



The Rotary Club  
of Ventura-East

# The Breeze

Editor: Jeff Hata  
Volume LI, Number 30

Rotary Club of Ventura-East • Official Newsletter and Bulletin

Publisher: Jeff Hata  
February 27, 2014

## Programs

Program Chair: Robert Pazen

### February 27, 2014

Glocalization: the change in relationships between local and global - Terry Long

### March 6, 2014

History of Ventura - Glenda Jackson

### March 13, 2014

Update of Athletics at Foothill HS - Emily Stevens

### March 20, 2014

GoCare - Jane McClenahan

## Greeter

February 27 - Bob Pazen

March 6 - Wendy Pazen

March 13 - Bill Spellman

March 20 - Jordan Eller

March 27 - TBA

## Fundraisers

### Poinsettia Sales

Delivery Date

December 4, 2014

for information on fundraisers go to:

[www.RotaryVenturaEast.org](http://www.RotaryVenturaEast.org)

## 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

## Club Events

## Important Dates

Board Meeting .....	Mar 5
Basic PRLS .....	Mar 22
District Assembly .....	Mar 29
Board Meeting .....	Apr 2
RYLA .....	Apr 12-15
Master PRLS3 .....	Apr 12
Master PRLS4 .....	Apr 26
Board Meeting .....	May 7
Board Meeting .....	Jun 4

## Raffle Scholarship Donor

February 27 - Bill Hicks

March 6 - Jan Lindsay

March 13 - Monte Widders

March 20 - Ron Polito

March 27 - Harriet Clune

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## Web Addresses

[www.RotaryVenturaEast.org](http://www.RotaryVenturaEast.org) • [www.RCVEConcert.com](http://www.RCVEConcert.com)  
R.I.: [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org) • District 5240: [www.rotarydistrict5240.org](http://www.rotarydistrict5240.org)

# Message from our RI President Ron Burton

Dear fellow Rotarians,

Our goal in 2013-14 is to Engage Rotary, Change Lives . All of us know that Rotary has incredible potential to do good work. It's time to recognize how much more we could be doing and start working on new ways to turn that potential into reality. We're going to do this by engaging Rotarians – by getting them involved, by getting them inspired, and by making sure that all Rotarians know just what a gift they have in Rotary.

We're going to make sure that the work we do in Rotary is solid, effective, and sustainable. And we're going to make sure that Rotary itself will last – by committing to our goal of 1.3 million Rotarians in our clubs by the year 2015.

That goal is a little different from membership goals we've had in the past. The goal isn't just bringing in new members. The goal is growing Rotary. The goal is making Rotary bigger, not just with more members, but with more involved, engaged, motivated members who will be the ones to lead us into our future.

Each of us has our own reason for joining Rotary – but I believe we all want to make a difference. We all want to be doing something meaningful. That is absolutely essential for us to remember when we talk about membership.

We're not asking just anyone to join Rotary. We're looking to attract busy, successful, motivated people who care. We're asking them to take their valuable time and give it to Rotary. So if they say yes, and they come and join our club, then we'd better be showing them that their time in Rotary is well spent.

We have to make sure that every Rotarian, in every club, has a meaningful job – one that makes a real difference to the club and the community. Because when you're doing something meaningful in Rotary, Rotary is meaningful to you.

In Rotary, we all have something to give. At every stage of our lives and our careers, Rotary has something for all of us – a way to let us do more, be more, and give more. Rotary gives our lives more meaning, more purpose, and greater satisfaction. And the more we give through Rotary, the more Rotary gives back to us in return.

## 2013 - 2014 Club Board of Directors

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Jordan Eller .....	Past President
Wendy Pazen .....	Secretary
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.....	Director 2011-2014
Vance Thompson.....	Director 2011-2014
Ken Kagan.....	Director 2012-2015
Laura Shannon.....	Director 2012-2015
Bruce McGee.....	Director 2013-2016
Bob Pazen.....	Director 2013-2016

## Avenues of Service Directors

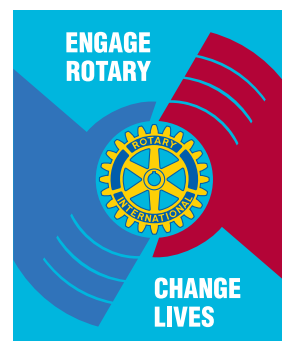
Dave Anderson.....	Club Service
Joe Strohman .....	Vocational Service
.....	Community Service
Jeff Hata .....	New Generations
Judy Hoag .....	International Service
Mark Smith .....	Interact

## Rotary International Officers

Paul P. Harris.....	Founder of Rotary
Ron D. Burton.....	President, Rotary International
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Loretta Butts .....	Governor Elect, R.I. District 5240
Jim Bell.....	Governor Nominee District 5240
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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 February 20, 2014

Reported by Jeff Hata



*Student of the Quarter Michelle Nakagawa with her parents.*

President Tim Hughes invited everyone to lunch, guests and visiting Rotarians first!

