



ROTARY SPOKES

*The Rotary Club of Ventura
Weekly Bulletin*

"The friendliest club in Rotary"

100% Paul Harris Club



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Photographers: John McConica II, Dan Holmes
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October 19, 2011

Meeting of October 12, 2011 Program – Traveling in Liberia Reporter: Nanci Cone

Introductions

The meeting was called to order by President Lynda Girtsman, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Cheryl Heitmann. Cheryl honored the memory of Steve Jobs by reading a number of his quotes. The club was led in singing "America the Beautiful." Visiting Rotarians included Lou from Rancho Santa Fe, Judy from Ventura East and Nils from Rotary South. Guests were past president Dave Worth, Patricia Short, principal of Will Rogers School, Mahesh Talwar and our speaker, Karol Shulkin.

Announcements

Indy Batra reminded the club that the District Conference will be held in Carpinteria from 10/21-10/23 and that 20 members are needed for us to be eligible for Super Club designation. He noted that Carpinteria is opening up the city for the Rotary family & friends.

All lined up to make their announcements were:



Mike Anderson, who reminded everyone about the football pool for the End Polio Now fundraiser.

Also, he hopes everyone will join the eScript program to support the local school of your choice.

Patricia Short wanted to express her appreciation for the dictionaries, the backpacks and the coats for kids that Will Rogers students received.

Sheila Fatterelli announced that volunteers were still needed to help serve at the Thanksgiving Dinner in the San Miguel Building in the Ventura Fairgrounds from 11am-2 pm. Approximately 600 people are served a delicious meal last year.

Please see below for more announcements.



Indy Batra introduced Mahesh Talwar who was installed as a new member by president Lynda. Welcome to the friendliest club in Rotary, Mahesh!

Announcements continued

Brenda Allison encouraged everyone to attend the Seafood by the Sea get together Thursday at the Ventura Yacht Club.

David Shea is leaving Saturday for Roatan to help the medical facility there. There was a break-in recently but the equipment and medications were untouched.

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Web addresses: Club www.venturarotary.org – Photos: www.rotarycov.smugmug.com
District 5240 www.rotarydistrict5240.org – R.I. www.rotary.org

Meeting Programs & Assignments

Programs

Chair: Larry Emrich

October 19, 2011

Kinetic Sculpture Race
Christy Cantrell

October 26, 2011

Homeless Programs in Ventura
Rob Orth and Peter Brown

Introductions

Chair: Ron Calkins

Oct 19 – Larry Rasmussen

Oct 26 – Sonny Shah

Rotary Moment

Chair: Terri Adams

Oct 19 – Brenda Allison

Oct 26 – Larry Dawes

Fining

Chair: Ron Bamieh

Oct 19 – Larry Bird

Oct 26 – Jim Newton

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

Announcements continued:

Judy Hoag of Ventura East brought in flyers for the poinsettias her club is selling to help raise money. **Nils Johnson of Ventura South** announced the 23rd Annual Trivia Challenge at the Wedgewood Inn. It is \$300/team and cost is 10% less if the team registers before November 1. .

Member News

Rob van Nieuwburg's mother passed away. Larry Dawes had a mitral valve replacement and Leo Tauber was just released from the hospital after coming down with pneumonia.

Rotary Moment

Tom Naylor talked about being the "oldest new member" and how important it was to go to newcomers' breakfasts.

Fining

Todd Binkley asked members about famous individual's heights (all were under 5'3").

Program

Randy Hinton introduced **Karol Shulkin, who spoke on *Traveling in Liberia***. Karol brought along some amazing slides and talked about how she and a delegation traveled to Liberia and found there were no libraries or bookstores. She has since purchased 400 picture books for the children and needs to get them to Liberia. The club learned that Liberia was settled in 1822 by former slaves and is slightly larger than Ohio with a population of around 3.5 million people.



Half of the population is under 18 and one in five children die before age five. The life expectancy is 47 and one half the population lives on \$1 a day or less. Two thirds of the population follows the Muslim religion and the rest are Christian. There are 16 different ethnic linguistic groups but English is the predominant language.

In the overcrowded capital city of Monrovia, there is no electricity or running water in 99% of the homes or businesses. Since there is no regular trash pick up, on Saturdays merchants close their shops and the rag pickers come to sort through all the litter accumulated on the streets during the week. The remainder of it is picked up and destroyed.

Two of the three women who won this year's Nobel Peace Prize were Liberia's President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf and her compatriot Leymah Gbowee for helping to end the 12-year civil war, opening a clinic and for creating opportunities to citizens to learn how to open and operate a business. A cloth and sewing cooperation was established with 12 women – many of whom had to walk at least 90 minutes each way every day to learn how to

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Program continued

operate the business under the Liberty & Justice label. Today there are 250 women working together who get a fair trade wage plus a share of the profits. With their first profit check, they used it to restore a school for the local children.

Since then, other cooperatives have been created including Rosie's Café – a culinary institute training women how to cook appropriately and Normal Day Big Center that has members walking 14 miles to the Ghana border to do cross border trading.

OCTOBER – VOCATIONAL SERVICE MONTH

During October, Rotarians are encouraged to focus on this important area of service. Discussions on Vocational Service can lead to projects that not only develop the ethical consciousness and vocational skills of Rotarians but also the talents within our communities.

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OCTOBER IS ALSO POLIO AWARENESS MONTH



Larry Emrich & Mike Anderson have planned a month-long fundraiser around weekly football pools. The four winners will receive a Paul Harris Fellowship. Get ready fans – this is FUN!

UPCOMING COATS FOR KIDS MEETING DATES TO PUT ON YOUR CALENDAR

October 26	December 14
November 9	January 11
November 30	

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 20 (Thursday) 11:45 AM
Board Meeting at 71 Palm (make-up opportunity)

October 20 – 23 (Thursday – Sunday)

District 5240 Conference – Carpinteria
For more information go to the District website
www.rotarydistrict5240.org

October 28 (Friday) 7:30 AM
Newcomers' Breakfast – Crowne Plaza
(make-up opportunity)

November 13 (Sunday) - 1:00 PM
Peace Conference – Palm Springs Convention Center

Keynote Speaker: Mr. Arun Gandhi, grandson of Mahatma Gandhi
Other Speakers, Breakout Sessions & Displays

For informational flyer and registration go to our club website under "stories"
www.venturarotary.org

December 28
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.

Getting to Know You Program

October 12:
Calkins, Campbell

October 19:
Chadbourne, Case, Chandler

October 26:
The Cheatham Family (Melvin, Sylvia & Bob)