

The Joshua Tree

July 23, 2019

A BLIND MAN, A GUIDE DOG AND 1,463 STEPS

Inspiration comes in many form and this week, as we heard from acclaimed author and public speaker **Michael Hingson**, his came in the form of his Guide Dog Roselle. Roselle was with him on the fateful day of 9-11 as they were on the 78th floor of the World Trade Center Tower I.

Michael has been blind since birth but that has not stopped him. Where he lacks in sight, he flourishes in many other areas of his life. He graduated High School with a 3.54 grade average, he attained the rank of Eagle Scout and was inducted into the Order of the Arrow, where he rose to the highest honor a Boy Scout can receive, known as Vigil. He was determined not to be viewed as a burden on anyone or anything, and that helped him rise to a great level of success in the business world.

In 1999, he worked for Quantum Corp. on the 23rd floor of the World Trade Center, and while the company was expanding, they needed more space, so after a long search he found what he was looking for, on the 78th floor. In August 2001, he was asked to do a sales seminar to nationwide salespeople on how to market and sell their product. The date chosen for the seminar; September 11.

Joining him everywhere he goes at that time was Roselle, a yellow Lab. A Guide Dog's job is not to tell his person where

to go or how to get there, that is Michael's duty; it's their job to get them there safely, and that is exactly what Roselle did, day after day. They were very close and had a great bond between them, where they trusted each other explicitly. One thing scared Roselle, and that was thunderstorms, so Michael was keenly aware of when the dog was experiencing fear. In fact around 2am on the morning of 9-11 there was a thunderstorm right above their home, and Michael had to take her downstairs to his office until it passed, due to her shaking and nervousness. Was that a warning of what was to come...Decide for yourself.

That morning Michael and his business partner David were welcoming people into their office to begin the seminar and at 8:45, as he was reaching for a stack of papers, it happened. 18 floors above him and on the other side of the building they heard a loud explosion and they were thrown about 20 feet as the Tower began tipping. What made it so bad, was that it kept on tipping, so much in fact that Michael began saying goodbye to everyone, believing that this was the end of his life. Then suddenly, the tipping stopped and they became upright again.

Not knowing what was going on, except that it was something very bad, his partner David was panicking, as most of us would, but it was soon to become worse. Without warning the building dropped about 6 feet as the infrastructure was showing signs of weakness, which now caused David to go from panic to outright freaking out, which affected everyone in the room.



This Week's Functionaries

- Invocation:** Bill Edwards
- Flag Salute:** Esther Mears
- 4-Way Test:** Brad Poiriez
- Finemaster:** David North

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ORR'S ROARS



Put on your tux and cocktail dress as it is time for a Casino Royale! This is the theme for our Annual Fundraiser, which will be held on September 21st at the Spring Valley Lake Community

Center. We are looking for Rotarians who would like to be a part of the committee and assist in its success! This is our largest fundraiser of the year so we need all hands-on deck!

There will be a service in memory of Al Castellucci on July 28th at 2pm, to be held at the seventh Day Adventist Church in Victorville, where Al served and attended.

Sadly, along the same vein, Barbara, the mother of Jon Hove has passed away and services will be held for her this Friday at Church of the Valley in Apple Valley at 2pm.

Our Club has a lot of great activities and outings coming up starting with Movie Night this Saturday at the home of Jon and Linda Hove! The movie will be "Overboard" and you are reminded to bring a lawn chair and blanket as well as a side dish or appetizer. Next week we will have our "5th Tuesday" Rotary meeting at BJ's Brewhouse on Restaurant Row! It will be a great time of fellowship and no fines! Please bring your spouse/significant other and potential members to see what we are all about!

Finally, Steve Murray and

D a n
D e v e r
a r e
holding a Fun
Rotarian River Trip
on September
13-15. Watch
this space for
more information.

www.victorvillerotary.org

Raffle

Dwight Johnson will be shopping with the \$25 Midway gift card he received from **Don Lager** and a whole slew of people including **Marilyn Buttlerwerth**, **Bill Edwards** and Guest **Simon Herrera** will be reading copies of "The Transparent Leader", written by Dwight's dad. Finally, **Chris Ackerman** and **Braid Poiriez** will be saving all their files with the VTA USB wristbands, they won from **Kevin Kane**.

