



# ROTARY SPOKES

## Rotary Club of Ventura

Est. May 1, 1919

“The Friendliest Club in Rotary”

March 3, 2024

### DICTIONARY PROJECT



The week of February 26, 2024, club members distributed free dictionaries to over 900 third grade VUSD students. The books include reference material on the presidents, countries of the world, the states, sign language, and much more. The kids were excited to get them and we enjoyed the opportunity to teach them a little about Rotary.

### STATE OF THE REGION REPORT



Who knew statistics could be interesting? At our meeting Feb. 28, we received copies of the Ventura County Civic Alliance’s 2023 State of the Region Report, chock-full of trends in the county’s economy, education, solar energy, charitable activities, housing, and more. Report Chair **David Maron** highlighted significant information in the report. Go to [civicalliance.org](http://civicalliance.org) to download a copy.



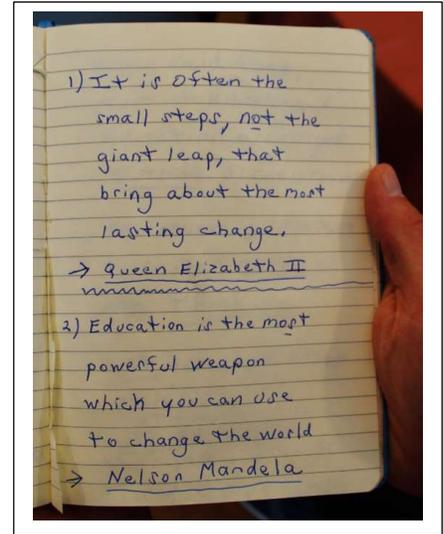
## MEETING FEBRUARY 28, 2024

**Attendance:** 31 members and guests were present.

**Lunch:** Food Affairs by Stacey prepared a delicious Mardi Gras meal of jambalaya, grits, succotash, green salad, and fruit, with ice cream (or sherbet—I don't remember which) for dessert.

**Flag salute/introductions:** Keith Moschetto (just back from his trip to Africa and Amsterdam) shared inspirational messages (see →) and added that much knowledge and education occurs outside the classroom.

**Song:** A very energetic Bev Ward led us in singing “Zip-a-Dee-Doo-Dah.”



### Announcements:

**Neal Lassila:** (1) Members are encouraged to **bring a friend** to our meetings.

(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) **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. (I went last time—it was great!)

**Madhu Bajaj:** (1) Thank you to all who donated to **Food Share**.

(2) **March schedule:** the 1st and 2nd weeks (**March 6 & 13**) will be **regular lunch meetings**. **March 20** will be an **offsite lunch meeting** at the Salvation Army to cut the ribbon for our Mobile Eye Clinic—RSVP to [juan.torres@usw.salvationarmy.org](mailto:juan.torres@usw.salvationarmy.org). (No meeting March 20 at Poinsettia Pavilion). **March 27, no lunch meeting**, but **Evening Social** at Doug and Randy's. See Upcoming Events below for details.

**Abiel Acosta:** A **Fireside Chat**, primarily for new members, will be May 9 at 6:00 p.m., location to be announced.



**Saurabh Bajaj** presented **Julius Gius Memorial Rotary Foundation Fellow** certificates and pins to **Ken Leandro**, noting all the work he does behind the scenes, and **Mike Schwartz**, whose newsletters make Saurabh feel he was at the meetings he missed. The fellowships are based on **Bill Kearney's** generous donation of \$2,500. All donations are used locally, with no administrative fees.



**Happy Dollars.**

**Fining:** Dan Holmes quizzed us about the **Navajo Nation** (traditionally known as the Diné).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

(For more complete and up-to-date information, check the ClubRunner app on your phone, or on our website)

**March 6 lunch meeting: Steve Yamshon, Ojai Forest Service.** Steve Yamshon will talk about recreation opportunities in the forest in and around Ojai as well as the joys of being a forest service volunteer. Ojai has something for everyone--hiking, camping, picnicking, fishing, beautiful scenery, even a Condor Sanctuary.



Steve has a BS Degree in Environmental Resources (Forestry and Park Management) from California State University, Sacramento, a Master's in Management from the University of Oxford, and a Post Graduate Certificate in Tropical Forestry and Landscape Restoration from the Yale School of the Environment. He has worked for the Nevada Division of Forestry and US Forest Service, starting as a seasonal position in 1976 and now the Recreation Officer, Los Padres National Forest, Ojai Ranger District. In addition he has worked in finance and in forest consulting in the private sector.

**March 13 lunch meeting: Charis van der Heide, Monarch Butterfly Biologist.**

**March 16: TENTATIVE Monarch Butterfly Viewing, Ellwood Grove.**

**March 20: OFFSITE LUNCH MEETING: Ribbon Cutting for Central Coast Mobile Free Vision Clinic,** 11:30 a.m. at the Salvation Army, 650 S. Petito 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.

**March 27: NO LUNCH MEETING. Evening Social,** 5:00-8:00 p.m., Doug and 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!**

**Chris Brashears**

February 29

**ROTARY ANNIVERSARY**

**Doug Halter**

16 years