



ROTARY SPOKES

Rotary Club of Ventura

Est. May 1, 1919

“The Friendliest Club in Rotary”

February 5, 2023

MEETING FEBRUARY 1, 2023

Attendance—I counted 43 members and guests, including Andy Kirkwood from Scotland. He participated in the Rotary Youth Exchange program in Ventura 20 years ago and now plans to live and start a business here. No members attended via Zoom.

Lunch—Food Affairs by Stacey served a delicious lunch of lemon chicken, mixed vegetables, roasted potatoes, green salad, and cookies.

Flag salute, inspirational message, and introductions—**Keith Moschetto**. “When you arise in the morning, think of what a precious privilege it is to be alive—to breathe, to think, to enjoy, to love.” (Marcus Aurelius, Roman Emperor) “What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others.” (Nelson Mandela)

Songleader—**Bev Ward**—“America the Beautiful” (Lyrics by Katherine Lee Bates, written in 1895 as a poem entitled “Pike’s Peak.” Melody written by Samuel A. Ward (like Bev Ward!) in 1892. The two writers never met.)

Announcements:

Margi Wray: Four members are needed to volunteer as **delegates** to review the District’s finances, bylaws, and legislation.

Kristin Taylor: Coats for Kids in previous years ran from Nov. 1 through Dec. 31. But it is continuous this year, and many donations have been received since January 1. Special thanks to Neal, Indy, and RoseAnn for sorting coats.

Madhu Bajaj: We received an excellent return of 61 responses to our **club survey**, which is now closed. The results will be discussed at our February 22 meeting.

Joslynn Skelton: Members are encouraged to sign up for our club’s team for the March 19 **Walk for Kids**.

Abiel Acosta: Fireside Chat will be March 16 at the Portside Community Center. Opportunity for new members (2 years or less) to meet, but all members are welcome.

Joslynn Skelton received her **Blue Badge** from Margi Wray. While still a new member, Joslynn served on committees, helped organize events, gave a craft talk, and has served as a Board member. She joked that she was “voluntold” to perform duties for the club.

Happy Dollars. Dan Holmes tried a second time to tell his taco joke.

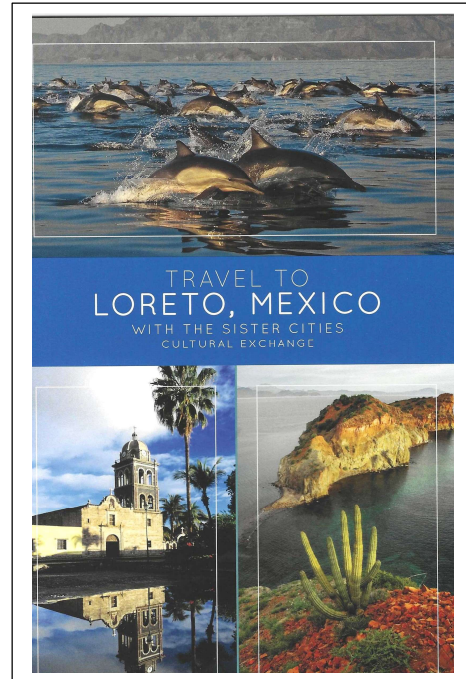
Fining—**Rob van Nieuwburg** and **Steve Doll** conducted an impromptu session about cars. (My car is a Rolls Canardly...it rolls down one hill and canardly make it up the next!)

PRESENTATION - CARL MOREHOUSE, SISTER CITY LORETO, MEXICO

Carl Morehouse gave a presentation at our February 1, 2023 meeting about Ventura's Sister City, Loreto, Baja California Sur, Mexico.

Carl served as a Ventura councilmember and mayor and has a distinguished record of public service (see Poster). He is Chair of the Ventura Sister City Association.

The sister city concept was introduced by President Eisenhower in 1956. In 2015, Ventura was approached by Loreto to become our sister city. Although Loreto (pop. 21,000) is much smaller than Ventura (pop. 110,000), the two cities have some common features. Loreto has the first mission established in the Californias, and Ventura has the last mission founded by Father Serra. The missions are joined by the El Camino Real, which begins in Loreto and runs through Ventura. Both cities have national parks dedicated to their channel islands.



Loreto sits on the Sea of Cortez and was the first capital in the Californias. Carl shared photos of the city. Loreto observes breast cancer awareness, with pink ribbons on the buildings and pink police cars. In February/March, it celebrates the migration of blue whales from Ventura to the Sea of Cortez. The city does not have a Rotary chapter or other service clubs.

The Ventura Sister City Committee is a 501(c)(3) organization. Its goals include promoting tourism, artistic and cultural exchange, student exchange, environmental conservation, and shared business ventures. The City of Hermosa Beach is also a sister city of Loreto, concentrating its efforts on expanding their fire department.

The Ventura group went to Loreto in October 2022 and helped celebrate the 325th Anniversary of the city's founding. Father Tom Elewaut from San Buenaventura Mission was present and performed a mass. The group participated in beach cleanup day, just in time for a turtle to come ashore and lay her eggs.

Alaska Airlines offers two-hour direct flights from LAX several days a week. Several club members raised their hands to acknowledge that they have visited Loreto.

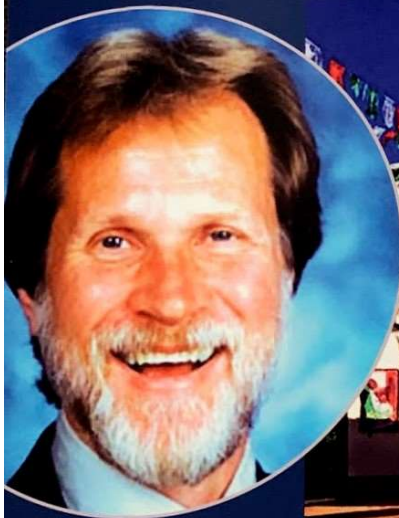
The Sister City Committee is looking for additional members to achieve its goals. Individual membership is \$25, families are \$50, and organizations/businesses are \$100. For more information, go to www.venturasistercity.org, or contact chair@venturasistercity.org.

Rotary Club of Ventura



Guest Speaker

Carl Morehouse
Sister City Loreto, Mexico



Carl served on the Ventura City Council for 17 years and served as Mayor 2005-2007. He is Past President of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), with his one year term running from May 2014-May 2015. Carl represented the City of Ventura on the Ventura Council of Governments, the Ventura County Transportation Commission, and the Gold Coast Transit District, and he also was one of the two city representative seats on the Ventura County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO). Additionally, Carl served on the League of California Cities Board of Directors from 2012-2015, following his presidency of the Channel Counties (San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura counties) Division in 2011, He served on the League's Housing Community Economic Development Policy Committee from 2005 to 2016, serving as Chair of that committee in 2013. Carl is a Land Use Planner by training and worked for twenty years for the Ventura County Planning Division. In 2018, he was inducted into the College of Fellows of the American Institute of Planners, the highest level of recognition that is within the American Planning Association. Today he is Chair of the Ventura Sister City Association.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

February 8 lunch meeting—Annual Valentines fundraiser for **Ventura High School Interact**.

February 9—Book Club, 5:30 p.m., at the Bajajs' home, will discuss *Luz* by Debra Thomas.

February 15 lunch meeting—**Debra Thomas**, award-winning author.

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**.