



The Rotary Club
of Ventura-East

The Breeze

Editor: Jeff Hata
Volume XLIX, Number 47

Rotary Club of Ventura-East • Official Newsletter and Bulletin

Publisher: Jeff Hata
May 31, 2012

Programs

Program Chair: Rocky Ludes & Deborah Perkins

May 31, 2012

Scholarship Awards - Tom Crozier

June 7, 2012

Anatomy of a DUI - Doug Ridley

June 14, 2012

Antarctica - Marc Charney

June 21, 2012

TBA

Greeter

May 31 - Carol Marquez Olson

June 7 - Nikki Sloan

June 14 - Deborah Roberts

June 21 - Jeff Hata

June 28 - Deborah Roberts

Fundraisers

Poinsettia Sales

Delivery Date
November 29, 2012

Rotary Bullseye Shooting Contest

July 4, 2012

Music Festival

August 18, 2012

Featured Performer

Ray Fresco

With the Ojai Youth Symphony

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

Club Events

Important Dates

Club Visioning Training.....	Jun 4
Rotaract Ventura Stepdown.....	Jun 18
D.G. Wade's Demotion.....	Jun 23
President Tom's Step Down	Jun 29
Rotary Bullseye Shooting Contest.....	Jul 4
Push em Pull em Parade.....	Jul 4
Tom & Georganna's Annual Fireworks Extravaganza	Jul 4
RCVE Concerts - Music Festival	Aug 18

Raffle Prize Donors

May 31 - Ken Kagan

June 7 - Danielle Brinkman

June 14 - Husam Hishmeh

June 21 - Monte Widders

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Web Addresses

www.RotaryVenturaEast.org

R.I.: www.rotary.org • District 5240: www.rotarydistrict5240.org

Presidents Message ...



Tom Swan
President 2011-2012

Fellow Rotarians;
When I decided to join Rotary I did it with the idea that I could, in some small way, make a difference in the world and the community I share. I know there are special people who make a much bigger difference and Rotary has a fair number of those people. I think it is more impressive to see people who struggle with the daily challenges of modern life, yet find a place in their heart and lifestyle to give a little time and/or money to help those less fortunate.

I think it awesome that Tom Crozier and the scholarship committee did such a wonderful job of helping all of us make a difference in 5 lives. Five young men and women struggling to find their way in life; deciding that their future would be brighter with a college degree, yet without the funds to make that a reality. So many young people today borrow huge amounts of cash to finance their college degree, sometimes borrowing enough money to buy a small house. Could you imagine starting your professional career with a \$100,000 mortgage and NO HOUSE to live in? While it's true these five young people will still most likely need to finance some of their education, at least we cut that debt load a bit. Hopefully, the scholarship grants we awarded will be sufficient to encourage them to get that degree in a career field in demand and be able to help make a bigger difference in the world and our community. By our helping these special five individuals, maybe, just maybe the ripple effect could solve a critical need in the future.

After all, isn't that what Rotary truly provides? HOPE!

Yours in Rotary service;

Tom

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Jordan Eller	President Elect
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John Masterson	Director 2010-2013
Arnulfo Carbajal.....	Director 2010-2013
Deborah Roberts	Director 2011-2014
Vance Thompson.....	Director 2011-2014

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Jordan Eller	Club Service
Bill Spellman.....	Vocational Service
Craig Miller	Community Service
Floyd Gill.....	New Generations
Judy Hoag	International Service
Mark Smith	Interact

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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
Luz Maria Ortiz-Smith.....	P.D.G. 2009-2010
Deepa Willingham	P.D.G. 2010-2011

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?



Reach Within to Embrace Humanity

Meeting May 24, 2012

Reported by Jeff Hata



John Borneman led us in yet another very entertaining song!

John Borneman led us in a song.

Wendy Pazen announced that our opportunity drawing was a \$50 cash donated by Judy Hoag.

Avenues of Service.

Club Service - Jordan Eller thanked everyone who came to the club anniversary party. We had about 15 people in attendance.

Jordan reminded us that we have the Rey Fresco Concert, Push-em Pull-em Parade and the Rotary Bullseye Shooting Contest all coming up this summer. We will also be doing BBQ for the Thousand Oaks Sunrise Club Oktoberfest and the Moorpark Morning Beer Fest.

