



The Rotary Club of Ventura-East

The Breeze

Editor: Jeff Hata
Volume LI, Number 2

Rotary Club of Ventura-East • Official Newsletter and Bulletin

Publisher: Jeff Hata
August 1, 2013

Programs

Program Chair: Robert Pazen

August 1, 2013

Expert Witness - Ted Prell

August 8, 2013

3 time world champion freestyle skier - Genia Crews, EMT

August 15, 2013

D.G.'s Official Visit - D.G. Jack McClenahan

August 22, 2013

Advances in Orthopedics - Dennis Horvath, MD

Greeter

August 1 - Tom Hashbarger

August 8 - Wendy Pazen

August 15 - Jim Word

August 22 - Bob Noville

Fundraisers

Poinsettia Sales

Delivery Date
December 5, 2013

Rotary Bullseye Shooting Contest TBA

Eclectic Music Festival

May 3 & 4, 2014

for information on fundraisers go to:
www.RotaryVenturaEast.org

Club Events

Important Dates

Ventura County Fair Parade.....	Aug 3
D.G. Jack McClenahan's Visit.....	Aug 15
District Governor's Reception, Four Brix.....	Aug 15
Rose Parade Float sign up.....	Sep 1
8-8x2.....	Sep 2
DG Social Foster Park.....	Sep 15
Master PRLS1.....	Sep 21
Moorpark Beerfest.....	Oct 12
District Conference.....	Oct 18-20
Basic PRLS.....	Oct 26
Master PRLS5.....	Oct 26
Taste of Ojai.....	Oct 27
Master PRLS3.....	Nov 16
Master PRLS3.....	Nov 23
Poinsettia Plant Delivery.....	Dec 5
Master PRLS1.....	Dec 14
Children's Christmas Party.....	Dec 19
Rose Parade Float Decorating.....	Dec 29
Joint Meeting (East, South, Downtown).....	Jan 2
Mid-year District Meeting.....	Jan 11
Master PRLS2.....	Jan 18

Avenues of Service Meetings

Club Service	TBD
Vocational Service	TBD
Community Service	TBD
New Generations	TBD
International Service	TBD

Avenues of Service Meetings

Marketing	TBD
Membership	TBD

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Web Addresses

www.RotaryVenturaEast.org • www.RCVEConcert.com
R.I.: www.rotary.org • District 5240: www.rotarydistrict5240.org

Message from our District Governor

RI President Ron Burton has challenged us to Engage Rotary -- Change Lives

Think about how we use the word engage...

We engage in ethical businesses and engage new employees.

We engage each other in casual conversations and serious discussions.

I think most Rotarians have an engaging personality, which is good when we want to engage the support of others.

Look at the Engage Rotary logo with those big hands on the Rotary wheel. Those are working hands.

Remember, the Rotary emblem is not just any wheel; it's a gear wheel -- gears engage, transferring motion from one to another, multiplying their energy to get more work done more efficiently.

And, as we all know, Rotary is about getting things done.

As Rotarians, through service projects that benefit people in our own communities and communities in other countries, we have the personal experience of changing lives. We know from experience that in serving others we change our own lives too.

We are fortunate to have that opportunity at this crucial time in Rotary history...following in the successful footsteps of our dedicated 2012-13 D5240 Officers, Club Presidents, Club Leaders, and Club Members.

We already have a record number of 2013-14 District Grant projects approved and ready to implement. Even now, D5240 clubs are finalizing their bigger, better, and bolder 2013-14 Global Grant project proposals under Future Vision.

We have the added incentive of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation newest challenge. If Rotarians worldwide contribute \$35 million for Polio Eradication this year, Gates will match two-to-one with \$70 million...and they will do this for five years...potentially \$525 million altogether. This massive and focused effort is being called the Polio Endgame. It goes from 2013-14, when we may see the last case of polio in the endemic countries (while containing any last breakouts) through 2017-18 when three years of monitoring would confirm that eradication is complete.

