

# Chulatarian



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**ROTARY CLUB  
OF CHULA VISTA**

## **BOARD 2023-2024**

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

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**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)**

## **STACEY KURZ**

**Director, Housing & Homeless Services, City of Chula Vista  
Friday, November 3, 2023 - Noon**



The City of Chula Vista recently created the Department of Housing and Homeless Services. This new department will provide the staff and resources to more comprehensively address the housing needs of Chula Vista residents and to advance solutions for the city's unhoused residents. The ten-member department manages important programs to meet the housing needs of City residents across all income levels. Priorities for the department include the Homeless Outreach program, Chula Vista Bridge Shelter, Harborside Park outreach, affordable and middle-income housing development, first-time homebuyer and rental assistance programs, Tenant Protection Ordinance, Community Development Block Grants and other Housing & Urban Development funding programs, as well as the Healthy & Age-Friendly Initiatives and state and local grant programs.

Stacey Kurz is the new Director of Housing and Homeless Services and brings 23 years of experience in planning, housing, and community engagement. She is experienced in addressing critical community needs and implementing solutions through collaboration with city and community leaders. In addition, the new Department elevates needs of unsheltered through Angelica Davis as the City's first Homeless Solutions Manager who will continue to provide support to the City's Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) efforts and ongoing project management for homeless projects and programs. "The creation of this department will provide additional focus and dedicated resources to meet the needs of our unsheltered community," said City Manager Maria V. Kachadoorian. "We look forward to opening the first bridge shelter in South County and to working with our partners to provide services to support and house as many people as possible."



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## MEETING HIGHLIGHTS - October 27, 2023

President Mora de Murguia called the meeting to order. Autumn Reid gave the invocation. Bob Silvas helped with introductions and had members of the Music Machine introduce themselves.

The Rotarian of the Week was Rick Richardson.

Gary Bryant gave updates on the Christmas in October this Sunday. There are four homes being worked on this year. He recognized the Rotarians who volunteered for the Sweetwater River Valley clean up. They are: Jon Miller, Duane Buckingham, Jan Mellinger, Gary Bryant and our new transferring in member Bill Torre. Gary reported there was less Styrofoam waste and plastics. Thanks everyone!

President Mora announced the upcoming Happy Hour with our piano player Joe DeMers on November 6, 6:30 at The Red Fox on El Cajon Blvd.

She reminded everyone to get your tickets for the Nutcracker on November 18, 2:00.

Finemaster Michael Monaco fined newly returned from military reserve duty, Ben Koala, for having he and his dad's photo on every Vons Bonita shopping cart. Michael also shared he is going to be a grandfather. On a personal note, he thanked Max Scrivens for his very caring assistance at his mortuary with the recent passing of Michael's father-in-law.

President Mora said upcoming programs are: Stacey Kurz, City of Chula Vista Housing & Homeless Services, who will provide an update, Jim O'Callahan with the South County EDC who discuss a program for young entrepreneurs. We will be dark on November 24.

Our Club will be gathering toys beginning NOW and ending December 1 when Chief Kennedy will be the speaker. Try to keep it a secret.

Mark Scott will be running the meeting as President-elect Jesse Fernandez will be running an eleven day voting center.

Gary Bryant will have a sign-up sheet next week for the Ronald McDonald House dinner on Wednesday, December 13.

Drawing winners were Ramon Moncada (again!), Jeanette Banal and Rick Richardson.

Betty Waznis gave the Jim Biddle News at Noon.

The Bonita Vista High School Music Machine and were presented with a donation of \$300 for their Foundation. The group gave a very spirited performance.

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



## JIM BIDDLE NEWS AT NOON by Betty Waznis



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, today sponsored by Bernard Hernandez.

Those of you who fly United Airlines will be boarding in a different way from now on. This week, the airline has begun boarding passengers in economy class with window seats first, then middle seats, then aisle seats. The move is designed to reduce the time that planes spend on the ground. The plan – called WILMA, for window, middle and aisle — was tested at several locations and shaved up to two minutes off boarding time. It spreads people out along the aisle of the airplane so that more people can put their luggage away at the same time. Customers in first class and business class and those with priority-boarding privileges will see no change. Two minutes may not sound like much, but on heavily trafficked shorter routes, delays tend to cascade, pushing late-day flights farther and farther behind schedule. Airlines have continued to adjust the boarding process since airlines began charging fees for checked bags more than a decade ago, leading more passengers to rely on free carry-ons.

Work-from-home rates have dropped to their lowest since the pandemic. Fewer than 26 percent of U.S. households still have someone working remotely at least one day a week, a sharp decline from the peak of 37 percent in early 2021. The work at home rate in big cities is far greater than that. Average office attendance across 10 big U.S. cities remains about 50 percent of pre-pandemic levels. The reversal reflects the continued push by many employers to get staff to return to offices. The latest data also underlines that employees' demand for remote jobs is outpacing the number of companies offering them. Nearly three of four organizations see returning to the office as the topic most likely to cause personnel conflict.