Domino's will be putting box stuffers for the Rey Fresco Concert this weekend and next weekend. We will also be going up on the marquee at Libbey Bowl Monday.

Vocational Service - Bill Spellman announced 2 vocational scholarship recipients.

Tom Crozier spoke about the scholarship committee. We opened scholarships up to Rotaract this year and will be presenting scholarships to 3 Buena High School students and 2 Rotaractors. We will be presenting the scholarships next week. We did as we have done in the past and presented scholarships based



Bill Spellman announced that we will have two Vocational Scholarships

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

Nikki Sloan then led us in the salute to the Flag.

Nikki Sloan introduced guests and visiting Rotarians.

Visiting us from the Downtown club was Ed Summers and visiting us today was politician David Cruz.

on need versus academic accomplishments.

Interact - Mark Smith said that Interact will be doing their last project of the year which is presenting seniors at some of the retirement homes with American Flags made from beads and safety pins. Mark feels that Interact again has had a very successful year!

Wendy Pazen spoke about the upcoming step down dinner and this year we want everyone to utilize the club website and register for the Step Down online. If you are having problems with the club website, please email Jeff and he will work with you to get onto the site.

President Tom also mentioned to the club that DG Wade Nomura's Step Down luncheon will be at the Moorpark CC on June 23rd and Cheney Caldwell's Step Down will be on June 18th at the Wedgewood Banquet Center at 6:30 pm.

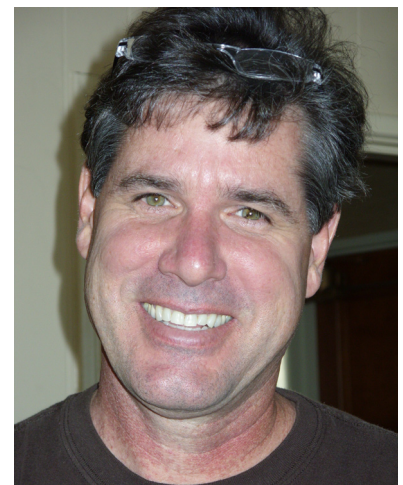
Jeff Hata asked again if the club was speaking to friends and family about hosting an exchange student. Pilar is coming in August and we still need to additional families to host.

Happy \$'s: Nikki Sloan, Terry McBreen, Tom Swan, Midge Stork & John Borneman.

Wendy conducted the opportunity drawing and our lucky winner was Jordan Eller! We raised \$90 today.

The Rotary International Convention 2012 was held at the Impact Center in Bangkok, Thailand. Our President-Elect Jordan Eller was in attendance, and spent 14 days in Thailand, having braved the 14-hour flight from LAX to Hong Kong. Over 35,000 Rotarians were in attendance, many from India to celebrate its polio-free year. This year's Convention held a distinctly international feel. While there were about 15 members of our district in attendance, the convention was so enormous that Jordan only ran into two other people he knew, at the House of Friendship. Indeed, the Impact Center has capacity to host over 70,000 people, similar to the Staples Center in Los Angeles.

Local volunteers decorated the airport, bus stops, and nearby with Rotary welcome signs—there was no question as



Tom Crozier spoke about the scholarship process.

to whether we belonged! The Convention was very well-organized.

Some of the Convention highlights included the House of Friendship, where over 200 clubs maintained display booths promoting their various projects improving lives throughout the world, and also the Hall of Inspiration. Another clever curiosity included the booth for Global Network for Blood Donation—staffed by Rotarian-vampires!

Thailand is known as the “Land of a Thousand Smiles.” To commemorate this, Rotary members at the Convention formed the world’s largest smiley face on May 7. That’s our Jordan, there in the yellow, in the lower-right cheek.

A personal highlight, Jordan spent 7 days on a tremendous dive boat, the last of its kind in the world, enjoying the beauty below the seas of the Gulf of Thailand, between 70 and 100 miles offshore. Before each dive, there was a ceremony with the 10 divers and 20 crew, shooting fireworks to ward off evil. And we’re glad they did... we are happy to welcome back Jordan, and thank him for a wonderful presentation!



PE Jordan Eller spoke about his RI Convention Experience.



