

# The Joshua Tree

**February 22, 2022**

## THE OPTIONS FOR YOUTH SECRETS TO SUCCESS

Not all charter schools are created equal. A Charter School is a public school that may provide instruction in any combination of grades with different purposes. As we heard from **Bryan Gillespie**, who is the Principal of 5 area Options for Youth Charter schools, Options for Youth is about academic recovery for students 3-6 months behind, working with them to get them back and through graduation.



dropouts and on average, earn \$10,000 less per year than high school graduates.

The school wants to change the perception of dropouts, as they are all not bad kids. Options for Youth was originally a school for independent study to get students to the place of graduation, but now the school has counselors, tutors, student trips, and an overall better High School experience. The school

Options for Youth began in Victorville in 1988 by John and Joan Hall, two teachers in Hollywood, who were once dropouts themselves! Out of over 1300 charter schools in California, the most of any state, they were the 13th official charter school but actually the first to open their doors. The school is authorized by the VVUHSD and is a very collaborative relationship over a competitive one.

also offers small classes in English, Math and Science.

A 2014 Northeastern University study showed that at the time, 6.5% high school students were dropouts, which comes out to about 3.3 million young people. This dropout rate cost taxpayers \$292,000 over the course of their lives, equaling about 9.6 billion dollars. Other statistics noted are that half of Americans on public assistance are

Bryan knows that having a high school diploma is not enough and at Options for Youth they are also preparing students for the world after high school and the school grew as a result by adding counselors at each location, special ed staff, English language learner supports and full time math tutors.

The school as also increased extra curricular activities such as sports, field trips, plus senior activities such as a Prom, Grad Night, and Senior Breakfast. The



### This Week's Functionaries

- Invocation:** Dr. Ron Williams
- Flag Salute:** Jim Murray
- 4-Way Test:** Dwight Johnson
- Fine Master:** Ryan McEachron

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Thanks to Bryan Gillespie for coming in this week to share all about Options for Youth Charter Schools and its rich history here in the High Desert. It was great to hear not only what you

do to help students graduate successfully but how you prepare them for after high school.

Arsalee Morales shared with the Club that we will have fundraiser Comedy Night on April 16th, but we are needing a location to hold the event. If you have any ideas, please contact Arsalee as soon as possible so we can start promoting the event.

We are currently looking for financial donations to help us purchase our Easter Basket supplies, and also seeking members to put them together at our meeting on March 29th. Please contact Michael Krause or Esther Mears for more information.

Next week will be our High School 4-Way Speech Contest and we have three contestants! We are looking for a non-Rotarian to be a final judge. If you know someone, please alert Ryan McEachron!

*Jon Hove*



## Bryan Gillespie

Continued from page 1

school has added experiential learning at no cost to the students. Some examples of this learn has been trips to a ranch in Colorado, San Fransisco, Washington D.C., a CSI trip in Las Vegas, community service in New Orleans, college tours and even international trips to Cuba, Italy and China. If that was not enough they also have added a Scholarship Program and created community partnerships where the student must do 10 hours of community service to graduate.



When Covid took the world by storm, Options for Youth was ready, and not even on purpose. They already had a strong independent study component and virtual platform in place with Chromebooks for each student. They quickly got to their feet and back running virtually within 2 weeks. A small number on staff continued to work on site at their three locations in Victorville and two in Hesperia, but there were still some struggles as teachers could not connect as easily to their students and extra curricular activities and experiential learning had to stop during the height of the pandemic.

Currently, 92% of students are back on site, and the sports program has made a return, mainly soccer, which began last month. They did a field trip to see "Hamilton" and have had one college tour. Most importantly, there has been a lot of talk about learning loss because of Covid. Learning loss is what Options for Youth have specialized correcting for over 30 years!

# Rotary

Club of Victorville, CA



# SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES

## Big Blue Dice



**Dwight Johnson had the chance this week to pick the Blue Dice, but drew White and saved the money for another next week.**

**We continue next week with 3 dice and \$475 for the lucky Rotarian who can grab the Blue Dice from the bag.**

## Fine Session

**Ryan McEachron** was the Fine Master again this week and gave away \$10 fines during the session. **Dwight Johnson** got one for making the mic feedback, while **Dr. Ron Williams** was penalized for avoiding the question about how much he makes from Options for Youth.

**John Kroencke** was hit with a fine for doing nothing in retirement and **Mike Page** was given a fine of \$10 each for the five questions he asked to **Bryan Gillespie** after his presentation, equaling \$50!

## Spoon of Exemption

**Arsalee Morales** had her last week with the "virtual Spoon" and shared that this was the final week for new and current Apple Valley Communications customers to get a \$99 security system that includes a free doorbell camera!

It was time to raffle off the Spoon for five Tuesdays in March and while there was some discussion of a massive Spoon purchase from **Pastor Paul Earle**, in the end, **Ryan McEachron** took it for \$100.



