



ROTARY SPOKES

*The Rotary Club of Ventura
Weekly Bulletin*

"The friendliest club in Rotary"

100% Paul Harris Club



Editor: Maria Berntson maria@lindsayandcompanycpa.com
Assistant Editor: Betsy Chess newwester@sbcglobal.net
Volume LXXXII Number 16

Photographers: John McConica II, Dan Holmes
Jim Deardorff, Steve Doll
October 26, 2011

Meeting of October 19, 2011 **Program – Kinetic Sculpture Race** **Reporter: Todd Binkley**

Introductions

President Lynda Girtsman called the meeting to order around the usual time. **Larry Rasmussen** led the pledge and introductions of visiting Rotarians and guests. He also read an inspirational passage --- twice; most preferred the second iteration.

Melody Namikas surprised her husband Alex by reading a touching tribute to him, then awarding



him a Paul Harris Fellowship. All stood and cheered in the usual "friendliest club in Rotary" manner.

Announcements

Bill Finley, Vocational Service Director, gave us an overview of vocational service and described some upcoming projects involving dictionaries, job shadowing and training. He followed this with a rousing sermon on how to apply the Four-Way Test to our businesses and anyone else we might come in contact with.

Kristin Taylor told us all about the Coats for Kids project. No one had trouble hearing her as she suggested that we harangue the manager at Trader Joe's until he agrees to participate as a drop site for donations.

Dale Jaedtke shilled for "his" Rotaract club, describing some bizarre game involving raw eggs and pantyhose. Robbing 7-11s was also mentioned in an unusual context.



Jeff King recruited helpers needed to take "sixty six screaming Interact kids" on a bus ride to McGrath pumpkin patch and back. PE Indy Batra made his 387th announcement about the District Conference in Carpinteria this weekend. A modicum of guilt may be

appropriate if you were "unable" to attend.

Mike Anderson made a final offer to participate in the football pool fundraising scheme for polio.

Rotary Moment

Brenda Allison shared how house cleaning can inspire children.

Fining

Larry Emrich, still sans moustache and therefore unrecognizable to many, led a controversial fining session featuring deliberately misleading questions, to much murmuring and occasional boisterous cheers.

Program

Neil Andrews, with impressive brevity, introduced Clyde Reynolds, who played an unintentionally silent video about the Kinetic Sculpture Race, which eh claimed featured a special song performed by Big Bad Voodoo Daddy. Mike Anderson then leapt to the stage and played a portion of the same video, with sound – most preferred, the second version.

Clyde next introduced a colorfully-dressed woman wearing a tiara atop a baseball cap, along with a

continued p. 2

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 26, 2011

Homeless Programs in Ventura

Rob Orth and Peter Brown

Introductions

Chair: Ron Calkins

Oct 26 – Sonny Shah

Rotary Moment

Chair: Terri Adams

Oct 26 – Larry Dawes

Nov 2 – Ellyn Dembowski

Nov 9 – Christina Rust

Fining

Chair: Ron Bamieh

Oct 26 – Jim Newton

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

Program continued:

young, bearded associate (possibly a descendant of Leon Trotsky) who described the history of the kinetic sculpture race, reportedly known by some as the “triathlon of the art world”.



The building of “fashionable, human-powered vehicles” was discussed as well as the distances traversed in each segment of the race. Potential spectators were enticed to participate in informal wagers on whether various vehicles would sink in the harbor, or make it a few feet further to get literally “stuck in the mud”.

Not to be outdone, Neil Andrews returned to the stage, promising to publicly flout campaign finance laws at this same portion of the event. Clyde concluded by describing a “best repair award” won by a team who overcame a flat tire challenge by commandeering a skateboard from a small boy. The skateboarder’s name and his feelings about the award were not mentioned.

The general impression given was that of an event where all manner of unconventionally creative people congregate and apply talents that are perhaps not often applied elsewhere.

All proceeds of the event go to the Turning Point Foundation to enable them to continue to provide essential services to members of our community

News Flash from Prez Lynda

***GREAT DISTRICT CONFERENCE IN CARPINTERIA
this past weekend!***

***Thanks to all who helped with
games on the beach,
creating booth for the Expo,
walking in the parade,
Enjoying great wine & beer mixer,
attending the plenary session,
eating crab on the beach
having a great dinner from local restaurants.***

***Our club was well-represented!
Next year ---- Queen Mary!***

NEWS ON PAST PRESIDENTS' TEAMS - EFFECTIVE NEXT WEEK

If you don't check your email regularly, you may have missed this news flash from Larry Emrich, so please read on:

In an effort to expand the number of teams from 10 to 12 to cover all the months of the year, Terry Schaeffer and Hutch Hutchinson volunteered to take on the role of Past President team leaders.

Since we now have 12 teams, some members (about 25) were shifted to fill the two new teams. Each of the 12 teams will now consist of 10 – 11 members.

All team leaders are aware of this, and the new team leaders will by now have notified their team members.

The new teams will meet the first Wednesday of November to see what changes have been made, to meet new members and to get busy with the task of scheduling programs.

Thank you for your continued support of this program!

New Member Information

Talwar Mahesh was inducted into our club on October 12th. If you have not yet had a chance to meet Talwar, here are a few tidbits of information about him:

Talwar's sponsor is Saurabh Bajaj and his classification is Emission Controls & Biofuels.

He is president of Ocean Air Environmental, LLC, located in Ventura.

He is married to Veneeta; they have two children – Emily and Kenin.

His hobbies include tennis and golf.

Please welcome Talwar to our club!

UPCOMING COATS FOR KIDS MEETING DATES TO PUT ON YOUR CALENDAR

October 26
November 9
November 30

December 14
January 11

For more information, please contact Kristin Taylor

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 28 (Friday) 7:30 AM

Newcomers' Breakfast – Crowne Plaza, C Street Restaurant
(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: 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

November 23 (Wednesday)

DARK – No meeting

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 26:

The Cheatham Family (Melvin, Sylvia & Bob)

Visiting Rotarian

President Lynda reports that Bill Shaffer, a former member of our club, will be visiting November 2nd. He looks forward to seeing many of his Ventura Rotary friends.