there are 570 homeless people in Ventura – something they know because they do a count every January. The majority of homeless individuals live in Oxnard and Ventura due to location of social services and exceptional weather.

He said that most of us who think of homeless people picture someone who is 40-55, male, possibly a veteran, struggling with mental illness and substance abuse, a smoker who is missing most of his teeth. These individuals do not want to change their behavior and they are experts when it comes to getting food, clothing, and money for alcohol or drugs.

The other homeless people are usually more invisible since they live on a friend's couch or in their cars.

*cont'd p. 3*

### ***Program continued***

The number of homeless people is going to grow as is vagrancy and an accumulation of debris with the realignment of the prison system and more prisoners being transferred to the County Jail. Also, there is no repatriation program for those released from the hospital or jail with no support system in place.

He pointed out that professional panhandlers can make as much as \$50/hour – especially if they are standing with a dog and/or a child while the chronically homeless make at least \$15/hour – all of it not taxed.

On December 1, the Armory on Arundell will begin its winter shelter schedule. The shelter is open for four months, but Peter said we need a year-round shelter to help convince them to get the help they need. It costs \$25-75,000/year for each homeless individual for reactive services such as being transported by an ambulance, hospital stay, police call outs, time spent in prison, and visits to the emergency room. At this point, 50-60% of vagrants are mental ill and addicted to alcohol or hard drugs. A year-round shelter will help get them professional help and save the taxpayers a tremendous amount of money.

## ***November Birthdays & Anniversaries***

### ***Birthdays***

**1<sup>st</sup> – Steve Warriner**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> – Ed Summers and Gary Wolfe**  
**4<sup>th</sup> – Jeff King**  
**5<sup>th</sup> – Cary Savitch**  
**6<sup>th</sup> – Ron Rose**  
**11<sup>th</sup> – Todd Binkley**  
**13<sup>th</sup> – Ajay Keshap**  
**16<sup>th</sup> – Sheila Fatterelli and Ed McCombs**  
**18<sup>th</sup> – Tom Wolfe**  
**28<sup>th</sup> – Mark Sauer and Terry Schaeffer**

### ***Anniversaries***

**10<sup>th</sup> – Steve and Caroline Doll**  
**16<sup>th</sup> – Randy & Barbara Hinton**  
**17<sup>th</sup> – Steve and Gretchen Bradvica**  
**20<sup>th</sup> – Dan and April Holmes**  
**27<sup>th</sup> – Gary and Ann Wolfe**

***Congratulations to All!***

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**November 13 (Sunday) - 1:00 PM**

**Peace Conference – Palm Springs Convention Center**

**Keynote Speaker: Mr. Arun Gandhi, grandson of Mahatma Gandhi**

**Other Speakers: Vanessa Contopulos, Rotary Peace Fellow 2008-09 and**

**Michael Fryer, Peace Builder and Educator**

**Breakout Session Focus Groups & Displays**

**For informational flyer and registration go to the Rotary Zones 25/26 website:**

**[www.rotaryzones2526.org](http://www.rotaryzones2526.org)**

**November 17 (Thursday) – 11:45 AM**

**Board Meeting – 71 Palm**

**November 23 (Wednesday)**

**DARK – No meeting**

**December 2 (Friday) – 6:00 PM**

**Club Holiday Social at Ann Deal's home**

**December 14 (Wednesday) – 9:00AM**

**Children's Holiday Shopping Spree and Party**

**December 28 (Wednesday)**

**Joint Club Meeting with Ventura East**

Award-winning composer, humanitarian, educator and world musician, **John Zeretzke**, will be presenting a unique program for our Rotary group about his travels around the world.

**UPCOMING COATS FOR KIDS MEETING**

**DATES TO PUT ON YOUR CALENDAR**

**November 9**

**December 14**

**November 30**

**January 11**

For more information, please contact Kristin Taylor