



**ROTARY
SERVING
HUMANITY**

Rotary
Club of Victorville, CA 

THE **JOSHUA TREE**

SEPTEMBER 20, 2016

The Secrets of Shadow Hill



This week former Rotarian **Don Ray**, along with **Fritz the Service Dog** and his crew were on hand to share the story of the Spy of Shadow Hills and their upcoming book on the subject.

“The Spy of Shadow Hills -- Rumors or Reality” is the true story about a German-born man named August Furst and his wife and two sons who arrived from New York to Los Angeles in the rural canyon area between Sunland and Sun Valley, now called Shadow Hills in Los Angeles.

They bought a hillside orange grove on a winding dirt road and built the Old Vienna Gardens Restaurant. Their timing couldn't have been worse. By 1936, the Great



Depression already had a stranglehold on most Americans. Locals were suspicious of outsiders – people escaping the Dust Bowl, Mexico and Europe.

While Adolf Hitler was terrorizing people in Germany, the German-American Bund was active in Los Angeles. It's goal was to turn the U.S. into a Nazi state. Citizens became the eyes and ears of government. It wasn't long before people began reporting August Furst to the police and the FBI – they were certain he was a German spy – a former officer in the German army.

They told of secret Bund meetings there, that there were illegal radios transmitting to German U-boats, that there was a cave being used as an arsenal, that armed guards with vicious German shepherd dogs patrolled the area, and much more.

Furst later built a Moorish-style castle on the hill behind the restaurant, and soon there were rumors of tunnels connecting them. Some say Hitler, himself, was a guest.

The Old Vienna Gardens sold in the '70s and became an Italian restaurant and then a Mexican restaurant before it emerged as the beautifully restored Villa Terraza.

Truth or imaginations running wild from a panicking public, Don and his team are planning to take this fascinating story and release it as a book later this year and hopefully someday as a movie. Contact Don at donray@donray.com for more information.

This Week's Functionaries

Invocation:	Al Castellucci
Flag Salute:	Dan Munsey
4-Way Test:	Keith Beeman
Song:	Al Castellucci

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ROTARY SERVING HUMANITY



Dwight's Writes

Well, here we are, it's Wine, Jazz and More week! We are expecting another great year having a ton of fun and raising some much needed funds for some of the great programs we offer back to the

community.

There are only a few tickets left to the event, so if you have been procrastinating on how to spend your Saturday night, now is the time to buy your ticket before they are all gone. Thanks goes out to our committee members, Chair **Brad Letner**, **Dan Dever**, **Kevin Kane**, **Margaret Cooker**, **Rob Kilpatrick**, **Steve Murray**, **Donna Wells**, **Dan Munsey**, **Chris Ackerman**, **Al Castellucci**, **Steve Orr**, **Ben Tafoya**, **Rosanne Weathers**, **Victor Rocha** and **Russ Stringham**, for working so hard to make this event a success.



First Lady **Trish Johnson**, made another batch of birthday cookies to Rotarians this week. Those receiving goodies this week were **Dan Dever**, **Bob Basen** and **Pastor Paul Earle**, to be delivered to him by **Robin Cackler**.

Finally, my thought of the week is "A journey of a thousand miles must begin with a single step." - Lao Tzu.

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Spoon of Exemption

Don Lager continued his month with the spoon, sharing stories of the history of the High Desert. Due to the many years of existence, Midway Home Solutions has worked with a great many people and this week shared a story with the man known as "Mr. Apple Valley", **Newton T. Bass**.



Many years ago, Don was servicing appliances at the Bass home and Newton was storming around his house with his tax returns in his hands. Finally, Don asked Mrs. Bass if everything was alright. Her response was, "He is fine, he just didn't like his tax returns this year and has been carrying them around for three weeks!"

Finally, Don shared a bit about the old Yucca Loma Ranch and how many old stars used it as a weekend "getaway" with friends. The Yucca Loma Ranch drew the rich and famous as a getaway with as many as 19 buildings on 1300 acres. Clark Gable and Carole Lombard were frequent guests. David Manners, a 1920s movie star, later moved to the ranch permanently. It is his home that still stands today at Rincon and Eyota Roads.

The Polio Pig

Collected this week: \$17.33

Polio Pig: \$12.33 + Dice (Mark Taylor): \$5.00 = \$17.33

Collected to Date: \$13,522.65

Total equals: 88,103 Doses!

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



Fine Session

This week **Ryan McEachron** was our Fine Master but due to time constraints did not get to fine as many as he had hoped.

This week we were honored to have a couple of Rotarians from years gone by, **Tim Harris** and **Chuck McKay** with us to hear and assist **Don Ray** in his presentation. Ryan fined them each \$25 for being absent for so many years, but knew that the Rotarians in the room would pay their fines for them... and they were.

