



ROTARY SPOKES

Rotary Club of Ventura

Est. May 1, 1919

“The Friendliest Club in Rotary”

May 26, 2024

PERSPECTIVES ON PEACE AWARDS



At our meeting May 22, 2024, we honored the recipients of the Perspectives on Peace scholarships. The award recipients displayed their artwork and discussed their educational plans.

The program is based on the Rotary International theme of “promoting peace.” It is the only local scholarship program based solely on artistic merit. We received 32 entries this year in the categories of painting, sketch, mixed media, linocut stamp, digital art, poetry, photography, original song, and video. The entries were viewed at a reception April 18. This is the project’s sixth year, named in memory of club member Staci Johnson Ingram.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Antonio Castro gave closing remarks, noting that peace is a not a static concept but is dynamic; we are all in the process of becoming something new. Thanks to Madhu Bajaj and Ken Leandro for leading the project; Danny Quintana and the Crowne Plaza Hotel for hosting the reception; judges Kathy Asher, Sabrena Rodriguez, MB Hanrahan, Patrick Davidson, Michelle Prebble, Jeffrey Lambert, Lynda Girtsman, and Greg Wray; the school administrators, art teachers and counselors who promoted the project; all the students who participated; and all the parents and club members for your support!

PERSPECTIVES ON PEACE (continued)

FIRST PRIZE (\$5,000)

Emily Shati – “The Promise” – Poem and Digital Artwork

ARTISTS OF DISTINCTION (\$1,000)

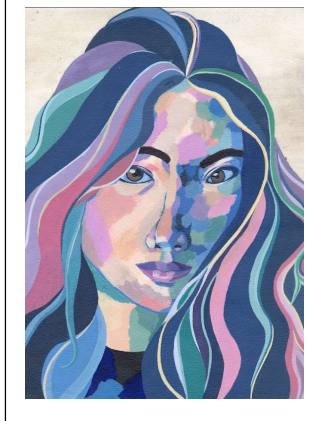
Wylde Brandt – “Bridge of Unity – Crossing the Abyss” – Digital Painting

Jami Chambers – “Eyes of Peace” – Painting

Sierra Engel – “Unless” – Illustrated Animated Video

Moia Kingsley – “Peaceful Words Peaceful Heart” – Mixed Media

Kendall Nagaoka – “Peace Palette” – Painting



PERSPECTIVES ON PEACE (even more!)



DEAR MEMBERS OF THE
ROTARY CLUB OF VENTURA,

I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY
SINCERE GRATITUDE FOR
AWARDING ME THIS SCHOLARSHIP
IN THE PERSPECTIVES ON PEACE
ART EXHIBITION. IT IS AN HONOR
TO BE RECOGNIZED BY YOUR
ORGANIZATION.

AS I HEAD OFF TO UC DAVIS IN
THE FALL, YOUR SCHOLARSHIP WILL
HELP ME TO PURSUE MY ARTISTIC
AND EDUCATIONAL GOALS. THANK
YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY AND
FOR SUPPORTING YOUNG ARTISTS
IN OUR COMMUNITY.

WARM REGARDS,
KENDALL NAGAOKA



MEETING MAY 22, 2024

Attendance: It was great to see a full room with **63 members and guests**, including recipients of the Perspectives on Peace scholarships and their families; Superintendent of Schools Dr. Antonio Castro; School Board Trustee Sabrena Rodriguez; school officials, counselors, and teachers; Perspectives on Peace judges; and reporters from the *Breeze* and CAPS TV.

Lunch: Food Affairs by Stacey prepared a delicious lunch of baked chicken, corn on the cob, chili beans, potato spears, fruit, salad, garlic bread, and angel food cake.

Flag salute/introductions: Madhu Bajaj. “When the power of love overcomes the love of power, the world will know peace.” (Jimi Hendrix)

Song: RoseAnn: “America (My Country ‘Tis of Thee)”

Announcements:

Margi Wray – (1) Two Rotarians heading to a Rotary conference were seriously injured in the **air turbulence** of the flight from London to Singapore. **(2) Step-Down Dinner** will be June 18 from 6-9 at the Water’s Edge Restaurant. Don’t fall in! Please RSVP to Margi with the number of people attending. (See Upcoming Events below.)

Madhu Bajaj – Next week’s **evening meeting at VACE** instead of lunch meeting. RSVP by May 26. (See Upcoming Events below.)

Brenda Allison-Hutchinson: (1) Members are encouraged to bring guests to our June meetings. It’s a good opportunity to show the joy the Fireworks event brings our members. (2) Please **volunteer for the Fireworks event** at this link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4BA5A92BA1FAC43-49814613-ventura>

Indy Batra: In honor of his **19th Rotary Anniversary**, he will pay for any guests in June and will double all Happy Dollars.

Happy Dollars.

Fining: Bev Ward quizzed us about the arts and artists, with her usual selection of believable decoy choices, and some questions about herself that only she and Kirby would know.



UPCOMING EVENTS



May 29: NO LUNCH MEETING. EVENING MEETING at Ventura Adult & Continuing Education, 5200 Valentine Road, Ventura, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. VACE prepares diverse learners with academic, vocational, and technological competencies for the global workforce. They offer incredible training programs under “Careers in Under a Year” with high rates of job placement upon completion. Dinner included for Club members. Guests and children are welcome to attend, \$20. Ample parking. Wear comfortable shoes for tour. RSVP to Madhu by May 26.

June 5 lunch meeting: Meet Julius Gius Memorial Rotary Foundation (JGMRF) grant recipients.

June 10: Pacific High Graduation Brunch, 9:00 – 11:30 a.m., 501 College Dr., Ventura. Honor the graduating students from this Model Continuation School. Sign up to volunteer or donate gift cards or treats: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0549A5AE28A0F85-49749516-2024#/>

June 12 lunch meeting: County Supervisor Matt LaVere and Dan Parziale. Matt LaVere represents District 1 (including the City of Ventura and the Ojai Valley) on the County Board of Supervisors. Dan Parziale is executive director of Mesa Farm, a nonprofit organization that is opening a home in East Ojai to serve transitional-age adults, ages 18 to 25, who are at risk of being homeless, including young adults from Ojai.

June 15: Board Retreat, 8:30-11:30 a.m., Ventura College. For current and incoming Board members and committee chairs to set priorities for the upcoming year.

June 18: Step-Down Dinner, Water’s Edge Restaurant and Bar at the Harbor, 1500 Anchors Way Drive, Ventura, 6:00-9:00 p.m. This year’s theme is “Living Life Like a Song.” Since Neal’s favorite musician is Jimmy Buffett, we are welcoming you all to our Tiki Bar in our own “Margaritaville.” Knowing that Neal will be President for another year, dress will be casual—think flip flops and Hawaiian shirts. Let’s take time to celebrate and thank Neal for this year and root him on for 2024-25. Please RSVP to Margi as soon as possible with the number attending.

June 19: NO MEETING due to Step-Down Dinner.

June 26 lunch meeting: Get Ready for Fireworks planning meeting.

June 27: Board Meeting, Crowne Plaza Hotel, 12:00-1:30 p.m.

July 4: Fireworks Show and Family Picnic, Ventura College, 5:00-10:00 p.m. Contact Brenda to volunteer now!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Patti Birmingham
May 26

Karl Waage
June 1

Jeff Lambert
June 3

HAPPY ROTARY ANNIVERSARY!

Lynda Girtsman
33 years