This Rotary year 2013-14 marks the 25th anniversary of Rotary's Council on Legislation approving and encouraging the admission of women to Rotary clubs worldwide. What a great and appropriate opportunity to invite many more business and professional women into our clubs to re-energize all our Avenues of Service, as did the first wave of women Rotarians.

In all our Clubs' exciting initiatives and opportunities, remember that every member has a role as we Engage Rotary and Change Lives in 2013-14.

Jack McClenahan, District Governor D5240, 2013-2014

2012 - 2013 Club Board of Directors

Tim Hughes	President
Dave Andersson	President Elect
Jordan Eller	Past President
Wendy Pazen	Secretary
Robert Lynn	Treasurer
Carol Marquez-Olson	Sergeant at Arms
Deborah Roberts	Director 2011-2014
Vance Thompson.....	Director 2011-2014
Ken Kagan.....	Director 2012-2015
Laura Shannon.....	Director 2012-2015
Bruce McGee.....	Director 2013-2015
.....	Director 2013-2015

Avenues of Service Directors

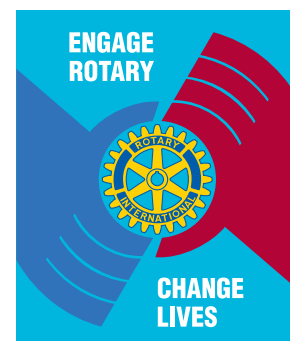
Dave Anderson	Club Service
Joe Strohman	Vocational Service
Alison Thompson.....	Community Service
Bill Spellman.....	New Generations
Judy Hoag	International Service
Mark Smith	Interact

Rotary International Officers

Paul P. Harris.....	Founder of Rotary
Ron D. Burton.....	President, Rotary International
Jack McClenahan.....	Governor, R.I. District 5240
Loretta Butts	Governor Elect, R.I. District 5240
.....	Governor Nominee District 5240
Sally Adelblue.....	P.D.G. 2005-2006
Rich Abbott	P.D.G. 2006-2007
Jane McClenahan.....	P.D.G. 2007-2008
Anil Garg.....	P.D.G. 2008-2009
Luz Maria Ortiz-Smith.....	P.D.G. 2009-2010
Deepa Willingham	P.D.G. 2010-2011
Wade Nomura	P.D.G. 2011-2012
Frank Ortiz.....	P.D.G. 2012-2013

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?



Meeting July 25, 2013

Reported by Jeff Hata

Responding to disaster comes naturally for New York Rotarian

by Stephen Yafa

The Rotarian -- July 2013



Bill Spellman conducted our Rotary Recognition session.

Past President Jeff Hata invited everyone to lunch, guests and visiting Rotarians first!

Bob Lynn led us in the Flag Salute.

PP Rich Sterwart then gave our Inspirational Message.

PP Jeff thanked PP Jordan Eller for greeting our guests & Judy Hoag then introduced our guests and visiting Rotarians.

Vance Thompson announced that our raffle prize was a \$50 credit towards the winners bill

donated by Rich Stewart.

PP Bob Pazen then gave our joke for the week followed by Rotary Recognition by PP Bill Spellman.

John Borneman then led us in a song.

Avenues of Service announcements:

International Service - Judy Hoag announced that a trip to Nicaragua this fall is being planned. If you are interested in going, please let Judy know.

PP Jeff announced that we have a BBQ coming up on Saturday and Augie desperately needs help. If you can help, please sign up on the sign up sheet being passed around.

PP Jeff also reminded the club that DG Jack McClenahan will be making his official visit on August 15th and we will be hosting a social at Four Brix Winery that evening.

Happy \$'s: Sam Marsh, Rich Stewart, John Borneman, Bob Pazen, Jan Lindsay and Jeff Hata.

Vance conducted the scholarship raffle and our lucky winner was Bob Noville!

PP Bob Pazen then introduced our speaker Roger Henggeler.

