



ROTARY SPOKES

Rotary Club of Ventura

Est. May 1, 1919

“The Friendliest Club in Rotary”

September 11, 2022

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

I’d like to take the pulse of our Club as we embark on the third month of the 2022-2023 year. For me it has been a learning curve, for sure! I am enjoying the challenges and simply getting to know all of you better. The depth of talent and experience in our Club is immense. Together we can accomplish so much! I want and need your feedback as we continue forward. Please email me and let me know what is working and what you would like to see happen.

Our Avenues of Service are hard at work:

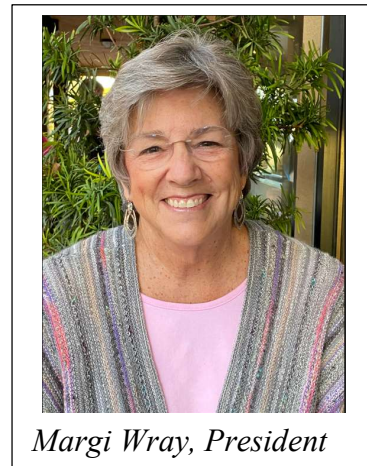
Sandy Lassila and Madhu Bajaj, I think you will agree, have lined up some informative, exciting, and entertaining programs for us this year. If you have suggestions for future presentations, please share them, along with suggestions for offsite meetings and “social” locations.

We will soon hear from George Poulakos about some amazing opportunities in Guatemala and in Zambia. Dan Holms and Anil Aggarwal have more information to share.

Meaghan Smith and Angela Rosales are hard at work on Youth Literacy projects, connecting with Interact and Rotaract clubs to bring them in greater concert with our Club’s activities and, as you have seen, keeping us all informed.

Brenda Allison-Hutchinson is busy bringing her new partner, Joslynn Skelton, up to speed on their programs this year which include the Children’s Holiday Event, Coats for Kids, and the Senior Project.

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Margi Wray, President

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, continued

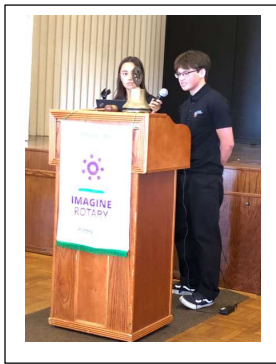
Hutch Hutchinson is also poised to welcome a new partner on the Vocational team. Together they will plan out interactions with Interact and High School career prep activities.

Neal Lassila and Abiel Acosta are energizing the membership drive activities by attending Chamber meetings, streamlining the Blue Badge process and organizing Fireside Chats to help members get to know new members in a more informal setting. If you would like to host one, please let them know.

If you are looking to be more involved, please contact these leaders and let them know of your interest. They will welcome you with open arms. In addition, our Communications Chair, Mike Schwartz, and our Fundraising Chair, Jessica Brandon, are also very busy and would welcome some helping hands.

The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.

JGMRF RECIPIENTS



STEMbassadors



This poster grew legs!

For the program at our September 7 meeting, we invited representatives from 12 non-profit organizations who received a total of \$43,500 in grants this year from our Julius Gius Memorial Rotary Foundation. They discussed how the grants are serving our community.

EPIC Leadership Center—\$5,000—Video presentation by Kate Simonson. Transforming the lives of people in low income, higher risk neighborhoods by developing everyday leaders.

YMCA—\$4,000—Amy Jurewicz—Livestrong program for cancer survivors, with creation of a pediatric program.

Ventura County Medical Resource Foundation—\$2,500—Rob van Nieuwburg—providing access to care for disadvantaged families.

Salvation Army—\$4,000—Jim Deardorff—Provides free eye exams and glasses each week in Ventura and Oxnard. The grant will help expand the clinic with a mobile unit.

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JGMRF RECIPIENTS, continued

Girl Scouts—\$2,500—Tammie Helmuth—Financial assistance for underserved girls to participate in life skills, outdoor skills, STEM, and entrepreneurship (cookies!).

Ventura Music Festival—\$1,000—Susan Scott—Music in the Schools for Ventura students.

New West Symphony—\$1,000—Patricia Jones—Laby Harmony Project provides musical opportunities for children in underserved communities.

HighTide Robotics/Team 4414—\$2,000—Mike Sessa—open to all high school students. Hands-on mechanics, programming, social media development. Hosting the Tidal Tumble competition Oct. 29-30, Ventura Fairgrounds.

Ventura Education Partnership—\$4,000—Debbie Golden—fosters innovative education through active teaching methods, real-world problem solving, student/teacher corroboration, and critical thinking.

Rubicon Theatre Company—\$4,000—Beverly Ward—Summer Youth Theatre produces four shows in eight weeks and teaches kids to stand up and communicate with others.

STEMbassadors—\$3,500—Ashley and Jaelen—IDEA Center serves Ventura Avenue area youth with innovation, design, entrepreneurship, and art.

Ventura College Foundation--\$10,000—Rob van Nieuwburg—scholarships awarded from the Joe Taylor Fund.



MEETING SEPTEMBER 7, 2022

Despite high temperatures outside, the open doors at **Poinsettia Pavilion** provided nice air flow for a comfortable meeting.

Attendance—40 plus one 1 via Zoom

Lunch—Tilapia filets, rice, coleslaw, and chocolate pudding for dessert

Flag salute, inspirational message, and introductions—**Jessica Brandon**. “Your work is going to fill a large part of your life, and the only way to be truly satisfied is to do what you believe is great work. And the only way to do great work is to love what you do.” (Steve Jobs)

Songleaders—**Clyde Reynolds** and **Beverly Ward**. “America (My Country ‘Tis of Thee)” (For the first time in 70 years, the British are singing “God Save the King” rather than “God Save the Queen” to the same melody...)

Announcements:

Kristin Taylor—We have helped thousands of individuals through **Coats for Kids**. The campaign this year runs November 1 through December 31. Please join the meeting right before next week’s club meeting (September 14) at 11:30 a.m.

Madhu Bajaj—A variety of factors conspired to postpone the **Book Club** during the summer. But the club has rebooted and will meet at Judy Moore’s home Sept. 22 at 5:00 p.m. to discuss *An Elephant in My Kitchen*. (Don’t worry about clean-up, Judy, they have not invited an actual elephant...)

Angela Rosales—**Ventura High School Interact’s Student Essentials Basic Needs Pantry** needs donations of school supplies, hygiene products, and ready-to-go snacks. Bring donations to our weekly meetings, drop off at Irene Henry’s office, or contact Meaghan for pick-up. (Congratulations to Angela, recently honored as Women’s Economic Ventures’ Woman of the Year!)

Fining—**Karynsue Rose-Thomas** stumped members with “willy nilly-questions” on topics ranging from the unique biometric characteristics of the tongue to typing “stewardesses” with one hand.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

September 14 lunch meeting: Presentation by Ventura Unified School District Superintendent Antonio Castro, Ed.D., and Board President Sabrena Rodriguez.

September 21 lunch meeting: Presentation by Obi Achinivu, The Food Bank/Nigeria.

September 22: Book Club 5:00 p.m. at home of Judy Moore. Discussion of *An Elephant In My Kitchen*, by Francoise Malby Anthony. All members welcome whether or not you’ve read the book.

September 28 lunch meeting: Program to be announced.

October 5 lunch meeting: Presentation by Maria Ventura, Southern California Gas Company.

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