

# Chulatarian



**ROTARY CLUB  
OF CHULA VISTA**

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[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 Fridays at noon, 4475 Bonita Road, Bonita (CV Golf Course)**

**Dr. Henry Kikunaga**  
**San Diego Kendo Bu**  
**Friday, March 25, 2022—Noon**



As a local optometrist, Dr. Henry Kikunaga is passionate about eyes and vision. He is also passionate about Kendo which he began at the age of 7.

Born and raised in Northern California, Dr Kikunaga went to UC San Diego for his undergraduate studies and then to Illinois College of Optometry. He has been in practice for 18+ years serving San Diego and Chula Vista.

Kendo is a Japanese Martial Art that is based off the Samurai teachings several hundred years ago. Kendo has become more popular in recent years with the help of social media, Hollywood (i.e. Star Wars), and the popularization of Asian Culture.

Kendo has been around for over 100 years, however, it was abolished in the United States in the 1930-40's with WW2. Since then, Kendo has slowly made a comeback and is now popular all over the world.

San Diego Kendo Bu, started in 1972, is the oldest and largest Kendo dojo in San Diego county, with 8 high-ranking sensei (most have 1-2). They currently practice at Liberty Station in the Dorothy Laub building.

Please welcome Dr. Kikunaga as he tells us about Kendo.



## MEETING HIGHLIGHTS—MARCH 18, 2022

President-elect Mark Scott called the meeting to order. Maria Kachadoorian gave the invocation. Mora de Murguia introduced guests.

Ramon Moncada was honored as the Rotarian of the Week.

Michael Monaco and Lisa Johnson introduced Chula Vista Fire Chief Muns who told us about the vaccination program that Chula Vista developed to help homebound seniors and others with unique needs. It is a pioneering and innovative outreach program that provided 17,000+ vaccines. Chief Muns recognized Firefighter/Paramedic Pablo Ornelas for his leadership on this program and great work. His parents, wife and two young children were in attendance. Congratulations & Thank You! Truly Above & Beyond.

Upcoming activities and events include the Tijuana Home Build on Saturday, April 23, Fiesta FUN-Raiser on Saturday, May 7—3 contests (margaritas, guacamole, and salsa), Red Shoe Day, June 2. Gary Bryant invited anyone who would like to go deep sea fishing for 3/4 day. The date will be July 14th.

Betty Waznis gave the News at Noon, which was sponsored by Dan Dredla. There were double prizes this week as Ramon Moncada brought some along as well.

Ramon was our guest speaker and he provided a fascinating overview of his life, how and when he left Cuba. First of all, he shared that he very recently had a section of his lung removed. A small lesion was detected during a routine screening. He has been declared on the mend and gave a shout out to his doctors at Sharp Chula Vista.

Ramon shared some of his family history—his grandfather started out in the sugar mill and later farmed thousands of acres. His father was an orthopedic surgeon and his mother a pharmacist. It was interesting to hear about the revolution and his journey through multiple countries to fulfill his dream of becoming a doctor. Tenacity—so many wonderful stories and experiences! Thank you Ramon!

### INVOCATION by Maria Kachadoorian

Let us pray,

**Lord, we are grateful for the food that is before us, for the friendship at these tables, and for your many blessings.**

There are so many things that we take for granted. Let us not ignore them today.

Let us all remember that life is a gift. That our health is a blessing that today is a new day filled with great potential, and that we have the capacity to bring something wholly new and unique and good into this world.

Let us remember, to be kind and patient with the people we love and those who love us

And to those with whom we work with and interact with each and every day.

Teach us to see all the beauty that we so often ignore, and to listen to those who feel unheard. Amen





## JIM BIDDLE NEWS AT NOON

●LIVE



Brought to you by:

All those who  
logged-on!

With Betty Waznis

Good afternoon, Rotarians, and guests. Welcome to the Jim Biddle News at Noon. Today's news sponsored by Dan Dredla and Sharp Chula Vista Medical Center.

In news briefs: The war in Ukraine is entering its fourth week. Following an address by Volodymyr Zelensky, Ukraine's president, to the U.S. Congress, President Biden signed an order to provide \$800 million dollars' worth of military assistance to Ukraine, including 800 anti-aircraft missiles, 20 million rounds of ammunition, and 100 kamikaze drones.

