



ROTARY SPOKES

Rotary Club of Ventura

Est. May 1, 1919

"The Friendliest Club in Rotary"

October 29, 2023

WORLD POLIO DAY SOCK HOP

The 1950s marked the peak of the polio epidemic in the United States and the decade polio vaccinations began. On the evening of October 24, in honor of World Polio Day, the Rotary Club of Ventura held a Sock Hop at the Crowne Plaza Hotel.

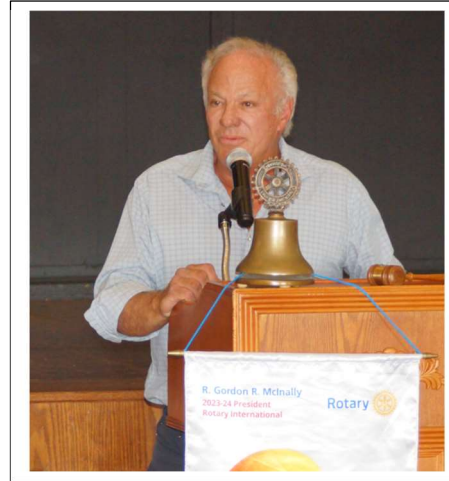
We dined on several varieties of hamburgers (including a vegetarian version), French fries, onion rings, chili beans, cake, and root beer floats. Madhu led a 1950s TV trivia challenge. We raised money through tickets, sponsors, a silent auction, and a 50-50 raffle (Keith Moschetto was the lucky winner) and enjoyed hula hoops, costumes, and 50s music. Big thanks to retro candy sponsor Betsy Chess, décor sponsor Flourish Event Management, photo booth and signs sponsors Madhu and Saurabh Bajaj, venue sponsor Crowne Plaza Hotel, music/AV by Randy Encinas, and all who contributed prizes, money, and hard work!



MEETING OCTOBER 25, 2023

Attendance: 24 in attendance plus Brenda Allison-Hutchinson via Zoom.

Lunch: In honor of the Day of the Dead, Food Affairs by Stacey served a delicious pozole with pork and all the fixin's, refried beans, rice, tortillas, green salad, fruit, and a skull cake for dessert!



Club member and City Councilmember Doug Halter gave his monthly **City Council Update**. He discussed how he looks at things. What's the best "bang for the buck" to get the most from resources? What is fair for city employees and the community? The biggest issue for the public is the height of new buildings, but for Doug, the biggest issue is their design. The city's hands are tied by state mandates regarding "density bonuses" that allow taller buildings. A priority is community development, to increase prosperity and get businesses to return here. Main Street Moves is overwhelmingly supported by the community and businesses, and will remain in effect at least two more years. The city, at long last, has the funds to connect to State Water. The council is considering where to place new fire stations. Of 18,000 calls per year to the fire department, 12,000 are medical and 6,000 are fire.

Joslynn Skelton filled in for **Introductions/Flag salute/Inspirational message**. (Sorry, Joslynn, I missed most of it because I had to run to my car.)

Song: Bev Ward and RoseAnn Hill led us in singing "America the Beautiful." The words were written by Katherine Lee Bates and the music by Samuel A. Ward (any relation??), and was first published this date (Oct. 25) in 1910.

Announcements

Neal Lassila: (1) Thanks to all who contributed to and attended last night's **Polio event!**

(2) A committee met Monday to discuss what succeeded at the **Beachside Bash**, and how it can be improved next year.

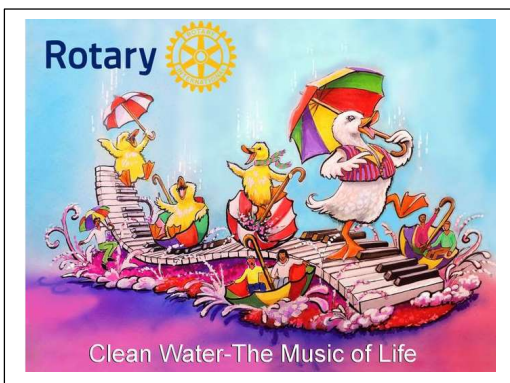
(3) Rotary Ventura East will have its 35th annual **Poinsettia Plant Sale** fundraiser. Place orders by Nov. 28, delivery Nov. 30. For flier and order form, see their website at rotaryventuraeast.org,

(4) Neal was pleased that the **STEMbassadors** attended the recent **Rotary District Conference** in Bakersfield.

