

# Chulatarian

Rotary  
Club of Chula Vista



ROTARY CLUB  
OF CHULA VISTA

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Rotary  
Club of Chula Vista



The weekly newsletter of the Rotary Club of Chula Vista

Chartered February 16, 1926 - Club Number 908 - District 5340  
Meets Weekly, Noon, 4475 Bonita Road, Bonita (Chula Vista Golf Course)

JESSICA PETER  
211 SAN DIEGO  
Friday, April 25, 2025 - Noon



As a local nonprofit organization, 211 San Diego is the region's trusted source for information and connections to community, health, and disaster resources. Help is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, and in more than 200 languages. They maintain a database of more than 6,000 services and resources that are updated on a real-time basis and Community Connectors help connect San Diegans to the accurate information they need.

Jessica Peter is the Vice President of External Affairs at 211 San Diego, where she leads strategic initiatives to strengthen the organization's community presence. She cultivates partnerships, participates in regional efforts to improve access to resources, and oversees marketing and communications. Jessica also monitors policy developments at the local, state, and federal levels to inform the organization's strategy and advocacy.

She holds a bachelor's degree in sociology from Scripps College, as well as a project management certificate and a teaching credential from San Diego State University. A dedicated nonprofit professional, she has been part of the 211 San Diego team since 2009 and brings nearly two decades of experience to her role.



## MEETING HIGHLIGHTS—April 11, 2025

President Jesse Fernandez called the meeting to order. Carmen Sandoval gave the invocation.

Songmaster Chuck Bevan led us in song.

Gary Bryant provided an update on Rotarians at Work Day, Saturday, April 26. Our team will be working at the Living Coast Center.

Laura Humphreys told us about the Chula Vista Animal Care Facility project on Sunday, May 18. We will be putting dog beds together.

The Tijuana Home Build is Saturday, April 12. International Projects Chair Carmen Sandoval thanked the Club for their ongoing support—this the 20th home our Club has built over the years. The many household items and gifts for the family will be deeply appreciated.

It was Betty Waznis' actual birthday on April 11—so we sang Happy Birthday to her and she was presented with a birthday muffin to celebrate. She went on to present the Jim Biddle News at Noon. This week's sponsor was Risa Baron with Republic Services. The lucky drawing winners were Rochelle Carroll, Ken Weimer and Rasha Roshdy.

Rochelle Carroll introduced Superintendent Eduardo Reyes who shared about this year's CVESD Speech Contest. There were many students who participated and some of our members served as judges. Five students presented and they were amazing!



Rochelle Carroll and CVESD Superintendent Eduardo Reyes introduced the program—AMAZING students presenting their winning speeches—A Letter to My Future Self. Our Club has supported this program for many years.



## JIM BIDDLE NEWS AT NOON by Betty Waznis

• LIVE



Brought to you by:

THIS WEEK'S  
SPONSOR

With Betty Waznis

Hello, everyone, and welcome to today's edition of the Jim Biddle News at Noon. Today brought to you by Risa Baron and Republic Services.

On Wednesday the president paused tariffs on goods from many countries for 90 days. Many goods from most countries will still be subject to a 10% tariff until then. No changes were made to agreements previously made for Canada and Mexico, and certain other sector carveouts. At the same time, tariffs on Chinese-made goods were raised to 125%. The pause does not apply to the 25% tariffs on steel and aluminum levied in March, on autos that started on April 3 and auto parts to be effective May 3.

Current results in the District 1 Supervisor race show Chula Vista Mayor John McCann in first place with a 44% of the vote, and Imperial Beach Mayor Paloma Aguirre at 32%. Since it is not expected that either candidate will get 50%, a final runoff election between the two is expected July 1. Voter turnout was just under 17% of 373,000-plus registered voters, with more than 62,000 ballots counted as of last night. District 1 voters overwhelmingly preferred mail-in ballots, submitting more than 60,000 of them, compared to vote center ballots totaling just under 1900.

For the second year in a row, Trader Joe's has brought a sales frenzy to its stores, with customers waiting in line, sometimes even camping out, to buy miniature tote bags bearing the grocery chain's logo for \$2.99. The sensation began a year ago when, without much notice, Trader Joe's released its first series of limited-edition totes, basically just smaller versions of the reusable canvas bags that the chain has sold for years. The totes became a trendy must-have accessory, and the stampede began. This year, there was a bit more warning, and stores were prepared for the chaos organizing lines, and restricting purchase amounts. On Wednesday, a few of the new bags were already listed for up to \$70 on eBay.

The Padres became the first team in the Majors to reach 10 wins this season with their 2-1 victory Wednesday over the A's in a tense series finale to win the series 2 games to 1. The games were played at Sacramento's Sutter Health Park minor league field where the former Oakland A's will play until their new Las Vegas stadium is completed in a couple of years. The Padres were playing without three of their starters – Jackson Merrill, Fernando Tatis Jr., and Jake Cronenworth. -- Merrill officially on the injured list and the other two benched in a watch and wait situation. With or without them, the Padres will open a six-game homestand tonight at 6:40 - three games against the Rockies followed by three games against the Cubs.

