



# The Joshua Tree

September 30, 2025

A 5TH TUESDAY AT VIVA MARIA RESTAURANT



Rotarians gathered this week for a "5th Tuesday" Evening Meeting, but not in Victorville. Club members traveled over to Apple Valley to enjoy some great Mexican food at Viva Maria Mexican Restaurant. It was Happy Hour, so Margarita's and Modelo's were the drinks of choice. Drinks were accompanied by chips & salsa, plus delicious food, including a taco bar for Taco Tuesday.

Rotarians in attendance included President **Bill Edwards**, **Don & Pam Lager**, **Steve & Pam Murray**, **Chris Ackerman**, plus **Dan & Kris Dever**, who brought their son **Christopher Dever**. Other attendees included **Jim & Leslie Murray**, **Dr. Derek King**, **Ben & Jan Tafoya**, and **Jon & Linda Hove**. Finally, **Jim Cox** was at the restaurant, bringing his son **Chris Cox** (Rotarian with the Rotary Club of Prescott Valley, Arizona) and his wife **Julie Cox**.

Mark your calendars for the next "5th Tuesday", happening on Tuesday, March 31, 2026.



## BILL'S BANTER

Thank you to everyone who came out to our 5th Tuesday meeting this week at

Viva Maria Mexican Restaurant in Apple Valley. The food was great, as was the fellowship! Everyone had a great time and it was a great opportunity to get together and be in a relaxed setting.



Teacher Mini-Grants have now officially opened! School administrators have been contacted, and many grant requests will be coming in very soon. As always, we will be asking club members and leaders in the community to help read grant applications, but most importantly, we need your generosity so we can award grants to many of our educators in the High Desert. Donation commitment sign ups are now open. Please give generously.

I will be in Washington next week for my granddaughter's birthday, but Ben Tafoya will be on hand to run the meeting. Chris Ackerman will be giving a craft talk on his famous family. He will be bringing a couple of very special raffle prizes, so don't be late!

*Bill Edwards*

## Taipei Convention 2026

Rotary International President **Francesco Arezzo** announced that more than 30,000 Rotary members and participants from over 120 countries will gather in Taipei, Taiwan 13-17 June 2026 for the membership service organization's annual international convention.

The Rotary convention is expected to inject US\$50-55 million into the local economy, and drive significant business for Taipei's hotels, restaurants, retailers, and tourism attractions. Taipei was selected as the site of the 2021 Rotary convention, but the event was canceled because of the COVID pandemic.

Held in a different city each year, Rotary's international conventions serve as a hub for members and participants to connect and learn from each other and a range of experts on how to take action to address issues in their communities and promote health, peace, and prosperity in communities across the globe.

"Taipei City is very happy to welcome over 30,000 Rotary members from all over the world to the Rotary convention next year," said City Mayor **Wan-An Chiang**. "Taipei is ready, and will extend our warmest hospitality to all the Rotary members to ensure that they have an unforgettable and fruitful visit in our city."

Organized by Rotary International in conjunction with local Rotary members, the convention presents an opportunity to showcase Taipei's culture, food, and attractions. "Rotary in Taipei and across Taiwan is thrilled to welcome Rotary members and participants from around the world back to Taiwan since we last hosted the Rotary international convention in 1994," said Rotary Host Organizing Committee Chair, **Jackson Hsieh**. "I'm excited to share Taipei's vibrant culture, innovative cuisine, creative and friendly spirit and highlight the positive and lasting change Rotary brings globally and locally."

In Taiwan, Rotary members are engaged in a wide range of community service projects that bring science education programs to rural schools, support Indigenous communities through environment and vocational training, tackle e-waste through computer refurbishing and donation programs, provide meals and companionship to senior citizens, and much more.

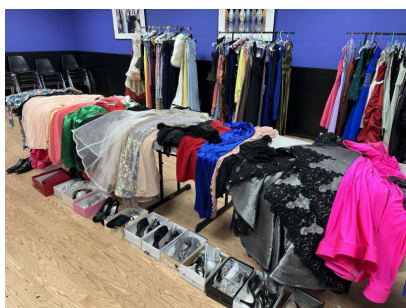
**UNITE  
FOR  
GOOD**

## Rotary Projects Around the Globe

**Peru:** In the western Amazon, Rotary clubs in the city of Iquitos participated in a seminar



in January to learn about the state of the area's schools. Two District 4465 leaders, **Doris Alván** and **Fernando Del Aguila**, enlisted a well-known educator in the area, **Josefa Ríos Gil**, to share with Rotarians what they can do to assist educators. In May, the Rotary Club of Iquitos Amazonas finished one related initiative, a district grant-supported teen empowerment project that taught young people to make earrings sold at eco-lodges near Lake Zungarococha. The club also provided school supplies to primary schools in the area.



