

ROTARY SPOKES

Rotary Club of Ventura

Est. May 1, 1919
"The Friendliest Club in Rotary"
November 13, 2022

MEETING NOVEMBER 9, 2022

Attendance—I think this is the largest attendance I've seen since I joined three years ago. Every time I counted, I got a different number, but I think about 70 members and guests were there. This included about 22 students and staff from our Pacific High School Interact Club. Glad to see at the meeting Fred Bysshe, who will mark his 52nd anniversary of club membership December 1. None via Zoom.



Lunch—Mahi-mahi, chicken with artichokes, vegetable medley, rice, salad, and croissants. I don't usually like cheesecake, but the one served for dessert was great!

Flag salute, inspirational message, and introductions—Ken Leandro.

"With our friends beside us, and no person beneath us.
With the bonds of Rotary between us, and no task beyond us.
With a thirst for knowledge, and a dream of a peaceful and just world.
We are thankful for our Rotary friends and the meal we are about to share."

Songleaders— Jessica, RoseAnn, Clyde, Bev, and her husband Kirby. "America the Beautiful."



Meeting November 9, 2022, continued



Anil Aggarwal was awarded the Benefactor of Rotary certificate and pin. Hutch explained that to be a Benefactor, you promise to bequest \$1.000 to the Foundation, and "then all you do is die!" What could be easier? As an example of the Foundation's work, it recently funded half of the donation of 40 ambulances to the Ukraine. Our district has challenged our club to get one more Benefactor, and Joslynn Skelton immediately volunteered.

Announcements:

Rob van Nieuwburg—Rotary Ventura East is selling **poinsettias**, \$60-\$62 per case. For information, go to https://rotaryventuraeast.org/

Dale Jaedtke—Thank you to those who donated to or are participating in the **Mexico Build** November 12.

Neal Lassila—The club will be providing each member with a club **polo shirt** in January, with additional club wear available for sale. Details to follow.

Kristin Taylor—The **Coats for Kids** campaign is launched. Ken Leandro prepared an interactive map of our more than 50 drop-off locations, which is available at https://www.zeemaps.com/view?group=1207878&x=-119.247015&y=34.271577&z=6
For more information, see our club's website or Facebook page.

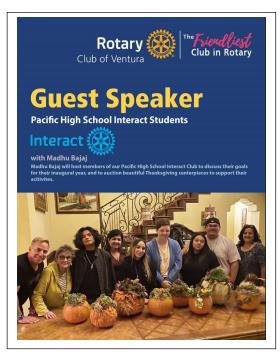
Dr. Antonio Casto was inducted as our newest member. (Photo to right.)

Happy Dollars.

Fining—Ellyn Dembowski quizzed us about the Ventura College Foundation.



PROGRAM - PACIFIC HIGH SCHOOL INTERACT



Madhu Bajaj introduced members of our newest Interact Club at Pacific High School. About 19 members were present, along with Club Advisor/biology teacher Beth Borer, Counselor Ted Cook, Principal Deidre Monarres, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Antonio Castro, and School Board President Sabrena Rodriguez.

Pacific High School is a Title I school, with 94 percent of the students at or below the poverty line. Several students addressed the club about why they enrolled at PHS. Students were generally credit deficient and needed to catch up to graduate. Some had family circumstances such as deaths in the family that interfered with schoolwork. Remote learning during COVID caused students to fall behind.

Students told the club about the activities of Interact and the ASB Leadership. They include Spirit Weeks, assemblies, field trips, schoolwide activities, birthday celebrations, homeroom competition day, and an all-school Thanksgiving feast. The Renaissance program rewards students for achieving goals in obtaining high school credits. The club's service projects include necessities bags for the homeless with Project Understanding, sending cards of encouragement to the unhoused, a field trip to the Food Bank to explore how they can assist, and the Cheers for Children canned food drive for VUSD students. The club hopes to reduce the cost for students to attend Prom—hopefully, for free.

PHS Interact students made beautiful Thanksgiving centerpieces at the home of Doug Halter and Randy Encinas. They were auctioned off at the meeting to benefit the Interact club's activities. Generous Rotarians purchased the centerpieces for \$500, \$250 and \$100, with total auction proceeds of \$5,000. It was wonderful to see these resilient and hardworking students take charge of their lives and serve the community.



