



Meeting April 8, 2010

Reported by Jordan Eller



Robert Jacobi gave our Inspirational Message.

President Jeff rang the bell and invited everyone to lunch, guests and visiting Rotarians first!

Jeff thanked our greeter Dave Anderson. Robert Jacobi gave our inspirational message and Bill Gray led us in the salute to the Flag.

Introduction of guests was done by Dick Gallagher.

Guest of Robert Jacobi and also a visiting Rotarian

from the Downtown Club was David-Micahel Kenney.

John Borneman, who was accompanied by Dave Anderson on the piano, led us in our song.

Wendy Pazen announced that our raffle prize for the day was two bottles of wine and \$25 donated by Harriet Clune.

Presidents announcements:

Need all Avenues of Service Chairs to turn in thier completed district awards forms as soon as possible.

We will be hosting the Ventura Chamber of Commerce Breakfast on June 4th and on September 23rd we will be hosting the Ventura Chamber of Commerce Mixer.

The district is currently seeking nominations for Ambassadorial Scholars and Peace & Conflict Resolution Scholarships. The application deadline is 5:00 pm June 16th. Complete information and links are on our club website.

The newly forming Rotaract club will have their next



Dick Gallagher introduced guests and visiting Rotarians.

meeting on April 14th at Jordan Eller's office at 6:00 pm.

Avenues of Service Reports:

Club Service (Wendy Pazen) - Announced that on May 22nd we will be having a poker tournament at Garman's Pub. The buy in will be \$100 and there will be a limit of 100 players. All of the buy-in's will be donated to the Gates Polio Challenge. Do the math and let's get 100 players to sign up! Time will be 8:00 pm until the last player standing.

Happy Dollars: Nikki Sloan, John Borneman, Deborah Roberts, Wendy Pazen, Jordan Eller, Husam HishmeH and Terry McBreen.

We then conducted our raffle drawing and our lucky winner was Bob Beckwith! Bob's definitely on a hot streak right now. Congratulations to Bob and thank you to Harriet for donating our prize.

We then listened to our program introduced by Nikki Sloan.

"The mission of Rotary International, a worldwide association of Rotary clubs, is to provide service to

Meeting, cont'd on page 3



Joe Strohman conducted Rotary Recognition session.

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Presidents Message ...



Jeff Hata
President 2009-2010

Spring is sprung and spring fever is in full effect. Now that the time has changed and the days are getting longer we have time to do things outdoors after work. Now if the temperature can only catch up a lot of us will be in serious danger of not getting anything done in the afternoons!

A week from Saturday is our Rotarians at work day. For our project this year we will be helping Tender Life Maternity do some spring cleaning.

We will be helping them clean out and organize a garage that has become disorganized and cluttered over time. For those of you who missed the program that Karen presented to us earlier this year here is a brief description of TenderLife's mission: *"For over two decades, Tender Life Maternity Home has been a loving and supportive environment for women who desire to carry their babies to term but lack the necessary means and emotional support."*

Devoted to serving abandoned pregnant women and their children. We provide food, shelter and personal growth opportunities in this caring home where 'Courage meets compassion to build new lives' "

Please come out and help on April 24th and let's help Spring Clean Tender Life.

Also, our club has rented a storage unit so that we can store our club property in a central location instead of having it scattered among various members businesses and homes. Tom Swan and Wendy Pazen are scheduling a move in party so please be prepared to help with this project. We need to inventory everything that is going into the storage unit so that we know once and for all what we have.

Thank you for all of your help and support you have ALL given this year.

YIRS
Jeff Hata

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Jordan Eller	Director 2009-2011
Henry Oster	Director 2008-2011
Deborah Perkins.....	Director 2009-2012
Robert Pazen.....	Director 2009-2012

Avenues of Service Directors

Wendy Pazen	Club Service
Husam Hishmeh	Vocational Service
Tom Swan	Community Service
Floyd Gill.....	New Generations
Judy Hoag	International Service
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Jan Lindsay	P.D.G. 2004-2005
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Rich Abbott	P.D.G. 2006-2007
Jane McClenahan.....	P.D.G. 2007-2008
Anil Garg.....	P.D.G. 2008-2009

The Four Way Test

First ... Is it the TRUTH? Second ... Is it FAIR to all concerned? Third ... Will it build GOOD WILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS? Fourth ... Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?



