

# Chulatarian



**IMAGINE  
ROTARY**

**ROTARY CLUB  
OF CHULA VISTA**

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**Mary Johnson**  
**Leon Redondo**  
**Rasha Roshdy**

[www.chulavistarotary.org](http://www.chulavistarotary.org)



**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 (CV Golf Course)**

**TONY PAUKER**

**Otay Ranch Town Center Reimagined  
Friday, JANUARY 20, 2023, Noon**



Tony Pauker has spent the majority of his career in the field of real estate development, focusing for the last twenty years on the residential side. Most of this has been related to for sale housing, both single-family detached homes as well as townhomes and denser urban projects.

As the Vice President of Land Acquisitions for Brookfield Properties, his focus is on land acquisitions, entitlements and permitting in southern California. He also has experience in retail and mixed-use development, affordable housing and apartment development and investments.

Prior to development, Tony worked in real estate market and financial feasibility consulting for complex public and private projects.

## **CLUB CALENDAR**

January 27—Wayne Rafflesberger, Author & Polio Survivor  
February 3—Baja Home for Abandoned Elderly Men—Anthony Millican  
Save the Date: February 10 - Club Valentine's Program



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## MEETING HIGHLIGHTS—JANUARY 13, 2023

President Mark Scott called the meeting to order. Chris Lewis gave the invocation. President Mark asked everyone to sing Happy Birthday to Risa Baron—who was inadvertently left off the birthday list—and Jerry May who was not present last week. A rousing rendition!

President Mark introduced members of the Tijuana Rotary Club who were in attendance including President Jorge Escalante and International Director Flavio Olivieri.

Mora de Murguia presided over the installation of three new members: Max Scrivens (returning), Julieta (Julie) Delgado and Darrel Johnston.

Members of the Tijuana Rotary Club thanked us for sponsoring them more than 91 years ago. They invited us to participate or support their upcoming Day of the Three Kings party for Children with Disabilities on January 21. They have sponsored 10+ Rotary Clubs in their region and installed the first street light in Tijuana, established schools and an addiction center. Most recently they have focused on children's medical needs, a cancer center and improvements to the planetarium at the Children's museum. Yvette shared of their interest in participating in the Peace Pole initiative of the current RI President, Jennifer Jones. She also discussed the possibility of our members visiting Tijuana through a private tour and transportation that she would coordinate. Several members raised their hands as a gauge of interest.

Chris Lewis shared that 350 families received food this morning at the St. Mark's food distribution event. Thanks to Duane Buckingham, Reed and Beta Dinsmore for also helping. President Mark thanks Jim Biddle for his recent donation to the Club Foundation and kidded him about a recent photo of he and Nick Gistaro breaking bread. No one else invited!

Glen Googins took a ribbing about accepting the City Attorney position with the City of Santa Clara near San Francisco. He will start March 1.

Jan Mellinger shared excellent information about mental health—a huge topic. Depression, suicide, co-occurring disorders and more were covered in a short time. Thanks you Jan!

### INVOCATION - Given by Chris Lewis

A new year, a new month; a new day! As the world continues to evolve from one year to the next. We as citizens of this world also evolve year in and year out. "Out with the old and in with the new." Each January we reconcile ourselves with the year past and look forward to something new and better in the ensuing year.

Dear God, You are the designer and energy of all the seasons. We invoke your guidance as we prepare for the year ahead. Help us to remember that while many are the plans in the minds of humans, it is your will that will be accomplished.

We, as Rotarians, are aware of the every-changing world. Sometimes it seems as though there are not enough hours in a day to deal with the constant changes that affect us and those around us. We know that you God are changeless and constant. Therefore, we ask you to slow us down, open our hearts and minds and steady our thoughts to allow us to effectively serve the every-growing and every-changing humanitarian needs in our world.

We ask your blessing upon Rotary International in general and on the wonderful members of this Club in particular, as we go forward this new year in a spirit of renewed fellowship, peace, and harmony; planning and organizing to respond effectively to the needs of an ever-changing world. Amen!





