



ROTARY SPOKES

Rotary Club of Ventura

Est. May 1, 1919

“The Friendliest Club in Rotary”

February 12, 2023

MEETING FEBRUARY 8, 2023

Attendance—I counted 44 members and guests, including 12 members of Ventura High School Interact.

Lunch—Food Affairs by Stacey served a delicious lunch of Caprese chicken with mozzarella and other good things, cuscus (it’s a pasta, not a grain!), green salad, and chocolate cake with whipped cream.

Flag salute, inspirational message, and introductions—**Mike Schwartz**. “When we say, ‘One nation under God, with liberty and justice for all,’ we are talking about all people. We either ought to believe it, or quit saying it.” (Humbert Humphrey)

Songleaders—**RoseAnn Hill and Bev Ward**—“America the Beautiful”

Announcements:

Margi Wray: (1) **Delegates** have been selected to review the District 5240 finances, bylaws, and legislation: Dan Holmes, Joslynn Skelton, Rob van Nieuwburg, and Mike Anderson.

(2) Anyone interested in serving as next year’s **President Elect** (to serve as President 2024-2025) contact Margi by Wednesday.

(3) District Youth Exchange Chair Barry VanderKelen is seeking **host families** for the 2023-2024 **Rotary Exchange**. The foreign students live with up to three families during the school year. The total cost to the club to host a student is about \$2,000.

Andy Kirkwood shared his experiences when he was an exchange student from Scotland and lived at the home of Rob van Nieuwburg.

Angela Rosales: See attached flier re; corporate sponsorships for the **Walk for Kids**.

Ken Leandro: This year’s Fireworks Event is going forward on July 4. The pyrotechnics are lined up and Ventura College and the City of Ventura are on board. We will be forming subcommittees to make this year’s event even better: sponsorships, volunteers, Kids Zone, finance, operations, and marketing. This event is both a service to the community and a fundraiser for the club.

Happy Dollars.

Fining—**Sandy Lassila** quizzed club members about Valentine’s Day.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

February 15 lunch meeting—Debra Thomas, winner of the Sarton Award for her debut novel, *Luz*. Her second novel, *Josie and Vic*, will be published April 2023. It is a story of love, loss, and forgiveness and conveys hope—even in the darkest of times. Originally from Binghamton, New York, she has lived in Southern California most of her adult life. After working a decade as a registered nurse, Debra returned to college to pursue her passion for literature and writing. She is a former English teacher at a Los Angeles public high school, as well as English as a Second Language (ESL) instructor to adults from all over the world. Her experiences as an immigrant rights advocate influence much of her writing. She currently lives with her husband and little dog in Simi Valley, California, just minutes away from her two horses. For more information, visit her website is <http://www.debrathomasauthor.com>



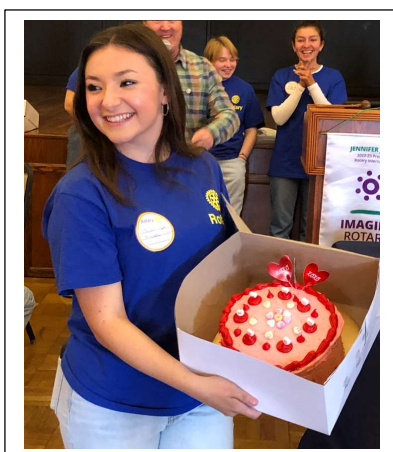
February 19—“Four-Way Test” essays due.

February 22 lunch meeting—Madhu Bajaj will lead a discussion of the **club survey** results.

February 23—Board Meeting at the **Ventura Housing Authority**, 12:00-1:30 p.m.

March 1 lunch meeting—Phil Ranger, Rick Conrad, and Tanner Shelton will discuss the proposed renovation of the **Ventura County Fairgrounds**.

March 8 lunch meeting—Dr. Joe Cahill, botanist and Executive Director of the **Ventura Botanical Gardens**.



PROGRAM—VENTURA HIGH SCHOOL INTERACT



We welcomed 12 energetic and articulate members of the Ventura High School Interact Club, including Co-President Emily Schati. She thanked interact advisor Irene Henry and faculty sponsor Patricia Roberts (for whom we sang “Happy Birthday”) along with Randy Encinas and Doug Halter for opening their home and kitchen to make the baked goods for today’s auction. She also discussed how participating in RYLA changed her life.

VHS Interact has about 17 members and meets the first, second, and fourth Tuesday each month. Each member present introduced themselves, and board members discussed their future plans.

I had no idea how active the club is! We viewed a PowerPoint presentation that showed these activities:

- Recruiting during Club Week
- Pancake breakfast
- Collection of several boxes of clothing for Coats for Kids
- Canned Food Drive that brought in 600 cans
- The Holiday Event for West End Kids, and buying coats for the event
- Valentine’s bake night at Doug and Randy’s, and the bake sale
- Assembling food packets for Rise Against Hunger
- Ronald McDonald House Walk for Kids
- Running Kids Corner at the Fireworks Event
- Going to a Dodgers game
- Valentine’s Dance for Special Education Students. (A personal note: We were guests at the dance with our son Danny, who is a VHS Special Ed alumni. Unlike the “dances” I attended in high school, everyone was actually dancing and having a great time! Great job and thank you!)

Ken Leandro then auctioned off cakes baked by the Interact members, with the winning bid of \$1,000 for a single cake!

SPONSORSHIP

PLATINUM (\$10,000)

≥ Pre-Event Opportunities

Company name included in all email communications to participants

Company name listed in press releases

Opportunity to host an internal kick-off or recruitment event

Logo placement on event website (linked)

50 free registrations for your team

≥ Additional Opportunities

Opportunity to speak at the event

Opportunity to speak at the Kick-off

Verbal mention from stage on day of event



GOLD (\$5,000)

≥ Pre-Event Opportunities

Company name included in all email communications to participants

Company name listed in press releases

Logo placement on event website (linked)

25 free registrations

≥ Additional Opportunities

Logo on website

Verbal mention from stage on day of event

Opportunity to speak at the Kick-off

WWW.WALKFORKIDS.ORG/VENTURA