

The Joshua Tree

August 2, 2022

MEMORIES OF A ROTARY-ANN

Mattie Brown has had a long history in the High Desert and the Rotary Club of Victorville. Along with her husband, the late **Dr. Jerry Brown** they made the Victor Valley their home, as she shared with the Club this week.

They moved to the High Desert in 1957, when there were no stop lights on Bear Valley Road and the city literally was closed by 8:30pm every night. The High Desert needed an oral surgeon, so they made their lives here, to service patients in need. Jerry was both President of the Club and



President of the Victorville Chamber of Commerce from 1985-1986.

When it came to Rotary, Jerry and Mattie were all in and during his



tenure he began the first New Year's Party, which was later combined into the Demotion Party. They also held the first Super Bowl party, before it became a Russ and Gaylynn Stringham event. Another first

for the Club through them were the mystery trips to Vegas, taking a train from Barstow to Sin City.

Mattie was a Rotary-Ann. A Rotary-Ann was the female spouse to a Rotary member, when women were not allowed to be Rotarians. The terms began in 1914 when San Francisco Rotarians boarded a special train to attend the Rotary Convention being held in Houston. In those days few wives attended Rotary events, and until the train stopped in Los Angeles, the only woman aboard was the wife of

Rotarian Brunnier. As the train picked up additional convention-bound delegates, Mrs. **Ann Brunnier** was introduced as the Rotarian's Ann. This title soon became "Rotary Ann". It was always "Rotary-Ann + first name", so she became known as Rotary-Ann Mattie. Mattie became an Honorary Rotarian, after the passing of her husband.

When asked what her greatest accomplishment was in the Club, her answer was simply, "Going to parties"! In all seriousness, she shared it was the "Read to Me" program her husband started. Every Thursday, he would read to kindergarten students and the program grew from there. After he passed away, it was named after him, the "Jerry Brown Read to Me" Program.

Margaret Cooker shared that Jerry served as a mentor to her and **Steve Murray** added that Jerry could come up to a podium, not saying a word and with just his stare, could quiet the room! Their son **Dexter Brown** thanked the Club for treating his parents so well and has fond memories as serving as the bartender for all



Continued on page 2

This Week's Functionaries

Invocation: Mike Johnson
Flag Salute: Ben Tafoya
4-Way Test: Dan Dever
Fine Master: David North



ARSALEE'S AVENUE

Thank you to our **Mattie Brown** for sharing her memories of being a Rotary-Ann

and wonderful sense of humor, sharing all the dirt on legendary Rotary parties! Also, thanks to everyone who shared such wonderful words about her. I know it meant a lot to Mattie.



Don't forget to sign up for "Movie Night at the Hove's" on Saturday, August 27th beginning at 5pm at the home of Jon & Linda Hove. The movie will either be Top Gun 2 (if available) or the original film. Please remember to bring lawn chairs and a light jacket. Food will consist of hamburgers, hot dogs, chicken, and tilapia complete with Linda's secret sauce! Please sign up to attend and volunteer to bring an appetizer, side dish or dessert.

We will be having another 5th Tuesday evening meeting on Tuesday on August 30th! The event will be held at Republic in Spring Valley Lake, beginning at 5pm. Please make plans to attend this fun event. The address is 13261 Spring Valley Lake Parkway, #102, Victorville, CA 92395.

Join us next week as our program will be Mike Johnson sharing the history of Desert Community Bank, an iconic High Desert institution.

Arsalee

Mattie Brown

Continued from page 1



their Rotary parties. Mattie herself told the group about when she decided to attend Victor Valley College as an adult, the first class she took was Data Processing, and her teacher was none other than **John Kroencke** and later decided to take a sewing class and her teacher was **Joann Kroencke**!

Mattie Brown will be moving to Maryland on August 16th, but her and her late husband, **Dr. Jerry Brown** have left an indelible mark, not only with the Rotary

Club of Victorville, but with the High Desert as a whole!

Spoon of Exemption

Chris Ackerman

had his first week with the Spoon and will be sharing information over the month on programs Victor Valley Transit does, that many



in public may be unaware of. This week he spoke about their TRIP Program.

TRIP is a self-directed, mileage reimbursement transportation service that complements public transportation. Volunteers such as friends and neighbors transport transit-dependent elderly, people with disabilities, and others to access medical and other services where no transit service exists. The TRIP Program provides an incentive for volunteer drivers to assist eligible individuals who are unable to drive or access public transportation by providing necessary, escorted transportation. Participants receive funds to reimburse the volunteer driver and to offset the cost associated with providing transportation.



IMAGINE ROTARY



IMAGINE ROTARY

Big Blue Dice



Ben Tafoya had a chance to pick the Blue Dice, but drew a white one and saved the opportunity to another next week.