## JIM BIDDLE NEWS AT NOON

LIVE



Brought to you by:

THIS WEEK'S  
SPONSOR

With Betty Waznis

Hello, everyone. Welcome to today's edition of the Jim Biddle News at Noon, sponsored by Carmen Sandoval and the International Projects Committee.

California weather continues to be big news, with northern and Central California being hit the worst. Nineteen storm-related fatalities have been confirmed. Roads and streets look like rivers. Sinkholes have swallowed cars. The next storm – the seventh atmospheric river storm since Christmas – is due to hit northern California today. On the bright side, as of yesterday, less than one percent of the state was in exceptional or extreme drought. Just one month ago, 43 percent of California was in those drought categories.

The rate that SDG&E charges customers for natural gas has doubled compared to last month. In response to this bombshell announcement, the Public Advocates Office, an independent rate payer advocate arm of the California Public Utilities Commission, filed an emergency motion yesterday, requesting three actions. They asked the commission to move up the California climate credit that natural gas customers across the state receive each year.

This credit ranges from \$40 to \$55 and is automatically deducted from bills in April. The proposal calls for applying the credit to the February billing cycle. The Public Advocates Office also requested that customers be able to pay their monthly balances over a period of three to six months, since the monthly contract wholesale price for natural gas is expected to fall and payments might be more manageable. Last, they have asked for an examination of the root causes of the recent spike. SDGE attributes the outsize increase to wet cold weather, low gas inventory and pipeline issues.

San Diego has become a testing ground for solutions to one of California's most persistent and dangerous highway problems: wrong-way drivers. Freeway ramps throughout the county will be outfitted with warning devices — better signage, red pavement reflectors — that were shown to be effective in an earlier pilot study here. Places where wrong-way incidents are more common are experimenting with an advanced system that includes sensors, cameras, bells and flashing lights designed to get the attention of the wayward driver.

Motorists traveling on the freeway also may soon be alerted to the presence of a wrong-way driver by means of the electronic highway signs that now tell us about road closures and hazards. Wrong-way crashes are rare but deadly. They make up less than one-tenth of 1 percent of total highway collisions but they are 12 times more likely to be fatal. More often than not, the crashes take place in the lane closest to the center median. This is so common that many jurisdictions train their police not to travel in the number one lane late at night.

Today's sponsor, Carmen Sandoval Fernandez is a past president, our Chulatarian editor, and International Projects Committee Chair. Our Club has helped build MANY homes in Baja with Project Mercy – the next one is coming up in April. The International Projects Committee recognizes that there is great need in our world. A recent project – purchasing goats for women in Africa to develop skills to support their families by producing milk and cheese and then paying it forward to others when their goat herd increases.

After decades of toiling away in the non-profit sector, public transit, and Caltrans, Carmen keeps busy with her family, world and domestic travels – especially to see wonder baby – first granddaughter Maricela in Chicago. There is also Padres baseball, gardening, reading, and of course Rotary!

This concludes today's edition of the Jim Biddle News at Noon. Today's News sponsored by Carmen Sandoval and the International Projects Committee





## WELCOME NEW ROTARY MEMBERS!



### Three new members joined our Club!

L-R: Ken Weimer sponsored Darrel Johnston, Risa Baron sponsored Julie Delgado, and Max Scrivens has returned to our Club after several years in other parts of the county, pictured with President Mark who was standing in for Max's sponsor Duane Buckingham. Welcome everyone!

**Darrel Johnston** and his brother run South Bay Fence Company, which their father founded in 1964. He and his wife of 42 years live in Bonita. They visit Montana regularly where their son and grandbaby live.

**Julie Delgado** works at Republic Services and handles matters for the company with the city of Chula Vista. She lives in Chula Vista and has three kids—one is elementary school, one in middle, and one in high school.

