



ROTARY SPOKES

Rotary Club of Ventura

Est. May 1, 1919

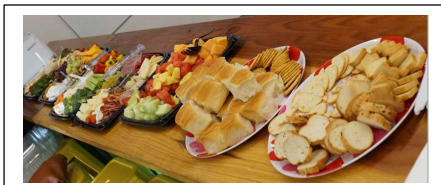
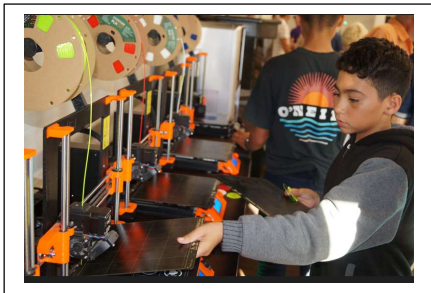
“The Friendliest Club in Rotary”

September 10, 2023

STEMBASSADORS IDEA CENTER



On the evening of August 30, 2023, club members visited the STEMbassadors IDEA Center on Ventura Avenue in Ventura. The program has enriched 400 middle school and high school students by allowing them to follow their passions using state-of-the-art manufacturing equipment. During the pandemic, the students manufactured 20,000 face shields they sent to health care facilities around the globe. Mentor Alex Wulff described the program, and the students shared their interests and the equipment they enjoy using. Our Julius Gius Memorial Rotary Foundation is proud to support STEMbassadors.



MEETING SEPTEMBER 6, 2023

Attendance: 38. Guests were Warren Barrett, account executive at the *Ventura County Star*, who has helped us publicize the Beachside Bash; and Elana Amaro, office manager of Hermance Law.

Lunch: Food Affairs by Stacey served a Mediterranean meal including Mediterranean chicken, couscous, asparagus, fruit, green salad and pudding (or was it custard—I don't know the difference!)

Introductions: **Clyde Reynolds** led the flag salute, and gave an inspirational message about happiness attributed to Pope Francis.

Song: **Jessica, RoseAnn and Clyde** led singing of “America (My Country ‘Tis of Thee)”

Announcements:

President Neal Lassila announced that plans for the **Beachside Bash** are progressing. The three Rotary Clubs are working together closely. Sponsorships of cash and goods are doing well and continuing towards our goal. Beer, cider, and new drinks have been donated and food trucks are signed up. Fliers are going up all over town. As this is the first year, we continue to conquer new hurdles as they arise. We have arranged parking at Pierpoint and Harbor that should alleviate some of the congestion. **The event is listed in the current edition of the international *Rotary Magazine* (Sept. 2023, p. 57)! And look for our full-page ads in upcoming issues of the *Ventura County Reporter*!**

Ventura Rotaract Fundraiser, Tuesday, Sept. 12, 4:00 – 8:00 p.m., at Chipotle, 488 S. Mills Road, Suite 104, Ventura. See attached flier for details.

Irene Henry: Ventura High School Rotaract received a grant for their Essential Needs Pantry. Nursing will now take it over. But Rotaract is still responsible for donations—for September, they need hygiene items, toothpaste, deodorant, etc.

Saurabh Bajaj: Comedy Hour at our meeting in two weeks (Sept. 20). Send him an email if you want to participate, and he will send you the guidelines.

Madhu Bajaj: (1) Do you recall a successful **meeting program** from past years? If so, let her know!

(2) Club member and City Councilmember **Doug Halter** will give **city updates** at our meetings once a month, starting next week. Lunch service will still begin at 12:00, but we will begin the meeting portion at 12:20 so there is time for Doug's briefing.

(3) Last week's evening event at the **STEMbassadors IDEA Center** was a success! The future is in good hands. And thanks to everyone for cleaning up after themselves!

Happy Dollars.

Fining: Betsy Chess cooked up questions about Baking, including the accidental invention of the chocolate chip cookie.

PROGRAM: CONVERSATIONS IN ROTARY

Lynda Girtsman interviewed two members: **Keith Moschetto** and **Aaron Campbell**. Lynda is like our own Barbara Walters (except unlike Barbara, Lynda doesn't try to make them cry)!



Keith Moschetto has many interests. He loves traveling, reading (especially biographies and autobiographies), riding his Harley, and, of course, Rotary.

Keith's career did not end up where he expected. He attended Buena High School, received an AA from Ventura College, and then trained to become a firefighter. But while waiting tables at the Gin Mill, he

became friendly with a regular customer who was an executive at Getty Oil. He persuaded Keith that he could make double the money at Getty than he would make as a firefighter. So in 1980, Keith went to work for Getty.

In the 1950s and '60s, oil workers were grizzled World War II vets who were deaf in one ear and had missing fingers. But by the 1980s and '90s, the work force became more civilized and more women joined the ranks.

In the 1990s, Texaco paid for Keith's continuing education. He earned a degree in Finance from Cal State Northridge, and an MBA from the University of Laverne. He worked for Prudential Realty from the ages of 48 to 54, then received a very generous offer to return to the oil and gas industry in 2013. Over the years, Keith held a variety of jobs in the oil industry, including as a roustabout, on oil rigs and offshore platforms, in geology, and permitting. Much of his work was with emergency response, including reporting and cleaning up spills. He explained that most of the spills were very small, like a few ounces of hydraulic fluid, and much of the oil you see on the ocean is natural seepage.

