



ROTARY SPOKES

Rotary Club of Ventura

Est. May 1, 1919

“The Friendliest Club in Rotary”

February 11, 2024

VENTURA HIGH SCHOOL INTERACT



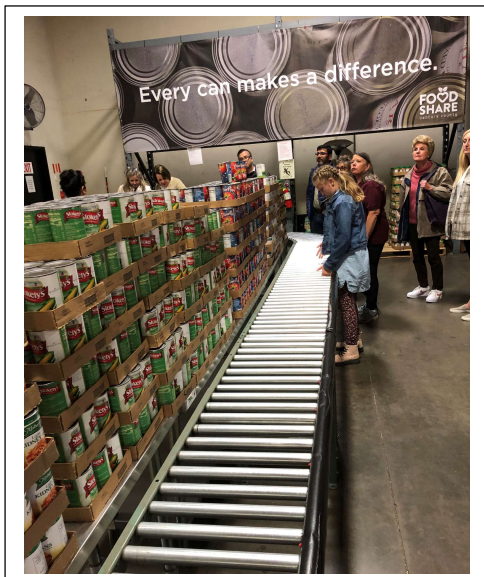
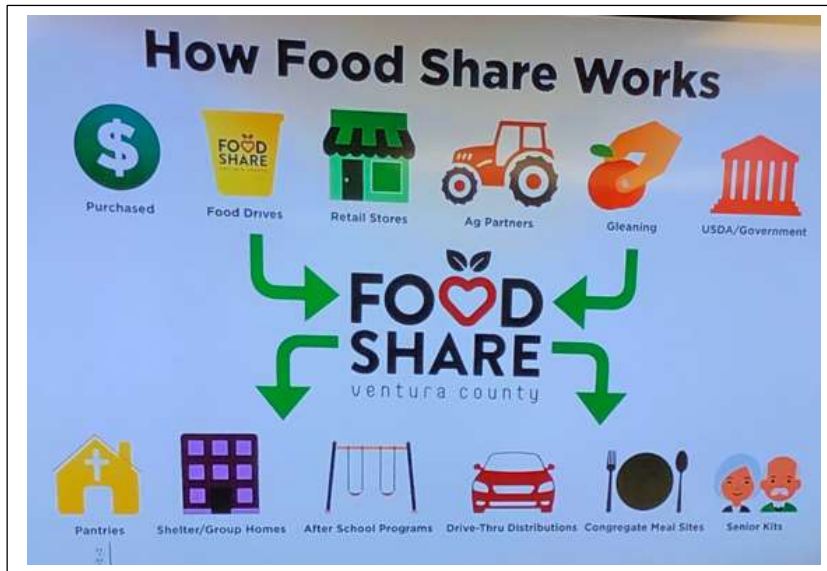
Our meeting February 7, 2024, was led by students from the Ventura High School Interact. These energetic and articulate members described the club’s many activities, including:

- Recruiting during the school’s “club rush.” Free pizzas at the meetings are a big draw!
- Coats for kids. This included donating coats, shopping to purchase coats with donated funds, and participating in the Westside Holiday Event to distribute coats, toys, and more to families in need.
- Canned food drive. This brought in over 800 cans for Food Share. The three classrooms with the most donations were rewarded with a Pancake Breakfast.
- Winter Wellness. This is a new event this year to allow students to relax before spring break.
- Valentine’s bake night and sale. Doug Halter and Randy Encinas graciously hosted the students to bake mini bundt cakes and cookies, which were then sold at our meeting. Yummy!
- Valentine’s Day Dance. VHS hosts this event for the school’s special education students with a DJ, pizza, and decorations. It’s the only event of its kind in the Ventura Unified School District!
- Rise Against Hunger. Together with other Interact clubs, they packed over 10,000 meals.
- Ronald McDonald Walk. Fundraiser for the Ronald McDonald Family Room at VCMC.
- RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards). We saw a video and photo montage highlighting the activities at this event.
- End of the year event.

The members thanked their school liaison, Ms. Roberts, sponsor Irene Henry, and Phyllis.

FOOD SHARE

On January 31, 2023, we held an evening meeting at Food Share. Food Share distributed 19 million pounds of food last year! We enjoyed a burrito dinner while CEO Monica White explained where Food Share gets its food, and how it distributes it to 157 food pantries, and through drive-through distributions, soup kitchens, and more. We toured the facility (including inside the freezer...brrr!). Club members donated a barrel of food at the event. Contributions of food, money, and time are needed. (For more photos, visit the Ventura Rotary Club Facebook page.)



MEETING FEBRUARY 7, 2024

Attendance: 42 members and guests were present, including 9 members of the Ventura High School Interact.

Lunch: Greek lemon chicken, scalloped potatoes, peas, fruit, and green salad. No dessert was served, in a blatant attempt to force those with a sweet tooth to purchase the mini bundt cakes and cookies baked by VHS Interact. But they were delicious, and the money supports a great club!

Flag salute/introductions/inspirational message: Interact officer **Ella Meyers**. “They tried to bury us, but little did they know we were seeds.”

Song: **Bev Ward, Jessica Brandon and RoseAnn Hill** led us in singing “America (My Country ‘Tis of Thee”), followed by “Happy Birthday” to VHS counselor and Interact liaison Patricia Roberts.

