



# ROTARY SPOKES

## Rotary Club of Ventura

Est. May 1, 1919

“The Friendliest Club in Rotary”

February 25, 2024

### NATIONAL DISASTER SEARCH DOG FOUNDATION



**Rhett Mauck**, Executive Director of the National Disaster Search Dog Foundation (SDF), gave a presentation at our meeting February 21, 2024. SDF was founded in 1996 by Ojai resident Wilma Melville and has now trained almost 300 teams in the United States and Baja California.

The dogs are often rescued from animal shelters, but the rescued then become the rescuers. The search teams locate victims of natural and manmade disasters, including the Oklahoma City bombing, World Trade Center attack, earthquakes in Japan, Nepal, Haiti, and many more.

The dogs receive nine months of training at the National Training Center in Santa Paula, and are recertified every three years. It costs about \$60,000 to train and certify a team. The foundation is funded completely by private donations.



Thanks to you and our community of supporters across the country, SDF search teams stand ready to respond the next time disaster strikes.

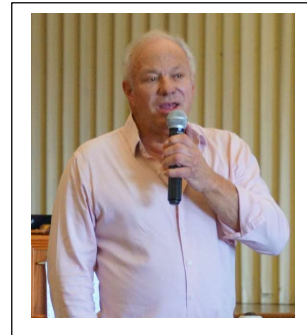
Thank you for being Part of the Search!

## MEETING FEBRUARY 21, 2024

**Attendance:** 26 members and guests were present.

**Lunch:** Food Affairs by Stacey served Ceasar chicken, rice, asparagus, green salad, fruit, and chocolate cake.

City Councilmember and club member **Doug Halter** presented his monthly **city council update**. He discussed a recent goal-setting session attended by the councilmembers.



**Flag salute/introductions/inspirational message:** **Ken Leandro** shared “Invocation: Spring” © Shawn Bird of Shuswap (British Columbia) Rotary:

While we wait  
and wait  
and wait  
impatiently for the weather to turn,  
let us think spring thoughts.  
Let us think about our club goals and the role each of us plays to make the world  
a better place through our involvement in Rotary.  
Let us think about opportunities to serve in new ways.  
Let us be thankful for the food and the friends around each table.  
Let us be thankful that spring will come  
eventually.

**Song:** **Clyde Reynolds** led us in singing “America (My Country ‘Tis of Three)”

### **Announcements:**

**Neal Lassila:** (1) **JGMRF grant applications deadline is February 29, 2024.**

(2) **Rotary South Mardi Gras Fundraiser** to support Turning Point and the Ventura South Foundation is March 10, 3:00-9:00 p.m., at the Tower Club in Oxnard. RSVP if you would like to attend—our club members attend free!

**Sally Crain: Dictionary Project:** The dictionaries have arrived! She signed up volunteers to distribute the dictionaries at elementary schools and give a short presentation about the books and about Rotary. **Several slots still need volunteers.**

**Madhu Bajaj: Pacific High School Career Day** is March 22—need volunteers!

**Joslynn Skelton: Ronald McDonald House Family Room kick off** is March 6, 6:00-7:00 p.m., Poinsettia Pavilion.

### **Happy Dollars.**

**Fining:** In honor of Presidents Day (and Chelsea Clinton’s Birthday!) **Mike Schwartz** asked about the U.S. presidents’ children.

## BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

The club's Board of Directors met at the Crowne Plaza on Thursday, February 22, 2024. Plans are underway for a reimagined **Beachside Bash** late September or early October. The singer we had in mind is out of our price range so we are looking for a different entertainer.

**Club dues** are payable monthly pursuant to our club's Continuing Resolution. But statements are going out monthly, and many members are paying monthly, which helps with our club's cash flow.

**JGMRF** board members received Conflict of Interest training from Jeff Lambert. The deadline for JGMRF grant applications is February 29.

We currently have **84 members**. A new members **Fireside Chat** will be May 9 or 23, 6:00 p.m., location TBD.