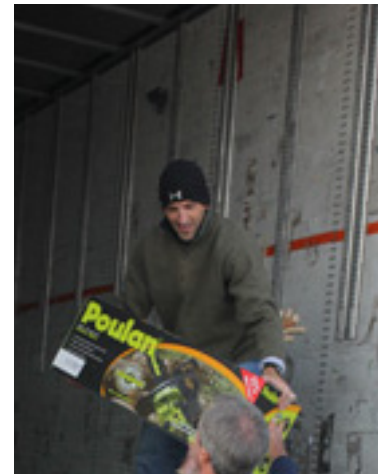


Judy Hoag, International Service, is planning a trip to Nicaragua.

As Jim Kushner sees it, there's no choice, not for him. Others may dither when a tsunami hits Japan, an earthquake levels parts of Haiti, or a hurricane like Irene or Sandy demolishes a vast swath of homes and businesses along the U.S. northeast coast. For Kushner, past president of the Rotary Club of Inwood, Manhattan, in the borough's northernmost neighborhood, natural disasters present no options: They demand and deserve immediate and effective action. How could anyone not drop everything and respond? he wonders.

Trained in emergency relief, and resourceful and unimpeded by the ties that bind, Kushner is typically out the door, equipped with supplies, and on his way to a disaster area before you and I have even begun to fathom the extent of the devastation.

Within a couple of days after Hurricane Sandy tore through the Rockaway Peninsula last October, he'd rented a truck and loaded it up with 55-gallon plastic drums. He'd planned to fill them with gas but there was none to be had in the city, where power outages had rendered the pumps inoperable. No problem. Driving up to Mamaroneck in Westchester County, he called in a favor from a former state assemblyman, who got him right to the front of a long line at an open station. Kushner knew from experience that with no electricity available in the stricken areas, generators were the only way to keep hospitals and relief centers functioning. He also knew that generators need to be continually



Members of the Rotary Club of Murray, Kentucky, USA, fill a truck with relief supplies following Hurricane Sandy. Photo courtesy of the Rotary Club of Murray

refueled, and that gas would not be easy to find.

In times of need

Making his way down flooded streets and around trees uprooted by furious wind gusts, he arrived two hours later at St. Francis de Sales Church in Belle Harbor, New York. FEMA and Red Cross workers had set up an emergency center in the area. Kushner recognized two volunteers who had also arrived to help, both of whom he'd worked with in Haiti after the 2010 earthquake. Like Kushner, they seemed to materialize on the spot in times of dire need, no explanations required. All three immediately began to address critical tasks, such as transferring the gas to jerrycans.

Kushner also worked with teams of local volunteers. "You learn to trust the locals. They're the ones who own the shovels," he says. They'd have a quick meeting each morning, then be off. Kushner also got in touch with past and present Rotary district governors and filled them in on the needs of the day. "The people from the afflicted neighborhoods were the ones who were sustaining this relief effort," he says. "Meanwhile Rotary clubs and other groups from all over were arriving every hour, it seemed, with clothes, food, blankets, the works. All good, but the size of the operation alone could've overwhelmed anyone. We were lucky, though; we'd seen it before. I was on the ground after Katrina for six weeks. I think this was worse, the sheer destruction."

Kushner's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training kicked in. So, too, did something less tangible: his instinct to stay focused and calm, no matter what. "I block out my feelings, I turn them off to do the work that needs to be done," he says. "Otherwise it's too much." And afterward? "I try to keep it out of my conscious mind, but I have nightmares, every night."

Now 64 and a Rotarian for more than 30 years, Kushner has made a practice of showing up in disaster areas and trouble zones around the world for over a decade – skirting danger, bucking bureaucracies, and shrewdly assessing priorities in his quest to provide meaningful aid. A Rotarian version of Zelig, Woody Allen's famous "human chameleon," Kushner has somehow gotten himself to Pakistan just after a massive earthquake, to Haiti, Japan, and Tanzania to lend a practiced hand after natural calamities, terrorist attacks, and kidnappings by pirates. When tectonic plates suddenly shift, where tsunamis gather lethal force or tropical storms morph into devastating hurricanes that target urban centers, Kushner will likely be on the scene, ready to spring into action. It helps that he is a member of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, an ex-Marine who works closely with the

Disaster, cont'd on page 5

Rotary Club of Ventura-East

Post Office Box 3012
Ventura, California 93006

info@RotaryVenturaEast.org


Clubs Nearby ...

