



# ROTARY SPOKES

## Rotary Club of Ventura

Est. May 1, 1919

“The Friendliest Club in Rotary”

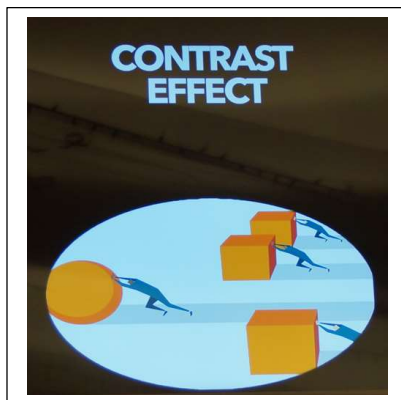
October 15, 2023

### JUSTIN JAMAR GROOMS

Justin Grooms was the speaker at our meeting October 11, 2023. He discussed Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion.

At his suggestion, we publicized the event without his photo and by using the name Jamar, which is actually his middle name. His first name is Justin—like the other members of his family, he was given a name that would not lead others to judge him based on his race. He used this to illustrate how we make assumptions about people.

We internalize a “life lens” from the attitudes we learn from our family during childhood. For example, Justin was taught to “feed white people out of a long handle spoon.” I interpreted that to mean to keep distance between others and not share too much of yourself. But by using a short handle spoon, we not only learn to treat others as individuals, but we share bigger “portions” of ourselves.



Justin discussed the “contrast effect” in which we judge others as if we all started from the same place with the same tools. He explained that the concept of “equity” does not mean providing the same thing to everyone, but recognizing that all people don’t start at the same place. He gave as an example of equity a business that provides an employee assistance program directed at neuro-diverse employees, like those with autism. He discussed “confirmation bias” in which we view objective facts in a way that confirms what we already believe to be true. When we engage in introspection, we take ourselves out of the equation and look at things for how they are.

Justin received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Murray State University. He earned a PHR certification in Human Resources and has almost two decades of experience in consulting. His training focuses on diversity, equity & inclusion, harassment & discrimination prevention, communication skills development, conflict resolution, and leadership development. He is the founder and CEO of Chariot Consulting, which provides business consulting, executive coaching, and employee training.

## MEETING OCTOBER 11, 2023

**Attendance:** 24 in attendance, including guests Dennis Contorti, Joslynn's husband Andrew, and our speaker.

**Lunch:** Generous servings of meat loaf, potatoes au gratin, fruit, green salad, and delicious pumpkin ice cream.

**Introductions/Flag salute/Inspirational message: Barbara Asbell.** While we are all concerned about world events, the upcoming elections, etc., Rotary and our club work so hard to do what we can as much as we can. She is grateful to be a Rotarian.

**Song: Bev Ward** led us in singing "America the Beautiful."

### Announcements



**Joslynn Skelton:** In the 1950s, polio affected tens of thousands of Americans, and many more across the world. Vaccinations with the polio vaccine began in 1955. In honor of **World Polio Day**, October 24, we will hold a 1950s **Sock Hop**, 6-9 p.m. at the Crowne Plaza, featuring dancing, hamburgers, and a costume contest. (See attached poster.)

**Jeff Lambert** is chairing a committee to explore ways to reduce barriers to membership in our club. Input is welcome.

**Kristin Taylor: Coats for Kids** is in its 19th year. Collections begin November 1, but we will be busy before then setting up 30-40 collection sites (plus another 30 or 35 from Ventura East). Sign up to volunteer to be in charge of a site. Last year, we collected 2500 coats and jackets...we need hundreds for the Dec. 16 West End event!

**Neal Lassila: (1) The District Conference** is October 20-21 in Bakersfield, with a focus on writing and collecting grants.

