



The Rotary Club
of Ventura-East

The Breeze

Editor: Jeff Hata
Volume LI, Number 36

Rotary Club of Ventura-East • Official Newsletter and Bulletin

Publisher: Jeff Hata
April 10, 2014

Programs

Program Chair: Robert Pazen

April 10, 2014

RYLA

April 17, 2014

Transportation in Ventura - Erin Brown

April 24, 2014

The Importance of Non-Profits - Doug Halter

May 1, 2014

Job Shadow - Bill Spellman

Greeter

April 10 - TBA

April 17 - Jim Emch

April 24 - TBA

May 1 - Wendy Pazen

May 8 - TBA

Club Events

Important Dates

RYLA	Apr 12-15
Master PRLS3	Apr 12
Bob Beckwith Memorial	Apr 17
Club Social	Apr 24
Master PRLS4	Apr 26
Board Meeting	May 7
RI Convention	Jun 1 - 4
Board Meeting	Jun 4

Fundraisers

Poinsettia Sales

Delivery Date

December 4, 2014

for information on fundraisers go to:

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

Raffle Scholarship Donor

April 10 - Tim Hughes

April 17 - Tom Swan

April 24 - Rich Stewart

May 1 - Bill Gray

May 8 - Ken Kagan

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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 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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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

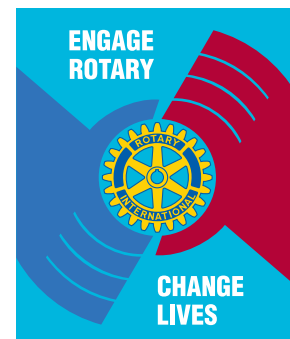
Dave Anderson.....	Club Service
Joe Strohman	Vocational Service
.....	Community Service
Jeff Hata	New Generations
Judy Hoag	International Service
Mark Smith	Interact

Rotary International Officers

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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 April 3, 2014

Reported by Jeff Hata



Monte Widders gave our inspirational message.

Treasurer Todd Juvonen rang the bell and invited everybody to enjoy lunch, guests and visiting Rotarians please go first.

President Elect Dave Anderson was running late so Past President Rich Stewart started our meeting.

Todd Juvonen led us in the Salute to the Flag.

Monte Widders gave our inspirational message.

President Elect Dave arrived and took over the

meeting.

Our only guest today was our speaker Lanyard Dial.

Todd Juvonen explained how our new invoice system was going to work. One major change is that “fines” has been eliminated and has been combined with “club dues.”

President Elect Dave reminded everyone that the “Rule of 85” was when your years of Rotary service plus your age equal 85. If you qualify and wish to be under the Rule of 85 or if you are supposed to be under Rule of 85 and aren’t being billed properly, please let PE Dave or Todd know.



PE Dave Anderson led our meeting today for President Tim Hughes.

New Generations - Jeff Hata reminded everyone that Cheney Caldwell’s birthday party was April 5th from 3 - 5 at Red Brick Pizza. We are currently looking for host families for an incoming Youth Exchange student next year.

The raffle prize was 2 tickets to the Ventura Botanical Gardens Home Garden Tour or 1 ticket to the Gala that evening donated by Midge Stork. Our lucky winner was Jan Lindsey.

Vocational Service - Bill Spellman reminded us that Job

Shadow day would be May 1st.

John Borneman led us in a song.

Happy \$’s: Wendy Pazen, Bob Pazen, Dick Gallagher, Bill Spellman, Carol Marquez and Monte Widders.

Writer and war widow Artis Henderson finds peace through Rotary



As a Rotary Scholar in Senegal, Artis Henderson enjoyed writing her memoir sitting under a red hibiscus tree, where she could hear the sound of women singing.

Photo Credit: Illustration by Michael Byers

In the first month of my stay in Dakar, Senegal, as a Rotary Scholar, a friend gave me a piece of helpful advice. “Buy a wedding ring,” she said. I had already learned that as a young American woman in a Muslim country, I attracted a certain kind of attention. But a ring?

My friend nodded. “That way everyone will leave you alone.”

With my thumb I felt for the empty space on my left ring finger -- a place that, even now, I sometimes touch and worry where my ring has gone. I removed my wedding band on the one-year anniversary of my marriage, eight months after my husband, Miles, was killed in Iraq on 6 November 2006. I was 26 years old.

I spent the first year after Miles’ death just trying to breathe. Making it through the day felt like a challenge enough. But by the second year, I’d begun to realize that my life was continuing. For the first time since Miles died, I asked myself what I should do with this new life. The answer? Become a writer. I never imagined that Rotary would provide the key to achieving that dream.

Artis, cont’d on page 4

Rotary first took me from my home in southern Florida to Brittany, France, on a month-long exchange with a team of young professionals. That experience gave me the courage to make my next move -- to New York, where I earned a master's in journalism at Columbia University.

Next, the Rotarians I had met urged me to apply for a Rotary Scholarship. I wanted to travel somewhere challenging, as far away from home as possible -- away from the constant reminders of how my life had changed. In 2010, I flew to Senegal to study West African literature at the Université Cheikh Anta Diop.

On a sweltering afternoon in Dakar, I headed downtown in search of a wedding band. Down a narrow side street, I found a jewelry shop with its doors open. An elderly man sat behind the counter, his eyes closed. He leaned forward when I walked in. I told him what I was looking for -- a thin, silver band -- and he reached for a canvas sack and spilled its contents across the glass.

"Where are you from?" he asked as I started to pick through the rings.

I looked up. "The United States."