We will continue next week with 8 dice and \$350 for the lucky Rotarian who picks the Blue Dice from the bag!

Raffle

In this week's raffle, **Bill Edwards** donated a Flex Hose that will be used by **Ben Tafoya** and a Hummingbird feeder went home with guest **Dexter Brown**. **Chris Ackerman** donated a couple of Victor Valley Transit window shades that left the meeting with Bill and **Donna Wells**. Finally, **Mike Johnson** donated a tape measure that was won by **Ryan McEachron** and a box cutter that will be used by **Steve Murray** to slash some tires to get more business.

Rotary Guests

Joining Honorary Rotarians **Pam Murray** and **Mattie Brown**, we also welcomed her son **Dexter Brown**. We also welcomed **Kris Dever**, wife of **Dan Dever** and **James Rightmire** from El Dorado Broadcasters as a guest of **Dwight Johnson**.

Proposed Member

If you protest the admission of this member please respond in writing by 5 p.m. August 22nd to President Arsalee Morales.

James Rightmire

El Dorado Broadcasting

Position: Marketing Manager

Classification: Broadcasting: Marketing

Sponsors: Dwight Johnson and Steve Murray

Fine Session

David North was our Fine Master this week and began by giving President **Arsalee Morales** a fine of \$25 for arguing with him. Then David tried to fine **Chris Ackerman**, since he is looking for a new home for one of his cats, but was unable to, because Chris has the Spoon of Exemption! Instead, **John Kroencke** had to pay it, since he was sitting next to Mr. Ackerman.

Ryan McEachron was up next for the amount of \$20 for posting himself riding a Harley as a golf cart at a course and **Rob Kilpatrick** was penalized for the same amount for being in Minnesota for a month. **Stefanie Montoya** shared that Options for Youth students are back at school, so she left with \$20 less for making the traffic worse, and **Steve Murray** was also told to pay \$20 since Bob's Tire is just about fixed, but they are waiting for Apple Valley Communications to finish their work that they were supposed to wrap up last week. The fine went to Arsalee instead.

A Reprieve of Sorts



Steve Murray shared with the Club that since he has been absent for the last two weeks, members have a reprieve of two weeks until they are charged a hard fine of \$5 per meeting when caught not wearing their Rotary pin.

The Polio Pig

Collected this week: \$9.00

Collected to Date: \$19,029.52

Total equals: 99,147 Doses!

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



VICTORVILLE ROTARY CLUB OFFICERS

Board of Directors

- President 2022-2023 Arsalee Morales
President 2023-2024 Steve Murray
President 2024-2025 Need Candidates
President 2025-2026 Bill Edwards
Immediate Past President Jon Hove
Treasurer Donna Wells
Executive Secretary Margaret Cooker
Club Service Steve Murray
Community Service Bryan Gillespie
International Service Ben Tafoya
Youth Service/RYLEA & TLC Ryan McEachron
Vocational Service Need Volunteer

Members-at-Large: David North, Mike Johnson, Rob Kilpatrick & Ron Boyd

Positions & Committee Chairs

- BOD Secretary Pam Murray
Billing Officer Esther Mears
Dan Stover Music Contest Need Volunteer
Flowers and Gifts Linda Hove
Foundation & Grants Margaret Cooker
4-Way Speech Competitions Mike Johnson
Fundraising Arsalee Morales
George Hensel Ethics Essay Contest Ron Boyd
Joshua Tree Editor Chris Ackerman
Membership Steve Murray
Programs Mike Page
Publicity/Public Relations Need Volunteer
Public Service Rick Bessinger, Teresa DeAtley, Jeff Armstrong and John Wickum
Sergeant At Arms Steve Murray
Scholarships David North
S.T.A.R. Students Maureen 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 Spring Valley Lake 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: 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.
THURSDAY: 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
FRIDAY: San Bernardino North, Elks Lodge, 12:05 p.m.

Calendar Dates

- Aug 8: Board of Directors Meeting 5:00pm -Avenues of Service Meeting 5:30 pm Board Meeting ISU ARMAC Insurance Agency 17177 Yuma St., Victorville, CA
Aug 27: Movie Night at the Hove's 5:00pm at the home on Jon & Linda Hove Movie: Top Gun See Page 2 for more Info

Upcoming Programs

- Aug 9: Michael Johnson, Desert Community Bank Topic: "DCB Banking, The Past, Present & Future" (Page)
Aug 16: OPEN
Aug 23: Jon Hove, CEO ROBAR Enterprises Topic: "1955 to Today" (Page)
Aug 30: 5th Tuesday Evening Meeting 5:00pm • Republic SVL 13261 Spring Valley Lake Parkway #102

Rotary Club of Victorville, CA



Design & Layout By



Printed By