UPCOMING EVENTS

(For up-to-date and more complete information, see our web site, VenturaRotary.org)

November 16 lunch meeting: George Poulakos will discuss the upcoming Guatemala Team Trip.

November 17: Board meeting, Crowne Plaza Hotel, 12:00-1:30 p.m. (Meeting one week early due to Thanksgiving holiday.)

November 18-20: District Conference, Santa Barbara Hilton.

November 23: NO MEETING THIS WEEK

November 30 lunch meeting: Hutch Hutchinson and the Rotary Foundation District Chair.

December 7 lunch meeting: Members of the Ventura County **Grand Jury**.

December 10: Winter Social, 6:00-10:00 p.m. at the home of Betsy Chess RSVP to Sandy Lassila by text or at lassilas@ roadrunnder.com by December 1. (See flier.)

December 14 lunch meeting: Mike Schwartz will discuss the historical roots of Hanukkah.

December 17: Holiday Party for Westside families. Arise Ventura Church, 831 N. Olive St., Ventura, 9:30 a.m-4:00 p.m.

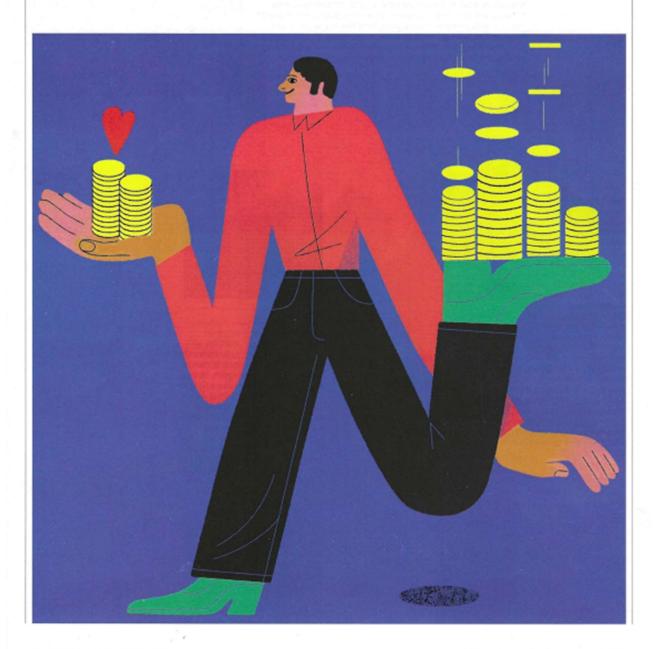
Note that the Million Dollar Dinner has been postponed until later in the Spring of 2023.

ESSAY

Rotary Club of Ventura President-elect Neal Lassila recommends this article from the November 2022 Rotary magazine

The new math

Make more money by giving away more money? It adds up if you have a 'Generosity Purpose' By Derrick Kinney



few years ago, Dave, the owner of a local manufacturing company, came into my office. I was a financial adviser, and Dave was a

longtime client. Whenever we met, I always enjoyed his positive, enthusiastic attitude. But that afternoon I could tell by his body language that something was off. "Tell me what's going on," I said.

"The business is going great," Dave explained, "but I'm no longer into it. I've lost my motivation. I don't really feel a lot of satisfaction."

As we were talking, a thought occurred to me. I asked Dave, "Are there any causes or organizations you find interesting that you would like to support?"

The question caught Dave by surprise, and he sat back and pondered it for a moment. Then he told me that a couple of years ago, he and his family had gone overseas and visited a little village with no real school building and no resources to properly educate the children. They had said to themselves, "It would be neat to do something for these kids." But then they just kind of tucked the idea away, returned home, and went about their lives.

Hearing all that, I had another question for Dave. "What if you did this?" I asked. "Over the next 12 months, set a goal to increase your business, and a portion of that increase could go to building that school." His eyes got as big as saucers, and he sat up with a start.

Three months later, Dave returned to my office. He had much more zeal for his business — and for his life. "Derrick," he said, "you're not going to believe this, but our sales are already up 20 percent, and we've almost fully funded that school." As a business owner, he was reinvigorated. He had found a way to connect profits to purpose. By giving away more money, Dave was actually making more money.

