

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ROTARY CLUB OF SANTA CRUZ CELEBRATES 100 YEARS OF SERVICE

Historical re-enactment and gala event with Rotary International Vice President to mark milestone

SANTA CRUZ, Calif. - The Rotary Club of Santa Cruz has been making a positive impact in Santa Cruz since 1922 when a small group gathered for lunch at the St. George Hotel on Pacific Avenue to propose a new club. Over the last 100 years the Club has been laying a foundation, without the politics, for the community's success as well as investing in its continued health and prosperity - locally for residents and on an international scale as well. Some of these activities include:

- Launching a project to help preserve a local redwood forest, now known as Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park;
- Leading efforts to develop and fund improvements and access to the Santa Cruz Mission Adobe State Park and the Santa Cruz County Veterans Memorial Building;
- Awarding more than \$1 million in college scholarships to students from several high schools as well as scholarships for those in vocational training;
- Providing more than \$400,000 in grant funds for organizations supporting youth and the arts as well as other nonprofits providing important, dedicated services to our local community;
- Investing annually in programs for producing clean drinking water, providing education, improving health and promoting peace in underserved communities around the globe.

"It is an honor to lead an organization that has been making a difference in our local community and around the world for 100 years," said Erik Dybdahl, president of Santa Cruz Rotary. "We hope that the community will join us in this celebration. We hope they also might be inspired by this achievement to attend a meeting at their local Rotary club sometime soon."

A Historical Beginning

Within a few months of its founding in 1922, Santa Cruz Rotary invited Rotary International (RI) to help launch a historic project. Club members wanted to preserve a local, privately-owned ancient redwood forest as a county park, and RI agreed to help.

More than 400 Rotarians, representing 13 countries, traveled 350 miles from the RI convention in Los Angeles to Santa Cruz. They paid tribute to the tallest trees on Earth and gathered at The Giant - the most majestic redwood on the property. The Santa Cruz Rotary Club, led by County Bank President William T. Jeter, thus succeeded in creating Santa Cruz County Big Trees Park. It ensured the permanent preservation of the famous ancient forest.

Later, in 1938, hundreds of Rotary members returned for a second visit to The Giant, hosted by Santa Cruz Rotary. It was at that time that RI President Maurice Dupperey of Paris, with Rotary International founder Paul Harris at his side, dedicated the tree to Rotary International. In 1955 the park would become Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park, named for the man who once owned this and thousands of other acres in the area.

To celebrate this achievement and its 100-year anniversary, the Rotary Club of Santa Cruz is hosting two community events:

Rotary to the Rescue - A Historical Re-enactment

In partnership with the Mountain Parks Foundation, the Rotary Club of Santa Cruz will present a historical re-enactment of Rotary International honoring the ancient redwoods. Attendees will witness a performance featuring the 1938 dedication of The Rotary Tree on the Redwood Loop Trail. The event will occur on Friday, Oct. 21, from 11:45 a.m.-2 p.m. at Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park in Felton.

Centennial Celebration at the Cocoanut Grove

The Centennial Celebration will be held at Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk's Cocoanut Grove on Saturday, Oct. 22, from 6-10 p.m. It will feature keynote speaker Nicki Scott, Rotary International Vice President, plus dinner and dancing. Tickets are \$150 per person; table reservations are also available.

Community members are invited to both events. They can learn more and RSVP at santacruzrotary.com/our-centennial.

About Rotary International

Rotary International brings together a global network of volunteer leaders dedicated to tackling the world's most pressing humanitarian challenges. Rotary connects 1.4 million members of more than 46,000 Rotary clubs in over 200 countries and geographical areas. Their work improves lives at both the local and international levels, from helping those in need in their own communities to working toward a polio-free world. For more information, visit Rotary.org.

The Rotary Club of Santa Cruz meets on Fridays at 12:30 p.m. at the Santa Cruz Elks Lodge, 150 Jewell Street in Santa Cruz. For more information visit santacruzrotary.com.

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