



# ROTARY SPOKES

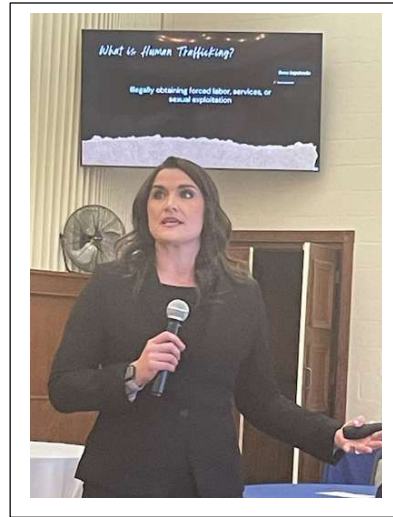
## Rotary Club of Ventura

Est. May 1, 1919

“The Friendliest Club in Rotary”

April 14, 2024

### HUMAN TRAFFICKING



Ventura County District Attorney Erik Nasarenko and lead human trafficking prosecutor Deputy District Attorney Rikole Kelly gave an excellent presentation on Human Trafficking at our meeting April 10, 2024. Human trafficking includes not only forced prostitution but forced labor in industries including agriculture, hospitality, and domestic services. They shared a video, “Alia’s Story,” about a girl who was led into prostitution from the age of 13 by her boyfriend; she is now a member of the Ventura County Human Trafficking Task Force. For more information, call 1-800-636-6738 (adults) or 1-805-261-1212 (minors).

#### HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

**Doug Halter**

April 15

**Juan Torres**

April 15

#### HAPPY ROTARY ANNIVERSARY!

**David Wellik**

12 years

**Judy Moore**

8 years

A big **THANK YOU** to my wonderful wife, **Laurie Schwartz**, for taking photos and notes of the April 10 meeting. Sounds like I missed a great presentation and a delicious lunch!

## MEETING APRIL 10, 2024

**Attendance:** 31 members and guests, including Laura and Russel from Sonny Horses 4 Kids, Kellye's sister Katelyn, Ellyn's husband Jim Dembowski, and prospective member Glen Glassman.



**Lunch:** Ham, scalloped potatoes, asparagus with peas, ambrosia, strawberry/blueberry/feta salad with balsamic dressing, and for dessert chocolate cake with cherries and whipped cream.

**Flag salute/introductions:** Ken Leandro pinch hit at the last minute. He asked that we observe a moment of silence.

**Song:** Bev Ward led us in singing "America the Beautiful."

### Announcements:

**Madhu Bajaj:** You can scan a QR code to RSVP to the April 18 **Perspectives on Peace** Art Viewing, and the April 24 **Evening Social**.



**Lynda Girtsman:** Need volunteers for **Walk for Kids** to support Ronald McDonald House Charities.

**Sally Crain:** Our club will be taking the lead in the **Chalk Art Festival** (Ventura Art & Street Painting Festival), Sept. 14-15 at the Ventura Harbor Village. Between 3,000 to 7,000 people are expected to attend. It's a great event and will raise money for the club. Volunteers needed.

**Neal Lassila:** General assembly and board retreat is being planned for May to set priorities for the next year.

**Joselyn Skelton:** **Comedy Night** to support **Camp Hope**, May 9, Janet & Ray Scheer Forum Theatre, Thousand Oaks. Tickets are on sale.

**Fining: Patti Birmingham** quizzed members about game show hosts of the 60s and 70s.

**Happy Dollars:**

**Anne Paul King** is glad to be back to her life after 8 weeks of medical leave. She thanked all the Rotarians who showed up for her.

**Madhu Bajaj:** Thanks for her birthday wishes and gifts.

**Keith Moschetto:** Was happy to ride to Carpinteria on his Harley.

**Bev Ward:** New Art City Theatre presenting four wonderful new plays at Festival '24, April 25-28.

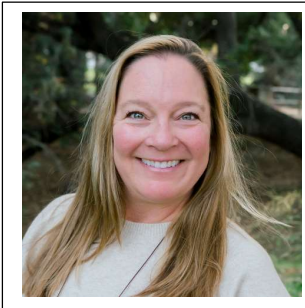
**Lynda Girtsman** is enjoying her new 2019 Hyundai Genesis. She also attended a program at Pacific High School to teach teens how to read to preschoolers.

