



ROTARY SPOKES

Rotary Club of Ventura

Est. May 1, 1919

"The Friendliest Club in Rotary"

March 19, 2023

"FOUR-WAY TEST" WINNERS ANNOUNCED



High school and middle school students submitted essays discussing Rotary's Four-Way Test of the things we think, say and do:

Is it the TRUTH?

Is it FAIR to all concerned?

Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?

Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

The students who submitted the winning entries, accompanied by family members and school officials, were honored at our March 18 meeting and given cash awards.

1st place: Linnea Browne, VHS, 11th grade, \$300

2nd place: Brynne Gray, VHS, 10th grade, \$200

3rd place: Justin Lisle, VHS, 11th grade, \$100

Middle school: Presley Kushner, Cabrillo Middle School, 8th grade, \$300

Congratulations! The winning essays are posted on the club's website, venturarotary.org. Thanks to all the students who participated, Meagan and Angela for organizing the event, and the club members who scored the essays.

PRESENTATION – CECILIA RAMIREZ CID – strwEATs



At our meeting on March 15, 2023, we had a presentation by Cecilia Ramirez Cid, founder and owner of strwEATs. Cecilia is in seventh grade in Oxnard and started the company shortly after turning 12. She launched the company after attending a Junior CEO program, and has received awards as a young entrepreneur. Through the business, she has learned how to manage money, manage her time, bear more responsibility, and serve as a model to other young people.

The company makes cupcakes, tamales, jam, and other treats, all infused with one of our region's most popular and delicious crops: strawberries!

Cecilia received a \$5,000 grant from Jordache to launch a product on DoorDash. She has sold her creations at festivals, including developing an avocado-strawberry cupcake for the Avocado Festival, and a strawberry lemonade for the Lemon Festival. She shared a video with people lined up to buy her goods. She made \$20,000 in sales in 2022 and the business is going strong!

We all got to taste her strawberry mini-cupcakes. They were really good! Cecilia is a remarkable young person and shows what an individual with an idea, determination, and hard work can achieve. Check out her website at <https://strweats.com>.



MEETING MARCH 15, 2023

We were back in the large **Ventura Room** at the **Poinsettia Pavilion**. I counted 43 members and guests in attendance (0 via Zoom). Distinguished visiting Rotarians and guests included our Past President (2015-2016) **Mario de la Piendra**; Executive Assistant Governor for District 2 and Oxnard Rotary member **Mark Spellman**; and District Membership Director and Rotary Ventura East member **Husam Hishmeh**.

Lunch—Food Affairs by Stacey prepared a delicious meat marinera over angel hair pasta with green salad, fruit salad, garlic bread, and cookies for dessert.

Flag salute, inspirational message, and introduction—Abiel Acosta. He shared a Chinese proverb: “It is better to light a candle than curse the darkness.” And the commentary by Rotary International President Gary C.K. Huang (2014-2015): “The Rotary way is to light a candle. I light one, you light one, 1.2 million Rotarians light one. Together, we light up the world,”

Songleaders—Bev Ward, Clyde Reynolds, Jessica Brandon: “You Are My Sunshine.”

Announcements

Margi Wray: Rotary’s worldwide **Polio campaign** is pleased to announce no new wild polio type 1 cases in the last 25 weeks.

Aaron Campbell: Our **Vocational Service Committee** is working with **Pacific High School** to present speakers on April 21, 9:00-11:00 a.m. representing the top career paths of interest to its students. See Madhu’s email of March 16 for more information.

Lynda Girtsman: The **Walk for Kids** to support the Ronald McDonald Room at Ventura County Medical Center is this Sunday, March 19. Kick-off is 9:00 a.m. If you haven’t signed up, you can just show up.

Sandy Lassila: Since March 29 is the fifth Wednesday of the month, we will have a social instead of a meeting. It will be a **picnic at the Summit of Ventura Botanical Gardens**. See Upcoming Events below for more information.



New Member—Yash Narang was inducted as our newest member. He is the owner of Himalaya Restaurant in Ventura, and Fresh Curry Chefs in Camarillo. Welcome to the Friendliest Club in Rotary!

Happy Dollars.

Fining—Madhu Bajaj quizzed us about emoji. I got my question wrong.



UPCOMING EVENTS

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

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. 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., at the Anacapa Room, Crowne Plaza.

March 29 instead of our usual lunch meeting we will have a **Social Picnic** at the Summit of Ventura Botanical Gardens. Please RSVP to Sandy Lassila with your choice of box lunch: tri-tip salad, BBQ chicken salad, or gilled mango salmon salad. Driving directions from Poli to the Summit – take Poli heading toward downtown, make a right on Kalorama (there is a sign to Grant Park), left on Summit, follow Summit until you reach Rotary Plaza. There will be someone at the Rotary Plaza to direct you to parking. There is limited parking at the Summit. We hope some will carpool from either the Poinsettia Pavilion or at the Merriweather Welcome Center behind City Hall. If you would like to walk the gardens from the Welcome Center, Aaron Campbell will be there 11:15- 11:30 and accompany you to the Summit.

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

April 12 lunch meeting—Bestselling author **J. Ryan Stradal**. He is the author of the bestselling novels *Kitchens of the Great Midwest* and *The Lager Queen of Minnesota*. His latest book, *Saturday Night at the Lakeside Supper Club*, will be released 4/18/23.