



ROTARY SPOKES

Rotary Club of Ventura

Est. May 1, 1919

"The Friendliest Club in Rotary"

May 14, 2023

TO OUR YOUTH AND THOSE WHO GUIDE THEM: NEVER DOUBT YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO SHAKE THE WORLD!

Our club's activities this week centered on youth. RYLA participants and Foothill Technology High School Interact members joined our weekly meeting and shared their accomplishments with us. We supported Foothill Interact through its Mother's Day Bouquet Sales and we honored teachers at Pacific High School with a Teachers' Appreciation Lunch. By investing in young people, we secure a better future for all.

RYLA



Irene Henry and Ken Leandro introduced the students our club sponsored for this year's RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards). They shared the communication skills they learned, meeting new people, the emphasis on caring for each other, and the camp experience. One student was particularly impacted by keynote speaker Jim Brogan: "Success is in the struggle."

FOOTHILL INTERACT



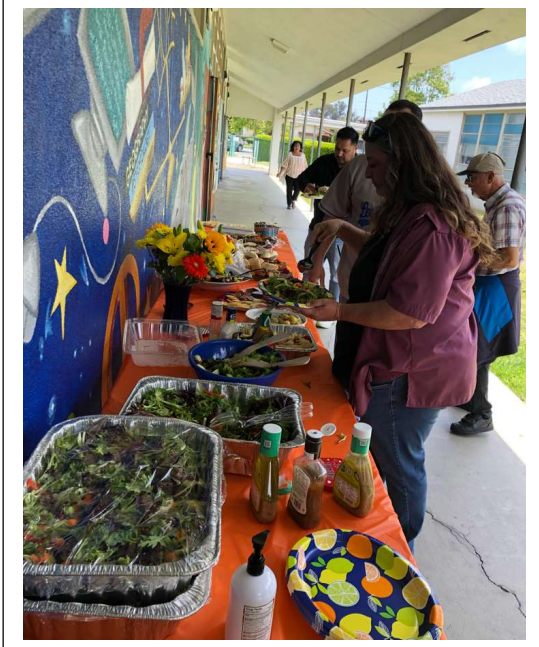
Board members of the Foothill Technology High School Interact and their faculty sponsor, Dianne Fergus, were guests at our meeting May 10, 2023. They have one general meeting and one board meeting each month. Ken Leandro introduced each member, who discussed the pathways in their education and the community.

This year, Foothill Interact participated in numerous activities: Rise Against Hunger, Coats for Kids, Westside Holiday Event, coat shopping for the event (sponsored by a generous \$5,000 donation from Southern California Gas Co.), Food Share Tree Build (with personalized ornaments made by club members), Holiday Card Project, Teacher/Staff Gratitude cards and candy, Walk for Kids, visit to the Ronald McDonald Family Room, and the Flower sale. (My fingers are tired just typing all this!)

Rotarians supported Foothill Interact by purchasing Mother's Day Bouquets. As promised, a beautiful bouquet with a card signed by the Interact members was delivered to our front door in time for Mother's Day.



TEACHER APPRECIATION LUNCH



Pacific High School is a model continuation high school of the Ventura Unified School District. Without a parent-teacher organization of its own, Madhu Bajaj organized club members to support the school and its staff.

On May 12, 2023, we hosted a Teacher Appreciation Lunch serving catered sandwiches, green salad generously provided by The Salvation Army, and dishes prepared by club members. We are grateful to the faculty for their dedication in supporting these students! We are sponsoring a Prom this Friday, May 19, and a Graduation Breakfast June 15.

MEETING MAY 10, 2023

Attendance: 33 members and guests.

Lunch: Coq Au Vin (literally “rooster in wine,” but it was much better with chicken), asparagus, twice baked potatoes (really good!), Caesar salad, fruit, and chocolate cake.

Introductions: RoseAnn Hill. “Nothing is more important than empathy for another human being’s suffering. Nothing. Not a career, not wealth, not intelligence, certainly not status. We have to feel for one another if we’re going to survive with dignity.” (Audrey Hepburn)

RoseAnn and Jessica led us in **singing** “Glory, Glory on Rotarians” (to the tune of “Battle Hymn of the Republic”)

Announcements

Cheree Edwards and **Kathy Yee** from the **Rotary Club of Ojai:** Their **75th Diamond Anniversary Gala** is Saturday, June 3, from 4 to 8 p.m. at Boccali’s Ranch, Ojai. For information, go to ojairotary.org.

Lynda Girtsman: The Step Down Dinner is Tuesday, June 20 from 5:30 to 9:00 p.m. The location is “hush hush” for now. Members have already paid; guests are extra.

Happy Dollars.

Fining: Jessica Brandon on titles for types of mothers (helicopter moms, free range moms, etc.)

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

May 17 lunch meeting: Perspectives on Peace Awards.

May 19: Pacific High School Prom, Poinsettia Pavilion, 6-9 p.m.

May 20: President Elect Retreat for current and incoming board members to discuss next year’s goals, projects, fundraising events, and activities. Poinsettia Pavilion, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

May 24 lunch meeting: Salvation Army Eye Clinic Update.

May 31: Social instead of meeting. Time and location to be announced.

June 7 lunch meeting: Connie Young will present **JGMF grants.**

June 14 lunch meeting: Janny Franken: Leading with a Coaching Mindset.

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