



# ROTARY SPOKES

## Rotary Club of Ventura

Est. May 1, 1919

“The Friendliest Club in Rotary”

August 13, 2023

### MEETING AUGUST 9, 2023

**Attendance:** Present were 42 members and guests, including Charles from Ventura East and two members of Ventura High School Interact. George Poulakos Zoomed in from Florida.

**Lunch:** Food Affairs by Stacey served a delicious meal of roast beef, macaroni and cheese, vegetable medley, green salad, fruit salad, and cookies for dessert.

**Introductions: Abiel Acosta.** “One piece of log creates a small fire, adequate to warm you up, add just a few more pieces to blast an immense bonfire, large enough to warm up your entire circle of friends; needless to say that individuality counts but teamwork dynamites.” (Jin Kwon)

**Song: Bev, Clyde, Jessica and Anne** led singing of “You’re a Grand Old Flag.”

**George Poulakos** is moving back to Ventura. A vote was held at the meeting, and George was **elected President** for the next Rotary year. Congratulations!



### Announcements:

**Jessica Brandon: Beachside Bash sponsorships** are available. A special offer for Rotarians: \$750 gets you all the benefits of a \$1,000 sponsorship. See Jessica or Joslynn.

**Sandy Lassila** distributed sign-up sheets to **volunteer for the Beachside Bash**. Specific job assignments will be made later.

**Madhu Bajaj: We will not have a lunchtime meeting August 30** because it is the 5th Wednesday of the month. Instead, we will meet **5:30 to 7:00 at Stembassadors**, 1238 N. Ventura Ave. Please sign up so they know how many to expect.

**Kellye Patterson:** Seeking volunteers for the **Backpack Project**, August 19, 9 a.m., at the VUSD District Office. We will fill 730 backpacks with school supplies.

**Margi Wray: Restaurant Raid** in support of the opening of Karynsue Rose-Thomas’s new Kofi and Gelato bar, **CRAVE**. Thursday, August 17 at 10 a.m., 947 Schooner Drive, Suite 105, Portside Ventura Harbor.

**Fining: Jessica Brandon** quizzed us about holidays and events in August.



**Induction: Rena Sepulveda** was sworn in as our newest member. Rena is Contracts and Grant Manager for Turning Point Foundation. Welcome to the friendliest club in Rotary!

**Ventura High School Interact** members Ruby Welch and Ella Meyers addressed the club about highlights of their club's activities, and their experiences in RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards).



### PROGRAM: CRISTA HERMANCE



Crista Hermance gave a Craft Talk at our meeting August 9, 2023. She was born in Ventura and attended Anacapa Middle School and Ventura High School. She served as a volunteer assisting victims for the Ventura County District Attorney's Office and the Coalition to End Family Violence.

After obtaining her law degree from Southern California Institute of Law, she worked as an associate in a law firm. She then opened her own firm, Hermance Law, where she specializes in estate planning for families with small children.

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### CRISTA HERMANCE *continued*

Crista prepares complete estate plans including powers of attorney, advance health care directives and HIPAA, wills, revocable living trusts, and guardian nominations for minor children,

Crista gave examples of three troublesome probate cases that could have been avoided:

**The holographic will** (handwritten, unwitnessed). An elderly woman left everything to her sister but did not acknowledge that she had a son from whom she was estranged. When he showed up, he got a big portion of the estate that his mother likely did not want him to have.

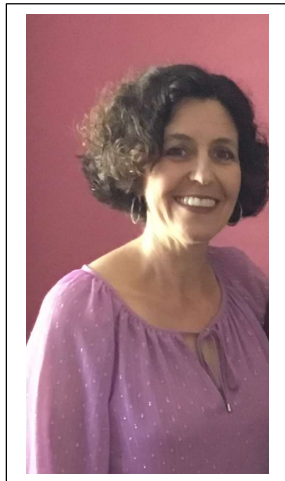
**The transfer-on-death deed.** Because the assessor's parcel number was left off, the heirs bore the expense of going to court to get the property transferred.

**Caring for an aging parent.** In one case, the mother died while her adult child was going through the conservatorship process. He then had to start over with probate. It could have been avoided with a trust.