Fine Session

David North was our Fine Master this week, but wasn't supposed to be. **Terry Caldwell** was scheduled and for that he received a \$20 fine. Also, receiving \$20 penalties were **Arsalee Morales** for her daughter being featured in the latest issue of HD Living Magazine, **Brad Poiriez** for the less than stellar air quality, and **Marilyn Buttlerwerth**, in celebration of her 20 years as a Rotarian. A \$25 fine was given to **Jon Hove** in honor of his designation as the 2019 Rotarian of the Year, and the finally, the Presidential streak continues, as **Steve Orr** was hit with another \$5 penalty.



Club Assembly

A unanimous vote on two items were made at our Club Assembly. Rotarians in attendance that this week's



meeting voted for a second term (2020-2021) for **Steve Orr** and **Bill Edwards** as our new Club Director. Thank you to both men for your dedication of service and thank you all Rotarians who came out to have your voice heard.

ROTARY CONNECTS THE WORLD

Big Blue Dice



The pot continues to grow as Dwight Johnson had a chance for the big money, but drew a white dice instead!

We will continue next week with 10 dice and \$300 for the Rotarian who can pick the Blue Dice out of the bag.

Rotary Guests

This week we welcomed a group from VVTA. As guests of **Kevin Kane** we welcomed **Nancie Goff**, **Simon Herrera**, and **Maged Azer**. **Dulce Canseco** attended once again as a guest of **Lauretta Tkaczyk**. **Linda Hove** was also in attendance with her husband **Jon Hove**.

Our Stand-ins this week were **Sarah Rojas** who attended for **Lauretta Tkaczyk** and **Breahna Rodriguez** for **Billy Mac**.



Spoon of Exemption

Dwight Johnson had the Spoon with him at this week's meeting and shared some hints at not only the addition of their two new stations coming, but also their move from Hesperia Road in Victorville, to Hesperia Road in Hesperia, which will be happening soon.



As previously mentioned their Fall publication, the Football edition will be coming soon and Dwight is offering special Rotary Advertising Rates. A full-page ad is \$500, half page \$250, quarter page, \$150 and \$200 to have you next to a High School in the magazine. Please see Dwight for more information.

The Polio Pig

Collected this week: \$23.00

Polio Pig: \$18.00 + Dice (Dwight Johnson): \$5.00 = \$23.00

Collected to Date: \$16,523.79

Total equals: 94,218 Doses!

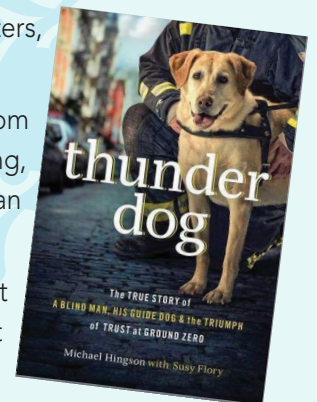
*One dollar equals 2 doses of vaccine!
\$500 pays for a Polio Clinic!*

1463 Steps... *Continued from page 1*

Michael reached down to Roselle, who was sleeping under his desk. Roselle awoke, gave a yawn and was completely bored at the situation. Knowing his companion was not panicked, Michael knew he should not panic, and told his partner to get a grip, focus and get the people to calmly head to the staircase and go down. There began Michael's journey, with Roselle leading the way, down 1,463 steps and to safety. During the decent they passed fighter fighters, smelled the burning jet fuel, which is where he finally realized a plane had struck the Tower.

Once in the lobby they were ushered out a back way, because of the airplane parts and bodies from jumpers that were falling from the sky at the font of tower. Once outside they escaped both towers falling, with Michael, feeling the dirt and ash settling in his lungs due to the collapsing Twin Towers. What began his day as a thunderstorm at 2am, ended with him seeing his wife, at 7pm that night.

