



ROTARY SPOKES

Rotary Club of Ventura

Est. May 1, 1919

“The Friendliest Club in Rotary”

January 8, 2023

MEETING JANUARY 4, 2023

Attendance—35 members braved the rain to attend. (You didn’t really need to be that brave since it wasn’t raining very hard.) One attended via Zoom.

Lunch—Possibly in honor of Lunar (Chinese) New Year (January 22), Food Affairs by Stacey served delicious Chinese food: vegetable egg rolls, beef and broccoli, steamed rice, chopped salad and fortune cookies. (2023 is the Year of the Rabbit...I keep forgetting and am still writing Year of the Tiger on my checks!)

Flag salute, inspirational message, and introductions—**Kellye Patterson**. “Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world.” Kellye also prepared a slide show of recent club events that was shown at the beginning of the meeting.

Songleaders—**Bev Ward, Jessica Brandon and Clyde Reynolds**—“America (My County ‘Tis of Thee)”

Mary Saputo read the poem, “**The Train of Life.**”

Hutch Hutchinson presented **Dan Holmes** with his **Paul Harris plus 2** pin. Dan joined the club in October 2009. He is a Benefactor and is our International Service Director. We saw a short film clip about the Rotary Foundation, “People of Action.”



Announcements:

Kristin Taylor: (1) The **Westminster Clinic** needs clothing, particularly for children, to give to its clients. If you bring them to a meeting, we’ll get them to the clinic.

(2) This year’s **Coats for Kids** campaign officially ended December 31. When the rain stops, please collect any additional coats and bring them to Hilford Moving and Storage for next year. Thanks to all who participated and donated. Special thanks to **Larry Dawes**, who brought and then returned coat racks for the West End Party.

Madhu Bajaj: (1) A thank you card from **Pacific High School Interact** was circulated at the meeting. A couple of slots are left for Tuesday’s Food Share trip—contact Madhu.

(2) We are taking an **online survey** about your experience with the club. Madhu can use two volunteers to help with the results. See the poster at the end of this newsletter, or use the link in the email Madhu sent January 4 at 12:30 p.m.

Sandy Lassila: Two events regarding **Ronald McDonald House: Jacquelyn Gargano** will be the speaker at our next (Jan. 11) meeting. And you can sign up for the morning or afternoon **tour** of the facility on January 14.

Margi Wray: (1) Last week's **Tri-Club meeting** raised \$360 for Fining and Happy Dollars, which will be donated to Polio. (2) January's **Board Meeting** will be at the YMCA rather than the Crowne Plaza.

Happy Dollars—Including a “Dad joke” from Dan.

Fining—**Neal Lassila** stumped us with questions about **Disney**. It all started with a mouse! (Actually, since this is the Year of the Rabbit, I should mention that it actually started with Oswald the Lucky Rabbit, but Walt lost the rights to him.)

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 10—Pacific High School Interact visit to FoodShare, 10 a.m.-12:00 p.m., to learn more about food insecurity in our community. A few spaces for Rotarians are available. After the tour, time for a treat and to debrief. Contact Madhu to RSVP.

January 11 lunch meeting—Presentation by **Jacquelyn Gargano** from **Ronald McDonald House Southern California**.

Jacquelyn was born and raised in Ventura County and has a deep sense of pride for her community. She moved to Bakersfield in 2019 and was integral in opening a small business that still thrives to this day. There she met Scarlett Sabin, the Bakersfield Ronald McDonald House Director. When Jacquelyn moved back to Ventura County in January 2022, Scarlett gave her the opportunity to open a local chapter of this global charity. The Ronald McDonald Family Room at Ventura County Medical Center opened its doors in September 2022 and served over 100 families in its first couple of months. With Jacquelyn's experience in perseverance and starting from the ground up, she is working hard and has big plans for the future.



January 14—Tours of Ronald McDonald Family Room at Community Memorial Hospital. See Sandy Lassila to sign up for the morning or afternoon tour.

January 18 lunch meeting—**Connie Young** will discuss the **Julius Gius Memorial Foundation**.

January 25 lunch meeting—**Chrissy Stamegna** will discuss the **Brain Injury Center**. She will be accompanied by **Lisa Morris**, who suffered a traumatic brain injury and has benefitted from the services of the Center.