United States: Prom is an expensive rite of passage, with purchases of gowns, tuxedos, flowers, meals, and transportation. In New York City, the Rotary Club of North Shore (Staten Island) is helping students through its "Cinderella/Cinderella" project. The entire 25-member club solicits new and gently used formal attire, some of which is purchased new by Rotarians. In April, students from across the borough are invited to choose from about 200 free dresses and suits, as well as shoes and accessories, so they're ready for prom season. The project was started in 2024 by then-President **Suzanne Demetrio** and is led by members **Stephanie Accardo** and **Regina Boukhalova**. "We believe no student should miss out due to financial hardship," says Demetrio. "We are giving young people the chance to feel special and confident on one of the biggest nights of their lives."

**India:** During the early stages of a global grant project to support mothers and their children, the COVID-19 pandemic forced the Rotary Club of Hiranandani Estate in Maharashtra state to reimagine the enterprise. Rotarians pivoted to organize vaccination camps, distribute emergency food, and establish



basic health care. The three-year effort reached more than 6,000 people across four communities in the city of Navi Mumbai. The club partnered with the Rotary Club of Metropolitan Lubbock, Texas, on the nearly \$50,000 global grant, which also provided 12 industrial sewing machines and offered training in their use. **Namrataa Srivastav**, project director, lauds the program as a "milestone, opening doors for future collaborations between Rotary and prestigious social service institutions."



**Myanmar:** After an earthquake of magnitude 7.7 struck Myanmar in March, killing more than 3,700 people and injuring many more, the Rotary Club of Yangon coordinated a relief effort both at home and at the epicenter near Mandalay, about 400 miles away. The club gathered supplies donated by its members, Mandalay Rotarians, and other Rotary clubs in neighboring countries, notably the Rotary Club of Bangkok South in Thailand. In May, a District 3350 delegation to Myanmar brought water purification systems, temporary shelters, and thousands of hot meals. The district committed to providing long-term recovery assistance, including a tube well in Sein Pan, a hard-hit ward in Mandalay. "The project reminded us that Rotary's strength lies not only in delivering aid but in showing up together across borders with compassion and commitment," says **Thordur Adalsteinsson**, a member of the Bangkok club that helped. "The partnership between our club, Rotary Myanmar, and District 3350 brought tangible relief to those in urgent need, but even more importantly, it brought hope and human connection in a time of crisis."



**VICTORVILLE ROTARY CLUB OFFICERS**

**Board of Directors**

President 2025-2027 .....	Bill Edwards
President 2027 - 2028 .....	<b>Please be Interviewed</b>
Immediate Past President/Club Service .....	Bryan Gillespie
Executive Secretary/Grants .....	Margaret Cooker
Treasurer .....	<b>Please Volunteer</b>
Youth Services/Ethics Essay .....	<b>Please Volunteer</b>
Foundation.....	Darron Poulsen
Club Service & Membership .....	Bryan Gillespie
International Service.....	Ben Tafoya
Youth Service .....	Ryan McEachron
Community Service .....	Arsalee Morales
Vocational Service .....	Angel Espino
<b>Members-at-Large:</b> Bob Basen, Ron Boyd, Steve Murray, Ron Boyd, Rob Kilpatrick	

**Positions & Committee Chairs**

BOD/PP Secretary.....	Pam Murray
Scholarships .....	<b>Please Volunteer</b>
Special Billing .....	Esther Mears ( <b>TBD</b> )
Public Service Awards .....	<b>Please Volunteer</b>
Teacher Mini-Grants .....	Angel Espino
Special Projects.....	Rob Kilpatrick
Dan Stover Music Contest.....	Angel Espino
Joshua Tree Editor .....	Chris Ackerman
Read B4K .....	Brad Letner
Grants.....	<b>Please Volunteer</b>
Food Baskets.....	Bill Edwards
Interact (Junior Rotary).....	<b>Please Volunteer</b>
Programs .....	Mike Page
Fundraising .....	Stefanie Montoya
S.T.A.R. Students .....	Angel Espino
Club Learning Facilitator.....	<b>Please Volunteer</b>

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**

<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>	San Bernardino Crossroads, Hilton, noon, Barstow, DiNapoli's Firehouse, 1358 E Main St, Barstow, CA
<b>THURSDAY:</b>	Apple Valley, Rusty Bull, 13685 John Glenn Rd, Apple Valley, Noon. 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**

**Oct 6** **Board of Directors Meeting**  
5:30pm Board Meeting  
On ZOOM

**Upcoming Programs**

**Oct 7:** Chris Ackerman, Sr. Marketing Manager/PIO, VVTA **TOPIC "Craft Talk: Scenes from the Cutting Room Floor"** (Page)

**Oct 14:** **OPEN**

**Oct 21:** Megha Gupta, MD **TOPIC "October Awareness, Future Care: AI in Screeing for Men and Women"** (Page)

**Oct 28:** Craig Garrick, President, AVCom **TOPIC "TBA"** (Page)

**Nov 4:** **TEACHER MINI-GRANTS**

**Nov 11:** **VETERANS DAY PROGRAM** (Letner)

**Nov 18** Chris and Jason Lamoreaux, Coldwell Banker Home Source **TOPIC "Real Estate Update"** (Page)

