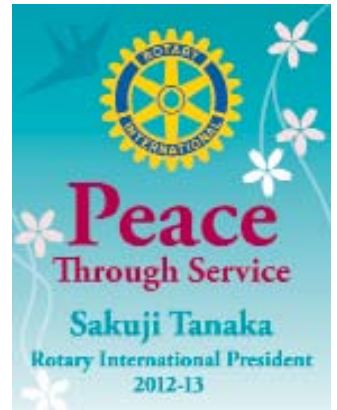


# ROTARY SPOKES

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



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## Craft Talks Featuring Barbara Fitzgerald and Mahesh Talwar

Barbara Fitzgerald has recently rejoined our club after a brief hiatus and is a multiple Paul Harris fellow. She is a 30 year resident of Ventura and is retired from the County of Ventura Human Services Agency after 34 years. As Director of the HSA, she managed a budget of \$165 million and some 1,100 employees. She successfully worked with Sacramento and Washington D.C., increasing funding for Ventura County programs and creating many programs that benefit children and families in our community. Barbara has been recognized by many organizations throughout Ventura County as a strong leader, true innovator and a person who has made a difference in the lives of children.

Barbara has served on the Ventura Unified School District Board of Education since 2003. She values and respects the opinions of students, parents and teachers and will listen to concerns. Barbara believes strongly in equality and access to needed services to prepare all of youth for their tomorrows.

Barbara is an accomplished artist. She grew up in Madison, Connecticut where she was surrounded by artists in the community as well as her artist mother, Rita Beecher-Powell.

Mahesh Talwar holds a MSChE degree and his work is related to air pollution control. That work has earned him a US President's award and a California Governor's award. He started his career first working in the chemical and petrochemical design industry and then moved on as a Senior Scientist for the California Air Pollution Control Agency. He has published extensively and is the author of two technical books. He also taught course in air pollution control engineering at University of California, Santa Barbara and has five patents (pending) on diesel engine emissions controls and biofuels area.



Mahesh is President and CEO of OceanAir Environmental, LLC, a firm operating out of Somis, California. EPA certified kits for EMD 645 series engines (tug boats, locomotives), biodiesel production technologies, biomass to liquid production.

His education includes M.S., Chemical Engineering from California Polytechnic State University Pomona (1980 – 82), Institute of Technology and a BS, Chemical Engineering (1973 – 78) from Banaras Hindu University.

## Polio Eradication (NID) trip to India is Organizing

District 5240 is putting together another team of Rotarians to India to participate in a NID (National Immunization Day) on February 24-25, 2013.

The trip will most likely start on February 19th and end around March 2nd.. Besides the activities on Feb. 24th, door to door immunization will be done over a few days starting on the 25th.

Contact Larry Emrich if you are interested in going!

## Meeting of 14 November 2012

Since our meeting fell a couple of days after Veteran's Day, President Indy saluted the veterans in the club. Hutch Hutchison presented a brief film about a Rotary project to provide clean water to impoverished areas in Peru. He then acknowledged our latest Bequest Society member Barbara Asbell. Announcements included:

- Jim Newton fined on humorous medical terms.
- Dale Jaedtke spoke on the Rotaractor trip to Nicaragua, which he accompanied.
- Rob Orth announced the One City One Meal project on Thanksgiving which tries to increase interaction between homeless and homed.
- Lt. Jensen of the Salvation Army and Steve Kipp asked members to volunteer for bell ringing over the holidays.
- Greg Kincaid was awarded a golden weenie, while Dave Loe was acknowledged as 'Bad Rotarian of the month'.
- Rob vanNieuwburg announced that the annual Children's Holiday Party will be held December 12th.

### Program

Jorge Arman introduced wives of past Rotarian Presidents who are no longer with us. He asked each to share some memories of those presidential years and the changes they have seen since.

- Barbra Bonham remembers Rotary Ann events and decorating for Rotary events. She is a Paul Harris Fellow recipient.
- Patti Longo's husband Rudy was songleader for the club. She recalls they attended the Rotary International conference in Mexico City and left the country with a new timeshare!
- Betty Sherman lamented their International Conference was held in exotic Bakersfield, but the year was fun and filled with memories.
- Janni Chung enjoyed going to the conventions, especially in Calgary; she fondly remembers the club project to purchase school desks to Mexico.



## Today's Agenda

### *Craft Talks*

Barbara Fitzgerald  
and Mahesh Talwar

Introductions

*Kristin Taylor*

Rotary Moment

*Mystery Guest*

Fining

*Gary Young*



## NEW MEMBER PROPOSAL

The following are proposed for membership:

- **Jim Duran**, proposed with classification of "Social Services" by Larry Dawes.
- **Keya Murthy**, proposed with classification of "Hypnotherapy", by Brenda Allison.

