



ROTARY SPOKES

Rotary Club of Ventura

Est. May 1, 1919

“The Friendliest Club in Rotary”

November 5, 2023

THANKS TO MARK SAUER

Mark Sauer received a round of applause at our meeting November 1 in appreciation for his 27 years of service as club bookkeeper, assistant treasurer, and treasurer. He is stepping down as treasurer as he steps toward retirement. **Brenda Allison-Hutchinson** has been appointed as our new treasurer. Congratulations and thank you to both for handling this huge responsibility!



ASHLEY POPE – AUTISM SOCIETY VENTURA COUNTY



Ashley Pope addressed the club at our meeting November 1, 2023, on the subject of Autism. Ashley and her husband Carlos are parents of a ten-year-old son with autism, Gavin. She described the characteristics of different levels of autism, how to communicate with individuals with autism, and how to create sensory accessible environments. She discussed ongoing Autism Acceptance programs of local police departments. The Autism Society Ventura County is sponsoring the Celebrating the Autistic Mind Art Show at the Museum of Ventura County, January 11-14, 2023. The 12th annual Aut2Run will be at CSUCI on April 28; see aut2run.org.

THANKSGIVING CENTERPIECES

Members of the Pacific High School Interact assembled pumpkin Thanksgiving centerpieces. Thanks to hosts Randy Encinas and Dough Halter and the Rotarians who assisted!



CELEBRATING CLUB ANNIVERSARIES

Erik Feingold
22 years

Margi Wray
4 years



Ed Summers
November 3

Jason Ritchey
November 4

MEETING NOVEMBER 1, 2023

Attendance: 29 in attendance plus Kellye via Zoom. Visting Rotarians were our speaker, Ashley Pope (Ventura East), and Megan Rouse (Dublin, Calif.).

Lunch: We were treated to an early Thanksgiving feast of turkey with gravy and cranberry sauce, stuffing, mashed potatoes, yams, peas, Jello with icing, green salad, fruit, and sherbet.

Flag salute, inspirational message, introductions: Madhu Bajaj. “As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.” (John F. Kennedy)

Song: Bev Ward and RoseAnn Hill: “America (My Country ‘Tis of Thee)”

Announcements

Neal Lassila: (1) Congratulations to **Margarida Eidson** of Rotary Ventura East, who has been selected **District Governor** for the next Rotary year!

(2) Rotary Ventura East is holding its annual **Poinsettia Plant Sale** fundraiser. Order forms in the lobby, or on their website.

(3) Jessica Brandon sent a note expressing her gratitude for the support she has received from club members.

Kristin Taylor: Coats for Kids hopes to collect 3,000 coats and jackets this year. If you have volunteered to handle a collection site, Kristin will email you instructions and forms. Thanks to Ken Leandro, who will post a list of donation locations on our website, Sally Crain who is managing donations, and Danny Quintana, who is laundering the coats.

Judy Moore: The Westside Holiday Event is December 16. Volunteers are needed to **help Interact members purchase coats** for the event using the money donated by SoCalGas. Sign up sheets will be on the table at next week’s meeting.

Madhu Bajaj: (1) Spots are still available to decorate the **Rotary Rose Parade float** December 9 in Irwindale. **Steve Doll** shared that he participated in the past and it was a lot of fun!

(2) Need volunteers to participate in a 45-50 minute meeting to discuss upcoming **Club Service programs**.

Keith Moschetto: Need volunteers to do **Introductions** at upcoming meetings.



Chris Brashears: We need to fill the two tables our club has at the **Salvation Army Red Kettle Kick-Off Luncheon** Nov. 13, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Our club will volunteer as **bellringers** at five locations on December 9. Contract Chris to sign up for a 2-3 hour shift.

☞ **Keith Moschetto** was presented with his **Blue Badge**.

Happy Dollars.

Fining: Rob van Nieuwburg quizzed us about electric vehicles.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Nov. 8 lunch meeting: Veterans Day program. Special program to thank the incredible men and women who served our country. We would love for you to invite those special veterans in your life to share in our appreciation program. Please let Joslynn know if you will be bringing guests so she can let the caterer know.

Nov. 13 Salvation Army Kettle Kick-off Luncheon, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., 650 Petit Ave., Ventura. No charge. Help celebrate the beginning of the bell ringing season! Hosted by Jennifer Caldwell (Chief Development Officer of FoodShare). Guest Speaker District Attorney Erik Nasarenko. Lunch, recognitions, silent auction. RSVP to Chris Brashears by email or text by Nov. 6.

Nov. 15 lunch meeting: Conversations in Rotary: Club members **Monica Smith** and **Rena Sepulveda** will be interviewed by **Lynda Girtsman**

Nov. 16 Board Meeting, Crowne Plaza Hotel, 12:00 to 1:30 p.m.

Nov. 17 Santa Paula Rotary Club Celebration, 5:30-9:00 p.m., Palazzio Events Center, 814 E. Main St., Santa Paula. For more information and to purchase tickets: <https://santapaularotary.org/events/celebrating-100-years-of-service/>

Nov. 22 NO MEETING THIS WEEK

Nov. 23 HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Nov. 29 lunch meeting: Ben Rode and Nancy O'Rode with **Ondulando Firewise**

Dec. 1 Holiday Social for members and their guest. 6:00-9:00 p.m., Bright Spark Brewing, 4561 Market St., Ventura. No children please.

Dec. 6 lunch meeting: Ventura City Manager Bill Ayub

Dec. 9: Salvation Army Kettle Bellringing. Contact Chris Brashears to volunteer.

Dec. 9: Decorate Rotary Rose Parade Float, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Irwindale, CA. Contact Madhu Bajaj.

Dec. 13 lunch meeting: Pacific High School Interact presentation (not fundraising)

Dec. 16: Westside Holiday Event, Arise Ventura Church