

The Joshua Tree

November 21, 2017

Why Me? Why Not Me?

On this week of Thanksgiving, Rotarians will not soon forget the internet hashtags of "#NoMoreBadDays" and "#B Greater", after hearing the inspiring story of **Brisa Alfaro**, daughter of the iconic Las Brisas Restaurant family of Apple Valley.

Brisa's story began on March 24, 2014 when she was 32 years old. At that time she was a successful nail tech,

not only with her own shop, but sought out by celebrities, industry leaders and more. As a jet setter, she was traveling from New York, to Chicago, back to her home in Santa Monica, and then back to New York for a big hair and nail show. Along with



combination of lack of sleep and an allergic reaction, her face swelled up very badly. In her hotel the next morning, it had not cleared up, so a friend suggested she seek immediate help at a hospital in Queens, NY. It was there in the hospital she suffered from Pons Stroke, or a Brain Stem Stroke.

Most strokes happen in the left or right side of the brain, but Brisa's was right down the middle on her brain stem. She describes it was to imagine your brain is a town, and the stem is the only way in and out of that town. This stroke allows no access in or out of the brain! In her coma, she could hear the doctors discussing the good chance that even IF she came out of the coma, that she would never walk or function properly again.

Brisa did come out of her coma, and had no movement from the neck down. Being the fighter that she is, nothing would stop her and in time she was able to move her pinky finger and would, from there, have to proceed to learn as a baby would, how to hold her head up, walk and even learn to breathe and talk on her own again after a tracheotomy surgery. To her, everyday was like running a marathon! Today, she still has to go through surgeries and therapy, but you wouldn't know it by looking at her.

She asked herself one day, "Why Me?" The next thought in her head was, "Why Not Me? What makes me so special?" From that she has learned a whole new outlook on life and teaches others that life is to be cherished, to be grateful and not get bogged down by the little stresses that come along in our daily lives. Just like her doctors, she teaches that when people tell you that you can't succeed...you can.

In simpler terms. Love Life.

This Week's Functionaries

Invocation:

Mike Johnson

Flag Salute:

Arsalee Morales

4-Way Test:

Rosanne Weathers

Song:

Al Castellucci

Finemaster:

David North

Dwight's Writes



This is a great time of year that we give thanks, and I think the next time I get a flat tire or something stressful comes up to try and ruin my day, I will give thanks that I heard the story of **Brisa Alfaro**

and remember what she has gone through and think, "#No More Bad Days".



As we continue into the holiday season, next week will be our annual Teacher Mini Grant Program and we are planning for about 100 teachers, Rotarians and guests. Please make sure that you arrive early.

On December 5th we will have a full day of Holiday fun with our annual Christmas Program with University Prep and that evening our Rotary Christmas Party! If you have not RSVP'd for this great time of food, fun and fellowship, do not wait any longer to make your plans.

As you can see, December will be another busy Rotary month, so have a wonderful Thanksgiving and we will see you next week!

Finally, my thought of the week is "Kindness is a warm breeze in a frigid climate; a radiant heart that melts the icebergs of fear, distrust and unhappiness."

- William Arthur Brown

ROTARY: MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Fine Session

This week **David North** was our Fine Master and began by asking Rotarians in the room, "Did you decorate your house for Christmas already, before Thanksgiving?" The four Rotarians who raised their hands were hit with \$10 fines.

Then it was time for Thanksgiving Trivia! Five tables, three rounds and lots of fines!

Round one consisted of \$5 for each member at their table who got the answer wrong, round two was \$10 and the final round consisted of a \$15 fine for each wrong answer for the respective table.

Victor Rocha was on the hook at his table, as he sat with our speaker and guests. In the first two rounds he ended up paying \$15, but got the last question right so that saved him from the biggest fine of the day.

The second table of **Mike Page, Al Castellucci, Don Lager** and **John Kroencke** only got their round two question incorrect so everyone there received a \$10 fine.

The third table consisting of **Rosanne Weathers, Ron Kirkpatrick, Arsalee Morales** and **Mark Taylor** answered all of their questions correctly so no fine came to them.

The fourth table which had **Mike Johnson, Dan Mejia, Jon Hove** and **Corey Beck** only got their second question wrong so \$10 is all each member had to pay.

The final table which had **Chris Ackerman, Robin Cackler** and **Margaret & Tony Cooker** did not know the answers for questions two and three so they ended up with the biggest fine of \$25 each!

The Polio Pig

Collected this week: \$6.00

Collected to Date: \$14,754.17

Total equals: 90,555 Doses!

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

Lucky Blue Dice



Gary Adams had a chance for some extra shopping money for Black Friday, but drew a white dice only.

