



ROTARY SPOKES

Rotary Club of Ventura

Est. May 1, 1919

“The Friendliest Club in Rotary”

January 21, 2024

LORELLE DAWES, VUSD EXPANDED LEARNING



Dr. Lorelle Dawes, Director of Expanded Learning for Ventura Unified School District, addressed the club at our meeting January 17, 2024. She is the daughter of Carol Dawes, who joined us at the meeting, and recently deceased club member Larry Dawes. Lorelle is known to many Ventura families for teaching thousands of kids to swim at the Concord Pool, and for hosting the “Talk to Me” program on channel 15. She also taught adult and continuing education, was principal of Cabrillo Middle School, and an Assistant Principal at Ventura High School. Lorelle currently leads after school programs for nearly 2,000 students at 23 sites.

The programs serve primarily “unduplicated pupils,” meaning those who are homeless, in foster care, eligible for free or reduced price

meals, and English learners. A goal is to give opportunities to these kids that more affluent students would have. The program is open to other students at schools where space is available.

The program offers a great variety of activities. A few are: teaching kids to swim at the Kimball pool, teaching them to ride a bike, visiting the botanical gardens, outside enrichment classes such as art lessons and music, surf camp, camping, Impossible Science, and the “STEM to stern” rowing program at Lake Casitas. Female skateboarders from the X Games recently addressed participants about combining fierce competition at the games with support for each other outside the games. The program is remodeling the old Boys & Girls Club facility on Olive Street to be an Expanded Learning hub. The program seeks volunteers to teach about their careers or passions.

Expanded Learning: Activities During the School Year

- **Monthly Enrichment Units:** topics include authors, kindness, birds, scientists, black history month, financial literacy, artists, sports, pets, oceans, and so much more!
- **Enrichment classes/clubs:** Art, Music, Coding, Digital Art, Bike Education, Playwell (Lego Engineering), Cheerleading, Gardening, Cooking, STEM to Stern, Field Hockey, Chess Club

ART

STEM:STERN

CODE CAMPUS

VUSD For the future of every student 13

MEETING JANUARY 17, 2024

Attendance: 31 plus Amy Bailey-Jurewicz via Zoom. Guests Lorelle and Carol Dawes and Cindy Doyon. Following a recent trend, only 9 men were present—c'mon guys, we miss you!

Lunch: Beef patties with mushroom gravy, mashed potatoes, cooked carrots, fruit, green salad, coleslaw, and a delicious cake for dessert.

Doug Halter gave his monthly report on the City Council, highlighting the Fire Department and storms. Twenty years ago, Fire responded to 8,000 calls per year. Now, with the same size staff, it handles 18,500 calls. The city is establishing a new temporary fire station in the Pierpont area to reduce response times. It has also created Medical-only units to respond to medical calls when firefighting equipment is not needed. Doug also discussed sand management following storms to restore beaches.



Flag salute/introductions/inspirational message: Rena Sepulveda. “To be a good human being is to have a kind of openness to the world, an ability to trust uncertain things beyond your own control, that can lead you to be shattered in very extreme circumstances for which you were not to blame. That says something very important about the condition of the ethical life: that it is based on a trust in the uncertain and on a willingness to be exposed; it’s based on being more like a plant than like a jewel, something rather fragile, but whose very particular beauty is inseparable from that fragility.” (Martha C. Nussbaum)

Song: Bev Ward, RoseAnn Hill and Clyde Reynolds led us in singing “America the Beautiful.”

Announcements:

Neal Lassila: Applications for district and global grants are due Feb. 1 through March 31. Let him know if you have an idea.

Kristin Taylor: Coats for Kids: Thanks to Greg, Connie, RoseAnn, Hutch, Dave, and his brother Richard for sorting through hundreds of coats January 15. There are many coats left, which will be sorted Tuesday, January 23, from 1:00-4:00 p.m. Kristin will contact those who signed up.

Madhu Bajaj: No lunch meeting January 31. Please RSVP if you will be attending the January 31 evening meeting at **Food Share**. If possible, please bring a bag of canned food to donate.

