

On the Rotary Road

DG Jack McClenahan & PDG Jane, August 13-24, 2013

You know that sinking feeling when you were sure you knew the way but the route suddenly looks unfamiliar? So when I got that feeling en route to the **Simi Valley** noon club, I called **PDG Anil Garg** and he assured me I was almost there.

President John Lindsey presented a special Paul Harris Fellow to **Dr. Jonathan Kurohara** for helping triage and treat those injured at the 4th of July incident. My longtime **RC Ojai** club mate **Jack Jacobs** was there to confirm my recollections about our District's goals and fund raising events during the first PolioPlus campaign.

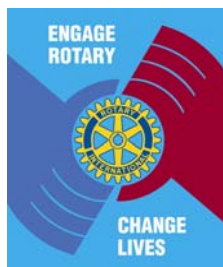
Meeting at breakfast, **Simi Sunrise** is still one of the largest clubs in our District. **President Savi Bhim** orchestrates an elaborately produced meeting with dual lecterns and logo backdrops, so agenda items move along in a lively, productive way. I look forward to their **Cajun & Blues Festival** May 24-25, 2014.

Ventura-East sang: "Hail to you our Gov'ner Jack, Join us in our repast, Savor each delicious bite, But grab your cookie real fast!" That evening at Four Brix Winery in Ventura, PDG Jane made her first social appearance since the knee replacement. **Jeff Hata** described and poured the wines.

Moorpark is the home club of **Group 5 AG Jim Lewis**. Here is the URL for the Facebook page where the presentation is posted in two video segments. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/RotaryClubofMoorpark/>. On Saturday, August 17th, Moorpark volunteers gathered together at the Boys & Girls Club to "stuff" backpacks for deserving students.

That Saturday Jane and I attended the **Thousand Oaks Wine Festival** to benefit **Special Olympics**. One of the sports heroes of my youth, Olympic Decathlon champion Rafer Johnson, was there and looked like he could still compete. Former District COO **Vicki Arndt** chaired the event.

At **Santa Barbara North** I inducted my first Franciscan friar as a new Rotarian, **Father Larry Gosslin** from the Santa Barbara Mission. You may have seen Father Larry emceeding Santa Barbara's Fiesta Pequeña on KEYT-TV. **President Stanley Weinstein** regaled a full house of members and guests with his quick and sharp sense of humor.



That evening, we enjoyed quality social time with T.O. and T.O. Sunrise Rotarians at the nicely renovated Palms hotel in Newbury Park where we stayed in order to be up and at 'em at **Thousand Oaks Sunrise** at sunrise.

Sunrise President Ilan Migdali wears his heart on his sleeve, and his warmth is reflected in his club. The club presented a \$3000 check for computers at Sequoia Middle School to the school principal.

Speaking of checks, they made a generous donation to the **Rotary Rose Parade Float**. I want to take this opportunity to thank all the clubs who have made gifts to the TRF Annual Fund, to PolioPlus, or to our Rose Float. Many thanks from Jane and I for the gift baskets, event tee shirts, coffee mugs, local produce, wine, and school library books for me to sign.

Thousand Oaks Rotary has often won "Best Large Club" or "Best Overall Club" in recent years. You can see their businesslike side at a board meeting or their fun and fellowship side during the club meeting. **T.O. President Carol Freeman** and all the 32 presidents whose clubs I have visited so far are doing a great job!

Bakersfield East meets at Stars Theater Restaurant. With a stage, I was tempted to sing the Four-Way Test! **President Sandi Schwartz** welcomed PDGs **George Palmer** and **Chungsam Doh**, two of FIVE Bakersfield East members who served as DG. We participated in the Bakersfield Twilight "Bowlio" fundraiser and hip-dislocator the night before. Ouch!

Santa Paula Rotary (my first club) celebrated its 90th anniversary at the Glen Tavern Inn where the club met back in the 1920s. Guests wore period attire and enjoyed the roaring 20s band. **Nils Rueckert** told stories of club leaders over the years. Jane and I stayed overnight at the Inn, but no ghost sightings. The event was ahead of Santa Paula's actual October charter date, since all October weekends are devoted to their amazing **Faulkner Farm Pumpkin Patch**. ■