We continue next week with 9 dice and \$325 for one lucky Rotarian who gets a chance for the Blue Dice!

Spoon of Exemption



Brad Letner was back this week and used his time with the Spoon to sing the praises of Hesperia 2014! As another arm of the Hesperia Chamber of Commerce, the goal of Hesperia

for our children and grandchildren to thrive – filled with opportunity for good jobs and a great lifestyle. The Chamber is working with local government and businesses to build a thriving business community through Education, Leadership, Promotion and Networking Opportunities.

Join Brad on their mission by taking the survey or subscribing to Hesperia 2034 updates. Visit Hesperia2034.com to sign up today!

Rotary Guests

This week, we once again welcomed **Kurt Kroencke**, son of **John Kroencke**, and **Robin Cackler** (as a Stand-in for Pastor **Paul Earle**) brought her husband **Doug Cackler**.

Joining our speaker today was friend **Iris Gutierrez** of Desert Life Magazine, who was invited by **Rosanne Weathers** as well as the Las Brisas family; her parents **Gustavo and Linda Alfaro** and her brother **Omar Alfaro**, who were all invited by **Victor Rocha**.

Raffle Prizes

This week **John Kroencke** looked like he was going to be the big winner of the day, as he won a golf towel and clip from **David North** at Alaska USA, and a set of Christmas candles, from our guest **Iris Gutierrez**, but it is rare for anyone to beat **Robin Cackler** for prize winning luck! Robin went home from the meeting with a set of champagne glasses and other assorted goodies from **Mike Johnson** at DCB, and like hitting the double jackpot in Vegas, received not one, but two \$25 gift cards to Lawry's VIP Steakhouse from the Rotary Club of Southwest Las Vegas, courtesy of **Dwight Johnson**.

The final raffle prize of the day went to **David North** himself who will be shopping on Black Friday at Midway, with his \$25 gift card he won from **Don Lager**.

Membership Moment



Jon Hove was on hand this week to give an update on our current status in our Membership Goal Drive for this Rotary year. Currently, we are averaging 45% attendance to our weekly meetings and have so far inducted three new Rotarians, with more in the pipeline. Great work so far, let's keep it up!

Rotary Club of Victorville, CA



VICTORVILLE ROTARY CLUB OFFICERS

Board of Directors

President 2016-2018	Dwight Johnson
Immediate Past President	Ben Tafoya
Treasurer	Donna Wells
Executive Secretary/Foundation/Administration ...	Margaret Cooker
Publicity/Public Relations	Kevin Kane
Club Service & President 2018-2020	Brad Letner
Community Service	Victor Rocha
International Service.....	Ben Tafoya
Youth Service/Scholarships	Van Young
Vocational Service	Ryan McEachron

Members-at-Large:

Steve Orr • Mark Taylor • Dan Dever • Rob Kilpatrick • Jon Hove
Rosanne Weathers • Steve Murray • Russ Stringham

Positions & Committee Chairs

BOD Secretary	Marilyn Buttelwerth
Billing Officer	Rosanne Weathers
Sergeant At Arms.....	Gary Adams
Song Master	Al Castellucci
Programs	Mike Page
Wine, Jazz & More	Rosanne Weathers
Public Safety Awards.....	Teressa Coomes
R.Y.L.A./TLC.....	Ryan McEachron
Dan Stover Music Contest.....	Marie Langley
George Hensel Ethics Essay Contest.....	Ron Boyd
Four Way Speech Contest	TBD
S.T.A.R. Students	Robin Cackler
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, 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.

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If you are not receiving your newsletter, please contact Editor Chris Ackerman at chris@signifydesigns.com or 760-559-1686 to be added to the e-mail or mailing list.

Calendar Dates

Dec. 5:

Rotary Christmas Party

5:30pm, El Pescador Restaurant

\$49 per person

Meal Choices: Chicken Parmesan, Salmon or Prime Rib

Dec. 11:

Board of Directors Meeting

5:00pm Fellowship • 5:30pm Meeting

DCB Board Room, 2nd Floor

Hesperia and Silica Roads

Future Rotary Programs

Nov 28:

Teacher Mini Grants

Every Rotarian hosts a teacher at the meeting

Dec 5:

Christmas Music Program

with University Prep (Johnson)

Dec 12:

OPEN

Proposed Member

If you protest the admission of this member please respond in writing by 5 p.m. December 4 to President Dwight Johnson.

Captain Joseph "Joe" Alvarez

Captain in Charge

The Salvation Army

Classification: Services: Salvation Army

Sponsor: Dwight Johnson

By e-poll as of November 14, 2017

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