Keith's mother died when he was 10. His grandmother was a role model. She was unusual in that she was an executive for Nestle in the 1930s and a single mother. She impressed on Keith to never feel like a victim, but to keep moving forward.

Keith got married at the Victorian Rose Wedding Chapel. He is widowed and raised his son Brandon alone from the age of 7. His advice on raising teenagers: spend 80% of your time listening, and 20% giving advice. Let them figure out their own solutions.

Keith has traveled a lot recently. His next trip is to the East Coast to see the fall colors and visit family. After that—a safari to Kenya!

CONVERSATIONS IN ROTARY, CONTINUED

Lynda then interviewed **Aaron Campbell**. Making art is an important part of Aaron's life. He feels it is all about the process, not the outcome. As you start a piece you don't necessarily know where it will end up. He recently painted portraits of two friends, and a self-portrait.

Aaron lives in Newbury Park and is the Director of Development at the Ventura Botanical Gardens. He has two boys.



Aaron was born in Illinois. He attended four high schools in three states. His only regret in life is that he turned down a high school program at the Milwaukee Institute of Art. (Just one regret...that's pretty good!) Making art is the only thing that kept him in high school. He went to college in Milwaukee, then moved to Berkeley, then attended Santa Monica College. He graduated from UCLA "as an older student" (he seems young to me!) with a degree in History and a minor in Urban Planning.

Aaron worked briefly at the Huntington Library, then for seven years at the California Institute of the Arts (Cal Arts) before coming to the Ventura Botanical Gardens.

His profession is fundraising. Lynda asked how he gets people to come to events when they know they will be asked to give money. He said it is about philanthropy—literally, the love of humans. We give in many forms including money, time, and expertise. We can do more together than as individuals.

Aaron has been rock climbing for two and half years. That includes bouldering and climbing with a partner, where you trust the other person to pull you up, and to catch you when you fall. He enjoys Boulderdash climbing gym.

Rotary Spokes, the newsletter of the Rotary Club of Ventura, is emailed to members weekly (most weeks, anyway). Archive editions are under the Bulletins tab on our website.

Neal Lassila, President

*Mike Schwartz, Communications Chair
Newsletter editor*

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Sept. 13 lunch meeting: J. Ryan Stradal, author of the bestselling novels *Great Kitchens of the Midwest* and *The Lager Queen of Minnesota*. His most recent novel, *Saturday at the Lakeside Supper Club*, was released in April this year. He is an editor at Unnamed Press, fiction editor at *The Nervous Breakdown*, advisory board member at 826LA, and co-producer & host of the literary/culinary series Hot Dish. He likes books, wine, sports, root beer, and peas.



Sept. 20 lunch meeting: Comedy Hour. Member joke contest hosted by Saurabh Bajaj. Email Saurabh to sign up.

Sept. 23: End of Summer Beachside Bash, national ribeye steak cookoff, live bands, brew fest, car show, food trucks, grilling demonstrations, and more. San Buenaventura State Beach, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. More information at venturabeachsidebash.com.

Sept. 27 lunch meeting: Dr. Sevet Johnson, CEO of the County of Ventura.

Sept. 28: Board Meeting, Crowne Plaza Hotel, 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.

Sept. 28: Meet Assemblymember Steve Bennett, 5:30 – 6:30 p.m., in the Crista McAuliffe Room, Ventura Unified School District Office, 225 W. Stanley Ave., Ventura.

Oct. 3: Reception for District Governor Marta Golding Brown, Portside Clubhouse, 1196 Portside, Ventura, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Oct. 4: Board members meet with District Governor, 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., Cañada Larga Room, Poinsettia Pavilion.

Oct. 4 lunch meeting: District Governor Marta Golding Brown.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Jessica Brandon
September 5

Anne King
September 8

Indy Batra
September 9



CELEBRATING CLUB ANNIVERSARY

Barbara Asbell
September 1
19 years

WE CAN DO THIS!!! FOOD WITH INTEGRITY.
COMMUNITY STARTS HERE. 25% TASTES MADE
FOIL-WRAP... BETTER FRESH
GOODNESS... EVER
GENEROUS... THE DAY
CLIPPING... CHANGE... THE...
VENTURA...
DO GOOD

DO GOOD WITH CHIPOTLE



CHIPOTLE FUNDRAISER FOR
VENTURA ROTARACT

33% OF EVENT SALES GET DONATED TO THE CAUSE

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12TH | 4-8PM
488 S MILLS RD STE 104, VENTURA, CA, 93003

ORDER ONLINE FOR PICKUP USING CODE **WFBW3NR**
OR SHOW THIS FLYER IN RESTAURANT



For online orders to count towards the fundraiser, they must be placed for pickup only from the restaurant location of, and during the hours of, the fundraiser. Delivery orders and gift cards do not qualify. \$150 minimum event sales required to receive any donation.

Rotary Club of Ventura Vocational Corner

Member spotlight



Madhu

MADHU BAJAJ
Co-owner FAST SIGNS

- Professional Background is in nonprofit management- program development, evaluation, grant writing and making, fundraising, and more, I have been working with Saurabh in our businesses since right before COVID.

- Our son is 19 and a Haas Business Student at UC Berkeley. We are empty nesters... still getting used to it.

- I love to read- especially historical and contemporary fiction centered on women's issues. I love sharing book recs!

- I am on the Board of Planned Parenthood Central Coast Action Fund, Ventura Chamber, and Rotary. I love planning volunteer activities, especially with my Rotary friends and for Pacific High!

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