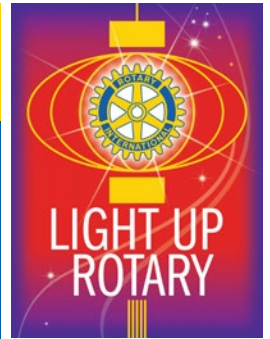


ROTARY SPOKES

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

95 YEARS OF
SERVICE

Volume VC
Number 13
15 OCT 2014



CASA of Ventura County

Our speaker today is Miriam Mack . She joined CASA of Ventura County in 2012, a year after the 27 year-old program became an independent non-profit organization.



CASA trains community volunteers to become sworn officers of the Court who then advocate for the best interests of a foster child appointed to the program by the Juvenile Dependency Judge. "Children in the foster care system need a constant adult presence to advocate for them until a permanent home can be found.

Of all that our Advocates do, being present for the child is our most important role." Miriam's goal is to grow the organization from one that serves 200 of the neediest children, to one that can assign a trained volunteer to each of the 1,200 children in the system.

Before joining CASA, Miriam worked in economic development and redevelopment for the cities of Ventura, Culver City and Santa Monica. She graduated from UCLA with a B.A. and UCSB with a M.A. in Economics. Throughout her many years of long commutes, she and her husband, Darryl, continued to live in Ventura where they raised their two children.

Thousands of child abuse reports are made in Ventura County each year. Many of these children enter the foster care system. Once this occurs, the dependency court judge appoints the most severely affected of these children to the CASA program.

CASA is a unique non profit organization which recruits, screens and trains community volunteers to become the voices of these children who find themselves in court through no fault of their own.

Ventura County CASA has existed since 1985 when a group of concerned judges, attorneys and community members felt that objective, caring, support for these children during court proceedings and out of home placement was necessary. The CASA advocate, as an officer of the court, is the eyes and ears of the court, reporting to the judge and attorneys the child's progress and needs.

A Court Appointed Special Advocate: (CASA) is an ordinary person doing extraordinary things. CASA volunteers come from all walks of life but they have many things in common:

- They care about at-risk children and want to help them. They are responsible adults who demonstrate objectivity and commitment
- They are willing to give 10-15 hours each month
- They enjoy a sense of fulfillment knowing that they are making a positive, lasting difference

Becoming a CASA Advocate involves:

- an interview and thorough background checks
- completion of 30 hours of training
- agreeing to 12 months of service to a court dependent child



Recap of October 08 Meeting

Barbara Asbell started off the meeting with an invocation. Staci Johnson and RoseAnn Hill led the club in 'This Land is Your Land.'

Mario de la Piedra asked members to step up and help volunteer for the October 18 Color Run. We need more volunteers to maximize the money we will receive for the event.

Kristin Taylor, on behalf of the Coats for Kids project, acknowledged the 11 years that Sonny Shah and his Four Seasons Cleaners have been cleaning donated outerwear. She also recognized Ellyn Dembowski, Gary Young and Ron Bamieh for sponsoring coat hangers for the cause. Sylvia and Jennifer from the Salvation Army announced a change in the format for the holiday bellringing. Please sign up when asked! Steve Doll announced that this year's Turkey Trot will benefit Polio Plus.

Staci Johnson was awarded a Paul Harris Fellowship by Hutch Hutchinson.

Kevin Clerici fined on the Downtown. Dave Loe, in his Rotary Moment, shared the information from the Ventura Rotary 75th anniversary program, noting that our Centennial is in 2019.

Program

The speaker was Dr. Robert Dodge, a family physician practicing full time in Ventura. He serves on the board of Physicians for Social Responsibility which was the recipient of the 1985 Nobel Peace Prize.

Dr. Dodge spoke of the continuing peril of thousands of nuclear warheads held by nations of the world. He demonstrated the probable impacts of even a 'limited' conflict of a couple of hundred nuclear weapons on the world's fragile climate. The resulting climate change could eventually wipe out hundreds of millions of people through starvation.

