



# ROTARY SPOKES

*The Rotary Club of Ventura  
Weekly Bulletin*

*"The friendliest club in Rotary"*

*100% Paul Harris Club*



Editor: Maria Berntson [maria@lindsayandcompanycpa.com](mailto:maria@lindsayandcompanycpa.com)  
Assistant Editor: Betsy Chess [newwester@sbcglobal.net](mailto:newwester@sbcglobal.net)  
Volume LXXXII Number 11

Photographers: John McConica II, Dan Holmes  
Jim Deardorff, Steve Doll  
September 21, 2011

## Meeting of September 14, 2011

### Program – Learning Ally

*Reporter: Betsy Chess*

#### Introductions



Doug Halter made the introductions and gave a very moving invocation remembering 9/11. Clyde Reynolds led us in God Bless America.

#### Announcements:

Kristin Taylor announced that the first Coats for Kids meeting would be next week at 11:30.

Bill Finley called a Vocational Service meeting after the meeting today.

Terry Schaeffer announced that the Fall get-together at the Ventura Yacht Club will be from 5:30 -7:30 on October 13th. Instead of the usual BarBQ, the theme is Seafood by the Sea and everyone is encouraged to bring their favorite seafood dish.

Indy announced that the District Conference will be in Carpinteria October 21-23<sup>rd</sup>



#### Special Award:

In appreciation of his many contributions to our club, president Lynda awarded a Paul Harris Fellowship to Dan Holmes.

#### Fining:

Cheryl Heitman led fining asking

questions about the City and County of Ventura

#### Perfect Attendance pins were awarded to

Todd Binkley for 3 years, Indy for 5, Larry Dawes for 3, Steve Doll for 9, Larry Emrich for 5, Sheila Fattarelli for 3, John Johnson for 23, Prez Lynda for 5, Dick Hatcher for 14, Jim Newton for 7 and Gary Young for one year.

#### Program:

Kathy Werthheim introduced the program presented by **Tom Reul, CEO of Learning Ally**, a national non-



profit organization headquartered in Princeton New Jersey. The purpose of the organization is to put books on tape, CD's etc. to help those with problems learning from the written word.

The program was begun in 1950 in upstate New York by Ann McDonald as "Recording for the Blind" to help returning servicemen who had been blinded

during the war. With the help of the GI Bill, RFB expanded to 18 sites nationally, usually around a university campus.

As new learning disabilities have been identified, the name was changed to Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic and now has expanded even that definition, hence the new, all-inclusive name of Learning Ally. The organization makes available 65,000 textbook titles, all recorded by volunteers.

The annual budget is \$30 million, half provided by the federal government, but that federal money is being

***continued on p. 2***

## Meeting Programs & Assignments

### Programs

Chair: Larry Emrich

September 21, 2011

#### ROTARACT

*Members summarize their 1<sup>st</sup> year projects  
and plans for the future*

September 28, 2011

*Ventura County Financial Issues  
(Matt Carrol)*

October 5, 2011

*Mental Illness Awareness Month  
(Ratan Bhavnani)*

### Introductions

Chair: Ron Calkins

Sep 21 – Dennis LaRoche

Sep 28 – Bill Kearney

### Rotary Moment

Chair: Terri Adams

Sep 21 – Steve Doll    Sep 28 – Melody Namikas

### Fining

Chair: Ron Bamieh

Sep 21 – Larry Bird    Sep 28 – Greg Kincaid

## 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:*

cut. The organization has streamlined its operations and Tom asked three things of us: to volunteer in Santa Barbara as readers; to become donors; and to spread the word via [learningally.org](http://learningally.org). Learning Ally offers its service for a fee both to individuals and to schools and annually serves at least 265,000 people.

## Membership Corner

### **New Member Proposal:**

The board has approved for membership Courtney Lindberg with the classification of Government-Environment. Courtney is a former member of the R C Space Center – Houston and was proposed by president Lynda Girtsman.

If you have any objections to Courtney's membership in our club, please contact the secretary (Jim Deardoff) within seven (7) days, in writing, with the reason for your objection.

### **Resignation:**

The board has accepted the resignation of Joyce Frenette, effective 8/31/2011. Joyce was an active member of our club for four years. We will miss her and wish her all the best.

### **Leave of Absence:**

The board approved a LOA for Larry Dawes from 9/28 to 11/4, 2011.

### **Getting to Know You Program:**

President Lynda initiated this program so that we get to know each other better! Tyler Liljekvist is the coordinator; he will send you an email ahead of the date on which you have been selected to provide information about your business and yourself or, in Tyler's words "This is one week where you have free reign to shamelessly market yourself".

### **Sep 21:**

Todd Binkley, Larry Bird & Norm Blacher

### **Sep 28:**

Steve Bradvicha, John Brant & Chris Brashears

## **UPCOMING PROGRAMS**

### **SEPTEMBER – NEW GENERATIONS MONTH**

Every year, thousands of talented and dedicated young people have an incredible experience in a New Generations program.

As Rotaractors and Interactors, they serve in communities and abroad. Through Rotary Youth Exchange, they explore new cultures. And as Rotary Youth Leadership Awards participants, they learn skills that will help them succeed as future community leaders.

Let us all help to turn these future leaders into the next generation of Rotarians!

### **September 21: ROTARACT**

Rotaract members summarize their 1<sup>st</sup> year projects and plans for next year

### **September 28: County Financial Issues**

Matt Carrol, second in command at the County CEO's office discusses the financial picture for the county now and moving forward.

### **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.

### **October 5: Mental Illness**

Ratan Bhavnani, President of the Ventura chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness will present this program in observation of Mental Illness Awareness month.

### **October 12: Traveling in Liberia**

Karol Shulkin, employee of the County Department of Social Services and recent traveler to Liberia, will share her experience.

### **October 19: Kinetic Sculpture Race**

Christy Cantrell, the "Kinetic Sculpture Race Queen" will present this program. More info to come ...

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **September 23 (Friday) – 7:30 AM**

**Newcomers' Breakfast – Crowne Plaza C Street Restaurant**

*For more information contact Tom Naylor*

### **September 25 (Sunday)**

**Group Study Exchange arrives from South Korea**

*For more information go to the District website [www.rotarydistrict5240.org](http://www.rotarydistrict5240.org)*

### **October 20 – 23 (Thursday – Sunday)**

**District 5240 Conference – Carpinteria**

*For more information go to the District website [www.rotarydistrict5240.org](http://www.rotarydistrict5240.org)*

### **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](http://www.venturarotary.org)

### **December 28**

**Joint Club Meeting with Ventura East**

Award-winning composer, humanitarian, educator and world musician, **John Zeretke**, will be presenting a unique program for our Rotary group about his travels around the world.

### **PRLS & MPRLS Schedule:**

**Basic PRLS – Oct 8, TBA (South)**

**MPRLS 1 – Sep 17, Santa Maria**

**MPRLS 2 – Sep 24, Santa Maria**

**MPRLS 3 – Oct 29, TBA**

**MPRLS 4 – Aug 27, Santa Maria**

**MPRLS 5 – Oct 08, Santa Maria**

*For more information contact Barbara Asbell or go to the PRLS website [www.prls.org](http://www.prls.org)*