



ROTARY SPOKES

Rotary Club of Ventura

Est. May 1, 1919

“The Friendliest Club in Rotary”

October 30, 2022

MEETING OCTOBER 26, 2022

Lunch—In honor of Dia de los Muertos, Food Affairs by Stacey served a delicious pozole (soup), make-your-own nachos, tortillas, salad, and Halloween cake.

President Margi Wray called the meeting to order.

Flag salute, inspirational message, and introductions—**Doug Halter** reflected on the silver linings from the pandemic. It forced us to slow down, to think about what we want to do, and who we want to do it with. We saw how beautiful Southern California is without the traffic. Like all tragedies, the pandemic brought innovations and encouraged us to rethink the status quo.

Songleader—Jessica Brandon— “America (My Country ‘Tis of Thee)”

Announcements:

Kristin Taylor—**Coats for Kids** launches November 1 and runs through December 31. Between November 1 and 4, pick up your collection box, vendor sheet, and volunteer sheet at Hilford Moving and Storage. Rotary Ventura South is participating with us, and we have 16 collection sites.

Mary Saputo—**Fright Night at the Villa**. Ventura Lions, Doug Halter and Randy Encinas host nationally known paranormal investigator, historian, and author Richard Senate, who will present a fascinating history of Ventura’s hauntings. November 5, 6:00-8:00 p.m. \$30 tickets include wine, beer, beverages, and snacks. Benefits City of Hope. Register at venturalions.org.

Jessica Brandon—Thank you to those who participated in the **Polio Day Mixer**. The event was a success and raised over \$5,300.

Chris Brashears—**Salvation Army Red Kettle Gala**, Saturday, November 12, 5:00-10:00 p.m., Ventura Beach Marriott. Dinner, silent auction, live music and dancing with the Brandon Ragan Project, guest M.C. Lis Guererro. Tickets \$100. Register at Salarmy.us/Venturagala.

Happy Dollars.

Fining—**Jessica Brandon** conducted an informative fining session regarding ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis) and the efforts to “unlock” this disease.



Hutch presented **Juan Torres** with his first **Paul Harris Fellow** pin and certificate. Juan is a Captain in the Salvation Army and has been a Club member since October 2020. We viewed a short video on the Rotary PolioPlus program.

PROGRAM—SEEAG



Seth Wilmoth and Liz Shura gave an enthusiastic presentation about SEEAG (Students for Eco-Education and Agriculture) at our October 26, 2022, meeting. Founded by Mary Maranville in 2008, SEEAG is a non-profit that opens the eyes of youth and the community to the farm origins of our food.

The STEM Careers Pathways in Agriculture program teaches middle and high school students about the job opportunities available in agriculture. The Child Wellness Initiative and the Farm Fresh Mobile Van bring local specialty crops to schools with cooking demonstrations. Farm Lab Academy sponsors field trips to farms and other agricultural businesses, reimbursing the schools for the cost of busing the students.

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SEEAG, CONTINUED

Annual Farm Day events are held in Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties. The Ventura County event this year is Saturday, November 5, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Participants may visit one or more of 21 participating farms and agricultural companies. The event is free. For a map and other information, visit www.seeag.org. Volunteers are needed to help check in guests.

Rotary
Club of Ventura



Guest Speaker

SEEAG

Students for Eco-Education and Agriculture



SEEAG is a nonprofit organization that aims to help young students understand the origins of their food by bridging the gap between agriculture and consumption through its agricultural education programming. SEEAG's "The Farm Lab" program based in Ventura County teaches schoolchildren about the origins of their food and the importance of local farmland by providing 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

November 1-4: Coats for Kids: Pick up collection boxes and paperwork at Hilford Moving and Storage.

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. Sign up at: https://www.corazon.org/3381_venturarotaract

November 16 lunch meeting: George Poulakos will discuss the upcoming Guatemala Team Trip.

November 17: Board meeting, Crowne Plaza Hotel, 12:00-1:30 p.m. (Meeting one week early due to Thanksgiving holiday.)

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

November 23: No meeting this week.

November 30 lunch meeting: Hutch Hutchinson and the Rotary Foundation District Chair

Have you visited our website lately? Go to VenturaRotary.org for events, speakers, archived newsletters, list of club executives, and more!