This is the untold secret to making more money: giving it away. I call it the "Generosity Purpose." It's the reason my client's life changed — and yours can too.

Now I want to ask you some questions. What injustice keeps you awake at night? What really bothers you and makes you say, "I want to do something about that"? What wrong do you see in society that you want to make right? Is it in your local

community? Is it elsewhere in the world? What is the cause that you care deeply about? Connect your cash to a cause, your money to a movement, your profits to a purpose. That is what changes everything. That is the Generosity Purpose.

What's your Generosity Purpose? Is it helping abolish sex trafficking? Helping your city's homeless population? Or is it more personal, like funding your children's college tuition or paying for the piano lessons your granddaughter has always wanted to take? It's not about you, but about someone or something that you believe can do more good and leave an impact on the world. After all, the Me Show will one day get canceled. The We Show always gets high ratings and airs longer.

Most people lead with, "I want to make more money." But what if you led with, "I want to give more money, and to do that, I'll have to make more money"? This is the path that gives purpose to your money, and to your life, no matter what your job is or your stage of life.

Now you might believe that making a lasting impact on the world — or even your local community — requires a lot of money. That's not even a little bit true. Start small. Help one person at a time. As you do that, you will realize you are changing their world and the world.

Regardless of the attitude toward giving that you have now, I'm asking you to rethink money — to rethink its purpose. Imagine a cause you have felt passionate about ever since you were young but didn't think you could do anything about. Now is your chance. Small or big, just get started. This is where the fun begins.

Many entrepreneurs I interviewed for my book emphasized how important it is to start early to become accustomed to both making money and giving it away. That's because both behaviors become muscle memory, as do their corollaries: bad earning and saving habits and an accompanying stinginess.

When I visit with clients, we sometimes talk about the impact of the economy on their money. But I would point out to them the difference between the overall economy and what I referred to as their personal economy. For example, while knowing the key eco-

nomic indicators was important, what really mattered was their ability to put food on the table and save for personal financial goals. In other words, what does all this economy stuff mean to me? It's easy to think that making a lasting impact on the world, or even your community, requires loads of cash. But that's thinking like the overall economy. I'm suggesting you make it simple: Do what you can where you are right now as an outflow of your personal economy. Remember: Start small and make an impact on one person at a time. That's how you start to change the world.

When you start earning and saving with a purpose that excites you, it will motivate you, lighting a fire within you that burns so bright that it will lead to success in every area of your life. It will motivate you to do whatever you have to do to build your bank account — whether it's being successful in your job, getting a raise, or growing your own business. You will acknowledge your power to radically revolutionize your family's future and the future of the world around you.

You have two paths you can take. Path 1: Keep making money and stay unhappy and unfulfilled. Path 2: Make good money and lots of it, but do it by adding meaning to your money.

If you choose the first path, you are leaving on the table money and a lasting legacy that could benefit you and your family. You're missing out on helping right the wrongs that bother you the most. It's not enough to say, "I'm going to work now so I'll have more to give away later." It means nothing unless it's attached to the powerful emotion that you will feel when you have made a real impact.

If you choose the second path, you are now ready to start earning with a purpose. After all, if you don't have money, you can't give any away.

I'm asking you to rethink your attitudes about money and giving and find your Generosity Purpose. One person at a time, your money can impact the world.

A member of the Rotary Club of Arlington, Texas, Derrick Kinney is the author of Good Money Revolution: How to Make More Money to Do More Good, from which this essay is excerpted.

Looking for a meaningful Generosity Purpose? Your donation to The Rotary Foundation can have a profound impact on projects to eradicate polio, promote peace, and improve developing communities. Learn more at rotary.org/donate.





WINTER SOCIAL





DECEMBER

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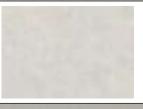
ADULTS ONLY, NO CHILDREN

···FOOD, GAMES, FUN ···

BYOB

PARKING AT CEMETERY PARK SHUTTLE PROVIDED





PLEASE RSVP BY DEC 1st

TEXT SANDY or email lassilas@roadrunner.com