**(2) Fireworks Committee** beginning soon. Subcommittee chairs needed!

**Happy Dollars.**

**Fining: Madhu Bajaj** quizzed us about Polio.

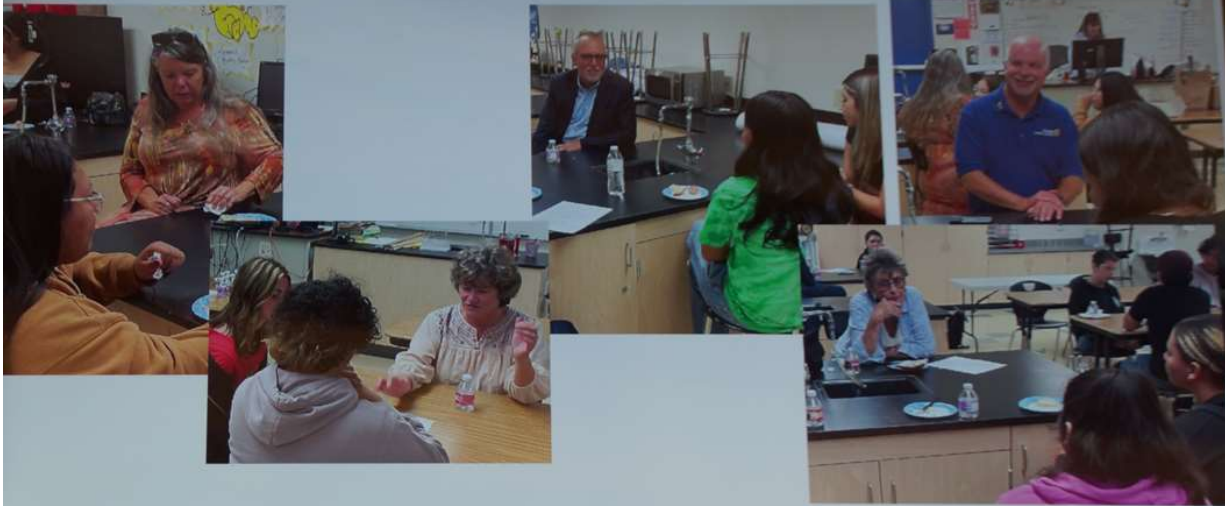
### CELEBRATING CLUB ANNIVERSARIES

**John McConica**  
19 years

**Andie Contarino**  
1 year

**Chrissy Stamega**  
1 year

# Meet a Rotarian at Pacific High



Beachside Bash held at San Buenaventura State Beach Park. Photos by Yana Khuyod

## Fun for all ages, with fabulous food and drinks

The three Rotary clubs of Ventura presented the End of Summer Beachside Bash on September 23, at San Buenaventura State Beach Park.

A national ribeye steak cookoff, car show, live bands and food trucks were at San Buenaventura State Beach Park. The event marks the end of summer and was sponsored by the Rotary Clubs of Ventura, Ventura East, and Ventura South.

Fun for all ages, with fabulous food and drinks, a car show and a steak cook off, plus celebrity chef demonstrations and live music. All proceeds from this event will go to local charities.

Last year collectively the Rotary Clubs gave \$770,056 to service-oriented organizations.

The cookoff was sponsored by the Steak Cookoff Association, in Ventura for the first time. Ventura bands Nautical Thrust and The Bomb will entertain with yacht rock, Latin soul, and funk. Grill demonstrations by award-winning BBQ chefs Kyle Matuszewski and Phil "the Grill" Johnson. Visitors enjoyed a variety of offerings from food trucks, beer and wine, and shopped at local vendors.

"On behalf of Ventura's three Rotary clubs, I am thrilled to invite our community to join us for a day of joy, connection, and giving back at Ventura's First Annual End of Summer Beachside Bash" said Neal Lassila, President of the Rotary Club of Ventura.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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



**Oct. 18 lunch meeting: Jeff Lambert, CEO, City of San Buenaventura Housing Authority.** Jeffrey Lambert serves as Chief Executive Officer for the Housing Authority of the City of San Buenaventura. The Housing Authority owns and manages more than 1,000 affordable units and manages nearly 2,000 Housing Vouchers. Most recently, Jeff served as Chief Operating Officer of the Ventura County Community Foundation. Jeff is a member of the Rotary Club of Ventura.

Jeff previously served as Community Development Director for the City of Oxnard and City of Ventura. He has a proven track record as a public servant through his career and is recognized as a Certified Planner by the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP). He previously owned his planning and government consulting firm, served as Community Development Director for the City of Santa Clarita and as the Land Use Manager for Kaiser Permanente Southern California. Jeff served on the national Board of the American Planning Association (APA) and was President of the California Chapter of APA.

Jeff Lambert graduated from the University of Southern California with a Master's in Urban Planning and previously earned his B.A. degree in Psychology and Government from Clark University in Worcester Massachusetts.

**Oct. 20-21: District Conference,** Bakersfield Double Tree Hotel, 3100 Camino Del Rio Ct., Bakersfield. For details, go to [rotarydistrict5240.org](http://rotarydistrict5240.org).

**Oct. 24: Sock Hop for World Polio Day,** 6:00-9:00 p.m., Crowne Plaza Hotel, 450 Harbor Blvd., Ventura. Dancing, hamburgers, costumes. \$40 per person, \$70 per couple, Sponsorships \$1,000, \$500, \$250, \$100. Contact Jessica Brandon to RSVP.

**Oct. 25 lunch meeting: Perspectives on Peace and outside speaker on peace.**

**Oct. 26: Board meeting,** Crowne Plaza Hotel, 12:00-1:30 p.m.

**Nov. 1 lunch meeting: Autism Society Ventura County.**

**Nov. 8 lunch meeting: Veterans Day program.**

# Shake, Rattle & Roll

IT'S TIME TO RAISE FUNDS FOR  
**WORLD POLIO DAY**

OCTOBER

TUESDAY **24** 6PM - 9PM

**CROWNE PLAZA VENTURA BEACH**  
**450 HARBOR BLVD**  
**VENTURA, CA 93001**

\$40 per person - \$70 per couple

*Hey cats and kittens, you can't lose, go on and grab your blue suede shoes.*

*Come on over and don't be late, we've got **Polio** to eradicate!*

*Enjoy classic **50's** diner delights (vegetarian options available)*

*Retro photo booth to capture the memories and more...*

*Test your knowledge with **50's** trivia*

*Costume contest with fabulous prizes*

**R S V P**

Call or Text by October **20th**  
Jessica Brandon (619) 634-5501

Come dressed in your best '50s attire as we transport ourselves to a world of soda shops, jukeboxes, and sock hops. We'll be jiving to the tunes of Elvis, Chuck Berry, and Buddy Holly all night long.



**END  
POLIO  
NOW**