



ROTARY SPOKES

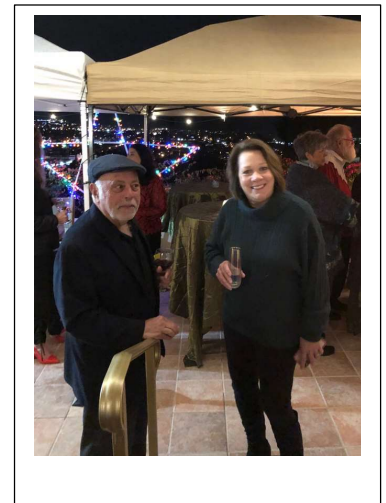
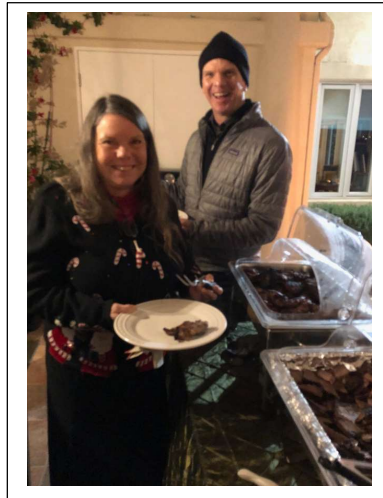
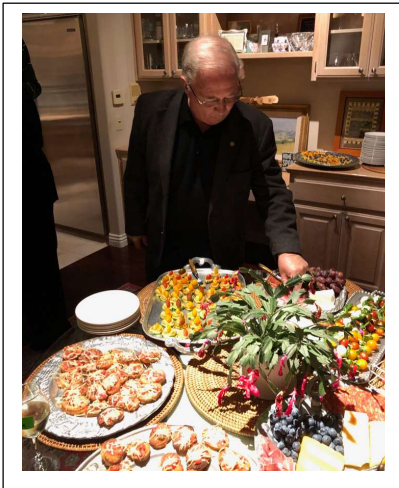
Rotary Club of Ventura

Est. May 1, 1919

"The Friendliest Club in Rotary"

December 11, 2022

WINTER SOCIAL
was held December 10,
2022, at the beautiful
hillside home of Betsy
Chess. Wonderful hors
d' oeuvres, followed by
a dinner of chicken and
beef expertly barbequed
by Dan and Neal,
games, and great
fellowship.
Happy Holidays!



MEETING DECEMBER 7, 2022

President Margi Wray called the meeting to order

Flag salute, invocation, and introductions—Mark Sauer

Songleaders—Jessica Brandon, Clyde Reynolds and RoseAnn Hill—America (My County 'Tis of Thee)

Announcements:

Margi Wray: (1) Thanks to those who contributed to and participated in the **Can Drive**. Thanks to **Neal Lassila** for presiding over the last meeting.

(2) Margi has noticed that people are coming to the meetings later and later. It would be great if people came earlier.

Kristin Taylor: For the second year, **Southern California Gas Company** made a generous donation of \$5,000 to **Coats for Kids** to support the **West End Holiday Event**.

Meagan Smith: **Ventura High Interact** is seeking donations of binders and school supplies for their Basic Needs Panty.

Brenda Allison-Hutchinson: Not too late to volunteer for the **West End Holiday Event**. (See details in Upcoming Events, below.)

Award: **Hutch** presented **RoseAnn Hill** with her **Paul Harris Fellow plus 4 pin**. He showed a video about the **Rotary Foundation's Six Areas of Focus:** Peace and conflict prevention/resolution, Disease prevention and treatment, Water and sanitation, Maternal and child health, Basic education and literacy, and Economic and community development.

Happy Dollars.

Fining—Clyde Reynolds quizzed club members about **Pearl Harbor Day**.

PROGRAM—VENTURA COUNTY GRAND JURY



Grand Jurors **Michela (Mika) Feli** and **Bruce Conger** gave a presentation about the Ventura County civil grand jury. (Separate criminal grand juries are empaneled to return criminal indictments.) The grand jury serves as the eyes and ears of the county's citizens and investigates matters

regarding government entities. It also visits detention centers and jails to ensure they are well maintained and the prisoners are provided for. (*continued next page*)

PROGRAM—VENTURA COUNTY JURY (*continued*)

Grand juries started in ancient Greece. Massachusetts empaneled its first grand jury in 1635. Grand juries in California began in 1850 with the purpose of looking out for its citizens and making sure that prisoners had proper accommodations.

The grand jury conducts investigations based on complaints of citizens, or initiated by a grand juror. Complaint forms are on the grand jury's website. The investigations are conducted by the grand jury as a whole and are confidential. The issue may be that a government official or agency is not doing its job correctly, or there may be financial issues.

The grand jury meets with the leaders of each county department. The grand jury issues a report each year on government agencies. The agencies must respond and advise whether they accept the grand jury's recommendations. These reports are public records.

The grand jury term is July 1 through June 30 each year. It consists of 19 volunteers. They are selected from a pool of 30, with the remaining individuals serving as alternates. The grand jury meets Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 a.m to 12:00 p.m., with additional time necessary for investigations and committee meetings. They are flexible in terms of time off for vacations, appointments, etc.

Grand jury members serve as officers (treasurer, secretary, etc.) and serve on committees. They receive an orientation about county government. Requirements are U.S. citizenship, age at least 18, a Ventura County resident for at least one year, be of "ordinary intelligence, sound judgment, and good character," and have sufficient knowledge of the English language. Computer skills are highly desirable.

Grand jurors receive a per diem of \$25 for each day they attend plus mileage. Each year, several grand jurors "hold over" to the next year to provide continuity, with maximum service of two consecutive years. The grand jury desires diversity and is particularly seeking younger members.



UPCOMING EVENTS

(For up-to-date and more complete information, see our web site, VenturaRotary.org or the ClubRunner app on your phone)

December 14 lunch meeting: **Mike Schwartz** will discuss the historical roots of **Hanukkah**, and how it is celebrated, followed by a lively game of dreidel.

December 17: Holiday Party for Westside families. Arise Ventura Church, 831 N. Olive St., Ventura. Volunteer shifts are 8:00-11:30 a.m. and 12:30-4:00 p.m. Families participate 9:30-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-3:00 p.m. This is our second year hosting this event. Families living in the Ventura Avenue neighborhood will receive a jacket, a pair of earrings for Mom (made by Mary Saputo), a visit with Santa (Greg Wray) and his Elf (Bev Ward), a toy, a Chick-fil-A breakfast entree gift card, a box of food for the family, and a bible donated by Arise for those who would like one. We have some new Vans shoes for teens in some sizes. Selfie opportunities with Santa or with a winter themed background. We served 300 kids last year and expect about 500 this year. Sponsored by Rotary Club of Ventura, Arise Ventura, Boys and Girls Club of Greater Ventura, Coats for Kids, Chick-fil-A, Foodshare, and SoCalGas. Volunteer shifts 8:00-11:30 a.m. and 12:30-4:00 p.m. Families will participate 9:30-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-3:00 p.m. Contact Patti Birmingham for more information.

