



# ROTARY SPOKES

## Rotary Club of Ventura

Est. May 1, 1919

“The Friendliest Club in Rotary”

February 18, 2024

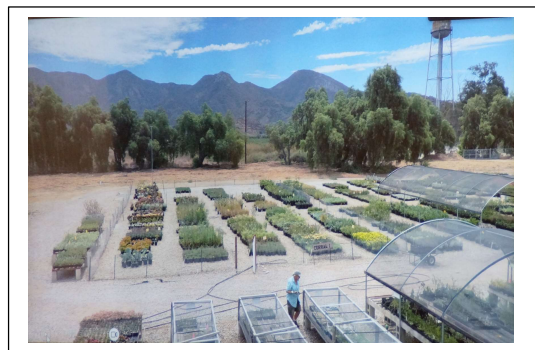
### GROWING WORKS

**Jenn Rodriguez, manager of Turning Point Foundation’s Growing Works program**, gave a presentation at our meeting February 14, 2024.



Growing Works provides recovery services in a horticultural environment for adults with moderate to severe mental health diagnoses. They operate a wholesale and retail nursery in Camarillo growing California Native plants, succulents, and 10 percent “fun plants.” The plants are all grown in pots, including the popular four-inch pots starting at \$5.90, and larger 1 to 15 gallon pots. The facility neighbors a number of residential mental health programs.

Growing Works members are individuals who receive professional medical services and “own” their mental health diagnosis. After volunteering at least 108 hours, taking a job preparedness class, and developing a wellness recovery action plan, they can progress to paid supportive employees. The recovery services provided include developing coping skills such as learning a new skill, exercise, journaling, and mindfulness practices. Members’ duties depend on their abilities and interests. For individuals who have faced many challenges in their lives, Growing Works allows them to celebrate victories.



The parent organization, Turning Point Foundation, operates 14 programs in 11 locations. It provides “compassionate and proactive treatment for adults struggling with mental illness.”



## MEETING FEBRUARY 14, 2024

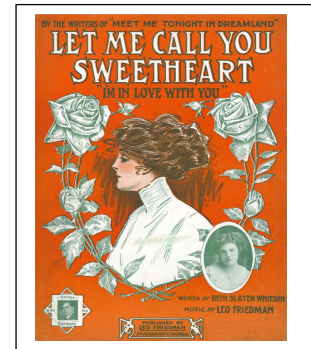
**Attendance:** 30 members and guests were present, including guests Jenn Rodriguez (our speaker) and Barbara Hinton (widow of Randy Hinton). We were all glad to see Harald Wulff back after some medical “adventures.” Sandy Lassila attended via Zoom.

**Lunch:** Food Affairs by Stacey prepared a delicious pot roast, pasta shells, mixed vegetables, salad, fruit, and strawberry shortcake.

**Flag salute/introductions/inspirational message: Indy Batra.**

“We have been taught that time is money. You can sell your time to make money, but all the money you make doesn’t buy you any time. Save some time for yourself.” Indy is donating \$100 to Polio Plus in honor of Past President Larry Emrick, and \$100 to Food Share.

**Song: Bev Ward, Jessica Brandon and Clyde Reynolds**—in honor of Valentine’s Day, we sang “Let Me Call You Sweetheart” (written and first recorded on an Edison cylinder in 1910).



### Announcements:

**Madhu Bajaj: (1) Food Share collection barrel** will be at our meetings during February. Please donate canned and non-perishable food.

**(2) Perspectives on Peace**—please help spread the word to 12th grade students who attend a VUSD high school and/or their parents. (See attached flier.) Students do not need to be art students nor do they need to be entering art programs/degrees. All welcome to view the entries on April 18, 5:00-6:00 p.m. at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. Judging will then begin at 6:00 p.m.—volunteers must be present until we are done (we anticipate 3-4 hours—judges will be served dinner). Judges will view the entries in person so no alternative arrangements can be made.

**(3) Pacific High School Career Day** is March 22—need volunteers!

**Sally Crain: Dictionary Project:** The dictionaries have been ordered and will be distributed to students in the whole city, hopefully at the end of this month. Twenty volunteers needed.

