



# ROTARY SPOKES

## Rotary Club of Ventura

Est. May 1, 1919

"The Friendliest Club in Rotary"

January 7, 2024



### MEETING JANUARY 3, 2023

**Attendance:** 28 including visiting Rotarian Jack Pollock (Past President, Ventura South) and guests Carol Gonzalez (Count on Me bookkeeping) and Brenda Allison-Hutchinson's daughter Charlotte (student, Cal. State San Marcos). Keith Moschetto was sitting at a table by himself...he joked we should not feel bad because he has been single for a number of years and is used to rejection.

**Lunch:** Food Affairs by Stacey served a Chinese lunch of beef stir fry with green beans, egg rolls, fried rice, chopped salad, and fruit, with some kind of little frozen puffs for dessert. (It was a little early for Chinese New Year, which is February 10 this year, the Year of the Dragon.)

**President Neal Lassila** called the first meeting of 2024 to order and wished us a **Happy New Year**.

**Flag salute/introductions/inspirational message: Keith Moschetto.** He read "The Four Agreements" from the book by the same name by Don Miguel Ruiz.

**Song: RoseAnn Hill and Bev Ward** led us in singing "Auld Lang Syne."

### The Four Agreements

- 1. Be Impeccable With Your Word.** Speak with integrity. Say only what you mean. Avoid using the word to speak against yourself or to gossip about others. Use the power of your word in the direction of truth and love.
- 2. Don't Take Anything Personally.** Nothing others do is because of you. What others say and do is a projection of their own reality, their own dream. When you are immune to the opinions and actions of others, you won't be the victim of needless suffering.
- 3. Don't Make Assumptions**  
Find the courage to ask questions and to express what you really want. Communicate with others as clearly as you can to avoid misunderstandings, sadness and drama. With just this one agreement, you can completely transform your life.
- 4. Always Do Your Best.** Your best is going to change from moment to moment; it will be different when you are healthy as opposed to sick. Under any circumstance, simply do your best, and you will avoid self-judgment, self-abuse and regret.

## Announcements:

**Neal Lassila: (1)** The club received a **Holiday Card** from the Reagan Library. He passed it around, and Madhu added several other cards the club received.

**(2) Bring a friend to our meetings.** The club will pay for guests' lunches the month of January.

**Madhu Bajaj: (1) Day of Joy at Pacific High School** the morning of January 19. We need 8-10 more volunteers. Also need donations of non-stretch denim jeans, which will be used to make shoes, and craft supplies to make cards to give to seniors. For more information and to sign up, go to

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0549A5AE28A0F85-46982978-pacific#/>

**(2) No lunch meeting January 31.** Instead, we will have an **evening meeting at Food Share**. We will have a sign-up sheet at our January 10 meeting.

**Saurabh Bajaj** will contact us seeking members for the **Fireworks Committee**, especially for fundraising. We have been sponsoring this event for over 25 years!

## Happy Dollars.

### CLUB ASSEMBLY

This week's meeting was the Club Assembly. We began by writing our **hopes for the club** on pieces of butcher paper taped to the walls. I didn't try to copy them down, but a few ideas I remember are: Hold three rather than four lunch meetings a month. Increase efforts to recruit members. More opportunities for public service. Consider taking over the Ventura Art & Street Painting Festival (chalk art at the Ventura Harbor).

**Keith Moschetto** shared a **Rotary Moment**. He read a thank you card from Pacific High School students and teachers, expressing their gratitude for our support.

**Jeffrey Lambert** also shared a **Rotary Moment**. He has noticed a positive difference in Pacific High School students this year compared to the past, giving increased hope for the future.

We filled out **cards** with our **favorite Rotary event** from the first half of this Rotary year.

**TREASURER'S REPORT Brenda Allison-Hutchison** gave a report as Treasurer. She assumed the office Nov. 1. She thanked Mark Sauer for his many years of service as Treasurer.

