



# ROTARY SPOKES

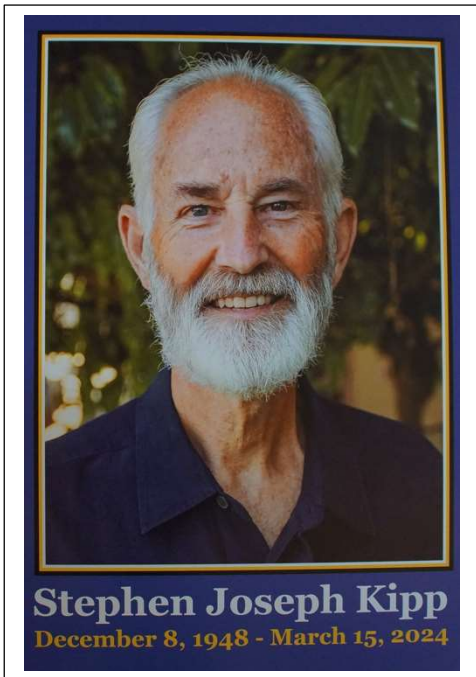
## Rotary Club of Ventura

Est. May 1, 1919

"The Friendliest Club in Rotary"

May 5, 2024

### IN MEMORIAM – STEPHEN KIPP



We honored the memory of club member **Stephen Kipp** at our meeting May 1, 2024. In attendance to pay tribute were **37 members and guests** plus two via Zoom, including some long-term members we have not seen in a while. Guests included family members Patricia Kipp Funaro, Mike Kipp Funaro, and Sean Kipp; honorary members Sonny Shah, Mike Montoya, and Mary Saputo; previous member Gary Wolfe; and Don and Gladys Degner, Kim Gibas, Johnny Johnston, and Andy Kirkwood.

**Food Affairs by Stacey** served a delicious lunch of pork tenderloin, creamed potatoes, asparagus, green salad, fruit, and chocolate cake.

**Keith Moschetto** led the flag salute. He quoted Walt Disney: "All our dreams can come true, if we have the courage to pursue them."

**Clyde Reynolds** led us in singing "America the Beautiful."

During **Happy Dollars**, many members contributed in Steve's honor and shared their memories. Recurring themes were his honesty, integrity, generosity, and humor.

**Rob van Nieuwburg** led the memorial and called on some of Steve's many friends to speak. Here are a few of their comments:

**Anne King:** Steve was a third generation Venturan. He was able to marry his business with service to the community. He was active in many community organizations, including as a board member of the Ventura College Foundation and a supporter of the Ventura College Promise program. Before one board meeting, he commented that he would appreciate coffee being served. As a result, the Foundation purchased what is labeled as the Stephen Kipp Honorary Coffee Pot, where it serves as a daily reminder of his service, great smile, and great hugs.

**Betsy Chess:** In addition to serving many non-profits and running a successful business, Steve and his wife Lynn were wonderful parents.

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**Mary Saputo:** She shared a 30 year friendship with Steve. He was her sponsor to join Rotary. He was devoted to excellence in everything he did. He also had a wry sense of humor, sitting at the “Bad Boys Table” at Rotary meetings and deliberately singing offkey.

**Doug Halter:** Steve was a regular visitor at two places: Rotary meetings, and a poker club.

**Kim Gibas:** She and **Mike Montoya** were good friends of “Kippy.” He lived life to the very fullest and was always known for his generosity.

**Andy Kirkwood:** Shared memories of Steve when Andy was here from Scotland.

**Mike Anderson:** For Steve, his investment advisory business was largely about his relationship with his clients.

**Mark Sauer:** Steve exposed Mark to his modern model of financial planning. Steve spearheaded the Rotary placemat fundraiser, and helped establish the Julius Gius Memorial Rotary Foundation. He was the nicest guy you would ever want to know.





## PERSPECTIVES ON PEACE SCHOLARSHIPS



We are excited to share that after a careful review of art submissions, a wonderful panel of caring art enthusiasts made up of Rotarians and Community Members selected the 2024 Perspectives on Peace Scholarship Recipients. At our May 22 meeting we will have student artists, their families, district leadership, teachers, etc. in attendance. Join us in congratulating this year's scholarship recipients. It will be an inspiring meeting as students tell us about their artistic exploration of peace as well as share their post high school plans.

First place (\$5,000 scholarship): Emily Sehati: The Promise

Artists of Distinction (\$1,000 scholarships):

Wylde Brandt: Bridge of Unity—Crossing the Abyss

Jami Chambers: Eyes of Peace

Sierra Engel: Unless

Moia Kingsley: Peaceful Words Peaceful Heart

Kendall Nagaoka: Peace Palette

Thanks to Madhu Bajaj and Ken Leandro for organizing this event, and thank YOU for your support of this very unique scholarship offering for the arts!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**May 8 lunch meeting: Foothill High School Interact.**

**May 9: Fireside Chat**, 6:00 p.m. at the home of Neal and Sandy Lassila. Our newest members will be present, and we warmly encourage our seasoned members to join as well. This will be a wonderful opportunity to let new members know how to make the most of their membership, field any questions, share your journey with the club, and discuss how you became more engaged. It's a potluck affair, with the club providing the main course and non-alcoholic beverages. Please RSVP to Andrea Contarino and let her know what you will bring (app, side dish, dessert).

**May 10: Pacific High School Teacher Appreciation Lunch**, 501 College Dr., Ventura, 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Contact Madhu to sign up.

**May 15 lunch meeting: Members' Travels.** Members have the opportunity to share their favorite (only 1) pic from their travels and tell us a story about that pic. Depending on the number of members who participate members will have a few minutes to share. Members interested in participating should email their picture to Madhu by May 12.

**May 17: Pacific High School Prom**, 6:30 – 10:00 p.m., Poinsettia Pavilion. Contact Madhu.

**May 22 lunch meeting: Perspectives on Peace awards lunch.** Presentation of scholarship awards to high school seniors with winning entries in the Perspectives on Peace arts competition.

**May 23: Board Meeting**, Crowne Plaza Hotel, 12:00-1:30 p.m.

**May 29: NO LUNCH MEETING. EVENING MEETING at Ventura Adult & Continuing Education.**

**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.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

James Deardorff

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