## Raffle

There were still Valentine's love in the air today as the Club gave away four boxes of See's Candy and both **John Kroencke** and **Ryan McEachron** was won a pair! Sounds like a perfect match!



**Arsalee Morales**

will enjoy a bottle of wine she received from **Dwight Johnson** and **Linda Hove** will use the 2022 Regan Ranch calendar that was donated by Dwight too.

Finally, **Jim Murray** and **Ryan McEachron** will both use the Victor Valley Transit mobile phone chargers that were donated by **Chris Ackerman**.

## Rotary Guests

Along with **Linda Hove**, who was with her husband, President **Jon Hove**, we also welcomed **Stefanie Montoya** who attended with **Bryan Gillespie**.

We regret to announce the passing of  
**Marilyn Buttelwerth**  
on February 19th, 2022  
Service Info announced soon

## The Polio Pig

**Collected this week: \$12.00**

*Polio Pig: \$7 + Dwight Johnson (Dice): \$5.00= \$12.00*

**Collected to Date: \$18,655.67**

**Total equals: 98,425 Doses!**

*One dollar equals 2 doses of vaccine!  
\$500 pays for a Polio Clinic!*

# Rotary Club of Victorville, CA



The Joshua Tree is a Weekly Publication of the Rotary Club of Victorville  
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If you are not receiving your newsletter, please contact Editor Chris Ackerman at  
chris@signifydesigns.com or 760-559-1686 to be added to the e-mail or mailing list.

## VICTORVILLE ROTARY CLUB OFFICERS

### Board of Directors

President 2021-2022 .....	Jon Hove
President 2022-2023 .....	Arsalee Morales
President 2023-2025 .....	<b>Need Candidates</b>
President 2025-2026 .....	Bill Edwards
Immediate Past President .....	Steve Orr
Treasurer .....	Donna Wells
Executive Secretary .....	Margaret Cooker
Foundation.....	Margaret Cooker
Club Service .....	Arsalee Morales
Community Service .....	Michael Krause
International Service.....	Ben Tafoya
Youth Service/RYLEA & TLC .....	Ryan McEachron
Vocational Service .....	<b>Need Volunteer</b>
Grants.....	Margaret Cooker
High School Speech Contest.....	Ryan McEachron
Scholarships.....	Esther Mears and Arsalee Morales
George Hensel Ethics Essay Contest .....	Ron Boyd
Membership.....	Dwight Johnson
Billing Officer .....	Esther Mears
<b>Members-at-Large:</b> David North, Esther Mears, Rob Kilpatrick & Ron Boyd	

### Positions & Committee Chairs

BOD Secretary .....	<b>Need Replacement</b>
Programs .....	Mike Page
Publicity/Public Relations .....	Stephen Quintero
Public Service.....	Rick Bessinger, Teresa DeAtley, John Wickum & Jeff Armstrong
Sergeant At Arms.....	Arsalee Morales
Dan Stover Music Contest.....	Chris Ackerman
S.T.A.R. Students .....	Maureen Mills and Michal Krause
Fundraising.....	Arsalee Morales
Flowers and Gifts .....	KayMarie Gregory
VVUHSD Jr. HS Four Way Speech .....	Nancy Noble
Joshua Tree Editor .....	Chris Ackerman

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

### Make-up Days and Locations

<b>MONDAY:</b>	San Bernardino East, Imperial Palace, noon
<b>TUESDAY:</b>	Rancho Cucamonga Sunrise, 7:15 a.m. Empire Lakes Golf Course Rancho Cucamonga, 12:00 p.m., Etiwanda Gardens
<b>WEDNESDAY:</b>	High Desert/Hesperia Club meets 7:00 a.m., Denny's, 13165 Main St., Hesperia San Bernardino Crossroads, Hilton, noon, Barstow, Rositas, 540 Main St, 12:00 p.m.
<b>THURSDAY:</b>	Apple Valley, ZOOM Meetings, 1st, 2nd and 4th Thurs Ontario, 12:15 p.m., Doubletree Hotel San Bernardino, Denny's at I-15, 7 a.m. Redlands, Masonic Temple, noon
<b>FRIDAY:</b>	San Bernardino North, Elks Lodge, 12:05 p.m.

## Calendar Dates

**Mar 14:** **Board of Directors Meeting**  
5:30 pm Meeting  
ARMAC Insurance Board Room  
Rear Building on Yuma

## Upcoming Programs

**Mar 1:** High School **Four-Way Speech Contest** (McEachron)

**Mar 8:** Rob Kilpatrick, Senior Project Manager,  
David Evans & Associates **Topic: "Apple Valley Village Project Update"**  
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**Rotary**   
Club of Victorville, CA

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

**By, March 10, 2022 we will be moving storage units at StorAmerica in Victorville and we are looking for volunteers to assist with the move over the next few days.**

**Please contact Arsalee Morales if you are willing to help out for any length of time!**

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