The Treasurer's Goals are Transparency and Security. The Treasurer has a fiduciary responsibility to the club. All funds should be clearly accounted for, and information must be kept secure. A paper trail of check requests, fine slips, etc., will create security redundancies. *(continued)*



## CLUB ASSEMBLY (continued)

### TREASURER'S REPORT, *continued*

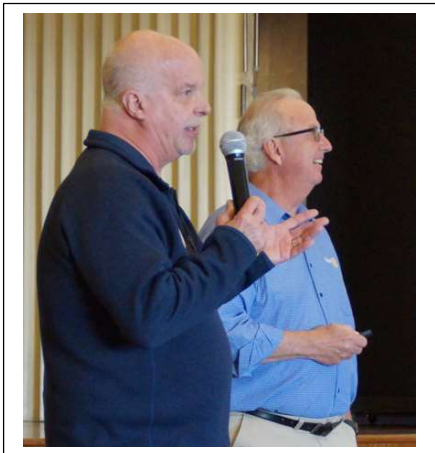
The accounts will be in shape so that anyone could take over the position. Brenda will be writing a Treasurer Playbook to describe her duties and a Continuity Plan.

A major change has been transitioning the accounts QuickBooks. We hired Carol Gonzalez as our bookkeeper. The invoices that just went out are for the last quarter of 2023. Future invoices will be the first week each month rather than quarterly.

Happy Dollars will be identified by week, and you can notify Brenda to correct any errors. You can pay online with a credit card number, and can save the number for future months. Credit card numbers will be saved to QuickBooks online, and club officers will not have access to them. If you prefer, you can still mail in a check.

Brenda plans to implement additional features soon. These will include making check requests through QuickBooks, which will then issue the checks. Accounts will be tied to Avenues of Service. The accounts will allow tracking of special donations like JGMRF and Interact clubs.

Brenda asked members to PLEASE update ClubRunner with your current email and mailing addresses. A dedicated email address has been created: [VenturaRotaryAcctg@gmail.com](mailto:VenturaRotaryAcctg@gmail.com).



**BEACHSIDE BASH REPORT** was given by Rotary Club of Ventura President **Neal Lassila** and Rotary Club of Ventura East member and Past President **Jack Pollock**. They listed positive highlights of the event, including collaboration between the three Rotary clubs, great volunteer involvement, sponsorships, the Steak Cookoff Association, and operational execution. They also described the most significant areas for improvement. The single largest failure was the small number of participants in the car show. Working with the State Park was difficult, including their increasing demands that drove up the cost. The event had too

many components to effectively market and manage—BBQ competition, car show, food sales, celebrity chefs, merchandise, and music.

The event was a net financial loss, which was shared by the three clubs. The event leadership team will meet this week to consider next steps, how to rebrand the event, and what components to include. These ideas will be presented to the three clubs to determine if there is consensus for a rebuilt future event.

The PowerPoint report and more information is at <https://portal.clubrunner.ca/2868/Documents/en-ca/b15d25c0-b336-4de5-969d-e1028aa5abd8/1/>. In the alternative, to navigate to the report, go to VenturaRotary.org, select Member Area at the top, scroll down to Organization, and select Documents.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

**Jan. 10 lunch meeting: Kellye Patterson, Vocational Programming.**

**Jan. 17 lunch meeting: Lorelle Dawes, Director of Expanded Learning, Ventura Unified School District.** Dr. Dawes leads all the after-school programs for nearly 2,000 students at 23 sites across Ventura Unified School District. She and her team have shifted the old paradigm of “after school care” to one that creates meaningful experiences for students to improve academically, learn through enrichment activities, and to be physically fit. These programs are designed to help kids grow and learn beyond the school day so they may have similar opportunities to their more affluent peers. She enjoys the creativity involved with planning enrichment activities for students and seeing them enjoy learning as they ride bikes, swim, create art and music, build STEM projects, take trips, learn from guest speakers, grow produce in the garden and cook tasty bites in the kitchen, and so much more.

