Meeting of May 16, 2012

International Disaster Relief
Featuring Mark Kirwin

Reporter: Betsy Chess

Greg Kincaid handled Introductions and read an Invocation inspired by outgoing RI President Banerjee and Clyde Reynolds and RoseAnn Hill led us in It's a Grand Old Flag.

Presentations and Announcements
Prez Lynda – Club Bar BQ was a great success and many thanks to all who came.

John Brant and Indy Batra presented club banners from Bangkok they brought from the International Convention in Thailand.

Hutch presented Ajay Keesha and Ellyn Dembowski Paul Harris Fellowships for creating Project Compassion.

Fining – Ellyn Dembowski quizzed us about … Rotary! What knowledgeable Rotarians we are!

Rotary Moment – Gary Wolfe said he has been involved with this club since he was eight when his father joined. Heard names of many of Ventura’s movers and shakers whom he then met when he himself joined in 1976.

Program - Prez Lynda introduced Mark Kirwin a returning member. With his wife, he runs the non-profit Kirwin International Relief Foundation (KIRF). Does 2nd stage disaster relief i.e. a few weeks after the initial disaster. Education and orphan issues are a special focus.

Began in Thailand in 2004 on vacation – tsunami hit. Escaped by chance! Jumped immediately into relief efforts. Started KIRF upon return - using skills we all have. Nothing too small. Collected some money and returned. “We find what is needed (assessment) and then purchase this and deliver ourselves,” said Mark,

First project was to build a fish farm. Another was to provide books to a village. Gifts to leaders are important to open doors. He finds out whom to talk to first so no one is offended. Tribe called Moken was stranded – food, water, storage tank and two fishing boats were provided

2005 – Cambodia – food, school supplies to orphanage in Phnom Penh.

2006 – USA – Hurricane Katrina - living supplies,

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Meeting Programs & Assignments

Programs
Chair: Larry Emrich

May 23, 2012
The Annual Interact Bake Sale
Don’t miss it!!!

May 30, 2012
Drugs and Professional Bike Riding

June 6, 2012
D Day plus 4: The 68th Anniversary of the Initial invasion on Omaha Beach

Introductions
Chair: Ron Calkins
May 23 – Jeff King May 30 - TBA

Rotary Moment
Chair: Terri Adams
May 23 – Jack Wood May 30 – Gary Young

Fining
Chair: Ron Bamieh
May 23 – Curtis Cormane May 30 – Dennis LaRochelle

2011-12 Officers and Directors

Officers
President ................................. Lynda Girtsman
President Elect .......................... Indy Batra
President Elect Nominee ............... Irene Henry
Secretary ................................. Jim Deardoff
Recording Secretary * ................. Larry Emrich
Treasurer ................................. Connie Young
Assistant Treasurer * .................. Mark Sauer
Immediate Past President ............. Hutch Hutchinson
*Non-Voting

Avenues of Service

Club Service
Director .................................. Terry Schaeffer
Assistant Director ........................ Dan Holmes

Community Service
Director .................................. Curtis Cormane
Assistant Director ......................... Nanci Cone

International Service
Director ................................. Mario de la Piedra
Assistant Director ........................ Ed McCombs

New Generations
Director .................................. Ellyn Dembowski
Assistant .................................... Ken Cooper

Vocational Service
Director ................................. Bill Finley
Assistant ................................. Todd Binkley

Program continued

backpacks and Patagonia jackets.
2006 – Tanzania – school and farm supplies, rain
catchment via Jane Goodall’s Roots and Shoots
2006 – India – drought relief, textbooks and Patagonia
jackets. (Bihar) Two trips.
2006 – Thailand – orphan scholarship aid. Plus help to
HIV + kids – ice cream business.
2007 – Burma – medical supplies and textbooks. Help to
refugees who had lost limbs due to land mines.
Something as simple as soccer balls provides a bridge.
2007 – Peru – earthquake relief via help from Peruvian
firefighters.
2007 – Mexico – pre-Christmas relief to Tijuana orphans
and a women’s shelter.
2008 – Burma – cyclone relief via underground “monk
network”.
2009 – India – Kirwin James International School in Bihar.
Also built wells, sewing center.
2010 – Haiti – earthquake relief. – 22,000 lbs of food in a
week.
2011 – New Zealand – Christchurch, Polynesian
community relief blankets, hats, clothes helped by local
police force.
2012 – sewing center and well in Bihar.
Mark’s parting advice – Enjoy the gift of giving since you
can’t always own the project!
Disaster Preparedness for Business

Last week’s speaker, our own Mark Kirwin, wears yet another hat – he is working with the Ventura Business Prepared Committee and the Sheriff’s office to help business owners prepare for disasters that may hit our own back yard.

He alerted us to the following website, which he promises contains a wealth of information on the subject: www.readyventura.org – click on the business prepared tab.

Thank you, Mark!

ROTARY RECOGNIZED FOR PARTNERSHIP IN POLIO ERADICATION

In a recent LA Times article, authored by Ban Ki-Moon, Secretary General of the United Nations, Rotary International was recognized for its partnership with the United Nations in driving the global campaign to eradicate POLIO.

"Rotarians, volunteers, political and religious leaders (not to mention parents) … have worked for decades to ensure that every child is protected."

The article states that, thanks to these efforts, India, which just two years ago was home to half of all the world’s children with polio, is celebrating its first polio-free year in history.

Mr. Ban Ki-Moon goes on to say that eradication in the remaining polio-endemic countries – Nigeria, Pakistan and Afghanistan – depends heavily on government resources, but that will not be enough. Neither will the dedication of the workers on the front lines. “The Global Polio Eradication Initiative has only half of the $2 billion it needs to procure vaccines and deploy staff to the last outposts of the disease.”

“This week, the world’s health ministers will declare a global public health emergency and call on the world to respond to the threat of resurgent polio. Let’s heed those calls, so that we can make the threat of polio a distant and fading memory.”

Thanks to Jim Deardorff for bringing this article to our attention.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 25 (Friday) 7:30 – 8:30 AM at Crowne Plaza C Street Restaurant
Monthly Newcomers’ Meeting

June 19 (Tuesday)
President Lynda’s Step Down Dinner

Crowne Plaza Hotel
Reception at 5:00 pm
Buffet Dinner at 6:00 pm

June 20 (Wednesday) – DARK (no meeting)
Day after step-down dinner

June 23 (Saturday) – District Luncheon at Moorpark Country Club
DG Wade Nomura’s Step Down & 2011-12 Club Awards Celebration
More information to come