Kristin Taylor: Coats for Kids will have 55 collection sites this year, including 25 or 30 managed by Rotary Ventura South. Collection boxes will be distributed between November 1-5. Volunteers are still needed for four of the schools. Kristin has all the instructions.

Lynda Girtsman was sorry to announce that club member **Sheila Fattarelli** died last week.

Ken Leandro: The **ASSETS** after school program at Ventura High School is taking a field trip to the Murphy Car Museum in Oxnard on Nov. 9 from 2:10-3:50 p.m. Volunteers needed.



Madhu Bajaj: (1) Seven more spots are available to decorate the **Rotary Rose Parade float** December 9. See Upcoming Events below and Madhu's email of 10/24/23 for more information.

(2) Pacific High School Interact will be meeting at Doug and Randy's next week to decorate pumpkins for their fundraiser. Need donations of succulents for decorations.

(3) Congratulations to club member **Bill Kearney**, who has been awarded the **Ventura Chamber of Commerce Poinsettia-Citizen Award**.

Chris Brashears announced 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 for December 9. See Upcoming Events and flier below.

George Poulakos: (1) George attended the **District Conference** along with Neal Lassila and Greg Wray. Members from South Korea and Mexico also attended. Each chapter should make an effort to think globally.

(2) Santa Paula Rotary is celebrating its 100th Anniversary Nov. 17. George encouraged us to attend, noting that our chapter founded the Santa Paula chapter.

Steve Doll: Volunteers needed to help control traffic for the **Turkey Trot** on Nov. 23.

Happy Dollars.

We sang **Happy Birthday** to **Brenda Allison-Hutchinson**, who attended via Zoom.

Fining: Abiel Acosta quizzed us about Halloween. Hope you aren't among the 21% of Americans who pretend they aren't home!

PROGRAM

Our program on October 25, 2023, was about our Perspectives on Peace scholarships, and our personal perspectives on peace. Peacebuilding and conflict resolution is one of Rotary International's seven Areas of Focus.

Madhu Bajaj led an exercise where each table discussed their own perspectives on peace, and illustrated them on paper. Indy noted that peace requires we be satisfied, but our overdesire prevents it. Joslynn's idea of peace was as simple as being able to sleep without disruption from the kids.



Ken Leandro discussed our club's Perspectives on Peace scholarships. It began in 2019 to fill a void—other organizations gave scholarships based on essays and academic achievement, but none were directed to the arts. We award scholarships for video, photography, art, and music that focus on peace. Eligible are graduating Ventura public high school seniors who will be attending a two-year, four-year or advanced vocational/technical school. The scholarships total \$10,250, and are funded partially by the Rotary District. In 2020, the scholarships were renamed in memory of club member Staci Johnson Ingram.

Ken played a winning music composition from a prior year and displayed some of the art submissions.

The program is in its sixth year. Submissions are due April 19, 2024. We will resume in-person judging, which will be in approximately late April. The awards will be given at our club meeting May 22.

PROSPECTIVE NEW MEMBER

The Board has accepted the membership application of **Allen Kieffer**, Owner of Krazy Results LLC. His membership is sponsored by Jeff Lambert. Pursuant to the New Member Process of our club's Continuing Resolution, if you object to his membership, please contact a board member within the next 7 days.

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

The club's Board of Directors met at the Crowne Plaza Hotel on Thursday, October 26, 2023. The board approved the revised Bylaws and annual Continuing Resolution, which will be posted on the club's website. Volunteers are needed for Fireworks Committee Chair, Sponsorship Chair, and Overall Operations—contact Ken Leandro or Neal Lassila. We currently have 86 members with a goal of 93. VUSD Superintendent Dr. Antonio Castro was approved as an honorary member. Ken Leandro discussed our club's role as the nonprofit partner in the Ventura High School ASSETS afterschool program...we will be involved in events like field trips but do not have a financial commitment.