An inspirational story about trust and teamwork, from a blind man and his guide dog. To find out more about this incredible story, pick up a copy of "Thunder Dog" at your favorite book outlet or visit www.michaelhingson.com





VICTORVILLE ROTARY CLUB OFFICERS

Board of Directors

President 2019-2020	Steve Orr
Immediate Past President	Margaret Cooker
Treasurer	Donna Wells
Executive Secretary	Margaret Cooker
Publicity/Public Relations	Kevin Kane
Club Service	Bill Edwards
Community Service	Paul Earle
International Service.....	Ben Tafoya
Youth Service/RYLEA & TLC	Arsalee Morales
Vocational Service	Dr. Breda Leach
Grants/Speech Contests	McKenzie Tarango
Scholarships.....	David North
George Hensel Ethics Essay Contest	Ron Boyd
Membership.....	Don Lager
Billing Officer	Esther Mears

Members-at-Large:

Dwight Johnson • Jon Hove • Rob Kilpatrick

Positions & Committee Chairs

BOD Secretary	Marilyn Buttelerwerth
Programs	Mike Page
Public Service.....	Teressa DeAtley & Greg Benson
Sergeant At Arms.....	Arsalee Morales
Public Safety Awards.....	Rick Bessinger
Dan Stover Music Contest.....	Marie Langley
S.T.A.R. Students	Jim Barnes/Robin Cackler
Fundraising/Flowers and Gifts	Steve Orr
Joshua Tree Editor	Chris Ackerman

The Victorville Rotary Club meets every Tuesday for fellowship at 11:30 a.m. and meeting at 12:00 noon at the Green Tree Golf Course Clubhouse, 14144 Green Tree Blvd., Victorville

Make-up Days and Locations

MONDAY:	San Bernardino East, Imperial Palace, noon
TUESDAY:	Rancho Cucamonga Sunrise, 7:15 a.m. Empire Lakes Golf Course Rancho Cucamonga, 12:00 p.m., Etiwanda Gardens
WEDNESDAY:	High Desert/Hesperia Club meets 7:00 a.m., Denny's, 14165 Main St., Hesperia Adelanto Club meets 2nd Wed. at Chamber Room at Adelanto Stadium at 11:30 a.m., and the 3rd and 4th Wed. at Budweisers, Adelanto Rd, Adelanto at 8am. San Bernardino Crossroads, Hilton, noon, Barstow, Rositas, 540 Main St, 12:00 p.m.
THURSDAY:	Apple Valley, Rusty Bull, AV, 1st, 2nd and 4th Thurs Ontario, 12:15 p.m., Doubletree Hotel San Bernardino, Denny's at I-15, 7 a.m. Redlands, Masonic Temple, noon
FRIDAY:	San Bernardino North, Elks Lodge, 12:05 p.m.

Calendar Dates

- July 27:** **Movie Night at the Hove's**
6:00 pm • Home of Jon & Linda Hove
Bring Lawn Chair & Side Dish
- Aug 12:** **Board of Directors Meeting**
5:30 pm Meeting
DCB Board Room, 2nd Floor
Hesperia and Silica Roads
- Sept 21:** **Casino Royale Club Fundraiser**
6:00 pm
Spring Valley Lake Community Center

Upcoming Rotary Programs

- July 30:** **EVENING ROTARY MEETING: 6:00PM**
BJ's Brewhouse: Donia Plaza, Amargosa Rd
- Aug 6:** **Merci Air TOPIC: "What is Air Medical"** (Benson)
- Aug 13:** Sharon Page, The HR Edge **TOPIC: "Top 10 HR Decisions (that you put off) that could destroy your business"** (Page)
- Aug 20:** **District Governor Luanne Arredondo** (Orr)
- Aug 27:** San Bernardino County Public Defender Christopher Gardner **TOPIC: "Community Engagement with San Bernardino County's Public Defender"** (Page)

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