**Youth Service:** Students from Ukraine will be exchange students in Ventura County (no Ventura students to go to Ukraine). Simi Sunrise Rotary has identified a host family. Our board will vote next meeting whether to contribute money to this project.

**Vocational Service:** We will sponsor the **Chalk Art Festival** Sept. 9 and 10. It will not require cash outlay from club, and only 3 to 5 volunteers will be needed.

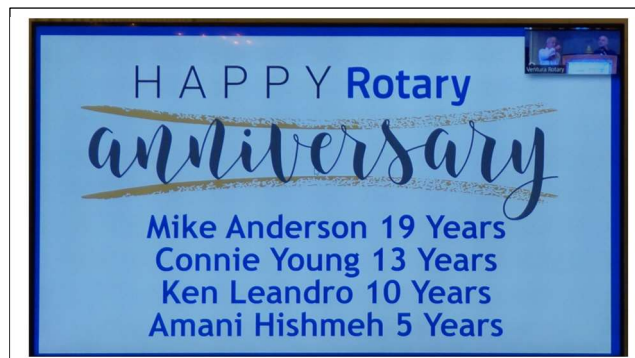
**Club Service:** Please let Madhu know if an event will conflict with our planned events.

Neal and Margi are planning a **Club Leadership** retreat in May for outgoing and incoming officers and board members, with a focus on budget, which projects to continue, and which to drop.

**St. Patrick's Day Parade:** The Board agreed we would participate in this year's parade March 16, with the club to pay the \$50 entry fee, Interact to participate. and Sally Crain/Hilford Moving & Storage to donate truck, hay bales, and driver. BUT a calendar conflict was discovered after the meeting so we will not participate this year. There is interest in participating in 2025.

**Chamber of Commerce:** Our club is hosting breakfast May 3, 8:00 a.m., Four Points Sheraton. We need to provide centerpieces and put together a video or multiple slides.

**All members are welcome** at the Board meetings and lunch is provided. RSVP Neal. Minutes for the January 25 meeting and the Agenda for the February 22 meeting are attached to the email that sent you this newsletter.



## JGMRF APPLICATIONS DUE FEBRUARY 29

Applications for grants from the Rotary Club of Ventura Foundation, also known as the Julius Gius Memorial Rotary Foundation, are due February 29, 2024.

Here is the link to the grant application: [JGMRF | Rotary Club of Ventura \(clubrunner.ca\)](https://www.clubrunner.ca/jgmrf)

Here is the link to the Facebook page for our members to share on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=776000774557601&set=a.615430527281294>

(Live links to the application and Facebook page are in the email that brought you this newsletter.)



**March 20 will be an offsite lunch meeting at 11:30 at the Salvation Army, Ribbon Cutting for the Mobile Eye Clinic.** (See invitation below ↓)

**No meeting at Poinsettia Pavilion that day--our previously scheduled speaker, Dave Armstrong, is rescheduled for April 3.**

**You're Invited**  
**RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY**

**Central Coast Free Vision Clinic**  
ccfreevision.org

Examen De La Vista Gratis • Gafas Gratis  
Free Vision Exam • Free Glasses

**THE SALVATION ARMY VENTURA CORPS**  
March 20th • 11:30AM • 650 S Petit Ave, Ventura, CA 93004  
Lunch will be served, Please RSVP to [juan.torres@usw.salvationarmy.org](mailto:juan.torres@usw.salvationarmy.org)



## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

**February 28 lunch meeting: David Maron** will present the Ventura County Civic Alliance's 2023 State of the Region Report. The report is released every two years documenting trends in the economy, education, agriculture, public safety and six categories. David presented the 2021 report to our Rotary two years ago.



**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: OFFSITE LUNCH MEETING: 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). (No lunch meeting at Poinsettia Pavilion. The previously-scheduled speaker, Dave Armstrong, is rescheduled for April 3.)

**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.

**March 28: Board Meeting**, Crowne Plaza Hotel, 12:00-1:30 p.m.

**April 3 lunch meeting: Dave Armstrong, Coffee Growing in Ventura.** (Was previously scheduled for March 20.)



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 