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



*Kathy Scroggs leads the Club in the Flag Salute and an invocation.*



*Hutch Hutchison showed us a video of yet another great Rotary International project.*



*Barbara Asbell receives her award on becoming our latest Bequest Society member.*

**Upcoming Events**

**Children's Holiday Party**  
JC Penneys  
Dec 12, 2012 08:00 AM - 01:00 PM

**Club Holiday Party**  
Indy Batra Residence  
Dec 14, 2012 05:30 PM - 10:30 PM

**Board Meeting**  
71 Palm Restaurant  
Dec 20, 2012 11:45 AM - 01:30 PM

**Bell Ringers for Salvation Army**  
Various Locations  
Dec 22, 2012

**No Meeting**  
Dec 26, 2012

**No Meeting**  
Jan 02, 2013



*Jim Newton stumps the crowd with strange medical terms during fining..*



## Rotary Club of Ventura 2012-2013

### Officers

President	Indy Batra
President Elect	Irene Henry
Secretary	Jim Deardorff
Recording Secretary *	Larry Emrich
Treasurer	Connie Young
Assistant Treasurer *	Mark Sauer
Immediate Past President	Lynda Girtsman
	*Non-Voting Position

### Rotary Spokes

Editor	Curtis Cormane (curtisvta@gmail.com)
Assitant Editor	
Photographers	Jim Deardorff, Dan Holmes, John McConica II

### Avenues of Service

#### Club Service

Director	Dan Holmes
Assistant Director	Mario de la Piedra

#### Community Service

Director	Ellyn Dembowski
Assistant Director	Ron Calkins

#### International Service

Director	Ed McCombs
Assistant Director	Christina Rust

#### New Generations

Director	Gary Young
Assistant Director	Courtney Lindberg

#### Vocational Service

Director	Doug Halter
Assistant Director	

# Rotarian, Donald Lee Leach (1934 - 2012)



Don was a Captain in the United States Marine Corps. Enlisting in 1957, he was discharged in 1962 only to be recalled to active service in 1965 and discharged again in 1967. During his time in the Corps, Don was stationed in Okinawa and served in Vietnam. Don was also an instructor at College of the Redwoods in Humboldt County, and Golden Gate University.

Don joined the California Highway Patrol in 1962 serving in many areas in California as he progressed through the ranks. Starting as a Patrol Officer in Eureka, he worked as a Motorcycle Training Officer in South Central, returned to Eureka as a Sargent later transferring to Sacramento where he was promoted to Lieutenant. In 1977, when he attained the rank of Captain, he was stationed briefly in Santa Barbara before being assigned to Ventura where he retired as Area Commander in 1991.

During his tenure as Ventura Commander, he served as the Area Coordinator for athlete transportation and safety for the 1984 Summer Olympics. Don passed the Bar in 1989 and began his career as an attorney at law specializing in Estate, Probate, and Family Law, retiring in July 2012.

Don Leach had an epic association with Rotary, having spent 31 years in clubs in Ventura County. That alone is remarkable, but even more so is his 31 years of PERFECT ATTENDANCE. Don first started out in 1981 as a member of Ventura Rotary Club for seven years. He then transferred to the Thousand Oaks Club for six years, before returning to our club the last eighteen years. Don is a multiple Paul Harris Fellow, having been awarded two; in 1986 and 1999. He awarded his wife, Mary, a Paul Harris Fellow in 1988. Don had spent over 15 years in various Ventura Rotary board positions, including a stint as Club President for the 2000-01 year. He had also served two periods as Club Secretary 1995-2000 and 2002-04. He also chaired the Julius Gius Memorial Rotary Foundation in 2005-06. His last service to the club has been as Attendance Chair from 2004-present. Don's fastidious attendance-taking has helped our club to be one of the district's leaders in high attendance.

Don also perennially called on Club members to serve with him as security detail for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life event. He would implore and cajole Rotarians to help in this event he cared so much about.

One fond memory of Don for me is from that Cancer walk. I usually pulled the Sunday morning shift which is always the quietest, so we Rotarians could just sit at the gate and shoot the breeze. Don would stick around for pretty much the whole event, sleeping in his big sedan nearby. When breakfast was served, Don would round up a couple of extra sausages for Jim Deardorff's 'sentry' dogs and we'd get a kick out of watching the pooches 'perform' for their food.

Don Leach was the consummate gentleman. He had such an even temperament, a warm smile and a deep laugh and I recall that served him well as Club President. I served on his board, which, in Rotary, tends to be peopled by over-achieving Type 'A's (well-meaning, mind you), so that temperament kept meetings calm and productive. I recall talking to him after he returned to the club following the passing of his beloved wife of 57 years, Mary. I remarked that I was glad to see him back sooner than I expected and he said that it made him feel better to be back with his Rotary friends. A gentleman, indeed.



*Information about Don's life was taken from his obituary at <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/venturacounty/star/obituary>. Jim Deardorff provided the Rotary information.*