**Mark Sauer: JGMRF donation receipts** will be sent out next week.

**Neal Lassila: JGMRF grant applications** accepted until the end of the month. (This is a leap year, so you’ve got an extra day!)

**Saurabh Bajaj: Fireworks Sponsorship Committee** will meet after our the February 14 lunch meeting.

**Happy Dollars.**

**Fining: Monica Smith** asked us about Valentine’s Day (mostly about chocolate).

**Saurabh Bajaj** awarded two fellowships in the **Julius Gius Memorial Rotary Foundation**. Fellowships are awarded for a \$1,000 contribution, which can be all at once, or over a period of time. Congratulations to **Dan Holmes** and **Jeff Lambert!**



### UPCOMING EVENTS

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

**February 21 lunch meeting: Rhett Mauck, National Disaster Search Dog Foundation.** Founded in 1996, the National Disaster Search Dog Foundation (SDF) is a nonprofit, non-governmental organization based in Santa Paula, CA. SDF strengthens disaster response in America by producing highly skilled canine disaster search teams to search for missing persons and victims of natural and manmade disasters. SDF is the oldest nonprofit organization in the U.S. that recruits rescued dogs, gives them ongoing professional training, and partners them with firefighters and other first responders nationwide. SDF offers this life-saving resource at no cost to fire departments or task forces, providing emergency response personnel with a critically important asset they could not otherwise afford.



No technology can match a dog's speed and accuracy in finding people trapped in the wreckage of a disaster, thanks to a remarkable sense of smell, the ability to ignore all other scents and noises when searching, and an unparalleled ability to quickly and safely navigate unstable and slippery terrain.

SDF has trained over 200 certified teams that have deployed to 264 disasters and missing person searches. There are currently 91 SDF-trained search teams located in California, Florida, Nebraska, New York, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah, Virginia, and Baja California. Thanks to mutual aid agreements, these teams can be deployed wherever disasters occur.

**Rhett Mauck**, Executive Director, was born and raised in Ventura County, Rhett graduated from San Diego State University before returning to the area to find an organization that allowed him to follow his true passion: rescuing dogs and giving them a renewed purpose in life.

Rhett joined the SDF team in 2009 as the Development Manager before advancing to Senior Director of Philanthropy. In that role, Rhett guided all fundraising efforts and strengthened donor engagement by nurturing opportunities to increase the impact of our supporters' philanthropic objectives. He also contributed substantively to developing the capital fundraising campaign to build the facilities and then transition SDF to the National Training Center campus. Rhett had the opportunity to be involved strategically in SDF's program and organizational areas through the years before assuming the Executive Director role in 2022.

Alongside SDF's dynamic and passionate staff, Rhett oversees day-to-day operations and explores innovative ways to further the goals and tangible outcomes of our work. He continues to be inspired and motivated by the SDF team's ability to focus the natural abilities of rescued, high-drive canines into impactful work to change the world through the power of the human-canine bond. Rhett is often accompanied at work by Roscoe, his Pitbull/Lab mix, who was adopted from the Humane Society of Ventura County.

**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](mailto: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. Volunteers needed

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

#### CLUB ANNIVERSARIES

Patti Birmingham  
8 years

Karynsue Rose-Thomas  
2 years



THE STACI JOHNSON INGRAM MEMORIAL  
**2024 PERSPECTIVES ON**

Peace

**SCHOLARSHIP**  
**EXPRESS YOURSELF**

**\$5,000 FOR 1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE**

**UP TO 5 ARTIST OF DISTINCTION**  
**AWARDS OF \$1,000 OR MORE**

Different types of submissions accepted: Video, Music, Photography  
and Art, including Painting, Drawing, Mixed Media, Sculpture & Digital Art.

**THIS SCHOLARSHIP IS AVAILABLE ONLY TO VUSD SENIORS**

**DEADLINE TO SUBMIT: MARCH 27, 2024**



See details and enter at  
**PERSPECTIVESONPEACE.ORG**

**Rotary**  
Club of Ventura 