



ROTARY SPOKES

Rotary Club of Ventura

Est. May 1, 1919

“The Friendliest Club in Rotary”

October 16, 2022

MEETING – OCTOBER 12, 2022

Approximately 44 members and guests were in attendance. After many weeks of seeing **Roger Case** looking at us from Zoom, it was great to see him in person!

Food Affairs by Stacey served a delicious lunch of bacon cheddar chicken, rice, Hawaiian rolls, and banana custard for dessert.

President Margi Wray called the meeting to order.

Judy Moore led us in the flag salute, inspirational message, and introductions. She discussed what friendship means. “The only way to have a friend is to be one,” (Ralph Waldo Emerson) “No friendship is an accident.” (O. Henry) “Friends are the family we choose for ourselves.” (Edna Buchanan) That is what makes our club so wonderful!

Songleaders Bev Ward, Clyde Reynolds and Jessica Brandon led us in singing “America (My Country ‘Tis of Thee).”

Announcements: See end of newsletter.

Two **new members** were inducted:

Andrea Contarino—Events Coordinator, Museum of Ventura County

Chrissy Stamegna—Assistant Executive Director, Brain Injury Center of Ventura County.

Welcome!



Mike Schwartz led **Fining** on the subject of U.S. Government, from the first President of the United States (John Hanson) to the current Secretary of State (Anthony Blinken—sorry, **Mike Montoya**, I thought you were saying “Lincoln,” who I’m pretty sure is dead).

Happy Dollars.

Program—Brian Bemel, Ojai Storytelling Festival

PROGRAM – BRIAN BEMEL OJAI STORYTELLING FESTIVAL



This presentation about storytelling began—of course—with a story. Brian was in his first year teaching second grade at Saticoy Elementary School when a hitchhiking bear showed him the impact storytelling could have on others. Brian had just finished scraping the ice off his tent . . . well, that’s a story for another time.

During his career as a teacher, Brian sponsored shows at night and used the proceeds to fund daytime performances at school assemblies. He became the county’s Arts Specialist, bringing performers to schools across the county. He founded Performances to Grow On and its signature event, the Ojai Storytelling Festival, now in its 21st year. The first year, there were three tellers. Now each year there are seven tellers, who Brian selects from the International Storytelling Festival in Jonesborough, Tenn., and from the recommendations of other tellers.

Brian’s presentation included short videos of several tellers for this year’s festival, with backgrounds ranging from Carnegie Hall to the Grand Ole Opry to Kenya to Hotdogastan. Stories include folk tales, personal stories, and stories appropriate for children, with juggling, swords, and words that paint pictures in your mind. This year’s festival is October 27-30. If this is your first time, you can sample short performances from all the tellers at the Friday “laughing night” and decide who you want to hear more from.

For more information: <https://www.ojaistoryfest.org/>

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Salvation Army Hope Center: Our club provides wonderful support to the Salvation Army. The Hope Center on Oak Street gives hope to those who have lost hope. Your donations make a huge difference in its operation. They need your donations: ziploc sandwich bags, paper towels, non-perishable food items (especially power bars, health bars) and cleaning supplies: PineSol, Windex, Clorox. These supplies are always needed. Please bring to any Wednesday meeting and **Kristin Taylor** will collect and deliver to the Hope Center.

October 17: Meet a Rotarian. Meet members of our newest Interact Club at **Pacific High School**, tour the school, and learn about PHS and its students. 8:45 to 10:45 a.m. Space is limited—contact Madhu Bajaj for more information and to RSVP.