The Federal Reserve raised its key interest rate by a quarter of a percentage point this week in an effort to slow inflation.

San Diego State University officially launched its 125th anniversary celebration on Monday, honoring the contributions of its students, faculty and nearly 500,000 alumni. Officially chartered on March 13, 1897, SDSU has evolved from a school for preparing elementary teachers located above an oyster bar and drugstore at 6<sup>th</sup> and F Street, to a nationally ranked, internationally respected university. SDSU is in the process of adding 135 acres in Mission Valley, growing by 15,000 more students. With this comes major growth in faculty, research, industry partnerships and workforce impact. SDSU Mission Valley will combine the new school campus with housing, a world-class stadium, and a 34-acre river park, to continue its great legacy for another 125 years plus.

In more SDSU news, our eighth seeded San Diego State Aztecs are one and done in the NCAA March madness tournament, losing in round one to 9th seeded Creighton in overtime last night 72 to 69.

In other local news, Chula Vista brewery Novo Brazil Brewing Co recently won a spot in the sixth cohort of MetroConnect, the flagship program of World Trade Center San Diego. They're a comprehensive export accelerator for small and medium sized San Diego businesses seeking global expansion. Out of hundreds of applicants, only 15 companies were chosen.

Novo Brazil, along with the 14 other winners, will receive financial support and resources, all with the goal of increasing export capability. Novo Brazil intends to continue last year's expansion into Europe, add markets in Asia, and launch in Australia. Here at home Novo Brazil operates a brewery on Lane Avenue in Chula Vista, a restaurant at the Otay Ranch Town Center, and a taproom in National City.

Dan Dredla is Vice President of Clinical Services at Sharp Chula Vista Medical Center. He oversees procedural, ancillary and support services. He's been at Sharp just shy of 21 years and is looking forward to retirement in the next 2-4 years. He has had to wear a mask at work every day for the past 2 years. He says, "I've forgotten what the lower halves of most people's faces look like." This concludes today's edition of the Jim Biddle News at Noon. Today's news brought to you by Dan Dredla and Sharp Chula Vista Medical Center.







## MEETING HIGHLIGHTS MARCH 18, 2022



Top left: Ramon Moncada sporting the Rotarian of the Week bling.  
Top right: CVFD Chief Muns with Honoree Firefighter/Paramedic Pablo Ornelas. Awarded the Above and Beyond Rotary Recognition.  
Bottom l-r: Bob Bliss strikes again! Donna Moss makes off with the giant bottle of vodka. Gary Bryant gets one of his favorites—Jim Beam Rye.





## MEETING HIGHLIGHTS MARCH 18, 2022



L-R For the bonus door prizes donated by Ramon, Eric Rimmele was the first name drawn.

Dwayne Buckingham received a nice bottle of wine and Costco gift card—Ramon said to use it for gas.

David Hoffman was the final winner. Congrats to all.

## Sustainability Champion Award

**Nominate a champion for the Chula Vista Sustainability Champion Award.**

**Any group or person living or working in Chula Vista is eligible to be nominated. There are various categories.**

**Nominations are due by 5 pm, March 31, 2022**

**For Nomination Form visit:**

**[www.ChulaVistaca.gov/departments/clean](http://www.ChulaVistaca.gov/departments/clean)**







SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES  
Rotary

## FIESTA FUN-RAISER!



**Please join us for a FIESTA FUN-RAISER  
Saturday, May 7, 4:00 p.m.**

At the Home of Mary and Robert Johnson  
Capacity is limited—sign up soon

**TAQUERO—MUSIC—FUN !**

Various fun-raising opportunities include CONTESTS FOR BEST:

