

The Joshua Tree

January 23, 2024

VOLUNTEERISM, EDUCATION AND FINANCIAL LITERACY



Three students, all Juniors, and all attending University Prep spent their Tuesday this week taking part in the Club Level Annual High School 4-Way Competition.

Hosted by **Mike Johnson**, assisted by timekeeper **Arsalee Morales** and judges **Morris Anderson, Ray Robles, Nancy Keller, & Dr. Venkat Vangala**, took part in three wonderful presentations to a room full of school officials, district members, family members, guests and Rotarians.



Finishing in third place and taking home \$50 was **Fatima De La Virgen** who spoke on her passion for volunteerism. Fatima began volunteering at Hook Community Center last Summer and shared that it brings her a lot of joy, as well as bring a role model to younger children. She shared that volunteering isn't just about lending a hand, it's about open our hearts to make a real difference. For Fatima, one of the greatest skills that volunteering offers is personal growth in all aspects that are represented in the 4-Way test.



Finishing second and leaving with \$100 was **Courtney Chen**. Her speech was in the



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This Week's Functionaries

Invocation: Bill Edwards

Flag Salute: Chris Ackerman

4-Way Test: Mike Page

Fine Master: Ryan McEachron



MURRAY'S MINUTE

Thank you to Fatima De La Virgen, Courtney Chen and Makenzie White for their wonderful

speeches in our High School 4-Way Speech Competition. Congratulations to Mackenzie on her win, and we are rooting for you to win the Regional Competition!

We will have a 5th Tuesday meeting on January 30th but have decided to make it a regular meeting at the Bear Valley Country Club and not an evening meeting.

Bryan Gillespie shared the bad news that the Valentine's dinner has been canceled



due to the high price, which would have resulted in \$108 per person.

With that being said, don't forget the Rotary Super Bowl Party on February 11 at the home of David and Carrie North is FREE for all Rotarians and guests. Please see more info on page 4.

Bryan Gillespie and I has a great time at the Rotary Presidents' Advance meeting in Pasadena this past week. We learned a lot and left with some great ideas.

Steve

Speech

Continued from page 1

area of education. Courtney deeply values education and it bothers her to see others take it for granted, while she views education as a privilege. Courtney loves to play piano and volunteering at her church. During her speech she gave many facts and statistics that supported her thoughts that education provides more than knowledge, but a way to be lifted out of poverty, a brighter future and a real chance of success.

Taking first place and receiving \$150 was **Makenzie White**. Makenzie



focused her speech on the importance of financial literacy for high school students. Young people would be able to start off with a lower credit score if this education was brought back into schools. No matter their home life or ethnic background, financial literacy has equal opportunities for all. The daughter of a banker, she learned at an early age how to spend money wisely.

Makenzie has seen several classmates struggle with money and wish it was still taught in school so they would be better prepared after graduation. In her spare time, she loves to paint, play violin and baking. In fact, she plans to one day open a bakery of her own.

Next, Makenzie will represent the Club at the regional level, and with a win there, she will represent us at the District Competition.



CREATE HOPE
in the WORLD



CREATE HOPE in the WORLD

Big Blue Poker Chip



Bill Scott had the chance to pick the Blue Poker Chip, but picked green and saved the chance for another next week. The pot will continue to grow with 3 chips and \$475 for the lucky Rotarian who can draw the Blue Poker Chip.

Fine Session

Ryan McEachron was our Fine Master this week and began by fining **Kirsten Acosta** \$20 for still having her Red Badge. Of course this was right before she was to attend an emergency board meeting which is the last thing she needed to get her Blue Badge!



Jim Murray also paid \$20 for giving away very old golf balls in last week's raffle. Finally, **Dan Dever** was penalized \$10 for just showing up!

Raffle

Jim Murray left the meeting this week with a set of leather Rotary coasters from **Russ Stringham** and both **Dan Dever** and President **Steve Murray** received sets of hot cocoa and mugs from **Bill Edwards**.

Steve donated a Starbucks gift card and \$20 cash that will be enjoyed by **Bryan Gillespie** and **Mike Johnson** gave away a power strip that will be used by **Dr. Ron Boyd**. Finally, Mike also donated the very last Desert Community Bank mug that **Bill Scott** won!

Rotary Guests

This week we welcomed family members of our students who participated in our High School 4-Way Speech Competition that included, **Cory White, Tony Chen, Chia Chi Chen, and Raquel De La Virgen**.