**Max Scrivens** returned to the South Bay through his job with La Vista Memorial Park. He has been a mortician for 31 years. He served 4 years in the Navy and 4 years in the Army. He has two kids and one grand daughter and has been married 32 years.

Please welcome them to our Club and in Max's case—welcome him BACK!







## MEETING HIGHLIGHTS—JANUARY 13, 2023



L: Risa Baron was celebrated for her January birthday—she was inadvertently left off the list. Oops. Jorge Escalante, President of the Tijuana Rotary Club and Flavio Oliverti, International Director.



Above: New member Darryl Johnston was a lucky winner. Also selected were guests Mica Polanco, and Luisa McCarthy. Carmen Sandoval Fernandez was the sponsor for the News at Noon.

Volunteers at the Food Distribution: Beta Dinsmore, Chris Lewis, Duane Buckingham and Reed Dinsmore.





## **FEBRUARY SERVICE PROJECT – SENIOR GIFT BAGS FOR VALENTINE’S DAY**

**On February 10<sup>th</sup>, before our Valentine’s Day program, we will assemble 50 gift bags to be distributed to seniors through St. Paul’s. Thanks to Mary and her team, we have suggestions of items we can donate for the bags. If you don’t want to provide 50 of something, please just provide what you can. We will have plenty of items. Lisa has donated 50 red bags and Cheryl has donated 50 Chik Fil A gift cards - so we are off and running!**

**Option – make a cash donation or donate on our website and specify this project, and Mora, Cheryl, and Lisa will shop for you.**

**There are many seniors who can’t get out for holidays and special occasions, but we can still make occasions special for them with our gifts!**

- Canned/non-perishable food items
- Cleaning supplies
- Kitchen, bathroom and home care items
- Hygiene care items
- Clothing
- Cleaning supplies
- Laundry detergent
- Fabric softener
- Dish sponges
- Toilet paper, kleenex, paper towels
- Blankets
- Socks
- Sweatshirts
- Trash bags
- Denture cleaner
- Eye glass cleaners
- Puzzles
- Gift cards for fast food restaurants
- Note cards
- Pens/pencils
- Crossword, Sudoku, or other brain game books
- Candy/treats (wrapped)





## JUDGES NEEDED!

Chula Vista Elementary School District is reaching out to invite us to be judges at the upcoming annual speech contest in February.

This year, there will have two sessions - one in the morning and one in the afternoon. Judges will need to arrive at the District office at 7:30 a.m. or 12:30 p.m. on the designated date for each grade level. The dates are as follows:

- 4th Grade: February 21
- 5th Grade: February 23
- 6th Grade & Middle School: February 24
- Finals: February 27 (morning session only)

Please let Giovanna Castro know if this is something you're interested in by January 13.

If you're interested, please indicate whether you prefer the morning or afternoon session and your availability for each of the days listed above. I appreciate your consideration!

[GIOVANNA.CASTRO@cvesd.org](mailto:GIOVANNA.CASTRO@cvesd.org)

JANUARY IS

*"Vocational service gives Rotarians the opportunity to help others escape poverty and gain a measure of self-respect. As business and professional leaders, we have a duty to lead and encourage good ethics through vocation." Carlos Frum, PDG D6440*



VOCATIONAL  
SERVICE  
MONTH

Rotary 

[www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org)







## VETERANS' HOME DECORATIONS PICK UP CREW



On January 7th, Rotarians on a mission put away all the trees and holiday decorations at the Chula Vista Veterans' Home in half an hour flat. Then it was off to eat breakfast burritos at Lolita's nearby.

L-R: Kathleen Carroll, Bernard Hernandez, Duane Buckingham, Gary Bryant, Tina Mattias, Lane Pearson, Jean and Troy Ray, Glen Googins, Betty Waznis, Chuck Bevin, Beta and Reed Dinsmore & Jesse Fernandez.

**GOOD-BYE POLIO**  
**THANKS ROTARY**