October 19 lunch meeting: Presentation by **Lysa Urban, Women's Economic Ventures (WEV)**. WEV is dedicated to the economic empowerment of women—cultivating the power within each woman to realize her dreams, achieve financial independence and succeed on her own terms. Lysa's communications career encompasses the private, public, and non-profit sectors. She has worked nationally with Fortune 500 companies managing multicultural marketing strategies, and locally in municipal government where she served as Public Information Officer for the City of Ventura. She is thrilled to be part of two regional non-profit organizations she is passionate about supporting. As the Marketing Manager for WEV, she develops creative, effective (and fun!) communications to inspire, celebrate and grow the WEV community. She also serves on the Board of Directors for Food Share of Ventura County. She is a member of the Women of Achievement Awards committee for the Association of Women in Communications – Santa Barbara Chapter. She is a graduate of UCSB with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science/International Relations. In her free time, Lysa enjoys hiking locally at the Ventura Botanical Gardens and Ventura Land Trust's Harmon Canyon.



October 20: Rotary Ventura East Geography and Climate Lecture: Ventura College, 5:30 p.m. sharp to 6:30 p.m. Ventura East is hosting a lecture from Ventura College Geophysics Lecturer Phil Clinton. Topic is Ventura Geography and Climate with his take on climate change we are possibly facing. Enter free parking from Day Road, park close to College, and look for guides. It is the lot close to where swap meet is held. RSVP to rcvepres201516@gmail.com.

October 23: World Polio Day Mixer. Ventura College Performing Arts Center Patio, 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. Enjoy light fare from Peirano's, drinks, entertainment and more! All three Ventura Rotary Clubs will come together for this event to raise the vital funds needed to

eradicate Polio around the world. Purchase tickets at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/pints-pinot-for-polio-world-polio-day-mixer-tickets-434214666757> . If you would like to donate to the My Favorite Things Basket auction, please bring your items to our Wednesday meeting (the committee can assemble the baskets for you). The World Polio Day Committee is: Jessica Brandon, Lynda Girtsman, Kellye Patterson, Joslynn Skelton & KarynSue Rose-Thomas.

October 26 lunch meeting: Presentation by **Mary Maranville, SEEAG** (Students for Eco-Education and Agriculture).

October 26: Mexico Build Fundraiser. Enjoy specialties from Nepal, Tibet and India at the Himalaya Restaurant, 35 W. Main Street, Ventura, 6:00-9:00 p.m. One drink is included. 25% of the proceeds will support the build.

October 27: Board meeting. Crowne Plaza Hotel, 12:00-1:30 p.m. All members are welcome.

November 2 lunch meeting: Conversations in Rotary. Lynda Girtsman will interview a mystery club member.

November 9 lunch meeting: Pacific High School Interact. Madhu Bajaj will host members of our PHS Interact Club to discuss their Thanksgiving fundraising project.

November 12: Boys and Girls Club auction. Patti Birmingham announced the Boys and Girls Club will have a live auction, country band, and tri-tip lunch at the Poinsettia Pavilion from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. Details at <https://bgclubventura.org/>

November 12: Mexico Build. Join with Ventura Rotaract to build a home for a deserving family in Tijuana. See attached poster.

NOTE: If you will be making an announcement at a meeting or have information you want included in the newsletter or website, you can email me the details, including date, time, specific location, and contact information, to help ensure the written announcements are accurate and complete. Thank you!

-Mike Schwartz, Communications Chair, vtarocks@gmail.com

Ventura Rotaract Mexico Build - November 12

The Project

Every year we cross the border into Tijuana and build a house in ONE DAY for a family. We start with a concrete slab and build the house from the ground up! We work on framing, painting, windows - the whole house! The family that receives the house will be working alongside us to help complete the project, and they provide us with a home cooked meal for lunch. It is one of the most rewarding experiences I have ever been a part of, and our club would love it if we could share the experience with you.

Cost: \$50.00 per person

Payment secures a spot on the bus to travel over the border. Bus leaves around 6am from San Diego and returns the same day by nightfall. We will not be spending night in Mexico. You will need to make and pay for your own Hotel accommodations.



Anyone interested in the build can sign up using this link: https://www.corazon.org/3381_venturarotaract



We only have 50 spots so sign up before they're gone! For questions, contact Olivia at venturarotarct@gmail.com

Available Banner Logo Sponsorships:

Large Logo: \$500

Med Logo: \$250

Small Logo: \$100