We had our judges in attendance, who were all arranged by **Terry Saenz**. Our guest judges were **Morris Anderson, Venkat Vengala, Ray Robles, and Nancy Keller**. From University Prep, we were introduced to Principal **Valerie Hatcher**.

Finally, we welcomed **Cheri Boyd** from Paychex, who attended as a guest of **Nancy Keller** and **Angel Espino** as a guest of **Mike Page**.

Rotary



Club of Victorville, CA

Proposed Member

If you protest the admission of this member please respond in writing by 5 p.m. February 5 to President Steve Murray.

Angel Espino

Edward Jones

Financial Advisor

Classification: Financial Advisor

Sponsors: Mike Page & Stew Anderson

The Polio Pig

Collected this week: \$10.00

Polio Pig: \$5 + Dice (Bill Scott) \$5 = \$10.00

Collected to Date: \$20,238.33

Total equals: 101,455 Doses!

**One dollar equals 2 Doses of Vaccine!
\$500 pays for a Polio Clinic!**



VICTORVILLE ROTARY CLUB OFFICERS

Board of Directors

- President 2023-2024Steve Murray
- President 2024-2025Bryan Gillespie
- President 2025-2027 Bill Edwards
- President 2027 - 2028 **Please be Interviewed**
- Immediate Past President/Special Projects..... Arsalee Morales
- Treasurer/Scholarships David North
- Executive Secretary/Foundation/Grants Margaret Cooker
- Club Service/MembershipBryan Gillespie
- Community Service/Speech Contests Mike Johnson
- International Service..... Ben Tafoya
- Youth Service/RYLA & TLC/Ethics Essay..... Ron Boyd
- Vocational Service Bill Edwards

Members-at-Large: Rob Kilpatrick & Bob Basen

Positions & Committee Chairs

- BOD Secretary Pam Murray
- Billing OfficerEsther Mears
- Dan Stover Music Contest..... Bill Edwards
- Flowers and Gifts Linda Hove
- Foundation & GrantsMargaret Cooker
- Fundraising..... Arsalee Morales
- Joshua Tree Editor Chris Ackerman
- Membership..... Bryan Gillespie
- Programs Mike Page
- Publicity/Public Relations Rob Kilpatrick
- Public Safety..... Rick Bessinger, Teresa DeAtley,
and John Wickum
- Sergeant At Arms.....Steve Murray
- Scholarships..... David North
- S.T.A.R. StudentsMaureen Mills and Michal Krause

The Victorville Rotary Club meets every Tuesday for fellowship at 11:30 a.m. and meeting at 12:00 noon at the Bear Valley Country Club, 13229 Spring Valley Parkway, Victorville

Make-up Days and Locations

- MONDAY:** San Bernardino East, Imperial Palace, noon
- TUESDAY:** Rancho Cucamonga Sunrise, 7:15 a.m.
Empire Lakes Golf Course
Rancho Cucamonga, 12:00 p.m., Etiwanda Gardens
- WEDNESDAY:** San Bernardino Crossroads, Hilton, noon,
Barstow, DiNapoli's Firehouse, 1358 E Main St,
Barstow, CA
- THURSDAY:** Apple Valley, Thursday various meeting locations
and times. Ontario, 12:15 p.m., Doubletree Hotel
San Bernardino, Denny's at I-15, 7 a.m.
Redlands, Masonic Temple, noon
- FRIDAY:** San Bernardino North, Elks Lodge, 12:05 p.m.

Calendar Dates

- Feb 11: Super Bowl Party**
Home of David and Carrie North
13484 Capella Rd, AV 92308
Fellowship 2:00pm
Counts as a Fireside
- Feb 12: Board of Directors Meeting**
5:00pm Fellowship
5:30 pm Board Meeting
Location: Robar Enterprises
17671 Bear Valley Road, Hesperia, CA

Rotary
Club of Victorville, CA



Upcoming Programs

- Jan 30:** Faith Maldonado, H&R Block **TOPIC: 2024 Tax Update** (Page)
- Feb 6:** Kevork Kazanijian, Victor Valley College Professor **TOPIC: Without the Rule of Law, What's Left?** (Acosta)
HSD S.T.A.R. students
- Feb 13:** OPEN
- Feb 20:** San Bernardino County Sheriff Shannon Dicus (Page)
- Feb 27:** Dan Stover Music Contest (Edwards)

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