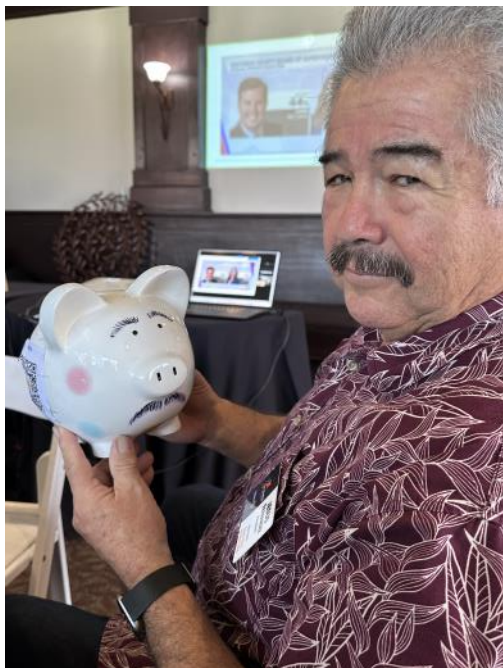
Our sponsor, Risa Baron, is a New York native who moved with her family to California after high school. Once she experienced January in San Diego, she never wanted to leave. Risa is an SDSU graduate and was the first in her family to attend college, earning degrees in Political Science and Public Administration. She joined Republic Services in March 2021 as Municipal Manager, working closely with San Diego County and the Cities of Chula Vista and San Diego to manage their franchise contracts. Her prior experience included work at the San Diego County Water Authority, SDG&E and Caltrans. As her husband likes to tell people, every organization she has worked in has required her to wear a hard hat. Among her other accomplishments, she is past President of I Love a Clean San Diego and President of SDSU Alumni Association.

She and husband David are also small business owners. Their family, including son Jonah and daughter Hannah all have a role in Jackie's Jams, the family business. David and a team of employees handcraft the specialty jams using fresh ingredients from local growers, while Risa handles the administrative side. Jonah is in charge of Operations and Purchasing, and Hannah helps with corporate and mail orders. Risa said she never dreamed of owning a small business, but says, "It has brought us the most joy and is one of our greatest accomplishments." On April 1, they celebrated their 14th year in business. This concludes today's edition of the Jim Biddle News at Noon, today sponsored by Risa Baron and Republic Services.





## MEETING HIGHLIGHTS—April 11, 2025



L-R: A VERY striking resemblance between Pancho the Polio Pig and President Jesse! Pancho and our generous members have brought in nearly \$2000 to date—excellent! It was Betty's actual birthday on meeting day—so a birthday muffin was in order! Jeanette Badal received her blue badge—a tad late, but still very much deserved. Congrats Jeanette!



L-R: This week's sponsor Risa Baron brought some fun gifts—including the very popular Jackie's Jam! The lucky drawing winners were Rochelle Carroll (Chula Vista Sunrise Rotary), Ken Weimer (wins again!) and Rasha Roshdy, whose last minute big ticket purchase paid off. Thanks everyone for supporting the CVR Foundation.



Pictured above are the winners for this year's speech program 4th - 8th graders from the Chula Vista Elementary School District. Their speeches were very moving, exciting, funny and unexpected. Our future is **bright** with the talent demonstrated by the students.

### **CLUB CALENDAR**

**ROTARIANS AT WORK DAY—Saturday, April 26, 9—12 @Living Coast**

**FIESTA FUNDRAISER @ Mark Scott's—Sat. May 17, 5:00 pm**

**CHULA VISTA ANIMAL CARE FACILITY (14 volunteers needed) -  
Sunday, May 18**

**RED SHOE DAY—RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE—7:00-9:30 am—Wed May 21**

**BIKE SAFETY RODEO—Saturday, May 24 (two shifts needed—morning/afternoon)**

**GOVERNOR'S DINNER— Saturday, June 7, Mission Valley Marriott**

**INSTALLATION/OUTSTALLATION—Fri, June 27, 12-1:30  
@ San Diego Country Club**







## TIJUANA HOME BUILD A GREAT SUCCESS!



L-R: Before the work begins... Current family home in the background. Our Project Leader, Mike Meziere, giving us a pep talk and instructions.  
Bill Torre, Gary Bryant, President Jesse and Mike.



Above L-R: Bill Torre and Rob Shields figuring out what comes next.  
Getting ready to raise the third wall of the house.





Above L-R: New homeowner Cristal painting the trim with Cheryl Shields. Sweet 3-year Yoana wanted to help as much as possible.



L-R: The home is high up above the town of El Nino, near some beautiful mountains. It was the perfect day. Mike Green, holding lumber, as the crew put the finishing touches on the home.







L-R: It was the end of a perfect day! Rotarians on hand: Mike Green, Bill Torre, President Jesse, Carmen Sandoval, Cheryl Shields, Beta and Reed Dinsmore, Autumn Reed and Gary Bryant. Assisted by Chik fil-A's awesome crew, Rob Shields, friends of Project Leader Mike and others. Thank you so much!



L-R: Rotary friends from the Eastlake-Chula Vista Rotary Club helped out too: Susan, Chris, Odette and baby Tiago. The happy family—Benjamin, Yoana and Cristal. Cheryl and her crew arranged the many gifts, food and donations on the shelves and made it look really awesome. Mike Green and Gary Bryant, with Cristal, provided some much appreciated cash for the family. Thank you everyone! (MORE pictures next week)





## **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

**3rd Annual Rotary Fiesta Fundraiser  
Saturday, May 17th, 5:00 pm; more details to follow**

**At the home of  
Mark & Stacy Scott**



**WORLD  
IMMUNIZATION  
WEEK** 24-30 APRIL



**GOOD-BYE POLIO  
THANKS ROTARY**

