



ROTARY SPOKES

Rotary Club of Ventura

Est. May 1, 1919

“The Friendliest Club in Rotary”

October 23, 2022

MEETING OCTOBER 19, 2022



Attendance—38 members and guests. No Zoomers this week (but plenty of Boomers!)

Lunch—Food Affairs by Stacey served beef, pork and chicken in an Italian sauce (sort of like an Italian version of gumbo), noodles, fruit salad, and green salad. The cookies were yummy even though they were covered with powdered sugar that got all over the place.

Flag salute, inspirational message, and introductions—**Indy Batra**. “Peace is our ultimate goal. The distance between us and peace equals the amount of stress in between.”

Songleaders—**Jessica Brandon** and **Clyde Reynolds**—“God Bless America”

Announcements:

Patricia Torres—**The Salvation Army Red Kettle Kick-off** is November 12, 2022, 5:00 p.m., at the Ventura Beach Marriot. Entertainment by the Gala Salvation Army Band and the Children’s Mariachi Band. Guest master of ceremonies is Inside Edition journalist Lisa Guerrero.

Lynda Girtsman—**(1) Polio** is still going on, with recent cases in New York, London, Pakistan, Kenya, and Afghanistan. The World Polio Day Mixer is Sunday, October 23, 4:30-7:30 (location changed to Peirano’s patio, 204 E. Main St., Ventura). Tickets \$30. The event includes a live (not silent) auction.

(2) The Ronald McDonald Family Room at VCMC is finally open. A group tour will be scheduled soon.

Madhu Bajaj—Thank you to the nine club members who joined her to meet with **Interact** members at **Pacific High School**. They discussed leadership, service, and life.

Kristin Taylor—(1) **Salvation Army Hope Center** needs paper towels, Pine-Sol, Windex, toilet bowl cleaners, and sandwich bags. Bring to Kristin at our meetings.

(2) **Coats for Kids**. Thanks to Saurabh for donating signs and Sally for boxes. Pick up collection boxes and instructions next week at Hilford Moving & Storage and deliver to collection sites.

Mark Sauer—**Rule of 85**. If your age plus your years of membership equals 85 or more, you can fill out an application to pay for only those meals you eat.

Sandy Lassila—The **Holiday Social** will be the evening of December 10, 2022, at the home of Betsy Chess.

Happy Dollars.

Fining—**Angela Rosales** conducted **Fining** on the subject of Ronald McDonald Houses.

ROTARY YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARD APPLICATION

The deadline for the RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) essay applications is fast approaching. The due date is November 4, 2022. Feel free to share the application with your Interact club, your school counselors, and with your own family and friends who have students in high school. Rotarians are also invited to attend the RYLA closing ceremonies April 23, 2023 in Ojai.

Application: <https://clubrunner.blob.core.windows.net/00000002868/en-ca/files/homepage/ryla-2022-application/ryla-22-student-questionnaire-002.docx>

OUR CLUB'S FIRST HOME

An excellent history of the Rotary Club of Ventura is on the club's website at: <https://portal.clubrunner.ca/2868/stories/the-history-of-rotary-club-of-ventura>



It states that the first meeting of the club was Wednesday, June 12, 1918, at the Hotel De Leon. The meeting time was designated as, and has remained as, Wednesdays at noon.

Hotel De Leon was at the northwest corner of Chestnut and Main Streets (current location of Dargan's Irish Pub). At one point, it was known as the Hotel Rose. It was one of several large hotels in downtown Ventura in that era, including the Anacapa Hotel and the Hotel Ventura. The De Leon was built in 1889 and demolished in 1933.

PROGRAM—LYSA URBAN—WOMEN'S ECONOMIC VENTURES



Lysa Urban, Marketing Manager of Women's Economic Ventures (WEV), gave a presentation at our meeting October 19, 2022. WEV was founded in 1951 to assist women realize their dreams, achieve financial independence, and succeed on their own terms. Although the focus is on women, WEV assists individuals of all genders.

The three core activities of WEV are: business training, funding, and consulting. It offers six-week financial literacy programs in English and Spanish, and recently conducted the program in Mixteco. Financial assistance is given in the form of forgivable loans up to \$10,000 to entrepreneurs who would be unable to get a loan at a bank. Consulting is provided for long-term advisory support, plus short-term "deep dives" into particular topics.

WEV serves Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties. It is part of the National Network of Women's Business Centers and can refer out-of-county individuals to other groups within the network.

Eighty-seven percent of those WEV has assisted move out of poverty. Every \$1 invested by WEV returns \$15 to the local community. Rotary has obtained grants to assist WEV. A number of club members support WEV through the League of Extraordinary Women and Men.

Club member Angela Rosales is being honored as WEV Client of the Year. She is featured in a video that we were unable to play at the meeting due to technical difficulties. But you can view it at <https://youtu.be/7CL7oAnq-gI>.

High School Scholarships for girls in Kazungula, Zambia

The Grace Centre is an initiative in Kazungula, Zambia which is being supported by a Rotary Global Grant # 1866010. This is the global grant that our club is international host. The goal of the Grace Centre is to help young women at risk for sexual exploitation and early marriage by training them in vocations where they can find employment—computer work, tailoring, and food preparation.

About 80% of girls in Zambia are currently unemployed. There are 2 contributing factors—a lack of training in an employable skill, and a lack of secondary school education. The costs associated with secondary schooling is beyond the means of most families, and if funding is possible, boys are the priority. Many of the girls at *The Grace Centre* could finish high school if funds were available.

While the Rotary Global Grant will provide the critical skills training, school fees are not allowed as part of the grant. Therefore, we are seeking individual and Rotary Club donations for the sponsorships.

The Grace Centre will be managed by an established NGO called The Lushomo Trust. *The Grace Centre* Working Committee is comprised of Lushomo Trust board members, and guidance counselors/teachers from local schools. They will approve applicants based on their financial need, aptitude, and desire for future studies.

For 2023, we have two options for school support: Kazungula Boarding School at \$580.00 US dollars and Riverview Day School at \$325.00 US dollars. A yearly sponsorship includes textbooks, materials, two school uniforms, PTA fees, and administrative fees, shoes and some meals.

For more information about *The Grace Centre* and Lushomo Trust, please visit lushomotrust.org. If you have additional questions, please email George Poulakos of the Rotary Club of Ventura at gjpoulakos@gmail.com, or call him at 954-494-4387.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

October 23: World Polio Day Mixer, 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. NEW LOCATION: Peirano's patio, 204 E. Main St., Ventura. Enjoy light fare, drinks, entertainment, live auction 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> .

October 26 lunch meeting: Presentation by Mary Maranville, SEEAG (Students for Eco-Education and Agriculture). Mary Maranville is the founder and CEO of SEEAG and a farmworker's daughter. SEEAG is a nonprofit organization that helps schoolchildren understand the origins of their food by bridging the gap between agriculture and consumption through its agricultural education programming. "The Farm Lab" program provides schools with classroom agricultural education and free field trips to farms. Through this and other SEEAG programs including Farm Day in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties, over 65,000 elementary school students and community members in Southern California have increased their understanding of the food journey.



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: Mexico Build. Join with Ventura Rotaract to build a home for a deserving family in Tijuana.

November 16 lunch meeting: George Poulakos will discuss the Rotary Team Trip to Ak'Tenamit in Guatemala, March 25 to April 2, 2023, to teach and assist indigenous Mayan students.

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

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