CELEBRATING CLUB ANNIVERSARY

Dan Holmes

14 years

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Amy Bailey Jurewicz

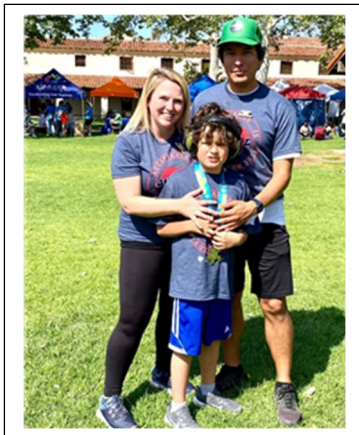
October 23

Brenda Allison-Hutchinson

October 24

UPCOMING EVENTS

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



Nov. 1 lunch meeting: Ashley Pope, Autism Society Ventura County. Ashley Pope is 33 years old and lives in Ventura with her husband Carlos and their 10 year old son, Gavin. She is employed by the Ventura Chamber of Commerce as a Membership Development Manager and is a Rotarian with Rotary Club of Ventura East. The presentation will be on Ashley's experience as an Autism Mom, as well as an overview of Autism Society Ventura County's programs and services.

Ashley is a passionate volunteer. She has volunteered countless hours for Autism Society Ventura County. She is currently the President of the organization and has served on the board for 6 years. The projects that bring her the most joy are workforce

development, advocacy, changing the local narrative around Autism one family at a time, and obtaining large grants to put on new meaningful projects and programs in Ventura County.

In 2015, when her son was 2 years old, he was diagnosed with Autism. This diagnosis rocked her world and sent her family on a quest for services and to understand what this meant for her son. Acceptance wasn't immediate, but it was fast. Ashley became a passionate advocate and began to help other families whenever she could. This quest led her to Autism Society, where she combined her energy with other advocates for greater impact. She credits the organization with empowering her with the knowledge and experience to be the best mom she can be. Ashley also serves on the Special Education District Advisory Committee at Ventura Unified School District and the Community Advisory Council for the Special Education Local Plan Area at Ventura County Office of Education.

Nov. 8 lunch meeting: Veterans Day program. Special program to thank the incredible men and women who served our country. If you or a family member served that you would like to be recognized in the program, please send a high-resolution photo of them to Joslynn Skelton by November 1. We would also 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. See attached flier. RSVP to Chris Brashears by email or text by Nov. 6.

Nov. 15 lunch meeting: Craft Talks by Monica Smith and Rena Sepulveda

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: 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.

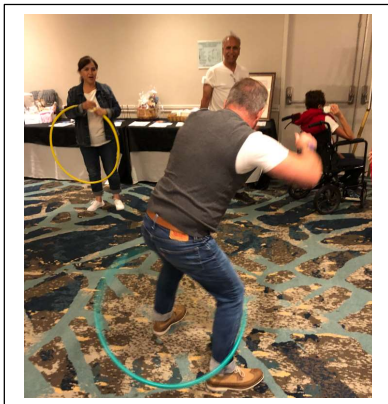
Dec. 6 lunch meeting: Ventura City Manager Bill Ayub

Dec. 9: Salvation Army Kettle Bellringing

Dec. 9: Decorate Rotary Rose Parade Float, Irwindale, CA

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

Dec. 16: Westside Community Holiday Party, Arise Ventura Church





THE SALVATION ARMY VENTURA

CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO THE

Kettle Kick-off Luncheon

HELP US CELEBRATE THE BEGINNING OF THE BELL RINGING SEASON!

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF VENTURA, SANTA PAULA, FILMORE, PIRU, SATICOY & SOMIS

Hosted by Jennifer Caldwell

Chief Development Officer of FoodShare



Guest Speaker Erik Nasarenko

Ventura County District Attorney

650 S Petit Ave., Ventura, Ca 93004

For more information, or to reserve your seat or a table
please contact patricia.torres@usw.salvationarmy.org or

(805) 659-3598

Don't wait R.S.V.P. by November 6

Lunch | Recognitions | Silent Auction

November 13, 2023 11:30am - 1:00pm