



ROTARY SPOKES

Rotary Club of Ventura

Est. May 1, 1919

"The Friendliest Club in Rotary"

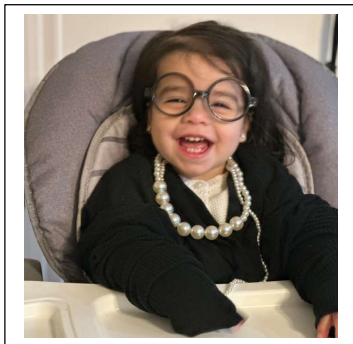
April 1, 2024

APRIL CLUB NEWS

Taylor Swift Addresses Club. Club members were delighted by a surprise visit at our noontime meeting by pop music sensation Taylor Swift. After our scheduled speaker from Tri Counties Anaerobic Bacteria Rescue cancelled at the last minute, Swift, who was in the area for a sold-out concert at Sea Rounders bar in Oxnard, graciously filled in.



"After I released that devastating break-up song about Keith M., I felt it was the least I could do," said Swift. She did not perform any of her songs, but led us in singing "You're a Grand Old Flag." Swift generously donated three Happy Dollars to celebrate her new \$300 million merchandizing deal.



Child Prodigy to Take the Gavel. After lengthy efforts to find a new club President, the club is proud to announce that Abiel and Cristina Acosta's 16-month old daughter Maggie has been selected. "She is starting to walk and is smart as a whip," beamed proud papa. Club Secretary Rob van Nieuwburg confirmed the club bylaws do not have an age requirement. "I think Maggie will infuse some youthful energy to the club," said Rob.

In honor of our new leadership, we will update the luncheon menu to include juice boxes and Kraft macaroni and cheese. Nap time will not be a problem since many of our members sleep through the meetings anyway.

Prospective Member. Former Congressman **George Santos** has applied to be our club's newest member. George's application includes educational and business achievements that are downright *unbelievable!* He promises to share his skills in "creative accounting" and his colorful experiences with the Brazilian criminal justice system. If approved for membership, he will proudly wear his Rotary pin alongside the "badge of honor" he earned for his expulsion from Congress.



MOBILE VISION CLINIC

The recently completed Mobile Vision Clinic was on March 20, 2024, at a luncheon at the Salvation Army. This addition to the Central Coast Free Vision Clinic will expand the local populations receiving free vision examinations and free prescription glasses. Sponsored by our club, other Rotary clubs, Lions clubs, The Salvation Army, the Westminster Free Clinic, and SEE International. Thanks to club member volunteers Dick Hatcher, Jim Deardorff, Chris Brashears, Joslynn Skelton, and Mary Saputo. *(Photos courtesy of Patti Birmingham & Adam Casillas)*



EVENING SOCIAL

Randy Encinas and Doug Halter hosted an evening social at their beautiful hillside home the evening of March 27, 2024, in lieu of a lunchtime meeting. It was a great opportunity to catch up with club members and their guests and enjoy great food. Members donated books which raised \$500 for RMHC Walk for Kids. Big thanks to Madhu for organizing and hosts Randy and Doug! *(Photos courtesy Andrea Contarino and Mike Schwartz)*

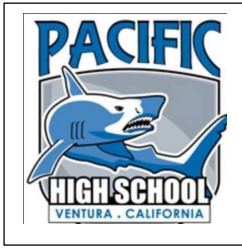


YOUNG ROTARIANS

Kellye Patterson assembled some of our less elderly club members for an evening of axe throwing at the Collection. More events are upcoming, which may or may not involve hurling medieval weapons. *(Photos courtesy of Kellye Patterson)*



CAREER DAY



On March 22, 2024, our club hosted a Career Day at Pacific High. Students attended three different sessions of their choosing from over 25 different careers. Eight Rotarians and 12 community members inspired students to think about new opportunities for their futures. Many careers were at the students' request such as tattoo artist, cosmetology, hair stylist, fire fighter, electrician, nursing and more. Thanks to Madhu Bajaj for organizing the event! *(Photos courtesy of Madhu Bajaj)*



“Rotary needs to work toward peace as aggressively as those who wish to wage war. It’s the spirit found in our vision statement: “Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change—across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.” (R. Gordon R. McNally, President, Rotary International. Excerpted from this month’s President’s Message, *Rotary* magazine, April 2024, p. 1.)



