



The Joshua Tree



November 18, 2025

STORIES AND SURPRISES FROM EGYPT

The Rotary Club of Victorville was treated to a vivid and entertaining travelogue this week as guest speaker **Mike Johnson** of Providence St. Mary shared highlights from his recent journey to Egypt, a trip filled with unforgettable history, intense culture, and more than a few surprises.

Mike's adventure began with a long haul across the globe, starting with a 13-hour flight from LAX to Turkey, followed by another 2 hours into Cairo. Upon arrival, he quickly learned that Egypt is a land of contrasts, rich in ancient wonders but also marked by heavy smog, chaotic transportation, and the unexpected need to tip restroom attendants for access. Visitors, he advised, should be prepared for warm weather at nearly all times.

From Cairo, Mike explored both the historic and the modern sides of the country. He visited New Cairo City, the site of Egypt's planned new capital, which already boasts an up-and-coming soccer stadium and



an impressive nine-story shopping mall. His travels also took him north to Alexandria on the Mediterranean Sea, giving him a firsthand look at one of the most storied coastlines in the world.

A trip to Egypt wouldn't be complete without its iconic landmarks, and Mike checked nearly all of them off the list. He marveled at the Great Sphinx, which he described as truly incredible in scale and detail. He also shared that while some pyramids are free to enter, the

larger and more famous ones require paid admission, but are well worth it. Traveling south, he visited Aswan and its famous dam, journeyed up the Nile River, and explored historic temples including Edfu Temple, the Valley of the Kings, and the awe-inspiring Luxor Temple.

He even made time for relaxation with a stop at the Red Sea, where the scenery, much like the cuisine, left a lasting impression. As for food, Mike noted that the standout dish across the region was simple but delicious: Chicken and rice, a local staple that rarely disappoints.

While Egypt can feel overwhelming with its bustling streets and unpredictable traffic, Mike emphasized that it remains one of the most remarkable destinations for those seeking history, culture, and adventure. And for anyone inspired to plan their own group journey, he recommends checking out Trip to Go Tours, the company that organized his unforgettable experience.

This Week's Functionaries

Invocation:	Bill Edwards
Flag Salute:	Andrea Vega
4-Way Test:	Angel Espino
Fine Master:	Bill Edwards



BILL'S BANTER

Thank you to Mike Johnson for stopping by and sharing his journey on his family's

recent trip to Egypt. Sounds like you had a memorable time!



RYLA will be taking place December 5th - 7th and Facilitators are still needed. This is a great opportunity to have your own "Rotary Moment". Please contact Bryan Gillespie or Ryan McEachron for more information.

Board members, please note, we are planning to move the December Board Meeting to the 8th. This will be an in-person meeting at ISU ARMAC, so please adjust your calendars.

Sign-ups are now open for our annual Christmas Dinner at Chateau Chang on December 11th. See flyer on this page for more information.

As mentioned last week, this is my final column with you. Marianne and I have found a piece of property in Washington and will be moving the first of the year. We thank you for your love and support these past 7 years, and will carry fond memories with us in our next chapter.

Farewell and God Bless...

Bill Edwards



Rotary Club of Victorville
cordially invites you to our

Christmas Party

December 11, 2025
5pm

Chateau Chang
15425 Anacapa Rd
Victorville, CA 92392

Please R.S.V.P by December 9, 2025
Pam Murray 760-963-1923
pam75454@msn.com

UNITE FOR GOOD

Big Blue Poker Chip



Bill Scott had the chance to draw the Blue Chip but picked green and saved the chance for another.

We'll continue next week with 13 chips and \$225 for the lucky Rotarian who can draw the Blue Chip.

Rotary Guests

This week we welcomed **Andrea Vega** and **Courtney Jefferson** from High Desert Pace as guests of **Chandale Sutton**, and **Stefanie Montoya** was in attendance as a Stand-in for **Bryan Gillespie**.

Spoon of Exception

Andrea Vega who is a Dietitian with High Desert PACE had the Spoon this week. She shared information about the poverty and aging she deals with on an almost consistent basis. She deals with food insecurity, abilities to cook and for some, forgetting how to eat or use a straw. Along with assessments, Andrea is able to put together all inclusive nutrition plans, as well as home care for seniors in serious need.



Raffle

During this week's Raffle, **Chris Ackerman** donated a VTA blanket that will be used by **Don Kinnard**, a bean bag cell phone holder that will be used by **Andrea Vega** and a highlighter set that will be enjoyed by **Bill Scott**.



Bill also took home box of "Sewing Essentials" from **Ben Tafoya** and a bottle of wine from **Brad Letner**. Ben also went home with a bottle of wine from Brad.

Ben wasn't done yet as he and Brad left the meeting with canisters of Reese's peanut Butter filled pretzels.

Fine Session

Bill Edwards was our Fine Master and he gave **Ben Tafoya** a \$10 fine for winning all of the Blue Chip money last week. That would have been the only penalty, but **Mike Page** gave himself a Hard Fine of \$1,000 to announce the birth of his new granddaughter. **Amber Elise Doman** was born on October 23rd, weighing 7 pounds, 11 ounces and 20 inches long. The mother is Mike and Sharon's middle daughter **Katherine Dorman** and her husband **Ryan Dorman**.



The Polio Pig

Collected this week: \$28.00

Polio Pig: \$23 + Chip (Bill Scott) \$5 = \$28.00

Collected to Date: \$21,663.68

Total equals: 104,306 Doses!

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



VICTORVILLE ROTARY CLUB OFFICERS

Board of Directors

President 2025-2026	TBA
President 2026 - 2027	Please be Interviewed
Immediate Past President/Club Service	Bryan Gillespie
Executive Secretary/Grants	Steve and Pam Murray
Treasurer	Darron Poulsen
Youth Services/Ethics Essay	Please Volunteer
Foundation.....	Darron Poulsen
Club Service & Membership	Bryan Gillespie
International Service.....	Ben Tafoya
Youth Service	Ryan McEachron
Community Service	Arsalee Morales
Vocational Service	Angel Espino

Members-at-Large: Bob Basen, Ron Boyd, Steve Murray, Ron Boyd, Rob Kilpatrick

Positions & Committee Chairs

BOD/PP Secretary.....	Pam Murray
Scholarships	Please Volunteer
Special Billing	Esther Mears (TBD)
Public Service Awards	Please Volunteer
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.....	Please Volunteer
Food Baskets.....	Bill Edwards
Interact (Junior Rotary).....	Please Volunteer
Programs	Mike Page
Fundraising	Stefanie Montoya
S.T.A.R. Students	Angel Espino
Club Learning Facilitator.....	Please Volunteer

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, 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
FRIDAY:	San Bernardino North, Elks Lodge, 12:05 p.m.

Calendar Dates

- Dec 8** **Board of Directors Meeting**
5:30pm Board Meeting
ISU ARMAC Insurance Agency
17177 Yuma St., Victorville, CA 92395
- Dec 11** **Rotary Christmas Party**
5:00pm at Chateau Chang
15425 Anacapa Rd, Victorville
\$65 per person; \$130 per couple
RSVP to Pam Murray at 760-963-1923 or
fill out sign-up sheet at meetings.

Upcoming Programs

- Nov 25** Chris and Jason Lamoreaux, Coldwell
Banker Home Source **TOPIC "Real
Estate Update"** (Page)
- Dec 2** **OPEN**
- Dec 9** Jason Anderson, San Bernardino
County District Attorney **TOPIC "TBA"**
(Page)



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