Ventura-South	12:00 pm	Monday
		Wedgewood Banquet Center
Santa Paula	12:00 pm	Monday
		The Glen Tavern Inn
Ojai West	7:00 am	Tuesday
		Soule Park GC
Camarillo Breakfast	7:00 am	Tuesday
		Spanish Hills GC
Oxnard	12:10 pm	Tuesday
		Courtyard by Marriott
Fillmore Sunrisers	6:45 am	Wednesday
		Varies, go to their website
Ventura	12:00 pm	Wednesday
		The Derby Club
Camarillo	12:00 pm	Wednesday
		Camarillo Center for Spiritual Living
Oxnard Sunrise	7:30 am	Thursday
		Tomas Cafe
Fillmore	12:05 pm	Thursday
		The Fillmore & Western Train
Ojai	12:00 pm	Friday
		Soule Park GC

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82nd Airborne, and a translator fluent in French who has worked with U.S. embassy staff members in former French African colonies. He knows who to call if he needs to jump on a C-130 military cargo plane or Coast Guard cutter, but even if he didn't, you get the feeling he'd strap himself to the wing of an osprey or grab hold of a bottleneck dolphin's dorsal fin to hitch a ride to quake-ravaged Port-au-Prince or tsunami-flattened Ishinomaki. Whatever it takes.

That's been Kushner's mantra from a young age. He embodies Albert Einstein's belief that you never fail until you stop trying. When Kushner discovered that his own community, Inwood, didn't have a Rotary club, he started one himself and became its first president. When a man with disabilities and his wife, both HIV positive, had no place to live after their basement Rockaway apartment was flooded to the ceiling, Kushner helped them move into a small condo he owns for three months, rent free. "You do what you gotta," he says.

Kushner received the RI Service Above Self Award, but perhaps it should be changed to Service Way Above Self. Even then it would fail to capture his passionate compulsion to do good. "The world is such an insane place," he says. "I can't just sit around and watch."

Born and raised in New York City, Kushner joined the Marines at age 18 and was assigned to Administrative Intelligence – "pencil-pushing," as he calls it. He contracted a severe case of pneumonia at Parris Island in South Carolina. It recurred throughout his three years in the service and led to his discharge with a lifetime disability. He decided to continue his education and won a Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholarship to study at University College in London, an opportunity that forged his bond with Rotary.

If you're in Kushner's company long enough, you'll find that narrative cohesion may elude him, but a thematic unity will take shape. A moment after delving into the earlier phases of his life, Kushner leaps to a lengthy anecdote about rescuing dogs with a Zodiac boat crew in flooded New Orleans, post Katrina. Then, just as abruptly, he's in a makeshift hospital in Pakistan. A minute later, he's flying doctors into Haiti. He's proved himself repeatedly as a first responder who values systemic organization and the logical deployment of resources, so you're inclined to cut him some slack if his anecdotal thought processes don't follow a similar path. You begin to trust that he will make landfall within reach of where he took flight.

Dropping everything to help

In time, Kushner's reminiscences lead to a clearer understanding of his current status as a Rotarian with the will and wherewithal to drop

Disaster, cont'd on page 6

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Weekly Raffle

Our raffle prize this week was a \$50 credit towards the winners bill donated by Rich Stewart.

We raised \$60 this week bringing our total for the year to \$178 and our lucky winner was Bob Noville!

Congratulations Bob and thank you to Rich Stewart for your generous donation.




