



ROTARY SPOKES

Rotary Club of Ventura

Est. May 1, 1919

“The Friendliest Club in Rotary”

May 28, 2023

CENTRAL COAST FREE VISION CLINICS



At our meeting May 24, 2023, club member Chris Brashears updated us on the free vision clinics operated by the Rotary Club of Ventura, Lions Clubs of Downtown Ventura and Downtown Oxnard, Salvation Army Ventura, Westminster Free Clinic, and See International. The program began in Ventura in 2018, expanded to Oxnard in 2021, and to Thousand Oaks in 2023.

The clinic provides free eye exams and free glasses to those in need, regardless of financial condition or immigration status. Getting glasses can sometimes have a positive ripple effect, removing barriers so that patients can get a driver’s license and employment. In 2022, the clinics distributed 1,064 pairs of glasses.

The clinics are currently held at:

155 So. Oak St., Ventura, Tuesdays, 8:00-11:00 a.m.

1800 So. C St., Oxnard, Tuesdays, 5:30-8:00 p.m.

1000 E. Janns Rd., Thousand Oaks, Wednesdays, 5:30-8:00 p.m.

We purchased a former airport bus to serve as the MOO (Mobile Optometric Office). This will bring optometry services to even more communities including Santa Paula, Fillmore, Piru, Simi Valley, Ojai, and Port Hueneme. It will cost \$40,000 to \$50,000 to outfit the MOO with equipment, cabinets, etc. Our MOO might be the first in the state!

Chris thanked those present for their work: Greg Wray (designing and branding the MOO), Aaron Campbell (fundraising), Judy Moore (frame fashion consultant), Steve Shaw (volunteer coordinator), Dr. Dick Hatcher (optometrist), and Dr. Jim Deardorff (optometrist), with shout-outs to Lions/Honorary Rotarian Mary Saputo, optometrists Dr. Colin Funnell and Dr. Tom Funnell, and staff member Sandra. Student volunteers from Westminster Free Clinic help with Spanish language translation. Donations to build out the MOO will be greatly appreciated.



MEETING MAY 24, 2023

Attendance: 33 in attendance, including visiting Rotarian David Shea (Santa Barbara Rotary), and guests Steve Shaw (Lions), Denise Adams (Salvation Army Social Services Director), and Lisa Anglin (Fidelity Title).

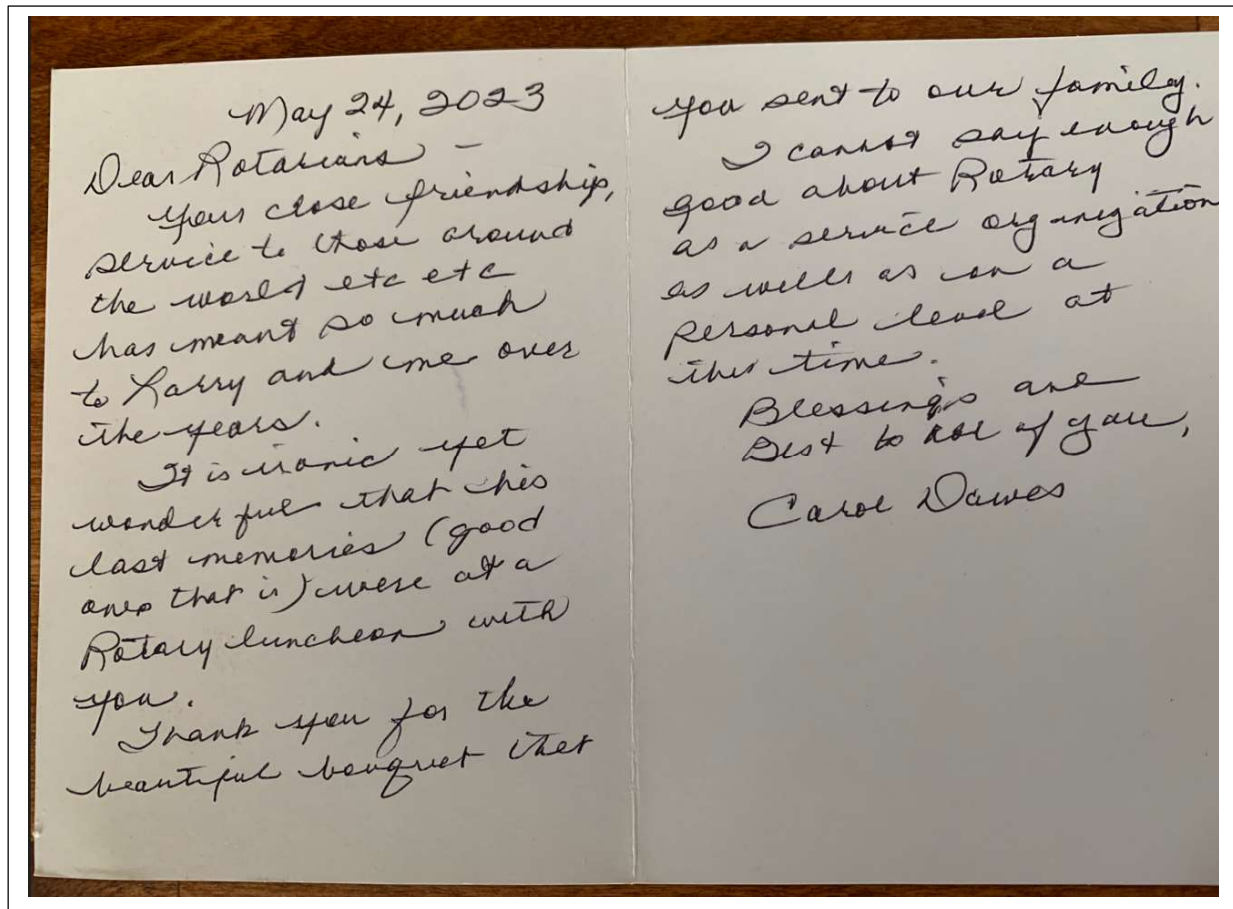
Lunch: Pork chops with balsamic glaze, scalloped potatoes, vegetable medley, green salad, fruit salad, and croissants (or, as my xenophobic friends call them, "crescent rolls"). Ice cream/fruit sundaes for dessert.

