



ROTARY SPOKES

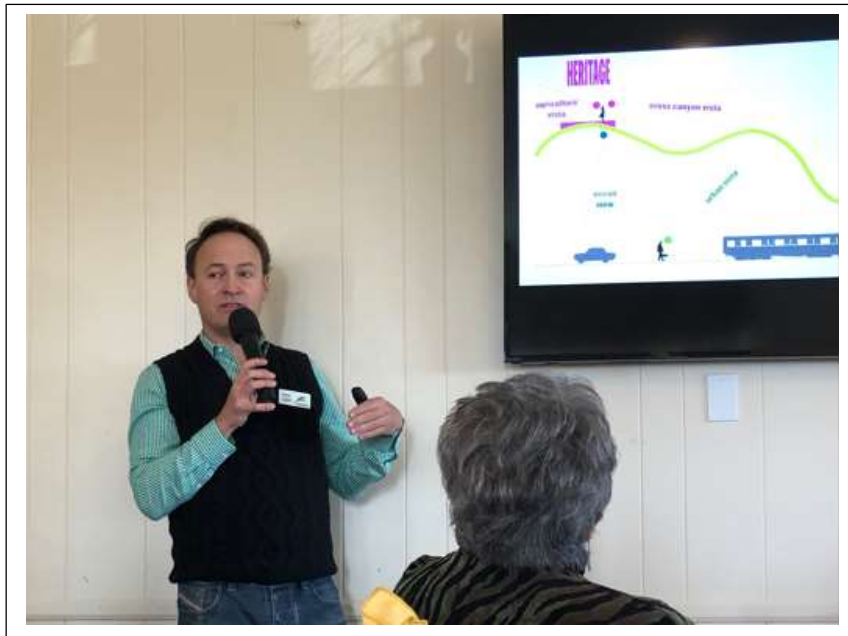
Rotary Club of Ventura

Est. May 1, 1919

"The Friendliest Club in Rotary"

March 12, 2023

PRESENTATION BY DR. JOE CAHILL VENTURA BOTANICAL GARDENS



Dr. Joe Cahill, Executive Director of the Ventura Botanical Gardens, gave a presentation at our meeting March 8, 2023. The gardens have 107 acres, of which 40 have been developed so far. It represents plants from the five Mediterranean regions of the earth. There is always something new to see there, like the current spectacular spring gardens. Daily admission is \$7 for adults. Annual passes are \$45 per person or \$75 per couple. There is one free holiday per month. Children and those with EBT cards are always free. Even if you don't visit the gardens, you are always welcome at the gift shop.

Rotary
Club of Ventura



Guest Speaker

Dr. Joe Cahill

Ventura Botanical Gardens

Dr. Cahill is a botanist with over 20 years of professional experience in a combination of botanic gardens, conservation non-profits and NGOs, compliance with the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the horticulture industry. He has contributed in a leadership capacity to the Ventura Botanical Gardens since 2008, first as a volunteer, then board member and now, our Executive Director. He holds a Ph.D. in Botany from the University of California Riverside and a J.D. from Fordham University School of Law in Manhattan and is an adjunct professor at California Lutheran University.



MEETING MARCH 8, 2023

We met this week in the cozy **Santa Paula Room** at the Poinsettia Pavilion to take advantage of the superior audio-visual equipment. Forty-four members and guests attended, including Girl Scouts from the Skelton and Patterson families, who gave out free cookies. None attended via Zoom

Lunch—Food Affairs by Stacey served a delicious meal of chicken fried steak, scalloped potatoes, corn, green salad, and fruit salad, with mint chocolate chip ice cream for dessert.

Flag salute, inspirational message, and introductions—**Neal Lassila**. In honor of International Women's Day, he shared quotations from Mother Teresa and “The Notorious” Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

Songleaders—**RoseAnn Hill** led us in singing “This Land Is Your Land” by Woodie Guthrie.



New Members—President Margi Wray inducted two new members:

Araceli Aggarwal, development assistant for Rubicon Theatre Company

Crista Hermance, estate planning and crisis planning attorney, Hermance Law

Welcome to the Friendliest Club in Rotary!

Happy Dollars.

Announcements

Neal Lassila: A kick-off meeting was held to organize the **End of Summer Bash**. All three Ventura Rotary Clubs have reserved the entire San Buenaventura Beach to host the September 23 event, which will include a steak cook-off contest, car show, barbeque and brew festival, and more.

Angela Rosales: Thanks to **Bev Ward**, who helped find a singer for the **Walk for Kids**, March 19.

Irene Henry: (1) Thanks to those who participated in the **Botanical Gardens walk**.

(2) Thanks to those who contributed to the **Ventura High School Interact** Essential Needs Pantry.

(3) Seeking **GoFundMe** donations for Rotaract President Olivia to attend the International Rotary conference.

Brenda Allison-Hutchinson has been selected Volunteer Coordinator for the **July 4 Fireworks Show and Family Day**. She is seeking volunteers.

Abiel Acosta: Please RSVP and select a side dish to bring to the March 16 **Fireside Chat**.

Fining—**Bev Ward** conducted a very entertaining and lucrative fining session regarding the origin of common expressions, with some very creative false choices she made up.

UPCOMING EVENTS

(For up-to-date and more complete information, check the ClubRunner app on your phone, or our web site, VenturaRotary.org)



March 15 lunch meeting— Cecilia Ramirez Cid. Cecilia is a young entrepreneur who is the founder and owner of **strwEATs**, which specializes in strawberry-based treats including strawberry tamales, cupcakes, jam, and more. Cecilia launched strwEATs as part of the Junior CEO program run by Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce. She won the award for “Most Profitable Business” in her cohort and was the 1st recipient of the Young Entrepreneur Award at the Pacific Coast Business Times Latino Awards in July 2022.

*****Also at this meeting we will present awards to the winners of the Four-Way Test essay contest.*****

March 16—Fireside Chat at Portside Community Center, 1196 Portside Drive, Ventura, 6:00-9:00 p.m. This is open to ALL members, but we especially encourage our newest members to join as an opportunity to learn more about our Ventura Rotary, meet people from our chapter, and learn what committees we are all involved in. Spouses and significant others welcome. Beef/chicken will be provided. Please email Abiel Acosta to RSVP and indicate which side dish you will bring (to serve 12): vegetarian main dish, vegetarian side dish, salad, appetizer, dessert, wine (white/red), bottled water.

March 19—Walk for Kids to benefit Ronald McDonald House Room at Ventura County Medical Center. Meet at San Buenaventura State Beach, 901 San Pedro Street, Ventura. Check-in starts at 7:00 a.m., kick-off at 9:00 a.m. See Lynda to sign up at a weekly meetings, or register at www.walkforkids.org/ventura. Minimum \$25 per two adult walkers and children; those who raise \$100 will receive event t-shirt. Registration fee waived for club members.

March 22 lunch meeting—Lynda Girtsman will host **Conversations in Rotary** when she will interview a mystery (and mysterious!) club member.

March 23 Board Meeting, 12:00-1:30 p.m., tentatively at VCMC Ronald McDonald Room.

March 29 lunch meeting will be a **Social Picnic** at the Summit of Ventura Botanical Gardens. Box lunch provided. Please RSVP to Sandy.

April 5 lunch meeting—**District Governor Scott Phillips**.



VENTURA BOTANICAL GARDENS

MARCH SOCIAL AT THE GARDENS' SUMMIT

MARCH
WEDNESDAY **29** 12 PM - 1:30 PM
2023

BOX LUNCH PROVIDED

PLEASE RSVP TO SANDY

lassilas@roadrunner.com

