



**The Rotary Club  
of Ventura-East**

*The Breeze*

Editor: Jeff Hata  
Volume LII, Number 42

Rotary Club of Ventura-East • Official Newsletter and Bulletin

Publisher: Jeff Hata  
May 28, 2015

**Programs**

Program Chair: Joe Strohman / Ken Kagan / Alison Thompson / Tom Hashbarger

**May 28, 2015**

Brent Winebrenner - A historical look at Cuba

**June 4, 2015**

4 Way Test Essay / Scholarships

**June 11, 2015**

Tim Hughes/Husam Hishmeh - Membership

**June 18, 2015**

Wade Nomura - PRLS

**Greeter**

**May 28 - TBA**

**Fundraisers**

**Poinsettia Sales**

Delivery Date

December 3, 2015

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
Conference Call (213) 992-5290	PIN 01623
International Service	TBD
Marketing	TBD
Membership	TBD

*Club Events*

**Important Dates**

4 Way Test Essay contest awards .....	Jun. 4
Scholarships .....	Jun. 4
Johnny Cash Music Festival (BBQ Team) .....	Jun. 27 - 28
Step-Down Dinner .....	Jun. 28
Bruce McGee's first meeting .....	Jul. 2
Push-em Pull-em Parade .....	Jul. 4
Ventura Street Fair (BBQ Team).....	Jul. 4
Ventura Chamber Family Day (BBQ Team).....	Aug. 22
District Governor Jim Bell's Official Visit.....	Aug. 27
Moorpark Beer Festival (BBQ Team).....	Oct. 10
Moorpark Civil War Reenactment (BBQ Team).....	Nov. 7 - 8

**Raffle Scholarship Donor**

**May 28 - TBA**

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**Web Addresses**

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

## Presidents Message ...



**Dave Anderson**  
President 2014-2015

My wife, Wendy, subscribes to a bicycling magazine called Adventure Cyclist. Yesterday I was drawn to its cover article, “Circling the Volcanoes – Family Adventure in Nicaragua,” by Aaron Teasdale. The article recounts one family’s two-week bike ride around the double volcanoes on the island of Ometepe in Lake Nicaragua (about 20 miles south of Granada).

Their story brought to memory my own brief visit to Nicaragua several years ago, and evoked recollections of similar experiences. As

I mentioned at the club meeting last week, the opportunity to have visited Nicaragua changed my perception of the country from the abstract to a direct personal knowledge. My guess is that many of you have experienced the same phenomenon.



I want to thank Michelle Cekov for sharing her report last week on the work that GoCare is doing in Pantanal - and throughout Nicaragua. As members of the Rotary Club of Ventura East, we can be proud of the Club’s efforts to

serve the people of Pantanal over the years. But we should express our appreciation to Michelle and the entire GoCare organization for envisioning and implementing a truly sustainable system - one that will continue to provide high-quality educational programs to these communities for years to come.

As Michelle mentioned, GoCare is also ready and willing to assist any Rotary Club (including Ventura East!) to identify, assess, plan, and execute any number of future humanitarian projects in Nicaragua. Perhaps there will be new opportunities for service that our club will want to explore and act upon.

You can visit GoCare’s Facebook page here:

<https://www.facebook.com/GOCAREKids>

You can read an excerpt from Aaron Teasdale’s bicycling article here:

<https://www.facebook.com/AaronTeasdaleWritingPhotography/posts/378180079036370>

Dave Anderson

## 2014 - 2015 Club Board of Directors

Dave Anderson	.....President
Bruce McGee	.....President Elect
Tim Hughes	..... Past President
Tom Hashbarger	..... Secretary
Alison Thompson	..... Treasurer
Dick Gallagher	..... Sergeant at Arms
Tim Blackwell	..... Director 2012-2015
Ken Kagan	..... Director 2012-2015
	..... Director 2013-2016
Laura Shannon	..... Director 2013-2016
Todd Juvonen	..... Director 2014-2017
	..... Director 2014-2017

## Avenues of Service Directors

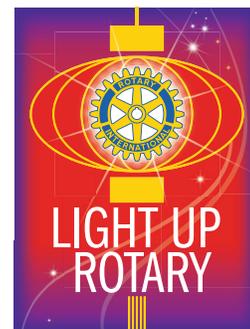
Bruce McGee	..... Club Service
Joe Strohmman	..... Vocational Service
Nicole Kreutz	..... Community Service
Jeff Hata	..... Youth Service
Judy Hoag	..... International Service

## Rotary International Officers

Paul P. Harris	..... Founder of Rotary
Gary C.K. Huang	..... President, Rotary International
Loretta Butts	..... Governor, R.I. District 5240
Jim Bell	..... Governor Elect, R.I. District 5240
John Weiss	..... 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
Jack McClenahan	..... P.D.G. 2014-2015

## 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 May 21, 2015

Reported by Jeff Hata



Student of the Quarter Andres with sponsor Bob Lynn

President Dave rang the bell and invited everyone to get their lunch, guests and visiting Rotarians first.