Crista's husband is a contractor for the military. They have two young daughters. She loves scuba diving, underwater photography, and travel, and has ridden an elephant in Thailand. She will soon be going to Guam and plans to visit Rotary clubs there.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

(For more complete and up-to-date information, check the ClubRunner app on your phone, or our website)



**August 16 lunch meeting: Janet Barron, CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates).** CASA of Ventura County is a non-profit serving children and families involved in the Child Welfare System in Ventura County since 1985. In 2019, it began serving youth in the Juvenile Justice System. Volunteers receive extensive training, are sworn in by the court, and are assigned to one or more abused or neglected youth to seek the best outcome for them in the system.

Janet Barron has worked for CASA of Ventura County for over 10 years, serving as Training Manager for most of that time, where she schedules and delivers the pre-service training and continuing education for all CASA volunteers. Janet was instrumental in onboarding the programs (including developing the training) to serve both infants and toddlers and older youth (18-21) through Extended Foster Care. She enjoys getting to know the volunteers as they move through the

application and training process to become sworn advocates. Additionally, Janet volunteered as a CASA, mentoring a young woman from age 15 until she aged out of the system at age 21. She is now 23 and they are still in contact.

Janet is an experienced advocate for women's and social justice issues and has held leadership positions in local chapters of the National Organization for Women, Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee and Coalition Against Gun Violence. She also served in various capacities, including President, on her children's elementary school PTA and as the Pack Committee Chair for her son's Cub Scout Pack. Janet holds a Bachelor's degree in psychology and a Master's degree in Public Health Education from CSUN.

**UPCOMING EVENTS, *continued***

**August 17: Restaurant Raid** in support of the opening of Karynsue Rose-Thomas's new Kofi and Gelato bar, CRAVE. Thursday, August 17 at 10 a.m., 947 Schooner Drive, Suite 105, Portside Ventura Harbor.

**August 19: Rotary Backpack Project.** VUSD District Office, 255 W. Stanley Ave., Ventura, 9:00 a.m. This is a partnership with all three Rotary Clubs and the Downtown Lions Club servicing children in need throughout Ventura Unified School District. The principals of every school were contacted and provided the number of backpacks needed for needy students within their schools. We will be stuffing backpacks with school supplies. Donuts and coffee provided. Contact Kellye to sign up to deliver backpacks to each school at the event!

**August 23 lunch meeting: Saurabh Bajaj, Julius Gius Memorial Rotary Foundation update.**

**August 24: Board Meeting,** 12:00-1:30 p.m., Crowne Plaza Hotel.

**August 30: NO LUNCH MEETING—EVENING MEETING** at Stembassador's IDEA Center, 1238 N. Ventura Ave., Ventura, 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Brief program at 6 p.m. This is a JGMRF-funded project led by Alex Wulff and students. Tour the center, meet student makers, and learn about the entrepreneurial opportunities. Refreshments will be served. Space is limited, please sign up if you will attend so we can plan accordingly. There is a small parking lot, lots of street parking. Carpooling is encouraged. You may have to walk. Wear comfy shoes/clothes. Questions: contact Madhu.

**September 6 lunch meeting: Conversations in Rotary with Aaron Campbell and Keith Moschetto.**

**Sept. 23: End of Summer Beachside Bash,** national ribeye steak cookoff, brew fest, car show, and more. San Buenaventura State Beach, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

**Linda Hewitt**  
August 11

Below are Member Spotlights on two members. If you would like to share your name, photo, biography, and business name and logo in our newsletter, on social media, and in the pre-meeting PowerPoint presentation, contact Vocational Chair Kellye Patterson or look for the form attached to her email of 8/7/23. It's a free service to help our members know you better!

# Rotary Club of Ventura Vocational Corner

## Member spotlight



*Irene*

**IRENE HENRY**

State Farm Insurance Agent

Meet Irene V Henry, a loving mom of 2 and known as 'Gigi' to her 8 year old grandson, Emerson.

- Past President of Rotary
- Rotary Interact liaison to Ventura High School
- Coached Villanova Prep Ladies Volleyball 2004-12
- Irene & her team at STATE FARM provide: Auto, Life, Professional Liability, Pet, Medi-care, Surety & Fidelity Insurance throughout the tri-counties.



# Rotary Club of Ventura Vocational Corner

## Member spotlight



*Kellye*

**KELLYE PATTERSON**

REALTOR, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices California Properties  
#01914558

- Kellye has been in Rotary for 5 years
- Married to husband Scott for 12 years
- Mother 2 adorable children: Sophia 9, Matthew 2
- Realtor for 11 years
- Business partners with her mother & fellow Rotarian Ellyn Dembowski
- College graduate from UC Santa Cruz

