



# ROTARY SPOKES

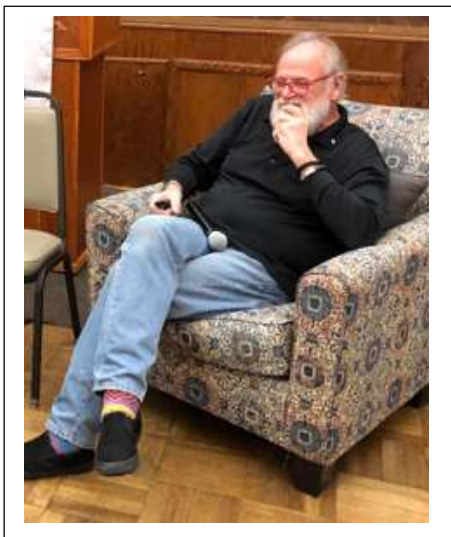
## Rotary Club of Ventura

Est. May 1, 1919

"The Friendliest Club in Rotary"

March 26, 2023

### CONVERSATIONS IN ROTARY: GREG WRAY



At our meeting March 22, 2023, club member and “first gentleman” Greg Wray was interviewed by Lynda Girtsman. Greg discussed his fascinating career in illustration and design and shared slides of some of his creations.

Greg knew at the age of 13 exactly what he wanted to do. He attended the University of Illinois and Syracuse University, where he earned his BFA focusing on illustration. He continued his education at ArtCenter College of Design in Pasadena, California.

Greg began his professional career as the art director for a magazine even though he really wanted to do illustration. One day he received a phone call from someone claiming to be from Playboy magazine offering him an illustration job. Greg was almost sure it was a prank, but he went to the meeting anyway and got work illustrating a number of articles for Playboy. He later worked for Disney, right down the hall from Neal Lassila.

When he began, Greg painted with brushes and airbrush. He later expanded his abilities using computer programs like PhotoShop.

Greg’s incredibly talented artwork is all around us: from Mickey Mouse to Minions to Bugs Bunny, video games, tour posters for The Who and Genesis, and mascots he designed for the Colorado Rockies and the Florida Marlins. For examples of his work, check out [gregwray.com](http://gregwray.com)

## MEETING MARCH 22, 2022

I counted 39 members and guests in attendance, including Past President Bill Kearney (2005-2006).

**Lunch—Food Affairs by Stacey** served a delicious tri-tip with Santa Maria beans, potato wedges, green salad, fruit, and chocolate cake for dessert.

**Flag salute, inspirational message, and introduction—Greg Wray.** “Kindness is a gift everyone can afford to give.”

**Songleaders—Bev Ward, Clyde Reynolds, and Jessica Brandon** led us in singing a special Rotary version of “This Little Light of Mine.”



### Announcements

**Angela Rosales and Joslynn Skelton:** Thank you to all who walked and those who contributed to the **Walk for Kids**. It was a lot of fun, despite the rain! So far, our club has brought in about \$25,000 to benefit Ronald McDonald House Charities, with money still coming in. To aid in that effort, boxes of See’s Candies were auctioned off at the meeting.

**Aaron Campbell: (1)** If you want to walk to the summit for the **March 29 Picnic**, arrive at 11:15 a.m. It is a three-quarters of a mile walk with an elevation of 400 feet.

**(2)** The Vocational Services Committee is putting on a **Career Day** at Pacific High School April 21, 2023. We still need presenters to fill a few slots. As of this writing, they are in the fields of Medical Assistant, Restaurant Owner/Manager, and Dental Hygienist. For info and a link to the sign-up sheet, see Madhu’s March 16 email.

### Happy Dollars.

**Fining: Aaron Campbell** conducted a very informative session about Ramadan.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

**March 28: 12:00 p.m., deadline to RSVP** for the March 29 picnic.

**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 no later than Tuesday morning**, 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 *Kitchens of the Great Midwest* and *The Lager Queen of Minnesota*. His latest novel, *Saturday Night at the Lakeside Supper Club*, will be released 4/18/23.

**April 19 lunch meeting: Laura van Auken**, Ventura High School Student, Enrichment Program.

**April 21: Career Day** at Pacific High School, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m., followed by lunch.

**April 22: Food, Wine & Beer Festival** at Camp Arnaz. Second annual event in partnership with Girl Scouts of California, Central Coast.

**April 26 lunch meeting: Chris Breshears, Eye Clinic.**

**April 27: Board meeting**, 12:00 to 1:30 p.m. Location to be announced.

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