Announcements:

Chris Brashears: Ribbon Cutting for Central Coast Mobile Free Vision Clinic, Wednesday, March 20, 11:30 a.m. at the Salvation Army, 650 S. Petit Ave., Ventura. After a two year process, the van is equipped and ready to go! Lunch will be served. RSVP to juan.torres@usw.salvationarmy.org. (See invitation on next page.)

Madhu Bajaj: (1) Our Jan. 31 evening meeting at **Food Share** was eye-opening regarding the amount of work and the scope of their operation. We will place a **food collection barrel** at our next four meetings, which Madhu will empty each week. Please donate canned and non-perishable food to help Food Share feed those in need in our community.

(2) Family BBQ Saturday, May 4, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Redwood Glen BBQ area at Arroyo Verde Park. Need a grill master, activities director, and party planners. Contact Madhu to volunteer.

(3) Evening socials: March and April will be a trial period—the first three weeks of the month will be our usual lunchtime meetings, and the fourth will be an evening social. Details to be announced.

(4) Meet a Rotarian: Meet Pacific High School Interact members 9:45 to 11:00 a.m. at the school this Monday, February 12.

Margi Wray: Students in the **ASSETS program** are taking a bus to visit Moorpark College. They are requesting a member of our club to accompany them.

Saurabh Bajaj: Fireworks Sponsorship Committee will meet after our February 14 lunch meeting. More members are needed to help raise money from outside the club.

Happy Dollars.

Fining: **Ella Meyers** asked trivia questions with fines benefitting VHS Interact.

Thanks to the efficient meeting management by VHS Interact, we adjourned at 1:05 p.m.!

Saurabh Bajaj awarded two fellowships in the **Julius Gius Memorial Rotary Foundation**, which we may also refer to as the **Rotary Club of Ventura Foundation**. Fellowships are awarded for a \$1,000 contribution, which can be all at once, or over a period of time. Congratulations to **Roger Case** and **Keith Moschetto!**



You're Invited
RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY

Central Coast Free Vision Clinic
ccfreevision.org

THE SALVATION ARMY VENTURA CORPS
Examenes De La Vista Gratis • Gafas Gratis
Free Vision Exam • Free Glasses

March 20th • 11:30AM • 650 S Petit Ave, Ventura, CA 93004
Lunch will be served, Please RSVP to juan.torres@usw.salvationarmy.org

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Lynda Girtsman
February 4

John Johnson
February 6

Margi Wray
February 10

CLUB ANNIVERSARIES

Andy Soter
45 years

Amy Bailey Jurewicz
8 years

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

February 12: Pacific High School Meet a Rotarian, 9:45-11:00 a.m., 501 College Dr., Ventura. RSVP to Madhu Bajaj.

February 14 lunch meeting: Jenn Rodriguez, Turning Point/Growing Works. Growing Works is a program of Turning Point Foundation and provides mental health recovery services, job training and supported employment to adults with severe mental health diagnoses. It is also a wholesale nursery in Camarillo growing 60% California Native, 30% succulents and 10% fun plants that they love and think you will, too. Established in 2018, Growing Works now enjoys a reputation for high quality 4" and 1 gallon and larger plants with customers from Solvang to Los Angeles County.



Jenn Rodriguez started gardening at home in the West San Fernando Valley. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Horticulture at UC Davis and worked in the Arboretum there. Over her 25 years in the landscape industry Jenn managed Light Construction, maintenance, worked as a designer and sold landscape maintenance. She joined Turning Point Foundation as Manager of Growing Works in 2019. Jenn is grateful to combine her love of horticulture with serving people in a significant way in her work life. She lives and gardens in Moorpark with her husband Nelson and superdog Cruz.

February 14: Fireworks Sponsorship Committee, 1:30 p.m., Poinsettia Pavilion. More members needed.

February 21 lunch meeting: Rhett Mauck, National Disaster Search Dog Foundation.

February 22: Board Meeting, Crowne Plaza, 12:00-1:30 p.m.

February 28 lunch meeting: David Maron will present the biennial **Ventura County Civic Alliance report**.

March 6 lunch meeting: Steve Yamshon, Ojai Forest Service.

March 13 lunch meeting: Charis van der Heide, Monarch Butterfly Biologist.

March 16: TENTATIVE Monarch Butterfly Viewing, Ellwood Grove,

March 20 lunch meeting: Dave Armstrong, Coffee Growing in Ventura.

March 20: Ribbon Cutting for Central Coast Mobile Free Vision Clinic, 11:30 a.m. at the Salvation Army, 650 S. Petit Ave., Ventura. Lunch will be served. RSVP to juan.torres@usw.salvationarmy.org.

March 22: Career Day at Pacific High School, 501 College Dr., Ventura, 9:00-11:00 a.m., followed by lunch with the students.

March 27: NO LUNCH MEETING. Evening Social 5:30-7:30 p.m., location to be announced.

SAVE
THE DATE

Rotary 
Club of Ventura

Family
BBQ and Social
Arroyo Verde Park
Redwood Glen BBQ Area

Saturday
May 4
11am - 2pm