Programs

Program Chair: Rocky Ludes

April 15, 2010

Disaster Preparedness - Maria Sanchez

April 22, 2010

Clean Water in Africa - Father Doug Edwards

April 29, 2010

Drawing down bases in Iraq - Kathleen Roos

May 6, 2010

Bale Sale - Chuck Yuncker

Greeters

April 15, 2010

Bob Beckwith & John Borneman

April 22, 2010

Rafael Canton & Harriet Clune

April 29, 2010

Andy Corliss & Jeff Coyner

May 6, 2010

Tom Crozier & Michael Doyle

Rotary Recognition

Program Chair: Rich Stewart

April 15, 2010 - TBA

April 22, 2010 - TBA

April 29, 2010 - TBA

May 6, 2010 - TBA

Meetings

TBA

New Member Training Session

April 15, 2010

Vocational Service

3rd Thu/Month, 1811 Knoll Dr. 5:30 PM

May 4, 2010

Board of Directors Meeting

1st Tue/Month, DW's, 1985 S. Victoria Ave, 7:00 AM

April 12, 2010

Club Service

2nd Mon/Month, Carrows Telephone Rd. 5:30 PM

April 12, 2010

Community Service

2nd Mon/Month, Carrows Telephone Rd 5:30 PM

April 20, 2010

International Service

3rd Tue/Month, Marie Callendars (Victoria) Dr. Noon

May 13, 2010

New Generations

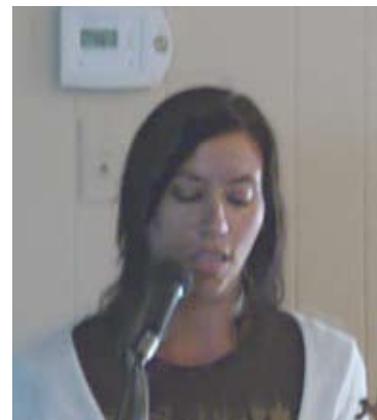
2nd Thu/Month, 1811 Knoll Dr. 5:30 PM

Every Monday

Buena Interact Club

Buena High School, Room 48 12:30 PM

others, to promote high ethical standards, and to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through its fellowship of business, professional, and community leaders.” As such, each year districts send a select number of non-Rotarian community leaders to visit their according vocation abroad for 4 weeks via the Group Study Exchange (GSE) program.



Andrea Barkan spoke about the GSE trip.

This year, District 5240 sent four dynamic individuals to Bangladesh including a grant writer, a communications account executive, a journalist and a teacher. Andrea Barkan, the grant writer, gave our Club a magnificent presentation of her experience. She admitted that her vocation, a grant writer, was not understood by the people of Bangladesh, so after a while she just told people she was a “writer”. Andrea shared her many experiences visiting Bangladesh, particularly the “hurry up and waiting”, the visit to a dilapidated amusement park of “Adventure Land”, the constant honking of traffic, inadequate sanitation throughout the country, a boat trip that came with a boy to bail the water from the boat...and then... the most exquisite seven layer tea cakes, fresh coconuts, the world’s longest sea beach, a visit to the Everglades and the Bengali’s sweet sound of singing.

Following is an excerpt taken from this year’s GSE blog www.boundforbangladesh.blogspot.com

“Would I recommend that any one come to Bangladesh? Absolutely, but with a caveat, if you come here and stay in a hotel and view the country from the other side of the glass, then I would say do not come here. This is only seeing the superficial face of this incredible country. You would not see the beauty of Bangladesh. The beauty of this country is not in the sites that you see but in the hearts of the people. You will never be able to experience, the warmth, the generosity, the family, the joyousness, the spirituality if you do not reach out, literally, to the people here. You must stay in their homes, eat their food with your hands, and sleep on their hard beds. You must speak their words, know what happened here in 1971 and understand why is dinner at 10:00pm and why “Gulshan is for Lovers”. That was our experience here and we feel honored to have had it.”

