



# ROTARY SPOKES

## Rotary Club of Ventura

Est. May 1, 1919

"The Friendliest Club in Rotary"

March 10, 2024

### FOREST SERVICE OJAI



Steve Yamshon, Recreation Officer and Acting District Ranger of the U.S. Forest Service, Ojai Ranger District, gave a presentation at our meeting March 6, 2024. The Forest Service's mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.

The Ojai Ranger District manages numerous trails and campgrounds to accommodate hiking, offroad vehicles, and educate the public. It is part of the Los Padres National Forest.

Volunteers are essential to providing services to the public. Schedules are flexible. Volunteers receive training, workers' compensation coverage, and a cool uniform and badge that the public can't tell from the regular employees. To volunteer, call Steve Yamshon at 310-270-5256.

VOLUNTEERS ARE THE HEARTBEAT OF THE FOREST SERVICE

- Los Padres Forest Association
- Recreation Volunteers
- Wilderness Volunteer Rangers
- Volunteer for one day or several years

The logo of the U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, featuring a green shield with a tree and the letters "U S".A photograph of a Forest Service volunteer wearing a green vest and a cap, standing outdoors.

## MEETING MARCH 6, 2024

**Attendance:** 30 members and guests were present.

**Lunch:** Food Affairs by Stacey prepared a Saint Patrick's Day lunch of corned beef, boiled potatoes, carrots, rye bread, fruit, and a wonderful salad, with berries for dessert.

**Flag salute/introductions: Patti Birmingham.**  
"The life of a man consists not in seeing visions and in dreaming dreams, but in active charity and in willing service." (Longfellow)



**Song: RoseAnn Hill and Clyde Reynolds:** "You're a Grand Old Flag."

### Announcements:

**Neal Lassila: (1) Rotary East St. Patrick's Day Party,** March 17, Topa Topa Brewery, 4880 Colt Street 1:00-6:00 p.m. \$25 includes Irish stew and a beer.

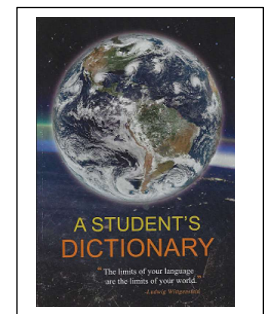
**(2) Rotary South Mardi Gras Fundraiser** to support Turning Point and the Ventura South Foundation is March 10, 3:00-9:00 p.m., at the Tower Club in Oxnard. RSVP to Neal—our club members attend free!

**(3) A retreat** is being planned for May 18 to set priorities for the upcoming Rotary year. All are welcome to attend.

**Brenda Allison-Hutchinson:** Please get **fine slips** to her before the speaker begins. **Budgeting** is underway that will detail funds by area of service.

**Keith Moschetto: Seeking volunteers for flag salute/introductions.**

A big thank you to **Ken Leando, Steve Doll**, and all the club members who participated in the **Dictionary Project**, distributing free dictionaries to over 900 third grade students. And especially big thanks to **Sally Crain** who advocated for bringing back the project, handled the logistics, coordinated volunteers, and distributed the dictionaries to volunteers at Hilford Moving & Storage.



**Happy Dollars.**

**Fining: Greg Wray** quizzed us about surveys, and revealed what is the most common item in junk drawers.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**March 13 lunch meeting: Charis van der Heide, The Ins and Outs of Overwintering Monarch Butterflies on the Central Coast.** Charis is a Research Biologist who will talk about monarch butterfly biology and their migration, the ups and downs of their population, monarch butterflies in Mexico, the Western Monarch Thanksgiving Count, how we count and track migrating monarch butterflies, what the monarchs are looking for, and what we can do to help them.



Charis has been counting, studying, and monitoring the movements of monarch butterflies on the central coast of California for over 20 years. She has a B.S. in Biological Sciences from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo where she started researching and tagging monarch butterflies. She serves as the Santa Barbara County regional coordinator for the Western Monarch Thanksgiving and New Year's Counts for the Xerces Society. She has worked in the environmental consulting field and on several monarch-related research projects. She works for Althouse and Meade, Inc as a senior biologist where she designs habitat management plans for monarch butterfly overwintering sites on the central coast of California.

**March 16: CANCELLED Monarch Butterfly Viewing.** The butterflies have moved on.

**March 20: OFFSITE LUNCH MEETING: Ribbon Cutting for Central Coast Mobile Free Vision Clinic,** 11:30 a.m. at the Salvation Army, 650 S. Petit Ave., Ventura. Lunch will be served. RSVP to [juan.torres@usw.salvationarmy.org](mailto:juan.torres@usw.salvationarmy.org). (No lunch meeting at Poinsettia Pavilion.) (The previously-scheduled speaker, Dave Armstrong, is rescheduled for April 3.)

**March 22: Career Day at Pacific High School,** 501 College Dr., Ventura, 9:00-11:00 a.m., followed by lunch with the students. Volunteers needed.  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0549A5AE28A0F85-48004882-pacific#/>

**March 27: NO LUNCH MEETING.**

**March 27: Evening Social,** 5:00-8:00 p.m., Doug & Randy's house.

**March 27: Deadline to apply for Perspectives on Peace awards.** For details, go to [PerspectivesonPeace.org](http://PerspectivesonPeace.org).

**March 28: Board Meeting,** Crowne Plaza Hotel, 12:00-1:30 p.m.

**April 3 lunch meeting: Dave Armstrong, Coffee Growing in Ventura.** (Was previously scheduled for March 20.)

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

**RoseAnn Hil**  
March 3

### HAPPY ROTARY ANNIVERSARY!

**Bill Kearney**  
45 years

**Mary Saputo**  
12 years

**B.J. Jecalca**  
11 years

**Abiel Acosta**  
3 years

**Christa Hermance**  
1 year