**Ken Leandro:** Interact students from all Ventura high schools will be preparing 12,500 meals for Rise Against Hunger.



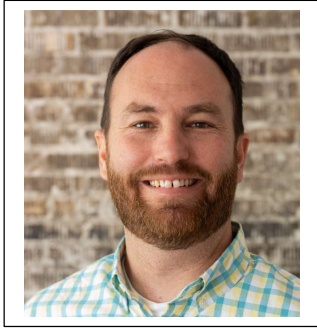
**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**April 17 lunch meeting: Stacey Zarazua and Eric Berg: Arroyo Verde Park Playground.** They will speak about the new and award winning playground at Arroyo Verde that came out of the tragedy of the Thomas Fire and significant community support. (And, on May 4, we will have our Family BBQ at Arroyo Verde so we can all experience the magic of this new playground.)



**Stacey Zarazua** is the Parks & Recreation Director for the City of Ventura. Zarazua oversees the department's three divisions: Parks, Recreation, and Community Partnerships. The department operates over 800 acres of open space, including 46 parks, three community centers, multiple historic sites, a sailing center, an aquatic center, two beaches, and golf services. Zarazua manages current and future park development initiatives and leads 56 full-time staff and over 200 seasonal part-time employees, who work to produce over 1,000 annual programs for all ages. Zarazua joined the Parks & Recreation

Dept. in 2001 as a Recreation Coordinator in the Youth Sports section and was later promoted to Aquatics Supervisor in 2005. Since then, she has held multiple leadership roles within the department, serving in all three divisions. Zarazua holds a bachelor's degree in liberal studies and a master's degree in public administration from California State University Northridge. She is a member of the California Parks and Recreation Society and National Recreation and Park Association. She has volunteered in key organizational leadership positions to advance the field.



**Eric Berg** is the Principal of Pacific Coast Land Design. Eric's experience and professional passion is three-fold: sustainable site design that emphasizes and exposes green infrastructure and natural processes so that users engage and learn from their environment, public participation as a fundamental practice of design success, and technology. These skills derive from Eric's experience in sustainable design research, design-build practice, higher education, and professional practice. As Principal at PCLD, Eric blends these experiences and passions together to help direct the firm's community

engagement efforts, site design strategies, design detailing, digital workflows, grant writing and administration services, and project/program management services.

Prior to joining the PCLD, Eric lived and worked in Montana where he gained technical expertise in landscape construction and installation working for a design/build landscape contractor. He also briefly served as an Adjunct Professor at his undergraduate alma mater Montana State University, teaching the senior capstone landscape design studio. Eric has been a LEED – Accredited Professional since 2009 and while a graduate student at the University of Washington, Eric worked as a research assistant for the then fledgling Sustainable Sites Initiative, which has since blossomed into USGBC's LEED-SITES rating system for sustainable site design and development. With PCLD, Eric maintains his commitment to education and sustainable design practices, helping train staff, and speaking at various conferences.

Here in Ventura, in addition to his involvement with the new award-winning inclusive playground at Arroyo Verde Park, Eric has played a critical role in the development of several local parks and places. He was also instrumental in the design and development of Kellogg Park on Ventura Ave and is currently managing PCLD's involvement in Ventura's Westview Village; an ongoing 10-year involvement of a massive sustainable site design housing redevelopment project with the San Buenaventura Housing Authority. Eric has also guided PCLD's effort in the grant writing, project design, and construction administration of the Ventura River Trail Improvements, the Westpark Skatepark, and the Marina Park Playground Replacement.

**April 18: Perspectives on Peace:** View the entries from 5-6 p.m. at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, San Miguel Room. To RSVP, see Madhu's email (4/4/24 @ 10:08 a.m.) Judges meet 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,** 6-8 p.m, at Chili Basil Thai Cuisine, 6100 Telephone Road, Suite F, Ventura. Dinner provided, no host bar. Club members free. Guests \$20. Children welcome. RSVP by April 19.

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

**May 1 lunch meeting. Program to be announced.**

**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.

**May 8 lunch meeting. Foothill High School Interact.**

**May 9: Fireside Chat,** 6:00 p.m. Location to be announced.