January 26—Board Meeting, 12:00-1:30 p.m. Note that it will be at the YMCA.

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

PROGRAM: CONVERSATIONS IN ROTARY



Club member and board director **Joslynn Jarrett-Skelton** was interviewed by **Beverly Ward**. First of all, her name is not spelled “Skeleton” (like the bones), but “Skelton” (like comedian Red Skelton, with whom she might be distantly related). Joslynn grew up in Bakersfield, which has a lot of great restaurants that serve food like peanut butter pie and taffy, which will definitely not leave anyone looking like a skeleton.

In the eighth grade, Joslynn and her best friend competed for the role of Dorothy in a production of *The Wizard of Oz*. Joslynn figured she had “paid her dues” playing smaller parts, and was sure she would now get the lead. Her mother dreaded the fallout between the two girls if either won. Instead, both were cast as “the tornado,” wearing funny hats and spinning Dorothy above their heads. After the initial disappointment, Joslynn told her friend, “I’d rather be a tornado with you than be Dorothy by myself.”

Joslynn attended “every college you can imagine,” including Azusa Pacific, Cuesta College, and Cal State Bakersfield. She also had “every major,” including public policy, accounting, and American Sign Language. While in college, Joslynn worked as an underwriter. She was then hired as a receptionist but was fired the first day, along with all the other employees, because the company discovered the boss had been embezzling. Based on Joslynn’s accounting background, she was kept on to figure out what the boss had done. This led to her promotion to area sales manager.

Joslynn then became the youngest executive director of the YMCA in Bakersfield. (She said that being an executive director is a terrible job, which caused a stir in the audience from Rotarians who have held that position.)

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PROGRAM, *continued*

Joslynn had four children, starting in her 20s, and continuing into her 30s and 40s. She shared photographs of each of these periods. Her oldest daughter played Roxie Hart in a production of Chicago, and wore the same dress Joslynn had worn years earlier when she played the same role. Another daughter was born with a congenital heart defect—the left side of her heart was missing. She underwent open heart surgery at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles and will now be a spokesperson for Ronald McDonald House. It is Joslynn’s life passion to promote healthy living and decrease stroke and heart disease in men, women, and children.



Rotary Club of Ventura

Conversation in Rotary

Joslynn Jarrett-Skelton

Interviewed by Beverly Ward



girls scouts
greater los angeles
Senior Manager, Institutional Giving
Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles
Aug 2022 - Present
Los Angeles, California

girls scouts
greater los angeles
Director Of Development
Girl Scouts of California's Central Coast California's Central Coast
2021 - Aug 2022
Ventura, California

American Heart Association
Business Development Director
American Heart Association | American Stroke Association
Sep 2016 - Dec 2019
Central Coast Division
Living my life's passion, working to promote healthy living, and decrease stroke and heart disease in men women and children. With a daughter born with a congenital heart defect, it is imperative that we work together to insure the future of the 100,000 children born each year with a CHD!

McCLATCHY
Media Specialist
The McClatchy Company
Jul 2012 - Sep 2016
I am currently a professional match maker with cars.com! Bringing car buyers together with car sellers through online ads and print!!

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF KERN COUNTY
Executive Director / CEO
YMCA of Kern County, Inc.
Jan 2009 - Aug 2011
Can't believe I got my dream job this early! Here at the Y we put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind, and body for all. I have enjoyed fundraising, marketing and public relations through this job and look forward to continuing to build my resume in this direction.

TUFF SHED
Tuff Shed, Inc.
Area Sales Manager
Tuff Shed, Inc.
Feb 2004 - Dec 2008
This is where I learned everything I could!!! This was such a great place to work and a wonderful stepping stone in my life! Gabe was such a GREAT boss! Thanks for all the experience and lots of fun.

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We want to hear from YOU about YOUR experience as a Club Member

Take the survey from now until January 31

Attend the Feb 22 Lunch Meeting to discuss the survey results

*****We will have a raffle for survey participants who provide their email with gift certificates from local businesses including the top prize of \$100 to Main St. Meats*****

SCAN TO ACCESS SURVEY



WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK

?? contact madhubajaj@gmail.com 805.754.9861