He urged club members to become involved in reducing the global nuclear threat, such as supporting Rotary Action for Peace's initiatives.

Today's Program *CASA of Ventura County*

Introductions: Ben Unseth
Rotary Moment: Terri Adams
Finishing: Ron Calkins

Future Programs

Oct 22 Sleep Apnea
Oct 29 End Game for Polio Eradication
Nov 05 Mentalist Lincoln Kamm



Steve Doll announces the Turkey Trot in November to benefit polio.



Dr. Robert Dodge describes the threat of existing stocks of nuclear warheads.



Captain Sylvia from the Salvation Army tells us about this year's bellringing.



Barbara Asbell starts off the meeting.



Kevin Clerici fines in a topic near and dear to him: Downtown Ventura.



Doug Halter talks about his recent wedding during Happy Dollars.



In his Rotary Moment, Dave Loe talks about our club's 75th anniversary.



Hutch Hutchinson prepares to award the next Paul Harris Fellowship.

October 24 is World Polio Day

We want you to join us for World Polio Day on October 24. How? Rotary will host a live-streamed global status update on the fight to end polio. Guests include Global Polio Eradication Initiative partners, celebrity ambassadors, polio survivors, and Rotary members. Watch the event live and join the conversation at: <http://www.endpolio.org/worldpolioday>

Today, the vast majority of the world is polio-free. Nearly 80 percent of all polio cases are concentrated in just one country: Pakistan. The two other remaining polio-endemic countries – Afghanistan and Nigeria – continue to show progress. Nigeria has decreased polio cases by 87 percent and Afghanistan has recorded only 10 cases of this devastating disease.

Take Action:

- Share a photo of yourself making the “this close” gesture or tell us why you want to end polio with

- the #WorldPolioDay hashtag to join our gallery.
- Post your support on Facebook and Twitter.
- Watch the live global update on October 24. Add to your calendar.

Wiping a disease from the face of the earth is not easy, and the final push is the most challenging. With your support and your voice, we can end polio now.

New Member Proposals

The following is proposed for membership:

Steven Chadbourne, proposed by Rob vanNieuwburg with classification of “Intimate Apparel-Wholesale.”

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

Membership Updates:

Albert McCartney has been granted a Leave of Absence from 10/1/2014 to 12/31/13.

I WANT TO END POLIO

endpolionow.org | #worldpolioday

October Birthdays	October Anniversaries
John Williams, Oct 04	Lucas Johnston, Oct 06
Sandra Laby, Oct 10	Jim Newton, Oct 11
Scott Patterson, Oct 12	Juan Soto, Oct 14
Jim Duran, Oct 13	Ellyn Dembowski, Oct 23
David Wellik, Oct 21	Duane Georgeson, Oct 29
Brenda Allison, Oct 24	
Bob Cheatham, Oct 28	

OFFICERS	President	Rob vanNieuwburg	
	President Elect	Christina Rust	
	Secretary	Jim Deardoff	
	Recording Secretary *	Larry Emrich	
	Treasurer	Connie Young	
	Assistant Treasurer *	Mark Sauer	
	Immediate Past President	Irene Henry	
		<i>*Non-Voting Position</i>	
	DIRECTORS	Club Service	
		Director	Roz Warner
Assistant Director		Ellyn Dembowski	
Community Service			
Director		Steve Warriner	
Assistant Director		Mike Anderson	
International Service			
Director		Albert McCartney	
Assistant Director		Mark Kirwin	
Youth Service			
Director	Dale Jaedtke		
Assistant Director	Dave Wellik		
SPOKES	Vocational Service		
	Director	Mary Saputo	
	Assistant Director	Saurabh Bajaj	
	Editor	Curtis Cormane (curtisvta@gmail.com)	
	Assitant Editor	David Wellik	
	Photographers	Dan Holmes	
		Sarah Abrams, Dave Wellik, John Brant	

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