Prior to leading expanded learning programs, Dr. Dawes was the Principal of Cabrillo Middle School for eight years, Assistant Principal of Curriculum and Instruction at Ventura High School for seven years, and a teacher at Ventura Adult & Continuing Education for eight years. She is an Adjunct Professor at California Lutheran University and helps manage her family’s rentals. In her free time, Lorelle enjoys cycling, volunteering, and traveling with her wife, Amy. She recently accomplished her goal of 50 x 50 x 50 which was to visit all 50 states and 50 countries before turning 50.

\*\*\*Also, please bring denim jeans without stretch for service project, and craft supplies to make valentines, for the January 19 Pacific High School Day of Joy.

**Jan. 19: Pacific High School—The Day of Joy—**A Time for Students to Relax, Have Fun, and Learn Stress Management Skills, 501 College Drive, Ventura, 8:45 to 1:15 a.m. Sign up to lead fun activities for Pacific High Students as they take a break before finals to experience simple pleasures and JOY! Supplies will be on hand. You will work with 3 different groups of students in 40 minute sessions. Activities: Rock painting, clay sculpting, drawing, outdoor games, valentine making for seniors, cooking, photography, tie dyeing, coloring (and therapy dogs), board games, and denim cutting for service project. Optional, join the students for lunch from 11:15 - 11:45. Thanks to Jessica Brandon for envisioning this Day of Joy so students can relax, have fun, learn something new, build resiliency in the face of stress and take care of themselves. For questions, contact madhubajaj@gmail.com. To sign up: [https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0549A5AE28A0F85-46982978-pacific#/  
#](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0549A5AE28A0F85-46982978-pacific#/)

**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: Jenn Rodriguez, Turning Point—Growing Works**

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

**Jan. 31: NO NOONTIME MEETING. Evening meeting at Foodshare.**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

Bill Kearney  
January 1

Sally Crain  
January 11

Deidre Monarres  
January 12

John Brant  
January 13

**CLUB ANNIVERSARIES**

Dick Hatcher  
48 years

Kellye Patterson  
6 years

Rosa Lee Measures  
26 years

Ventura  
BREEZE

Dec. 27, 2023 to  
Jan. 9, 2024

Page 9



Approximately 500 children attended with their families.

## The Rotary Club of Ventura fourth annual holiday event

The Rotary Club of Ventura co-hosted its fourth annual Holiday Event for Ventura Westside Families on Saturday, December 16, 2023. Approximately 500 children attended with their families and received free coats, toys, earrings for mom, a food box, a hot lunch, and a photo opportunity with Santa and his Elf. The event was held at Arise Ventura, 831 N. Olive Street, Ventura.

Hosting the event were Arise Ventura, Boys & Girls Club of Greater Ventura, CHP, Children's Hunger Fund, Coats for Kids, The Gideons International, Interact, Rotary Club of Ventura, Spark of Love (fire departments), and a generous donation of coats from SoCalGas.

Mr. Neal Lassila, President of the Rotary Club of Ventura, said, "Our Rotary Club is proud to partner with SoCalGas and all the charitable teams and organizations who make this event happen. The Westside Holiday Event has become our way of helping our neighbors who need our collective support to experience the spirit of the holiday season. We help to provide coats, earrings for Mom, toys, food and of course a visit with our very own Rotary Santa! We look

forward to continuing this tradition for many years to come."

Ms. Maria Ventura, Senior Public Affairs Manager of SoCalGas, said, "SoCalGas is proud to support the Rotary Club of Ventura's 'Coats for Kids' program which distributed hundreds of coats to children at this year's holiday event. The work Rotary does to serve our neighbors in need is truly inspiring and we are proud to support their efforts. SoCalGas is committed to supporting local organizations that are working to bring holiday cheer."

The Rotary Club of Ventura celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2019. Its members include business leaders, nonprofit leaders and civic professionals who meet regularly and perform charity and community service in Ventura and throughout the world. It is part of Rotary International, which has more than 1.4 million members in 46,000 clubs in 168 countries. People join the club for fellowship, friendship and to give back to our local community and the beyond. The Rotary Club is actively seeking new members. To learn more, visit [moorparkmorningrotary.com] venturarotary.org [venturarotary.org].