The man sucked his teeth and put his rough hands on the counter.

"Then maybe you can explain your war against Islam."

I opened my mouth to speak, to try to explain a conflict I did not understand. I wanted him to know that my husband had died fighting in the war, and that for Miles, this was never a fight against the Muslim faith. But the shopkeeper looked at me with such radioactive anger that I couldn't speak. I bowed my head and left the store.

I arrived during a violent, restless time in the region. The Arab Spring spread across North Africa, and in Dakar men set themselves on fire to protest the regime. Angry students burned tires and blockaded highways as outrage seethed through the city.

During my scholarship year, I received unexpected news: Simon & Schuster was offering me a contract for a memoir I had proposed about the loss of my husband. I wrote it in Senegal, and in that way, the scholarship gave me something I never anticipated: a place to write unencumbered by the reminders of my loss.

My time in Dakar was a gift. For the first month of my stay, I lived with a host family whose warmth helped with my transition to life in Africa. Moussa, the oldest son of the house, was my age, also a journalist. I counted him as my first real friend in Dakar. But in the second month of my stay, Moussa fell ill and died the following week. The family held a funeral, and I wept with the women of the house while the imam gave

Artis, 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	

Jeff Hata

3533 Arundell Circle #B
Ventura, CA 93003



OFFICE (805) 650-0733
FAX (805) 650-9904
WEB www.MyAnchorPrinting.com
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John A. Masterson
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Capt'n Cruise Travel News
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P. O. Box 3200
Ventura, California
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Fax: 805-642-4447

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Wendy Pazen

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Dr. Robert L. Pazen
Optometry
801 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93003
805/650-2020
Fax: 805/650-2024



the eulogy.

A month after the funeral, the family invited me to dinner. After we ate, I sat outside with Moussa's mother, in silence, through the long, hot hours of the afternoon. At one point she reached over and held my hand. I do not know what it is like to lose a child, but I understand the depths of great loss. In that moment, I realized that this is how goodwill is built: simply and gently, a shared touch between two people.

By Artis Henderson

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




Peace fellow Ali Reza Eshraghi on today's Iran



Former Rotary Peace Fellow Ali Reza Eshraghi sits down with *The Rotarian* magazine to talk about his work in Iran. Photo Credit: Illustration by Louisa Bertman

Iranian-born journalist Ali Reza Eshraghi, 35, is the Iran project manager at the Institute for War and Peace Reporting and a teaching fellow in the Department of Communication Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. After working as an editor at several Tehran newspapers – all of which were eventually banned or shut down by the government – he became a visiting scholar at the University of California, Berkeley, and met Pate Thomson and Mary Alice Rathbun, of the Rotary Club of Berkeley. In 2012, he completed his studies as a Rotary Peace Fellow at the Duke-UNC Rotary Peace Center.

The Rotarian: You were born shortly before the Iranian Revolution of 1979
Eshraghi, cont'd on page 6

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Weekly Raffle

Our raffle prize this week was either 2 tickets to the Ventura Botanical Gardens Home Garden Tour or 1 ticket to the Garden Tour Gala donated by Midge Stork.

Our lucky winner today was Jan Lindsey.

Midge announced that we have raised over \$3,000 so far this year which will go towards scholarships this spring.

Congratulations to Jan and thank you to Midge Stork for your generous donation.

and the start of the Iran-Iraq War in 1980. What was it like growing up in that time and place?

Eshraghi: It was a time of turmoil and dramatic changes. I was born and raised in Isfahan, an ancient city with breathtaking architecture, spectacular palaces, and beautiful boulevards. But it was not left unharmed by Iraqi air raids and missiles. Some of my classmates lost their lives in the air raids.

TR: How has the atmosphere for journalists changed since you worked in Tehran?

Eshraghi: Journalism in Iran is like navigating a minefield with your eyes closed. You always feel you are in danger. Everyone suffers from “doorbell syndrome” – the fear that the security forces will come to arrest you. I was not in Iran in 2009, following the disputed presidential election, but many journalists were arrested then and are still in jail. When Hassan Rouhani became president in 2013, things began to improve somewhat, but fears and concerns still haunt Iranian journalists.

TR: What is the Institute for War and Peace Reporting?

Eshraghi: It is a nonprofit media development organization with field offices in different parts of the world – particularly in conflict zones. It tries to help people communicate with one another under challenging circumstances, to enable them to hold their governments accountable and to make better decisions based on accurate information.

TR: Are you optimistic about changes in Iran’s political climate?

Eshraghi: I am cautiously optimistic. I am mostly optimistic about the people of Iran, who helped bring moderates to power in the country. Iran is in a region full of conflicts – the bloody counterrevolution in Egypt, tensions in Tunisia, insecurity in Libya and Yemen, the violent civil war in Syria, the crackdown on the democratic movement in Bahrain. The people of Iran, in such an environment, realized their demands in the most civil of manners. After all, elections are a century-old tradition there.

TR: What are the obstacles to peaceful relations between Iran and the West?

Eshraghi: Iran and the United States do not know each other well, and misunderstandings have led to bad policymaking. The first step in conflict resolution is to get each side to stop trying to force the other side to accept unilateral demands. The other side should be given an offer that it can consider saying yes to without feeling that it is capitulating.


TR: What would you like people to know about Iran?

Eshraghi: Iran, like any other country, is a complicated place. In the U.S. media, stories are told within a simplistic framework of good and evil. This is not the reality. Society and government are entangled; sometimes they cooperate with each another, and sometimes the government is forced to accept the demands of society.

By Paul Engleman

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

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District 5240

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