President Dave thanked John Masterson for greeting and Daryl Crusier for taking attendance.

Husam Hishmeh led us in the Salute to the Flag.

John Masterson introduced guests and visiting Rotarians.

Visiting from the Rotary Club of Moorpark was Lyle Pennington.

Guests of Jeff Hata were Stephanie Caldwell, new CEO for the Ventura Chamber of Commerce, and Sheri Long, Community Liaison for Vista Real Charter School.

Jeff Hata announced our raffle prize today was two bottles of wine, Confundida from Vino V Winery and Durif from Strey Cellars.

Kathy McGee gave our Inspirational Message.

President Dave then asked Stephanie Caldwell to introduce herself and speak about what's going on at the chamber!

Lyle Pennington spoke about the upcoming golf tournament at the Moorpark Country Club.

Tim Blackwell spoke about the BBQ for the July 4th Street Fair and the Johnny Cash Music Festival June 27th & 28th.

President Dave asked for a volunteer to help Nicole Kreutz with the Push-em Pull-em parade. Tom Swan volunteered to help Nicole.

President Dave told us that membership has been doing well. That we are up 5 members this year and to please keep inviting!

Jordan Eller reported that scholarship interviews are going well. One more night of interviews to go. Jordan asked for help getting in touch with the media.



Student of the Quarter Hutch with sponsor Bill Spellman

Natalie Debbas presented President Dave with letters from the students who participated in Mock Interviews. Natalie also reported that Interact is wrapping up for the year and that the Interact club is planning their step down!

Joe Strohmman and Natalie Debbas presented the last students of the quarter for the year. Andres was presented an award from the Business Department and his sponsor was Bob Lynn and Hutch was presented an award from the Automotive Department and his sponsor was Bill Spellman.

We postponed our song until next week and the raffle winner was Husam Hishmeh!!!

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## Did ya know???

*The ABC's of Rotary by Cliff Dochterman  
1992-93 President  
Rotary International*

### WOMEN IN ROTARY...

Until 1989, the Constitution and By-laws of Rotary International stated that Rotary club membership was for males only. In 1978 the Rotary Club of Duarte, California, invited three women to become members. The R.I. board withdrew the charter of that club for violation of the R.I. Constitution. The club brought suit against R.I. claiming a violation of a state civil rights law, which prevents discrimination of any form in business establishments or public accommodations. The appeals court and the California Supreme Court supported the Duarte position that Rotary could not remove the club's charter merely for inducting women into the club. The United States Supreme Court upheld the California court indicating that Rotary clubs do have a "business purpose" and are in some ways public-type organizations. This action therefore allowed women to become Rotarians in any jurisdiction having similar "public accommodation" statutes. The R.I. constitutional change was made at the 1989 Council on Legislation, with a vote to eliminate the "male only" provision for all of Rotary.

# MEETING HIGHLIGHT: AMBASSADORIAL SCHOLAR AMBER HARDEN SHARES STORIES

*Posted by Jon Morse on May 07, 2015*



*Pictured (left to right): Clarence Miller, principal of the Simon Technology High School; Amber Harden; Robert Ryans, incoming president of the Crenshaw Watts Rotary Club; Olivia Ryans, wife of Robert Ryans and a member of the Inglewood Rotary Club; Cresie Page, a past president of the Crenshaw Watts Rotary Club; and Jon Morse, a past president of the Rotary Club of Westlake Village.*

In April, Amber Harden, a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar who spent three years in the Republic of Georgia, shared her story with the Rotary Club of Westlake Village.

Amber recounted how she found a Rotary Club in Georgia to coordinate her visit and how she learned to live and thrive in a part of the world which had been off limits to the west for decades. While she was in Georgia, Amber received a Masters Degree in International Business. She also learned to speak Georgian and taught English both in the countryside and in the capital city of Tbilisi.