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
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everything and go where he's needed. In 1991, he and two other ex-military men wrote a state law to help veterans with disabilities to work as New York street vendors; his friend Joseph Kaswan had discovered an obscure 19th-century version written to support Civil War veterans. Together they updated it and lobbied the state legislature to get the new law passed, against fierce resistance from politicians defending brick-and-mortar retailers. The process took 10 years. By then Kushner had assembled a group of disabled vets – a committee, in his words – who, along with him, sold high-end jewelry on the street for bargain-basement prices. “I made a deal with the main importer for Macy’s, Bloomingdale’s, those places, to buy end-of-season overstock, stuff they have to move out, for pennies on the dollar,” he says.

This enterprise provides Kushner with a living and a flexible schedule. “We’re the only stands that make money,” he announces with pride as you stroll with him across a Midtown hotel lobby. He stops you in front of the hotel gift shop and points to a row of bracelets encrusted with semiprecious jewels in the display window. “Those, there, \$50 each? We sell exactly the same ones for \$5.”

Kushner’s street savvy carries over to every aspect of his volunteer work. He’s quick to offer well-meaning clubs advice based on his experiences around the world: “Before you write a check, you gotta know where that money ends up. Send somebody down there to see who’s who, what’s what, where the money’s really going. It costs a little, but it can save a lot. You want to help out an orphanage in the Dominican Republic? All well and good, but do the due diligence.”

They’re words of wisdom from a Rotarian who’s seen some donations disappear into the pockets of corrupt individuals while other contributions reach their intended recipients. The hard-won knowledge of a weathered veteran who’s battled floods, hurricanes, tsunamis, and tornadoes with a single purpose in mind: to leave things in better shape than he found them. Right now, at this very moment, you can be sure that whatever Jim Kushner is up to, he’s also preparing for the next calamity.




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District 5240

Chartered May 23, 1963

Albee, Lee	Retired	Polito, Ron	Commercial Real Estate
Anderson, David	Architecture	Ponce De Leon, Augie	Honorary Member
Beckwith, Robert E.	Office Equipment	Potts, Cari Ann	Attorney
Borneman, John	Songleading	Roberts, Deborah	Communications
Canton, Rafael, M.D.	Psychiatry	Shannon, Laura	Wholesale Pet Supply
Clune, Harriet	Real Estate Management	Shilton, Thomas E.	Pharmacy
Corliss, Andrew	Broadcasting	Smith, Mark Corbin	Religion, Protestant
Crozier, Thomas H.	Real Estate Development	Spellman, William J., D.D.S.	Prosthetic Dentistry
Eller, Jordan	Banking, Mortgage Lending	Stewart, Richard E.	Banking, Real Estate Loans
Emch, James H., C.P.A.	General Accounting	Stork, Midge, CFP, CSPG	Financial Planning, Investments
Gallagher, Devere L. (Pete)	Automobile Servicing	Strohman, Joseph, Jr.	Business Law
Gallagher, Richard	Stock & Bond Sales	Swan, Thomas	Investment Advisor
Gonzalez, Jesse	Automotive, Repair & Sales	Thompson, Allison	CPA
Gray, Bill	Property Management	Thompson, Vance, CLU, ChFC	Insurance, Financial Planning
Hashbarger, Tom	Health Services	Turner, Donna	Honorary Member
Hata, Jeff	Printing	Waddell, Sandy	Contractor-Portable Buildings
Hertel, Ronald	Real Estate Land Development	Widders, Monte L.	General Law
Hicks, William	Domestic Automobiles, Retail	Whitman, Diana	Honorary Member
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Hoag, Will	Honorary Member		
Hughes, Tim	Nonprofit: Development		
Jimenez, Richard	Honorary Member		
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Lindsay, Jan Corwin, C.P.A.	Small Business Accounting		
Ludes, Rocky	CPA Tax		
Lynn, Robert	Jewelry		
Marquez-Olson, Carol	Travel Agency		
Marsh, Sam	Secondary Education		
Masterson, John A.	Foreign Automobiles, Retail		
McBreen, Terry	Real Estate, Investments		
Norman, Richard M.	Trial Law		
Norstedt, Chris	Honorary Member		
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Pazen, Wendy	Office Management		