Bob Lynn led us in the Flag Salute.

President Tim thanked John Masterson for being our greeter today.

Tom Swan introduced guests and visiting Rotarians.

We did not have any visiting Rotarians. Visiting from Buena High School were Danelle Williams

and Natalie Debbas along with our students of the quarter and their parents.

President Tim gave our Inspirational Message, "The Sweat Pledge."

President Tim also gave our joke for the day.

Midge teased the raffle graciously donated by Joe Strohmman which was a \$25 California Pizza Kitchen and a \$25 Starbucks gift cards. Our secret donor also donated a pound of Starbucks coffee!

Joe Strohmman along with Natalie Debbas conducted our student of the quarter awards.

The first recipient was Michelle Nakagawa from the Business Department. Her teacher Mr. Rainer was present. The award for Michelle was sponsored by John Masterson.

The next recipient was Bryan Baron from Metal Fabrication and his sponsor was Bob Lynn.

President Tim reminded everyone about the social at Garman's Pub.

Happy \$'s: Joe Strohmman, Bob Lynn, Harriet Clune.

Midge conducted the raffle and the lucky winner was Jeff Hata.



*Student of the Quarter Bryan Baron with his parents.*

## Helping people with disabilities make their own music



*Instructor Danuta Warzachowska (left) talks with her student Marcin Miazgowski before a recital by students of the Music School for Children With Disabilities in Honor of Paul Harris. The recital was held in May 2012 at the school in Lublin, Poland.*

*Photo Credit: Alyce Henson/Rotary International*

Music has been an important part of leading an ordinary life for students at the Music School for Children With Disabilities in Honor of Paul Harris in Lublin, Poland. Founded by Rotary members, the school serves 20 students with various disabilities, including Down syndrome, autism, and visual impairments. The Rotary Club of Lublin-Centrum-Maria Curie-Sklodowska has provided funding with help from Rotary Foundation Matching Grants and the Henryk Wieniawski Musical Society, which houses the school.

After their son Mateusz was born with underdeveloped eyes, Mariusz and Joanna Kania looked for ways to help him be active. When he showed an aptitude for music, they looked for a teacher and were thrilled to find the Paul Harris music school.

"A school like this helps children like Mateusz widen their perspectives, see the world a bit differently, and meet new people," his father says. "If it weren't for this school, there wouldn't be a place in Lublin for disabled children who want to develop musically."

By Susie Ma

Adapted from a story in the September 2013 issue of The Rotarian 20-Feb-2014

# Finding safe haven



More than 70 of A Safe Haven's residents are employed by its landscaping service, which manages plantings in public spaces around Chicago. Neli Vazquez-Rowland (far left), a member of the Rotary Club of Chicago, founded the organization with her husband.

Photo Credit: ©Jean-Marc Giboux. All rights reserved.

For years, Angalia Bianca had slept in abandoned buildings throughout Chicago. She stole. She did drugs. She spent time in and out of jail for forgery, theft, trespassing, and possession of narcotics. But after she landed in prison for the seventh time, something changed -- Bianca knew she wanted a better life. She just didn't know how to make it happen.

After serving her time, Bianca sought help from a local homeless organization, A Safe Haven, and moved to its shelter in the Rogers Park neighborhood. Bianca followed the program closely -- she attended all the required meetings, passed drug tests, and volunteered at every opportunity.

"They taught me basic life skills. I didn't know how to get up in the morning, or how to clean the kitchen. They showed me how to do little things that most people take for granted," she says.

A Safe Haven is a network of shelters that address the causes of chronic homelessness and teach residents how to relearn a life without drugs and alcohol. Neli Vazquez-Rowland, a member of the Rotary Club of Chicago, and her husband, Brian Rowland, founded the organization 20 years ago. Under Vazquez-Rowland's guidance, more than 50,000 clients have followed a program that includes treatment, education, health care, job training, and job placement.

Safe Haven, cont'd on page 5

Rotary Club of Ventura-East on social media ...



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## 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

Jeff Hata

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### A personal story

Neither Vazquez-Rowland nor her husband had a traditional social service background, but they did have personal motivation to start A Safe Haven. In the early 1990s, both were flourishing in the financial field. Their lives took an abrupt turn when Rowland developed an addiction to alcohol. They could afford the pricey rehab but quickly realized that only their personal wealth separated them from the addicts who ended up on the streets or in jail.

“We realized how grateful we were that we had resources to get the help we needed and could pay for the best treatment that money could buy,” Vazquez-Rowland says. “That helped me understand the disparities between people with resources and people without resources and where their paths lead them. If you have money, you have access to treatment, you have access to legal representation, and you have the ability to get back on your feet and not lose your job. But if it happens in the poor communities, you get arrested and you end up in jail.”

As Rowland got sober, the couple discovered the paucity of services for people in recovery, especially for those with little money or family support. Government agencies weren’t meeting the needs of people they encountered who were struggling to get their lives back on track. So in 1994, Vazquez-Rowland and her husband bought and refurbished an abandoned apartment building in the Logan Square neighborhood. Their plan was to rent out the building for a year to people recovering from drug and alcohol addiction, and when the real-estate market recovered, sell it for a profit. But as more people showed up seeking their services, Vazquez-Rowland realized she and her husband could help transform people’s lives.