Amber's Ambassadorial Scholarship was sponsored by the Crenshaw Watts Rotary Club, which has partnered with our club in supporting the Simon Technology High School, a grade 9-12 Charter High School in Watts. Our clubs have made a commitment to work together on other projects and set an example of inter district cooperation for other clubs to

*scholar, 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**

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



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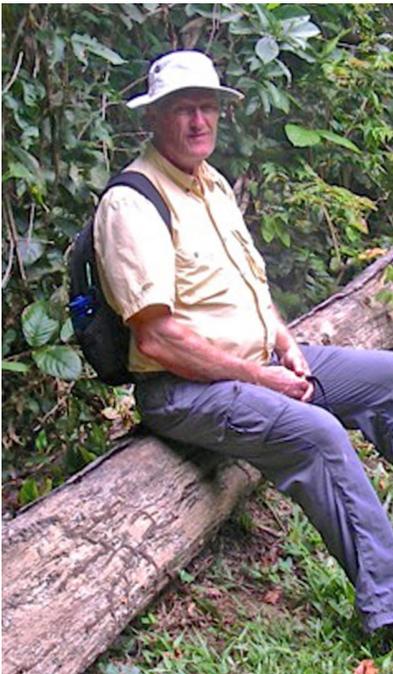
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follow.

The Simon Technology High School is preparing deserving students in the area for college, even though many of the students come from families where they will be the first to graduate from high school. The Westlake club's book drive supplied the school with approximately 10,000 books so the students would have books available for silent reading to improve their reading comprehension. Many of the students come to the school in ninth grade with a second grade reading level, and the school is working hard to raise the reading level to prepare the students for college. The school donated a quantity of the children's books to the Crenshaw Watts Rotary Club to be taken to Jamaica for literacy outreach in that country. Other children's books have been donated to a local elementary school in Watts; a program is under development to have the high school students tutor the elementary school students. The school has also instituted an adult literacy program to allow the parents of the students and others in the community to improve their literacy skills. In short, the book drive has taken on a life of its own in that community.

## SAN LUIS OBISPO CLUB | GUEST MEETING REVIEW

Posted by Dave Garth, President of San Luis Obispo Rotary Club on May 04, 2015



Clint Norrell

One of our members brought his brother-in-law to one of our meetings. His brother-in-law, Clint Norrell, had never been to a Rotary meeting before and knew little about Rotary, although he did have some preconceived notions. After the meeting, he wrote an email to our member about his experience. This email was so thoughtful, enlightening and well-written that I thought you might like to publish it.

Copied Below:

"I've got a Rotary meeting at noon. Would you like to come as my guest?"

The invitation comes as a surprise. My expression prompts a brief description of what I can expect.

guest, cont'd on page 6

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## Weekly Raffle

Today's raffle prize was a bottle of Confundita from Vino V Winery and a bottle of Durif from Strey Cellars graciously donated by Jeff Hata.

Our lucky winner was Husam Hishmeh.

Thank you to Jeff Hata for your generous donation and congratulations to Husam!



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“Sure,” I say, but don’t feel sure at all.

In the shower, I’m wondering what I’ll wear. I haven’t had on anything but work clothes in months. Oh well, how bad can it get. I can stand on my head for the length of any lunch.

“Ever been here?”

“No,” I answer, as I scan the exterior of Madonna’s. It’s an ornate restaurant/hotel south of San Luis Obispo where we’re visiting Kath’s sister & husband. Brooks is a long time Rotary member. I’m not. I thought it was another “good ol’ boys” club, a rich guys club, or a business networking group. Certainly the “silver Buick” set.

Brooks leads me through Madonna’s. Exaggerated carved wood and copper sheeting meet curved red velvet booths. Some eccentric left his mark. I’m glad to see it, despite it having bruised my senses.

We’re greeted by people in red vests, pay, and I follow Brooks to a buffet table where we build salads and select desert. We find seats at one of the round tables for nine. The settings include china plates and a half-dozen utensils. The water glasses are heavy red and blue goblets. The walls are covered with brag photos. The heavy beam architecture is somewhere between Snow White and The Hobbit.

Gold letters on blue banners frame the podium. They proclaim the club’s name and the equivalent of a mission statement about truth and service.

A bell is rung. Everyone stands for a prayer, a pledge, and a couple of patriotic songs. The main course is served during announcements and the introduction of guests. I’m one of many who stand in turn to polite applause.

Someone speaks of a veteran activist project. Vets are acknowledged. Someone speaks of fighting polio in Africa. Brooks frequently whispers explanations as others stand to present.

In attendance are the mayor, councilmen, judges, professors, professionals, successful businessmen, and accomplished artisans. 40% are women.

