



ROTARY SPOKES

Rotary Club of Ventura

Est. May 1, 1919

“The Friendliest Club in Rotary”

May 26, 2024

ROTARY CLUB OF VENTURA FOUNDATION AWARDS



The Julius Gius Memorial Rotary Foundation, now officially also known as the Rotary Club of Ventura Foundation, awarded \$50,000 in grants to 19 great community organizations. The awards were presented by Foundation President Saurabh Bajaj to organization representatives, whom we honored at our luncheon meeting June 5, 2024. Each organization shared their mission and described how the funds will be used.

This year’s award recipients are:

A Voice Discovered
 Brain Injury Center
 Foothill Little League
 Kids & Families Together
 New Art City Theatre
 Rubicon Theatre Company
 STEMbassadors
 Ventura College Foundation
 Ventura Land Trust
 Ventura YMCA

Boys & Girls Club of Greater Ventura
 EPIC Leadership Center
 High Tide Robotics
 Love VC, Inc.
 New West Symphony
 Salvation Army for Rotary Eye Clinic
 Turning Point Foundation
 Ventura Co. Medical Resource Foundation
 Ventura Ronald McDonald Family Room
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ROTARY CLUB OF VENTURA FOUNDATION AWARDS *(continued)*

The Foundation is the non-profit (501(c)(3)) arm of the Rotary Club of Ventura. Its purpose is to increase the ability of non-profits to serve the educational, recreational, artistic and health and human service needs of our fellow Venturans. Among the many inspiring stories presented at the meeting was a letter from Cristina Montejano, a recipient of the Everett Millais Memorial Scholarship through the Ventura College Foundation, who overcame many challenges to obtain two Associate degrees and is transferring to U.C. Berkeley to study Economics in the fall.



Thanks to Foundation Board members Saurabh Bajaj, Rob van Nieuwburg, Margi Wray, Connie Young, and Mark Sauer, and to Jeff Lambert for improving the selection process. Congratulations to all recipients, and thank you for the incredible contributions you make to our community! (Additional photographs are posted on the Rotary Club of Ventura's Facebook page.)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Randy Encinas
June 12

Hank Chandler
June 14

HAPPY ROTARY ANNIVERSARY!

Randy Encinas
5 years

MEETING JUNE 5, 2024

Attendance: 54 members and guests, including *Breeze* reporter Shirley Lorraine, wife of longtime club member Jim Spencer, and Rotary Club of Ventura Foundation award recipients. It was great to have a full house—even if we had to pay them to come!

Lunch: Tri-tip, zucchini with olives and peppers, scalloped potatoes, salad, and fruit.

The meeting started early at 12:23 due to the full awards program.



Flag salute/introductions: **Betsy Chess.** “God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.”

Song: **Bev and RoseAnn:** “You’re a Grand Old Flag”

Announcements:

Neal Lassila: **Fireworks volunteers** are needed. Please sign up on SignUpGenius. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4BA5A92BA1FAC43-49814613-ventura>
Fireworks Posters are available from Ken and Andrea.

Saurahb Bajaj: **Fireworks sponsorships** needed. We are still short of our goal.

Madhu Bajaj: (1) Passed around thank you card from **Pacific High School Teacher Appreciation Day.**

(2) Volunteers needed for **Pacific High School Graduation Brunch**, June 10.

(3) **Thanks to all who make our weekly meetings possible:**

Judy Moore – Greeter

Mike Schwartz – Newsletter and website

Keith Moschetto – Signups for flag salute/introductions/inspirational message

Bev Ward – Signups for fining

Ken Leandro – Weekly meeting reminder texts

Barbara Asbell – Sergeant at Arms

Kristin Taylor: (1) **The Salvation Army** will collect all types of clothing at our third Wednesday meeting each month for its **Mobile Clothing Closet**, to be distributed to farmworkers in Filmore and Santa Paula.

(2) **Coats for Kids:** School is out June 13. Please contact school office managers to collect unclaimed items from their lost and found.