### Creating A Safe Haven

So the couple established A Safe Haven Foundation, developing a comprehensive program to serve those in recovery. Vazquez-Rowland personally subsidized care for thousands as she continued to work in the investment business. But after five years, she and Rowland saw that this wasn’t a sustainable course.

In 1999, armed with a study conducted by Northwestern University that provided the hard data they needed to seek outside funding, they landed their first contract, with the Illinois Department of Corrections, to provide transitional housing for nonviolent ex-offenders.

Around that time, Vazquez-Rowland also decided to give up her career, leaving a job that had provided her family of four with a comfortable life. “We had this moment of truth,” she says. “We asked each other: ‘What are we doing? Are we in the business of finance or are we in the business of

Safe Haven, cont'd on page 6

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## Weekly Raffle

Our raffle prize this week was a \$25 California Pizza Kitchen and a \$25 Starbucks gift card. Our secret donor added in a 1 pound bag of Starbucks Coffee.

Our lucky winner was Jeff Hata!  
Congratulations Jeff and thank you to Joe Strohmman for your generous donation!



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helping people?"

After 20 years, A Safe Haven has 28 locations throughout Chicago, housed in once-abandoned buildings the couple bought in the South Shore, Englewood, and North Lawndale neighborhoods -- areas that other developers might shun.

**From homelessness to independence**

Vazquez-Rowland has learned that there is no single approach to homeless services. Some clients were ready to move on to their own apartments but were shut out of the rental market because of bad credit or a criminal background. Some had difficulty finding a job after being released from prison. Others were families coming to the shelter for the first time because they'd lost their home to foreclosure after a job loss.

In response, A Safe Haven developed social enterprise ventures to employ its graduates. These include catering, landscaping, and pest control businesses.

"The services of A Safe Haven are free, but its clients commit to becoming self-sufficient. The reason it's so powerful here is because there are so many people in different stages of their development," Vazquez-Rowland says. "They're getting that pride back in their eyes, and the enthusiasm to take care of themselves."

While continuing to run A Safe Haven, Vazquez-Rowland spends three or four days a month at an office in Washington, D.C., meeting with leaders in government, business, and academia to promote her model nationally.

"We all want the same thing. We just don't agree on how to achieve it," she says.

In North Lawndale, one of Chicago's most poverty-stricken neighborhoods, A Safe Haven's headquarters serves as an oasis. Inside the building, a teenager explains how the organization helped reunite him with his father. An older woman who has finished the program says goodbye to the friends she's made at the shelter as she leaves for her first apartment. A young man approaches Vazquez-Rowland in the cafeteria to thank her for saving his life.


Vazquez-Rowland can't walk from one side of the building to the other without someone calling out her name and waving a greeting. She knows everyone by first name too.

"This is the most rewarding work in the world," she says. "We're saving lives."

By Megan Ferringer

Adapted from a story in the February 2014 issue of The Rotarian

25-Feb-2014




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District 5240

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Anderson, David .....	Architecture	Pazen, Robert L., O.D. ....	Optometry
Beckwith, Robert E. ....	Office Equipment	Pazen, Wendy .....	Office Management
Borneman, John .....	Songleading	Polito, Ron .....	Commercial Real Estate
Canton, Rafael, M.D. ....	Psychiatry	Ponce De Leon, Augie .....	Honorary Member
Cerasuolo, Josh .....	Professional Carpet Cleaning	Potts, Cari Ann .....	Attorney
Clune, Harriet .....	Real Estate Management	Shannon, Laura .....	Wholesale Pet Supply
Corliss, Andrew .....	Broadcasting	Shilton, Thomas E. ....	Pharmacy
DuBois, Eric .....	Funeral Director	Smith, Mark Corbin .....	Religion, Protestant
Eller, Jordan .....	Banking, Mortgage Lending	Spellman, William J., D.D.S. ....	Prosthetic Dentistry
Emch, James H., C.P.A. ....	General Accounting	Stewart, Richard E. ....	Banking, Real Estate Loans
Gallagher, Devere L. (Pete) .....	Automobile Servicing	Stork, Midge, CFP, CSPG .....	Financial Planning, Investments
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Gill, Floyd .....	Banking	Swan, Thomas .....	Investment Advisor
Gonzalez, Jesse .....	Automotive, Repair & Sales	Thompson, Allison .....	CPA
Gray, Bill .....	Property Management	Thompson, Vance, CLU, ChFC .....	Insurance, Financial Planning
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Hoag, Will .....	Honorary Member		
Hughes, Tim .....	Real Estate Sales, Residential		
Jimenez, Richard .....	Honorary Member		
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Kruetz, Nicole .....	Banking		
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Ludes, Rocky .....	CPA Tax		
Lynn, Robert .....	Jewelry		
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