Ryan admitted that any self-promotion usually resulted in some sort of action during the fine session, so he declared, with Fine Master powers, that anyone who lived in Victorville and took one of his yard signs that were in the back of the room, would be fine free for the next year and a half!

Ryan was late to today's meeting...but **Kevin Porter** was even later, so he received a \$10 fine for his tardiness. **Steve Murray** was also hit with a late fine, but his was \$25 due to the fact that he showed up to the luncheon, AFTER the speakers had finished their presentation!

Finally, next week **David North** will be speaking on Brexit, but Ryan was actually in the UK and France during the Brexit vote, and was not asked to speak, so he gave David a \$25 penalty because he knows he will give a great presentation.

Raffle Prizes

This week your favorite Rotary editor was the big raffle winner! A DCB mug from **David North**, a flashlight extender from **Rosanne Weathers**, a pair of Apple Valley Air Show tickets and two \$20 gift certificates to the Hilltop Tavern, both donated from **Dwight Johnson**, went to **Chris Ackerman**!



A Victor Valley Animal Hospital mug from **Dr. Ron Boyd** coupled with AV Air show tickets went to **Robin Cackler**, and **Dr. Roger Wagner** gave away pairs of Victor Valley College maroon golf balls, tees and drink coasters that ended up in the hands of Robin and **Ryan McEachron**!

Rotary Guests

This week from the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department were **Alejandro Ramos** and **Randy German**, as guests of **Sam Lucia**. **Wesley Quintanar** from the Holiday Inn was with us as a guest of **Dan Munsey**, **Tim Norton** was invited by Dr. **Ron Williams** and the new CEO of Victor Valley Global, **Dennis Haghghat** was in attendance with **Lori Billig**.

Joining our main speaker **Don Ray** today were **Chuck McKay** and former member **Tim Harris**, along with **Michael Ellington** and **Fritz the Service Dog**.

Our "Stand-Ins" this week were **Robin Cackler** for **Pastor Paul Earle**, **Jimmie Smith** for **Mark McKay** and **Leslie Martija** for **Mary Hennessey**.

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Lucky Blue Dice



Mark Taylor got an opportunity for the big money this week, but drew white and gave his \$5 to the Polio Pig! Next week we will have 9 dice and \$325 up for grabs for the one lucky Rotarian who can select the blue dice.



VICTORVILLE ROTARY CLUB OFFICERS

Board of Directors

President 2016-2017	Dwight Johnson
Immediate Past President/International.....	Ben Tafoya
Treasurer	Donna Wells
Executive Secretary/Foundation/Administration ...	Margaret Cooker
Incoming President 2017-2018/Membership	Dan Munsey
Publicity/Public Relations	Kevin Kane
Club Service & President 2018-2019	Brad Letner
Community Service	Victor Rocha
Youth Service/Scholarships	Van Young
Vocational Service	Alicia Anderson

Members-at-Large:

Steve Orr • Mark Taylor • Dan Dever • Rob Kilpatrick

Positions & Committee Chairs

BOD Secretary	Marilyn Buttelwerth
Billing Officer	Jennifer Starbuck
Sergeant At Arms.....	Gary Adams
Song Master	Al Castellucci
Programs	Mike Page
Wine, Jazz & More	Brad Letner
R.Y.L.A./TLC/Public Safety Awards	Teresa Coomes
Flowers and Gifts	Trish Johnson
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 Maverick 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, Los Domingo's 1520 Main St, Quigley's Outlet Center, Lenwood, noon University Prep, 13853 Seneca Rd, 2:00 p.m.
THURSDAY:	Apple Valley, Apple Valley Country Club, noon 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

Oct 18: Offsite Meeting - Victor Valley Transit Authority
Noon • 17150 Smoke Tree St., Hesperia

Future Rotary Programs

- Sept 27 :** David North, Desert Community Bank
TOPIC: "Brexit: What is It and Why Does it Matter?" (Johnson)
- Oct. 4 :** Shannon Shannon, SaddleRock Reverse Mortgage
TOPIC: "Debunking Myths about Reverse Mortgages" (Letner)
- Oct. 11 :** Jeff Crider, Author **TOPIC: "History of Water in the High Desert"** (Page)
STAR students from Challenger and Irwin Academy

Rotary Club of Victorville, CA PRESENTS

16TH ANNUAL
WINE JAZZ & MORE
Saturday September 24 2016
SPRING VALLEY LAKE COMMUNITY CENTER
12975 ROLLING RIDGE, VICTORVILLE, CA 92395
5:00PM : WINE TASTING • 6:00 PM : DINNER
\$40 PER PERSON • \$75 PER COUPLE
PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT
HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS - VICTOR VALLEY COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS
LITERACY PROJECTS - POLICE FIRE ACTIVITY LEAGUE

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