Brenda Allison-Hutchinson: (1) Thanks to **Ken Leandro** for sending emails to high school student athletes to recruit as volunteers for the **Fireworks Event**.

(2) Brenda will call members who have not yet **volunteered for the Fireworks Event**. There are also opportunities to work 8-12 a.m. on the 4th.

(3) **Rotary International** has changed its **insurance broker**. Brenda will send out new certificates of insurance.

(4) **Brenda requests volunteers to help with her treasurer duties**. She has also created a sheet to keep track of cash donations, fines, etc., for all fundraising events.

Happy Dollars. Many members shared happy news, too many to report here. But none was happier than **Barbara Asbell**, who learned she is cancer-free and will not need surgery!



VENTURA ADULT & CONTINUING EDUCATION (VACE)

A vertical poster for Ventura Adult and Continuing Education (VACE). The top part features the VACE logo and the text "Ventura Adult and Continuing Education". Below that, it says "CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION" and "Career Paths". A list of career paths includes: Accounting, Business, 3D Modeling, Computer-Aided Design, Computer Network Security, Graphic Design, Medical Assisting, Pharmacy Technician, Digital Multimedia, and Studio Production. At the bottom, it says "A Career in Less Than a Year", "805.289.1744", and "www.adultedventura.edu". There are images of students and a QR code.



An evening meeting was held May 29, 2024, at VACE in lieu of our noontime meeting. VACE is part of the Ventura Unified School District and provides academic, vocational, and technological competencies, citizenship classes, ESL, and much more. Check its website at adultedventura.edu.

(Photos from Madhu Bajaj)

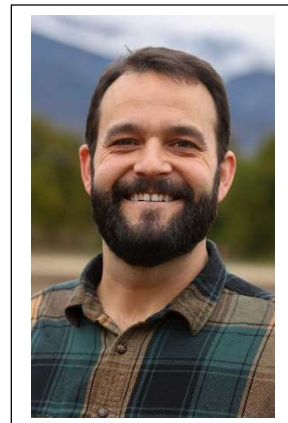


UPCOMING EVENTS

June 10: Pacific High Graduation Brunch, 9:00 – 11:30 a.m., 501 College Dr., Ventura. Honor the graduating students from this Model Continuation School. Sign up to volunteer or donate gift cards or treats: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0549A5AE28A0F85-49749516-2024#/>



June 12 lunch meeting: County Supervisor Matt LaVere and Dan Parziale discuss the Mesa Farm Project. Matt LaVere represents District 1 (including the City of Ventura and the Ojai Valley) on the County Board of Supervisors. Dan Parziale is executive director of Mesa Farm, a nonprofit organization that is opening a home in East Ojai to serve transitional-age adults, ages 18 to 25, who are at risk of being homeless, including young adults from Ojai.



June 15: Board Retreat, 8:30-11:30 a.m., Ventura College cafeteria. For current and incoming Board members and committee chairs to set priorities for the upcoming year.

June 18: Step-Down Dinner, Water's Edge Restaurant and Bar at the Harbor, 1500 Anchors Way Drive, Ventura, 6:00-9:00 p.m. This year's theme is "Living Life Like a Song." Since Neal's favorite musician is Jimmy Buffett, we are welcoming you all to our Tiki Bar in our own "Margaritaville." Knowing that Neal will be President for another year, dress will be casual—think flip flops and Hawaiian shirts. Let's take time to celebrate and thank Neal for this year and root him on for 2024-25.

June 19: NO MEETING due to Step-Down Dinner.

June 26 lunch meeting: Get Ready for Fireworks planning meeting.

June 27: Board Meeting, Crowne Plaza Hotel, 12:00-1:30 p.m.

July 4: Fireworks Show and Family Picnic, Ventura College, 5:00-10:00 p.m. This joyous event includes a spectacular fireworks show, live music, food vendors, a Kids Fun Zone, and what we like to call "the friendliest hometown picnic in America"! For information and tickets: <https://www.venturafireworks.com/> Sign up to volunteer at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4BA5A92BA1FAC43-49814613-ventura>