

ROTARY SPOKES

The Weekly Bulletin of the Rotary Club of Ventura, est. May 1, 1919



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VCCool

Today's speaker is Rachel Morris. Executive Director of a Westside-based non-profit, VCCool. VCCool, which stands for Ventura Climate Care Options Organized Locally, helps people protect the climate in ways that are affordable, inclusive, and that improve the quality of life for the people of Ventura County. At VCCool, they feel the greatest good they can do for the natural environment is by making city living, healthy and sustainable for all.

They reduce greenhouse gasses through direct bicycle services, helping people get more engaged in their community, education, city planning, and working toward sound public policy. They foster grass-roots communities that embrace sustainable living.

VCCool is a grass-roots 501(c)(3) that incorporated in Ventura in 2007. They consist of four part-time staff, a six-member Board, an impressive Advisory Board, and dozens of community volunteers. They have a community center on Ventura Avenue, a website at VCCool.org, an active Facebook community, and email newsletter. Three key projects of theirs are: the HUB Community Bicycle Shop, Ventura Bicycle Union, and Ventura County Active Transportation Coalition.

Some of their achievements have been: making streets safer for bicycles in Ventura, giving out thousands of bicycle helmets at youth bicycle safety rodeos, spearheading a campaign that moved \$700,000,000 into Active Transportation in Southern California, teaching hundreds of low income bicyclists to fix their own bicycles, working with City planners to provide 35 pages of technical code changes, and adding improvements that were used in the California Drivers Handbook.



Rachel Morris leads a diversity training class above while, below, teaching children is an integral activity.



MAY 1919
CELEBRATING

95

YEARS OF
SERVICE

THE ROTARY CLUB OF VENTURA

Recap of April 30 Meeting

Three big cakes and a clutch of balloons festooned our usual meeting place as we celebrated the 95th anniversary of the chartering of our Rotary Club of Ventura. We welcomed District Governor Jack McClenahan and Past District Governor Wade Nomura. We also welcomed back John McConica II!

Larry Rasmusses started the proceedings with invocation and introductions and RoseAnn Hill and Staci Johnson led us, appropriately, with singing "Happy Birthday."

For Rotary business announcements, Mike Montoya briefed us on the progress of the Fireworks Committee. Staci Johnson announced the imminent release of posters announcing the return of the event and asked members to post them around town.

Jim Deardorff showed us the framed original charter of our club and some of our history. He then conducted the fining session about the many presidents who have led our club.

For his Rotary Moment, Sonny Shah spoke of his transfer from a club in Long Beach to our club in 2003.

Program

Betsy Chess introduced our guest today: Nuvi Mehta, the artistic director of the Ventura Music Festival. Nuvi spoke of the longevity and specialness of the Festival: this is the 20th anniversary with the apt title of "Festivo!"

He then played a beautiful Bach piece. Afterwards he spoke of how music works in our subconscious allowing us to relax and see and feel differently. He challenged us to, after work one day, to sit and play a Bach piece, such as the 'Goldberg Variations' and 'see how you feel.'

With the Festival just days from getting under way, Nuvi outlined the wide range of world-class music performances making up the festival.

Festival executive director Ellen Pasternack spoke briefly and included a special incentive for Rotarians- purchase tickets to any of the events and the Club will receive a portion of the proceeds as a donation.

Today's Program

VCCool with Rachel Morris

Introductions:

Indy Batra

Rotary Moment:

Jeff King

Fining:

Cessy Figueroa



Lynda Girtsman poses, while Jill Powell and Sheila Fattarelli slice up our special anniversary cakes.



Nuvi Mehta performed a piece by Bach to the delight of the club.



President Irene presides over a proud occasion: marking 95 years as the Rotary Club of Ventura.



Sonny Shah reminisces about his move to our club from Long Beach for his Rotary Moment.



Sherry Scott announces the funeral arrangements for former member Tyler Liljekvist.



Indy Batra and Sarah Abrams enjoy the special anniversary festivities.



Mike Anderson speaks while Staci Johnson looks on.



Ellyn Dembowski poses with Lorena Rodriguez, recipient of the JGMF scholarship at Ventura College.



Roz Warner and Ellen Pasternack pose with Warren Lovell.



Greg Kincaid, Mario de la Piedra, Rob van Nieuwburg and Steve Kipp enjoy their lunch.




PDG Wade Nomura, Preident Irene Henry and DG Jack McClenahan celebrate.

May Birthdays		May Anniversaries	
Jim Deardorff, May 06		Douglas Wood, May 09	
Joe Schaaf, May 08		Gary Young, May 11	
Connie Young, May 13		Hoot Bennett, May 13	
Hutch Hutchinson, May 14		Greg & Sarah Abrams, May 19	
Neal Andrews, May 15		Erik Feingold, May 27	
Betsy Chess, May 24		Connie Young, May 27	
Leo Tauber, May 26		Mel & Sylvia Cheatham, May 30	
Mel Cheatham, May 29		Matt LaVere, May 30	
		Jeff King, May 31	



Jim Deardorff, prior to fining, dsplays our club charter from May, 1919.

 Rotary Club of Ventura Club #691	OFFICERS		President	Irene Henry
			President Elect	Rob vanNieuwburg
Ron Burton Rotary International President			Secretary	Jim Deardoff
			Recording Secretary *	Christina Rust
Jack McClenahan District 5240 Governor			Treasurer	Connie Young
			Assistant Treasurer *	Mark Sauer
Irene Henry Club President			Immediate Past President	Indy Batra
			*Non-Voting Position	
Rotary Club of Ventura Club #691			Club Service	
			Director	Mario de la Piedra
Ron Burton Rotary International President			Assistant Director	Roz Warner
			Community Service	
Jack McClenahan District 5240 Governor			Director	Ron Calkins
			Assistant Director	Steve Warriner
Irene Henry Club President			International Service	
			Director	Christina Rust
Jack McClenahan District 5240 Governor			Assistant Director	Albert McCartney
			New Generations	
Irene Henry Club President			Director	Courtney Lindberg
			Assistant Director	Dale Jaedtke
Jack McClenahan District 5240 Governor			Vocational Service	
			Director	Jeff King
Irene Henry Club President			Assistant Director	Mary Saputo
			SPOKES	
Jack McClenahan District 5240 Governor			Editor	Curtis Cormane (curtisvta@gmail.com)
			Assitant Editor	David Wellik
Irene Henry Club President			Photographers	Jim Deardorff, Dan Holmes, Dave Wellik, Sarah Abrams