Introductions: Kellye Patterson-- "It's not what you look at that matters, it's what you see." (Thoreau)

Lisa Anglin sang a beautiful rendition of "The Star-Spangled Banner."



Margi Wray read a beautiful note from **Carol Dawes**:



Announcements:

Indy Batra and Sandy Lassila: Bingo Social, Wednesday, May 31, 5:30-7:00 p.m., upstairs at 5810 Ralston (next to Auto Club). Parking in the rear. Pizza will be provided. Bring the kids and bring your own beverage.

Lynda Girtsman: (1) Pacific High School Graduation Breakfast is June 15. Need volunteers.

(2) Step Down Dinner is Tuesday, June 20 from 5:30 to 9:00 p.m. This will be an indoor-outdoor event. For some reason, the location is super secret. Lynda promises something new and different, including entertainment. Sign up early with meal selection: Tuscan stuffed chicken, braised short ribs, or roasted vegetable and four cheese lasagna.

Happy Dollars.

Fining: Joslynn Skelton led us in “finish that song.” Hutch wowed us with his rendition of “Let’s Go Crazy” by Prince (aka The Artist Formerly Known as Prince, then Prince again).

Program: Central Coast Free Vision Clinics (see page 1).

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The Board of Directors met at noon, May 25, at the Crowne Plaza. The Board approved these changes and clarifications in membership status:

- Mary Saputo is an honorary club member.
- Dr. Antonio Castro is a regular member rather than an honorary member.
- John Barrack, Dr. Sunita Sujanani, Hank Chandler, Dr. Roz Warner, and Maggie Curley have resigned.
- Monica Smith has begun the process to become a member. She is the Strategic Health Systems Manager at Mammotone, Inc.

We currently have 94 members.

July 4 Fireworks & Family Picnic: Fundraising is progressing. Members will be contacted regarding sponsorships. A news release will go out to solicit corporate sponsorships. The organizing committee is continuing to meet. Most of the operational arrangements have been made. We will have 9 hot food trucks (as opposed to 6 last year) with a variety of food types, plus an ice cream vendor, Bundt cake vendor, and carts selling churros and cotton candy.

Tri-Rotary National Steak BBQ Competition (Sept. 23 Beachside Bash): We are identifying potential sponsors. Representatives of the three Rotary clubs are continuing to meet and plan.

We will be looking for a suitable project for next year’s Rotarians at Work Day. We will also be contacting other chapters to get ideas for International Service projects.

There will be no Board meeting in June. This was the last Board meeting of Margi’s presidency. Margi thanked the Board members for their support and hard work, and we congratulated Margi for a Job Well Done!

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

May 31: Social instead of meeting. Bingo, pizza, and fun. Bring the kids and bring your own beverage. Upstairs at 5810 Ralston, parking in rear of building, 5:30-7:00 p.m. Please RSVP to Margi with number attending.

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

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

June 15: Pacific High School Graduation Breakfast, 8:00-10:00 a.m., 501 College Drive, Ventura. Volunteers needed.

June 20: Step Down Dinner, 5:30-9:00 p.m., location to be announced.

June 21: NO MEETING

June 22: NO BOARD MEETING

June 28: NO MEETING

July 4: Fireworks Show and Family Picnic, Ventura College.

Sept. 23: End of Summer Beachside Bash, national ribeye steak cookoff, brew fest, car show, and more. San Buenaventura State Beach, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