Best Regards,
Nikki Sloan

Reform school redefined

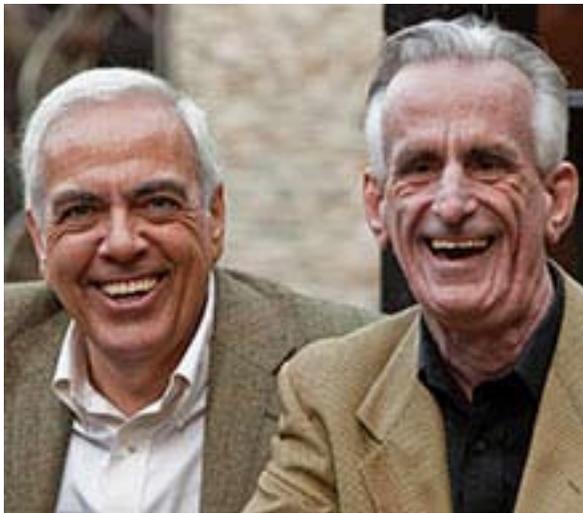
by Eve Neiger
Rotary Canada -- April 2010

Young violent offenders in Toronto have an alternative to jail: meeting the victims of their crimes.

The PACT Urban Peace Program, launched by Toronto-area Rotarians Dan Cornacchia and David Lockett in 2000, brings the teenagers, their victims, and local residents together to talk about the crimes and craft restitution plans. The program is modelled on a conflict-resolution technique used in Australian Aboriginal communities.

“Violence is a learned behaviour,” Cornacchia says. “By helping children today, we can stop the cycle of violence.”

Founding members of the Rotary Club of Parkdale-High Park, Cornacchia and Lockett opened the Redwood, a shelter for abused women and children, in 1993. That work inspired them to tackle the growing problem of urban violence. PACT (Participation, Acknowledgment, Commitment, and Transformation) helps more than 500 teens a year. Along with the mediation program,



Top: Akeem Stephenson, a graduate of PACT's LifePlan coaching program, cautions others about his past transgressions. Bottom: PACT's founders, Rotarians Dan Cornacchia and David Lockett. Rotary Images/Alyce Henson.

it offers vocational training and life coaching for

Reform, cont'd on page 5

Important Dates

Santa Anita Social	Apr. 17
Rotarians at Work Day	Apr. 24
RYLA	Apr. 22-25
Poker Night at Garman's	May 22
Ventura Chamber Breakfast	Jun. 4
Club Step Down.....	Jun. 5
D.G. Luz Maria Step Down.....	Jun. 12
R.I. Convention, Montreal.....	Jun. 20 - 23
Push-em Pull-em Parade	Jul. 4
Ventura County Fair Parade	Aug. 7
Harbor Fireworks Cruise.....	Aug. 7
Ventura Chamber Mixer.....	Sep. 23
Pumpkin Patch	Weekends in October
Halloween Fundraiser.....	Oct. 30
Children's Christmas Party	Dec. 23

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Jeff Hata

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Reform, cont'd from page 4

teens who have been charged under the Youth Criminal Justice Act as well as for at-risk youth, such as those living in homeless shelters.

Learning by doing

There is also an economic benefit to PACT, run by volunteers and funded by more than 15 Rotary clubs. "Fifteen per cent of youth offenders will cost society \$3 million each" during their lifetimes, Lockett observes.

PACT has facilitated over 2,000 meetings between victims and offenders. The restitution plans developed at the sessions often include monetary compensation, letters to the victims, and community service.

The teens can fulfill community service requirements, whether handed down by a judge or recommended at a meeting, through PACT's eight LifeSkills programs, in areas such as film production, urban reforestation, and construction. Toronto high schools are adopting Grow to Learn, an offshoot of the LifeSkills urban agriculture program. The students plant and tend a vegetable garden, then donate their harvest to local food banks.

