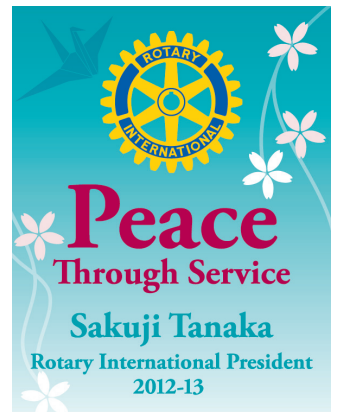


ROTARY SPOKES

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



Volume LXXXII
Number 13
17 OCTOBER 2012



Sri Lankan Group Study Exchange Team Visits

Today's program features the Group Study Exchange (GSE) team from Rotary International District 3220 in Sri Lanka. The team leader, a Rotarian, and five energetic young non-Rotarian professionals are in our District 5240, having arrived on September 24 and departing October 23, 2012.

The group is led by a Rotarian Past President G S Sylvester, a marketer by profession and a member of the Rotary Club of Colombo Mid Town. The team includes Nilumi Withanage, Biotechnologist, Kanchana Ranaweera, Architect, Seshika Fernando, Financial Analyst and Arjuna Wijekoon, Medical Doctor.

The GSE program gives participants an opportunity to learn about their vocation and how it is practiced in California, develop personal and professional relationships and exchange ideas. Team members have made presentation on Sri Lanka, its culture and diversity to Rotary Clubs in California and also at the California District 5240 conference.

Each GSE team member is hosted by a Rotarian family in California, who provides the warmth and support of a home away from home.

The family stay also gives an insight into lifestyles and culture of California.

Rotary first made its presence in Sri Lanka in February 1929, when the Rotary International District 322 South India extended the Rotary Club of Colombo. Sri Lanka has also been an active participant in the Group Study Exchange Programme for the past 45 years and has alumni, which currently has a membership of over 100 past team members and team leaders.

Let's give the Sri Lankan Team a big Ventura welcome!



Call for District GSE Team Leader and Members

Rotary District 5240 had previously announced the call for applicants for GSE Outbound Exchange for Team Leader and Team Member. The trip will take place from February 2 to March 3, 2013. The selection process to pick the team leader and the team members is currently underway.

Qualification and Application materials can be accessed from the "Foundation Tab" at the top of the District 5240 Website Main Page.

The deadline for submitting a TEAM LEADER Application is November 2, and deadline for submitting a TEAM MEMBER Application is November 9. The TEAM LEADER selection interviews are scheduled for November 9-10; and the TEAM MEMBER selection interviews are scheduled for November 16-17 in Santa Maria.

Questions? Contact Bill Pucciarelli, GSE Chair 2012-13, at: pucciarelli49@gmail.com or phone: 805-264-4033

Meeting of 10 October 2012

Ellyn Dembowski led the club in invocations and introductions, quoting from the late President John F. Kennedy. RoseAnn Hill and Clyde Reynolds led the group in 'America the Beautiful.'

Christina Rust, in her Rotary Moment, encouraged members to take trips with your fellow to Rotary events, such as her recent trips to Nicaragua and Long Beach.

Kathy Scroggs was awarded her fifth Paul Harris Fellow by Hutch Hutchinson. Roger Case received his very own Golden Weenie.



Program

Ventura Unified School District Superintendent, Trudy Tuttle Arriaga, was our speaker. She has been serving 12 years (typical national is 3.5 yrs). She spoke on the state of education in the VUSD. Highlights of her presentation were:

- There is stability at the board and administrative level.
- VUSD is not a 'one size fits all' set of programs. There a variety of learning environments, including Alternative Education Programs and open classrooms.
- The recently established DeAnza Academy Technology and Arts, a technology driven school, is attracting students from throughout the district.
- The Ventura Education Partnership, which provides private fundraising, raised \$250,000.00
- The district comprises 28 facilities.
- VUSD has created a Wellness Policy, going beyond state requirements for food service.
- All schools participate in community service.

Today's Agenda



Sri Lanka District 3220 GSE Team

Introductions

Ajay Dhebar

Rotary Moment

Barbara Fitzgerald

Fining

SusAnne Lee Chung

- The district has early childhood programs, identifying specific child needs even before kindergarten.
- The Arts Master Plan, despite cutbacks, is being maintained.
- VUSD is part of a Green Schools partnership- reducing waste and promoting other methods of sustainability.
- The district boasts a balanced budget with no audit findings. The budget can be reviewed online.
- VUSD was voted CABA district of the year 2011 for its innovative multilingual program.
- 21 schools distinguished schools
- Drop out rate in the VUSD is 2%, while the national rate is 4%

Superintendent Arriaga discussed future challenges, particularly possible severe state funding reductions. With some education funding propositions, locally and state-wide, on the ballot in November, she asked us to carefully consider our choices.



Christina Rust shared her Rotary Moment, focusing on some of her trips where she got to be better acquainted with fellow Rotarians.



Ellyn Dembowski led the club in the Flag Salute. President Indy looks on.



Joe Richards introduces the guest speaker, Trudy Tuttle Arriaga.



Kathy Scroggs receives her latest Paul Harris Fellow pin from Hutch Hutchinson.

Upcoming Events

TONIGHT!

