



ROTARY SPOKES

Rotary Club of Ventura

Est. May 1, 1919

“The Friendliest Club in Rotary”

August 10, 2022

LUNCHEON MEETING AUGUST 10, 2022

Attendance—32 plus 4 via Zoom. I apologize to Steve Doll for accidentally grabbing his name badge from the rack (he’s slot 33 and I’m 31) and wearing it around the room for 20 minutes until an observant Jim Deardorff kept introducing me as “Steve” until I caught on.

We were pleased to have **Rosa Lee Measures** in attendance. Several members commented on her contributions to the club and to them personally, including bringing in 32 new members!

Lunch—Food Affaires by Stacey served delicious pork with summer fruit compote, roasted potatoes, asparagus with hollandaise sauce, green salad, fruit salad, bread and butter. We had these tasty cookie/biscuits thingies for dessert.

Keith Moschetto—**Flag salute, inspirational message, introductions.** “Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does.” –William James

Bev Ward and Jessica Brandon—**Song leaders.** ‘Twas of our country that we sang.

Jessica Brandon received her **Blue Badge**. Deepest sympathies to Jessica on the death of her grandmother shortly before her 110th birthday.

Patti Birmingham conducted **Fining** on the subject of weather.

Chris Figureida, Honorary Member, presented the **Julius Gius Memorial Foundation** with a donation for \$1,000 from his foundation, Cycle for Heart.

Program—**Conversations with Rotary.** (See box on page 3.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tammy Helmuth—Plans are underway for the second annual **Food, Wine and Beer Festival** (April 22) jointly sponsored by our club and Girl Scouts of California's Central Coast.

Mary Saputo is collecting **unused medications** for destruction. Bring unused pills, liquid medicine, creams and inhalers, Rx or over the counter, to Mary at our meetings during August. This reduces the environmental harm from improper disposal and the risk of misuse if they get in the wrong hands. The containers will be sanitized and distributed to developing counties. Please leave the labels on so they can be identified; she will black out your name. Program sponsored by Ventura Downtown Lions.

Jessica Brandon—**Tri-Rotary Casino Night Fundraiser**, September 9, 5:30 to 9:30 p.m., Poinsettia Pavilion. We need (1) in-kind donations to give as prizes (e.g., lunches, performance tickets, etc.), (2) people to buy tickets for the event, and (3) sponsors. We also need people to serve on committees for **World Polio Day** (Oct. 24) and the **Food, Wine & Beer Festival** (April 22).

Bev Ward—**Mamma Mia!** presented by Rubicon's Summer Youth Theatre, funded in part by the Julius Gius Memorial Foundation (JGMF), through August 14 at Villanova Prep in Ojai. Bev will donate \$5 to JGMF for every club member who attends.

Karynsue Rose-Thomas—**Book Club** discussion of *From White to Black: One Life Between Two Worlds* by Iris Duplantier Rideau. August 25 at 5:00 p.m. at Portside Ventura Harbor. Champagne will be served! RSVP to Karynsue for exact location.

Sally Crain—**Dictionary Project** will resume this fall to distribute dictionaries to VUSD students.

Angela Rosales—Seeking committee members to launch a new **Rotary Literacy Project**. Two children's stories are used to share the Rotary ideals of the Four-Way Test and Service Above Self for children in our community ages 6 through 10. It was developed by the Rotary Club of Fairborn, Ohio and TokoBooks. Contact Angela by phone or at Angela@very-ventura.com.



ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONTINUED

- Margi Wray**—(1) **No luncheon meeting August 31.** Instead, we will meet off-site for a **BARBEQUE** at Karynsue's condo complex at Portside, Ventura Harbor, 6 p.m.
(2) We can resume the **Senior Wheels** program if more people sign up.
(3) The Budget Advisory Committee is discussing a **Holiday Party** and a **Spring Barbeque**. Committee members are needed to plan both events.

PROGRAM – CONVERSATIONS WITH ROTARY



We initiated a new feature at our August 10 meeting,: Conversations with Rotary. It's like a Member Spotlight or Craft Talk, but in an interview format.

Bev Ward served as interviewer of **Harald Wulff**, who has been a club member for 17 years. Too much info to report it all, but here are some highlights:

Harald lived in Germany during and after World War II. After the Soviet Union occupied East Germany, a U.S. Army truck transported Harald and his family to a small village in West Germany. They were taken in there by a farmer. Harald was not aware of what his parents were going through, but for Harald and his twin brother, it was paradise! His father was a chemist who warned Harald to not study chemistry. So Harald got a Ph.D. in chemistry at the University in Heidelberg, where he met his wife Birget. In the following years, Harald's career caused him and his family to move many times throughout the U.S., returning to live in Germany a couple of times, before finally settling in Ventura. Birget was not only supportive, but she organized all the moves.

Their son, Alex, runs STEMbassadors program for VUSD and recently addressed our club. Harald and Birget have another son and two daughters. Harald loves to cook, especially salmon and shrimp. He is an avid golf and tennis player and is learning pickle ball.

UPCOMING EVENTS

(For up-to-date and more complete information, go to the Calendar on our web site, VenturaRotary.org, then click on the date for details, or bring up the List view)

August 17 lunch meeting: Speaker **Joseph Algiers, Restoration Ecologist, National Park Service.** Joey has more than 15 years' experience working in resource management for the Santa Monica National Recreation Area. He leads the park's restoration program. He directs the invasive plant control program, which includes weed treatments of the park's most ecologically damaging species. Joey works with the park's native plant nursery manager where native plants are grown for restoration, education, research, and conservation. For years, Joey has been managing, training, and educating technicians, students, partners, and the public in restoration ecology practice and theory.

August 20 Backpack Project: Meet at 8 a.m. at Neighborhood Car Care, 1838 E. Thompson Blvd., Ventura, to fill backpacks with school supplies for VUSD students in need. We also need drivers to deliver the backpacks to the schools.

August 24 lunch meeting: Speaker **Mara Rodriguez,** animal trainer and zoo development coordinator at **America's Teaching Zoo,** located at Moorpark College. Mara was named Ventura County Community College District 2022 Classified Employee of the Year.

August 25: Book Club, 5 p.m. RSVP to Karynsue for location. Discussion of *From White to Black: One Life Between Two Worlds.* Iris Duplantier Rideau shares her story of becoming the first Black woman to own a winery in this country (in nearby Santa Ynez Valley). All club members welcome, even if you have not read the book. If you have a suggestion for a book to read in the future, let Madhu know.

August 31 NO LUNCH MEETING. Instead, we'll have a **BARBEQUE** at Karynsue's condo complex at Portside, Ventura Harbor, 6 p.m.

September 4 lunch meeting: program to be announced.

September 9: Casino Night. 5:30 to 9:30 p.m., Poinsettia Pavilion. The Rotary Club of Ventura, Ventura East, and Ventura South will come together in support of a local non-profit organization for the inaugural Tri Rotary Casino Night. Enjoy an evening of casino play, dinner, opportunity drawing, karaoke, and entertainment. Food provided by Himalaya Restaurant, Stonefire Grill, Domino's Pizza, Stephen's Market & Grill. No Host Bar. Individual Tickets - \$75 each includes \$100 of casino play, dinner, entertainment and more! Couples Tickets - \$125 for 2 includes \$200 of casino play, dinner, entertainment and more! Tickets Link:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/395501875757>

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