BOARD HIGHLIGHTS



The club's Board of Directors met on March 28, 2024, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel.

Planning for a reimagined **Beachside Bash** is progressing together with Rotary Ventura East and South. We are not currently planning "big name" entertainment, but are contemplating an amateur barbeque competition, tentatively at the Poinsettia Pavilion. It remains a work in progress. Planning is also progressing well for **Fireworks 2024** at Ventura College, and the **Chalk Art Festival** at the Harbor.

Our club is sponsoring the May 3 **Chamber of Commerce breakfast**. We are considering using the coffee table books as centerpieces. Neal, Ken, Kellye, Andie, Madhu and Saurabh plan to attend to represent the club.

Brenda Allison-Hutchinson gave a **Treasurer's Report**. All the members' accounts have been reviewed and our finances are in good shape.

The **Julius Gius Memorial Rotary Foundation (JGMRF)** Board met recently and approved a total of \$41,000 in grants to about 20 organizations. Applicants didn't get all the money they requested, but all got some. Three additional applications were submitted too late for consideration. The JGMRF Endowment Fund investments are growing well.

Longtime member **Stephen Kipp** died March 15. The club will donate \$2,500 in his honor to the JGMRF Fellowship, and will honor him at our May 1 meeting.

Youth Service: Three students from Ventura High School will be attending **RYLA**. We received 31 entries for the **Perspectives on Peace** competition; viewing and voting is April 18.

Vocational service: Career Day at Pacific High School was a great success, with students having informative conversations with professionals rather than the typical PowerPoint format. We will consider expanding this program to additional high schools.

Goal setting: What do YOU want our club to do? One or two of our regular Wednesday luncheon meetings will be devoted to members deciding what existing projects to continue, which to discontinue, and what new projects and innovations we should undertake.

UPCOMING EVENTS

(For up-to-date and more complete information, see our web site, VenturaRotary.org)

April 3 lunch meeting: Dave Armstrong, Coffee Growing in Ventura. Dave Armstrong is CEO of Hobson Family Farms, a family-owned company based in Ventura for more than 160 years. He is transforming traditional agricultural production into bio-culinary farming and creating new place-based products. Using processes like koji and lacto-fermentation, the company is creating single-estate wines, vinegars, chili pastes and beef. As the largest coffee farm in the mainland U.S., Dave hopes to establish California grown coffee as one of the world's finest.



April 10 lunch meeting: District Attorney Erik Nasarenko and Lead Human Trafficking Prosecutor Rikole Kelly.

April 17 lunch meeting: Stacey Zarazua and Eric Berg: Arroyo Verde Park Playground.

April 18: Perspectives on Peace: View the entries from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. Judges meet at 6:00 p.m.

April 21: Walk for Kids at Buenaventura State Beach to support **Ronald McDonald House Charities** family room at VCMC. Registration opens 8:00 a.m. Program at 9:30 a.m. Walk begins 10:00 a.m. Wrap up at 12:00 p.m.

April 24: NO LUNCH MEETING. EVENING SOCIAL. Details to be announced.

April 25: Board Meeting, Crowne Plaza Hotel, 12:00-1:30 p.m.

May 4: Family BBQ and Social, Arroyo Verde Park, Redwood Glen BBQ Area, Foothill and Day Roads, Ventura, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Contact Madhu Bajaj to volunteer.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Madhu Bajaj

April 3

HAPPY ROTARY ANNIVERSARY!

Clyde Reynolds

29 years

Ed Summers

20 years

Dale Jaedtke

19 years