Club Social with Sri Lanka GSE Team
Ventura Yacht Club
Oct 17, 2012, 6:00 to 8:00 PM

Board Meeting

71 Palm Restaurant -**NEW LOCATION!**
Oct 18, 2012 11:45 AM

Dinner With The President

Denny's Restaurant, Harbor Blvd.
Oct 24, 2012, 05:00 PM

Newcomers Breakfast

Crowne Plaza Hotel
Oct 26, 2012, 07:30 AM

Fireside Chat

Home of Sheila Fatarelli
Nov 8, 2012, 6:00 PM

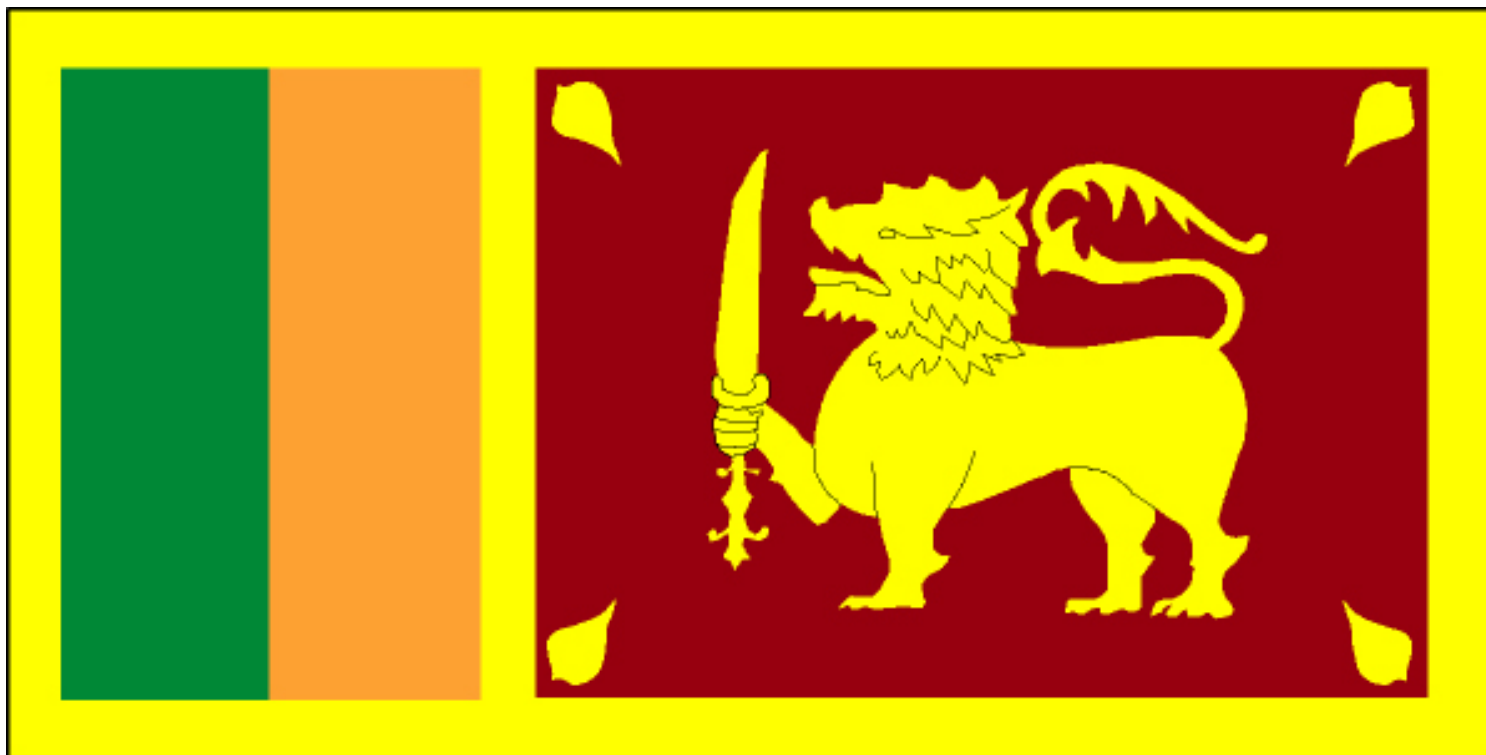


NEW MEMBER PROPOSAL

The following is proposed for membership:

Jeffrey Lambert, proposed with classification of "Government- Municipal" as a New Generations Member.

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



The flag of Sri Lanka, also called the Lion Flag, consists of a gold lion, holding a kastane sword in its right fore paw, in front of a crimson background with four golden bo leaves, one in each corner. Around the background is a yellow border, and to its left are 2 vertical stripes of equal size in green and saffron, with the saffron stripe closest to the lion. The lion represents the Sinhalese ethnicity and the bravery of the Sri Lankan nation while the four Bo leaves represent Mettā, Karuna, Mudita and Upekkha. The orange stripe represents the Sri Lankan Tamils, the green stripe represents Sri Lankan Moors, and the maroon background represents the majority of Sinhalese, like the lion, this is the color used in early flags of Sri Lanka by kings.

Rotary Club of Ventura 2012-2013

Officers

President	Indy Batra
President Elect	Irene Henry
Secretary	Jim Deardoff
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	Todd Binkley
Assistant Director	Doug Halter