Happy Dollars.

Fining: Joslynn Skelton asked a random assortment of questions on no topic in particular. For the question about what type of animals come in a “gaggle, I still think the correct answer is “a gaggle of Rotarians.”

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

On January 18, 2024, Ventura High School Interact and our club members hosted a pancake breakfast to honor over 80 students and teachers who participated in Interact's competition by donating more than 800 cans of food for Food Share. The top contributing classrooms were Ms. Frias, Mr. Weber, and the combined Special Education classes.



DAY OF JOY

On January 19, 2024, the Rotary Club of Ventura presented Pacific High School with The Day of Joy. Among the many activities were art lessons, cooking, public service, and games. Students and teachers agreed... The Day of Joy was a huge success—a time to take a break, have fun, and manage stress right before finals. Thank you to all the Rotarians who participated!



UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Jan. 22: Pacific High School Interact, City Hall Meeting. Join us as the Interact Club/ASB Student Leaders visit City Hall for meetings about the Opioid Crisis and drug paraphernalia in local parks, followed by lunch at In-N-Out. Meet at Pacific at 8:45 a.m. to noon. RSVP to madhubajaj@gmail.com

Jan. 24 lunch meeting: Congressman Salud Carbajal. Rep. Salud Carbajal represents California's 24th congressional district, a stretch of the central coast encompassing Santa Barbara County and portions of San Luis Obispo County and Ventura County, including almost all of the City of Ventura.

First elected to Congress in 2016, Congressman Carbajal's life experiences have helped him advocate for the needs of his constituents by fighting for veterans' services, environmental protections, economic opportunities for working families, improvements to our immigration system, and commonsense fixes to lower the cost of living on the Central Coast.



Since 2021, Congressman Carbajal has served as the top Democrat on the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure's Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation. He also serves on the House Committees on Armed Services and Agriculture.

In his past term, President Biden signed into law multiple bills written by Congressman Carbajal, including bills to respond to the 2019 *Conception* boat fire of the Central Coast and another written in response to the 2016 shooting in Isla Vista, a measure aimed at expanding the use of 'red flag' laws. That bill was included in last summer's gun safety package – the first federal gun safety law approved by Congress in thirty years.

Prior to his election to Congress, Salud served on the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors from 2004 to 2016, where he worked on initiatives to protect California's environment, promote clean energy and sustainability, strengthen schools, and improve public health and safety.

Salud Carbajal rose from humble beginnings after emigrating from Mexico to the United States when he was 5 years old. Salud applied himself in school while working summers as a farmworker, eventually earning a bachelor's degree from the University of California at Santa Barbara (UCSB) and a master's degree in Organizational Management from the Fielding University.

Congressman Carbajal also served eight years in the United States Marine Corps Reserve, including active duty service during the Gulf War in 1992 where he was mobilized to Jacksonville, North Carolina.

He and his wife Gina are the proud parents of two, and currently reside in Goleta, California. (Biography provided by Rep Carbajal)

Jan. 25 Board Meeting, 12:00 to 1:30 p.m., Crowne Plaza Hotel.

Jan. 31: NO NOONTIME MEETING. Evening meeting at FoodShare, 4156 Southbank Road, Oxnard, 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. One in four people in Ventura County struggle with food insecurity. Join us to learn how FoodShare makes a difference every day. CEO Monica White will provide an update on FoodShare and give a tour. Dinner will be served. You must wear closed toe shoes as we will be taking a tour of the warehouse. Children are welcome to attend, but they must be very closely supervised by their parent. While not required, it is highly encouraged to bring a donation of canned food when visiting a food bank or food pantry. If you cannot attend and would like to donate canned food in support of our visit, please bring to a club meeting or drop at FASTSIGNS 3959 E. Main St M-F 9:00-5:30. Questions: madhubajaj@gmail.com. RSVP and dinner selection: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd-zoxU3WhCrmmsOy2wcqXrljyAyYJSUNsbKLKyOIwzZwt2cw/viewform?pli=1>

APPRECIATION FROM PACIFIC HIGH SCHOOL INTERACT