Many young offenders lose interest in traditional academic instruction, Lockett says, but PACT allows kids to learn by doing. Business owners and other local residents help run the LifeSkills programs. Some are former youth offenders, such as Paul Davis, director of the film program.

Many of the graduates have found jobs and enrolled in college courses related to the LifeSkills program areas, including ecology and communications. "Success is about achieving the goals established by each youth," says Terance Brouse, PACT's communications director.

Clubs can make a difference

To guide the teens, PACT also offers LifePlan Coaching, which provides one-on-one counselling and mentoring. Craig Trowhill coaches Akeem Stephenson, a former youth offender who was living in a homeless shelter when a judge referred him to PACT. At a meeting, Trowhill reminds Stephenson why he has been successful in the program: "The process was the tool, but it was all you. It was all because of the choices you have made."

Stephenson is now supporting himself and pursuing a career in the music industry as a producer and rap artist. "PACT's coaching program gave me a lot of options to see where I went wrong and what I could have done to change certain situations," he tells Trowhill. "I now have a deeper perspective on life and the confidence to reach the big goals I set for myself. The sky's the limit."

"Rotary clubs can make a remarkable difference in their own communities by solving this problem of urban violence," Lockett says. When he speaks at club meetings to encourage support for PACT, he tells Rotarians: "It's a game of inches, but inches add up. The journey for these teenagers starts with the choice to participate and the acknowledgement that they need to be responsible for their behaviour."

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Weekly Raffle

Our raffle prize this week was two bottles of wine and \$25 cash donated by Harriet Clune.

Bob Beckwith was our lucky winner, AGAIN! Way to go Bob.

We collected \$70 today bringing our total for the year to \$2,547.

Thank you again to Harriet for her generous donation and to our lucky winner Bob Beckwith.



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An unforgettable trip to Togo

By Suzanne Lévesque
Rotary Canada -- April 2010

Life experiences sometimes creep in our subconscious unbeknownst to us. Others have a more direct and deeper impact, including the one I would like to share with you today.

I am often moved by TV reports on people living in poor and underprivileged countries and their daily distress. But busy with our own lives, we forget about them and deal with more positive news.

On 26 October 2006, I left Sept-Îles and my comfortable life on a trip to Togo, with 25 other Rotarians from Québec, to immunize against polio children aged 0-5 in three remote villages in the north of the country.

After many hours on planes and in airports, suffering from jetlag, we finally arrived, 42 hours later, in Ouagadougou, the capital city of Burkina Faso. Luckily, our hotel was comfortable, but what a shock the following morning when I opened the curtains! Trucks, cars, bikes, donkeys, and people packed the narrow and dusty street. At 8 a.m., we left the city by bus to go to Dapaong, Togo. Six hours later, we reached our destination in a sweltering heat.

We got a warm welcome from the local Rotarians. Later on, on the way to dinner, we witnessed scenes of daily life: the homes we passed were lit and people had gathered, on the side of the road, to cook guinea fowls on small coal stoves.

The real challenge came the next morning. After several visits to health centers, we started to immunize children. For transportation, we often had to walk. Carrying backpacks and vaccines in cold boxes kept at a 2-4 degree temperature, we made our way on paths leading to huts. A small dog barked to announce our arrival. We marked each house and each immunized child. The hospital, the childcare center, the maternity ward, the school, and the jail were all visited and allowed us to meet people. Ten days later, we returned to Burkina Faso where we met the director of an orphanage for 300 street children. We also visited several sites where wells had been built by Rotary International.

Despite the dire living conditions, we met many warm and grateful people—an unforgettable experience.



Suzanne Lévesque, a member of the Rotary Club of Sept-Iles, Quebec, Canada, during a trip to Togo to take part in a National Immunization Day in 2006. Photo courtesy of Louise Pokomandy



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District 5240

Chartered May 23, 1963

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