



# ROTARY SPOKES

## Rotary Club of Ventura

Est. May 1, 1919

"The Friendliest Club in Rotary"

August 28, 2022

### BACKPACK PROJECT

Our annual Backpack Project was held August 20, 2022. The Rotary Clubs of Ventura, Ventura East, and Ventura South, along with the Ventura Downtown Lions Club, filled 600 backpacks with supplies to donate to Ventura elementary, middle school, and high school students.



## LUNCHEON MEETING AUGUST 24, 2022

**Attendance**—About 40 members, 1 visiting Rotarian, and 6 guests were present. No Zoomers this meeting.

**Lunch**— Tri-tip, potato wedges, zucchini au gratin, bean salad, fruit.

**Flag salute, inspirational message, and introductions** – Greg Wray

“I wish you enough sun to keep your attitude bright. I wish you enough rain to appreciate the sun more. I wish you enough happiness to keep your spirit alive. I wish you enough pain so that the smallest joys in life appear much bigger. I wish you enough gain to satisfy your wanting. I wish you enough loss to appreciate all that you possess. I wish you enough ‘hellos’ to get you through the final ‘Good-bye.’”

**Songbirds** – Jessica, Clyde, Bev: “You’re a Grand Old Flag”

**Carolyn Boucher from the Simi Valley/Sunrise Rotary Club** shared that the wife of one of their club members is in Renal 4 failure and needs a kidney donation. She had flyers and business cards distributed, spreading the word about the importance of organ donation.

**Angela Rosales** announced that the **Ventura High School Interact Club** is in need of items for the pantry.

**Jessica** needs more auction items for **Casino night**.

**Maggie** shared that there is a family in a hotel, finally getting an apartment and in desperate need for any household item.

**Kristin – Westminster Eye Clinic** needs donations, especially children and baby clothes. Contact Kristin at (805) 368-4493.

**Anne King** was awarded her **Blue Badge**.

**Kristin – Fining on animal trivia**

“Elephants have only 2 knees (the back legs), and elbows and wrists (front).”

Formal induction of **Joslynn Skelton**



**Happy Dollars** – We sang Happy Birthday to **Dan** as he was happy for the peach cobbler dessert

**Jasmine** (our **RYLA** representative) shared her positive experiences from attending RYLA.

Many thanks to **Sandy Lassila** for preparing summaries of this week’s meeting and the presentation, and providing photos of the “critters”!!!

If you have photos of meetings or events for the bulletin or website, please email or text them to **Mike Schwartz**,  
[vtarocks@gmail.com](mailto:vtarocks@gmail.com), (805) 223-1748

## PROGRAM -- Mara Rodriguez

**Mara Rodriguez of America's Teaching Zoo at Moorpark College** was the featured speaker at our August 24 meeting. Mara is an animal trainer, the zoo's development coordinator, and has worked at the zoo since it opened 30 years ago. She is a new member of Moorpark Rotary.

Moorpark College offers a degree in Exotic Animal Training and Management. Students come from all over the country, including some who already have a bachelor's degree. It is a living and breathing classroom where all animal care is done by students. The zoo is open every Saturday and Sunday all year long. The program includes animal presentations, VIP tours, birthday shows, and Customer Appreciation Day.

Mara and her students brought "animal ambassadors" to our meeting, to the delight of some members and the horror of others. The porcupine was so stinky that many members had to leave their seats! (Not pictured below: red-tailed hawk and sugar glider.)



Mara Rodriguez



"Luke" – Skink



"Tonka" – American Badger



"Forest" – Porcupine



Delilah" – Stanley Crane



## UPCOMING EVENTS

(For up-to-date and more complete information, see our web site, [VenturaRotary.org](http://VenturaRotary.org).)

**August 31 NO LUNCH MEETING.** Instead, we'll have a **BARBEQUE** at Karynsue's condo complex at Portside, Ventura Harbor, 6 p.m. Bring your own beverage and a side dish to share.

**September 7 lunch meeting:** Recipients of Julius Guis Memorial Foundation Grants will discuss what they did or will do with the money to benefit the community.

**September 9: Casino Night.** 5:30 to 9:30 p.m., Poinsettia Pavilion. The Rotary Clubs of Ventura, Ventura East, and Ventura South host the inaugural Tri Rotary Casino Night. in support of a local non-profit organization that helps local youth. 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>

**September 14 lunch meeting:** Presentation by Ventura Unified School District Superintendent Antonio Castro, Ed.D., and Board President Sabrena Rodriguez.

**September 21 lunch meeting:** Presentation by Obi Achinivu, The Food Bank/Nigeria.

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