Various weekly meeting rituals are performed. One acknowledges someone’s good deed, they rise to explain, and contribute a hundred dollars for the privilege. I witness another as individuals rise to describe “Happy News”. Each donates \$20 to do so.

The keynote is presented by a young councilman who describes his path to local politics. He’s quite impressive, with a longer than expected history of organizing discourse between opposing views. He ends his talk by explaining his greatest obstacle. “Don’t send me an e-mail. Bring you idea, problem, or complaint in person. Eye to eye. I’ll say, ‘How ‘bout I

*guest, cont'd on page 8*



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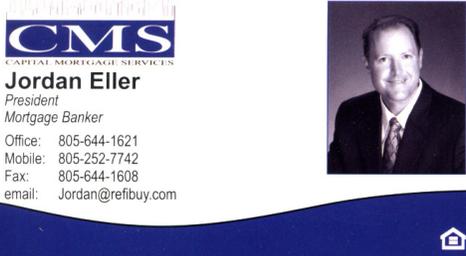
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**Rotary Club of Ventura-East, Membership List  
100% Paul Harris Fellow Club**

District 5240

Chartered May 23, 1963

Albee, Lee .....	Retired	Polito, Ron .....	Commercial Real Estate
Anderson, David .....	Architecture	Ponce De Leon, Augie .....	Honorary Member
Blackwell, Tim .....	Insurance	Potts, Cari Ann .....	Attorney
Borneman, John .....	Songleading	Shannon, Laura .....	Wholesale Pet Supply
Burgh, Jeff .....	Government	Spellman, William J., D.D.S. ....	Prosthetic Dentistry
Canton, Rafael, M.D. ....	Psychiatry	Stewart, Richard E. ....	Banking, Real Estate Loans
Cekov, Michelle .....	Non-Profit	Stork, Midge, CFP, CSPG .....	Financial Planning, Investments
Clune, Harriet .....	Real Estate Management	Strohman, Joseph, Jr. ....	Business Law
Corliss, Andrew .....	Broadcasting	Swan, Thomas .....	Investment Advisor
Cruser, Daryl .....	Insurance	Thompson, Allison .....	CPA
Eller, Jordan .....	Banking, Mortgage Lending	Thompson, Vance, CLU, ChFC .....	Insurance, Financial Planning
Emch, James H., C.P.A. ....	General Accounting	Turner, Donna .....	Honorary Member
Gallagher, Devere L. (Pete) .....	Automobile Servicing	Widders, Monte L. ....	General Law
Gallagher, Richard .....	Stock & Bond Sales	Whitman, Diana .....	Honorary Member
Gray, Bill .....	Property Management	Word, Jim .....	Department Store
Hashbarger, Tom .....	Health Services	Yuncker, Chuck .....	Honorary Member
Hata, Jeff .....	Printing		
Hicks, William .....	Domestic Automobiles, Retail		
Hishmeh, Husam .....	Restaurateur, Franchisee		
Hoag, Judith .....	Real Estate Sales, Residential		
Hoag, Will .....	Honorary Member		
Hughes, Tim .....	Real Estate Sales, Residential		
Juvonen, Todd .....	Financial Services		
Kagan, Kenneth .....	CPA		
Kreutz, Nicole .....	Banking		
Ludes, Rocky .....	Honorary		
Lynn, Robert .....	Jewelry		
Marquez-Olson, Carol .....	Travel Agency		
Marsh, Sam .....	Secondary Education		
Masterson, John A. ....	Foreign Automobiles, Retail		
McGee, Bruce .....	Wholesale Foods		
McGee, Kathy .....	Education (Retired)		
Norman, Richard M. ....	Trial Law		
Norstedt, Chris .....	Honorary Member		
Noville, Robert .....	Civil Engineering (Retired)		
Pazen, Robert L., O.D. ....	Optometry		
Pazen, Wendy .....	Office Management		

*guest, cont'd from page 6*

buy the coffee, and we'll talk about it.'"

Through the hour plus lunch a new and more accurate impression of Rotary form in my mind. These are serious people as interested in service as any less accomplished idealist who criticizes from afar . . . like me. These people do things. They have earned their station and they're using their positions to help others. They raise thousands and it goes directly to good. They get their hands dirty doing good. They are humble and grateful and I feel like an ass for categorizing them wrongly.

I had a good lunch in a room with down to Earth, do-gooders who pledge their resources to the betterment of man. I confessed these lessons to my brother-in-law on the way home. I tried to formulate a defensive explanation, but can't, and admit that I was just flat wrong. Class envy perhaps. I don't care what, but I assure you I will try to never again fault anyone, or question their sincerity, simply for being successful.