**SALSA  
MARGARITAS  
GUACAMOLE**

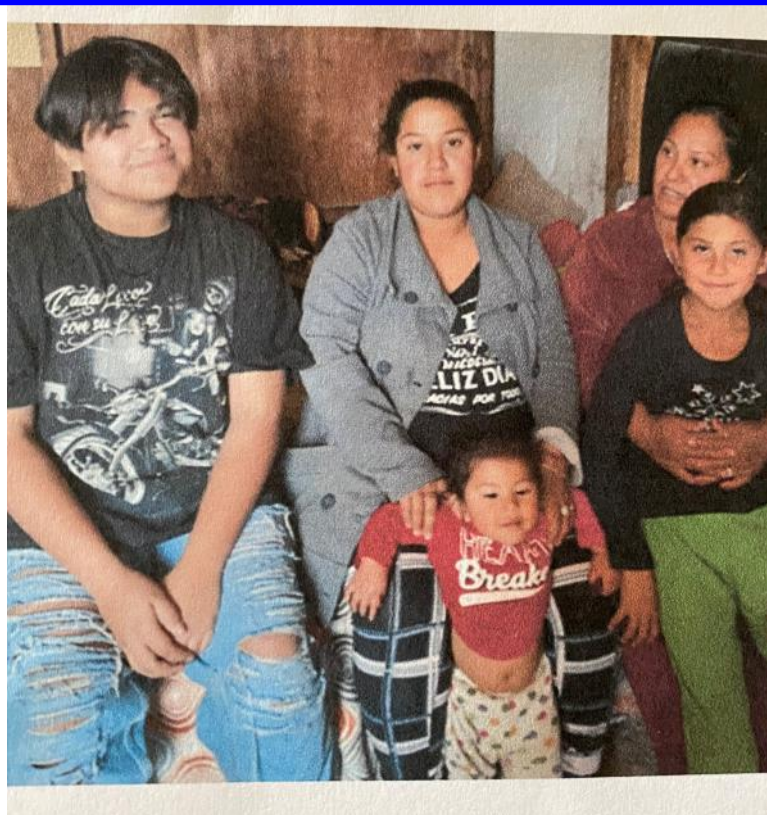
Please reserve your ticket by emailing Jesse—[fernfam@pacbell.net](mailto:fernfam@pacbell.net)  
Address provided with confirmation

**PER PERSON DONATION - YOUR CHOICE**





## MEET THE RAMIREZ TAFOLLA FAMILY— HOME BUILD IS APRIL 23



L-R: Grandson Dilan Alexander (14), Daughter Alexandra (20) with her daughter Elizabet (2), Yamilet (9) and Concepcion (57)

Meet the Ramirez Tafolla family that will receive the home we will build in collaboration with Project Mercy!

The mother, Concepcion, is 57, and was born in Sinaloa. She and her husband migrated to Tijuana 40 years ago in search of work. Unfortunately, her husband of 35 years died 8 years ago and she was left to raise 8 children—and now her grandchildren.

Grandson Dilan is 14, very attentive and likes to help others. He wants to be a doctor.

Yamilet, 9, is caring and loving, however she has significant learning disabilities. Because the family does not have money, they have not been able to provide therapy. Two months ago, she developed strange bruises and spots on her skin and mouth. It was diagnosed as an allergy but the medicine is expensive (2500+ pesos) and they cannot afford it.

Concepcion receives a small pension of 2000 pesos (@\$103) Her daughter Alexandra (20) sells donuts in the streets and earns 150 pesos per week (\$8).

In Concepcion's own words: We do not have running water so we have to buy water from a passing tanker truck but it is expensive. When it rains, water leaks through holes in the roof and turns the floor to mud and get our clothes and bed wet.

I am very happy to know that you can help us by building a house since it is very difficult for us to do so on our own. We dream of a place where we will not be cold; a place where my children and grandchildren will be safe and warm.







SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES  
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**RED SHOE DAY**

**THURSDAY  
JUNE 2, 2022**

**Red Shoe Day is BACK IN PERSON!**

[Support Red Shoe Day! \(onecause.com\)](https://onecause.com)

Rotary  ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 3261

"Water is the most basic of all resources. Civilizations grew or withered depending on its availability."

**MARCH** WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE MONTH

Rotary  PEOPLE OF ACTION













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## THOUGHTS FOR TODAY

**Gas**  **Prices got**  
**Everyone driving like**  
**they're on**   
**PROBATION**   
**straight to work and**  
**straight home**   

Shoutout to  
everyone who can  
Still remember  
their childhood  
phone number but  
can't remember the  
password they  
created yesterday.  
You are my people.