- Alison Thompson

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Denver club goes to bat for kids' charity

By Kate Nolan
The Rotarian -- May 2012

Philadelphia Phillies center fielder Shane Victorino finished the 2011 baseball season error-free, with a perfect fielding percentage and a respectable .279 batting average. In November, the three-time Gold Glover marked yet another top baseball achievement when the Rotary Club of Denver gave him its 20th annual Branch Rickey Award.

The honor, which celebrates a player's off-the-diamond humanitarian accomplishments, was named for the baseball executive and player who made history in 1945 by signing Jackie Robinson to the Brooklyn Dodgers organization, breaking the sport's color barrier.

Since the 1940s, the Denver club has raised \$3.8 million for Denver Kids, a program that has helped thousands of at-risk children complete high school. Of that total, \$1.56 million has come from the Branch Rickey Award dinner. Now the club's primary fundraiser, the event brings in ticket sales, sponsorships, and auction proceeds.

Flyin' Hawaiian

Victorino, 31, known as "The Flyin' Hawaiian," was chosen for the award because of his work to help young people in Philadelphia and in his native Hawaii. The Shane Victorino Foundation, which he started with his wife, Melissa, in 2010, has committed \$900,000 toward renovating the 105-year-old Nicetown Boys & Girls Club in an impoverished Philly neighborhood. It also has raised \$500,000 for charities in Hawaii, including the Hawaii Children's Cancer Foundation, the Boys & Girls Club of Maui, and local Little League and high school groups.

Before the 453-plate dinner, Victorino got a ride from the airport with past club president Jim Wilkins, whom Denver Rotarians credit with creating the award. "It was really that the Denver Rotary club asked me to head a



Rotarian Jim Wilkins, who created the Branch Rickey Award, and his wife, Scotty.

Denver, cont'd on page 6



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Weekly Raffle

Our raffle prize this week was \$50 cash, donated by Judy Hoag.

We raised \$90 this week.

Our lucky winner this week was Jordan Eller!

Congratulations Jordan and thank you to Judy Hoag for your generous donation.



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Denver, cont'd from page 5

task force to find a new fundraiser,” Wilkins says. The club’s longstanding charity event, an art show and sale, hadn’t been raising enough to meet the growing needs of Denver Kids.

“I started looking into different sports,” says Wilkins, who grew up rooting for the Brooklyn Dodgers, including Robinson and feisty general manager Rickey. “It was around the time the Rockies got the franchise for baseball in Denver, so I went to the Denver library and looked up baseball awards. Everything was covered: most home runs, hits, everything. Because of our motto, Service Above Self, I thought it would be natural to highlight service.” He put together a short list of great baseball names but kept coming back to Rickey.

“Branch Rickey didn’t have anything named after him, yet he was this monumental figure,” Wilkins says. Coincidentally, a club member, John Andrews Sr., had lived next door to Rickey growing up. Andrews contacted the Rickey family, who have been supportive of the award ever since.

The Denver club asked Colorado artist George Lundeen to create a 30-inch statue called The Player to present to award winners. A 9-foot-6-inch bronze version now stands outside the Colorado Rockies’ Coors Field.

The money raised from the event goes to the Denver club’s foundation, which gives Denver Kids \$145,000 each year. Denver Kids, with an annual budget of \$1 million, needs “about \$1,000 per child per year, for 1,000 children,” says Donna Hultin, its recently retired CEO.

Helping students graduate


Through the organization, Hultin says, at-risk children from kindergarten through high school are provided with counselors and mentors so they receive the academic help and cultural enrichment they need to graduate high school and succeed.

Introducing the students to the Rickey award-winning baseball stars is an important part of the activities surrounding the event, Wilkins says. When Victorino talked with the kids, he revealed that he had been mocked at school for his small size, and that he’d thought he wouldn’t amount to much.

Across Denver Public Schools, 50 percent of students graduate from high school. For Denver Kids, that figure is 90 percent. The program has begun to focus on empowering participants to go to college.

But the challenges are growing, Hultin says. The poverty rate is up, as is the number of children at risk for dropping out. “The schools would like us to work with more kids,” she says. “But we can’t compromise. We’re able to serve more kids only with additional funding.”

Provisionally, the 2011 auction was the best yet, and the entire event netted \$58,000




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