Padres manager Bob Melvin has left San Diego to take charge of the San Francisco Giants. With Melvin gone, General Manager A. J. Preller will be hiring his fifth manager since midway through the 2015 season, having sacked Bud Black, Andy Green, Jayce Tingler, and now Melvin. Perhaps the strongest in-house candidate is Mike Shildt, who was cut as manager of the Saint Louis Cardinals after the 2021 season despite leading the [Cardinals](#) to three straight playoff appearances. He was voted NL Manager of the Year in 2019., Shildt has served on Melvin's staff in various capacities over the last two seasons now serving as senior advisor to player development.

Bernard and Neisha Hernandez are Chula Vista natives. They both attended Fred H. Rohr Elementary School in Chula Vista. Bernard graduated from Castle Park High School where he ran track, played soccer, and was ASB President. Neisha graduated from Chula Vista High School where she played many lead roles in theatre and performing arts. Bernard remembers going to see Neisha perform as Annie in her senior year. Neisha went on to get her Bachelors of Fine Arts from USIU in San Diego (now Alliant International University). Bernard went to UCSD where he majored in biology and sociology. He then went on to receive his MBA from SDSU.

After college, Bernard was the Business Manager of the Department of Psychiatry at UCSD where he oversaw over \$50 million dollars in Federal research grant funding. Neisha's father stole him away from that job so that Bernard could run his healthcare foodservice consulting company alongside Neisha's brother Matt. In 2018, Neisha stole Bernard away from that company so that they could run Neisha's Dance & Music Academy together. The studio is now in its 27th year in Chula Vista. They are the parents of 4 children - Riley, Sydney, Luke and Stella. In their free time, they enjoy theatre and concerts, paddleboarding, biking and Padres games. They enjoy serving and giving back to the community they grew up in!

This concludes today's edition of the Jim Biddle News at Noon, today brought to you by Bernard Hernandez.





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## MEETING HIGHLIGHTS - OCT. 27, 2023



Bernard and Neisha Hernandez were the sponsors for the News at Noon.

L-R: Lucky drawing winners were:

Rick Richardson, Ramon Moncada (again!) and Jeanette Nadal.



The program was a wonderful performance by the Bonita Vista Music Machine.



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## MORE MEETING HIGHLIGHTS & CHRISTMAS IN OCTOBER



President Mora with Rotarian of the Week Rick Richardson.

Top right: Finemaster Michael Monaco fines Ben Koala for having his photo on the Bonita Vons shopping carts.

Right: Betty Waznis doing a fabulous job as usual



Left: Max Scriven's (in large hat) and Duane Buckingham getting started on the major backyard work for the Christmas in October event on Sunday, October 29.





## CHRISTMAS IN OCTOBER



**5+5**—Five members of our Rotary volunteered at this year's Christmas in October event, alongside five Chula Vista firefighters. L-R: Rotarians doing the work were Suzanne Catanzaro, Kathleen Carroll, Gary Bryant, Max Scrivens and Duane Buckingham (who took this picture). Great work team! This project had not been held in a few years—since the pandemic and passing of stellar volunteer Emerald Randolph.



L-R: Suzanne and new firefighter friend having fun trimming back the ice plant. Mayor McCann with the grateful homeowners, Sandra and her brother.





## MEMBER SHOUT OUT!



KRISTIAN CARREON FOR THE U-T  
Gary Jacobs (left), Chuck Leslie, Tom Crosby, Joe Haessler, Lisa Johnson and Amy Wall bury a time capsule Sunday.

## CENTENNIAL SALUTE

Former Naval Training Center recruits attend 100th anniversary celebration at Liberty Station

BY LAUREN J. MAPP

SAN DIEGO

As a child living in the Philippines outside of Manila during World War II, Tom Crosby and his family were captured by Japanese soldiers and held as civilian prisoners of war for three years.

Eight years after being rescued by U.S. military personnel in 1945, Crosby and his brother joined the U.S. Navy in 1953 to give back to the community that saved them. On Sunday, the 90-year-old dropped some of his personal belongings into a time capsule at Liberty Station during a centennial celebration

honoring the opening of Naval Training Center San Diego, where he attended boot camp.

"It's very special because at the Naval Training Center where I graduated from, we learned more than just defending the country," Crosby said. "We learned discipline, we learned a lot of self-im-

provement things. People don't think of it, but that training is something that I carried on."

Hundreds of people — many of them families dressed in coordinating Halloween costumes — attended the centennial event and Halloween bash to trick-or-treat. SEE NTC • B2

Rotarian Lisa Johnson shows them how it is done! She was pictured on the front page of the Local section last weekend.

The former Naval Training Center has been celebrating 100 YEARS in our region.

There have been numerous activities to commemorate this important milestone and for this event former NTC recruits (and Lisa) helped bury a time capsule.

**Way to go!**



Notes of encouragement and greetings can be sent to:

Jean Lewis (wife of Chris) who was recently diagnosed with lymphoma.

Their home address is:

2766 Degan Drive  
Bonita, CA 91902

Wishing Jean all the best in her treatment!



**CALENDAR—SAVE THE DATES**

**Otay Valley Park Clean Up—November 4**

**Happy Hour with Joe Demers our Piano Player, (Dinner on own)  
Monday, November 6, 6:30 pm @ The Red Fox**

**Distribute food at St. Mark's Lutheran Church—Friday, Nov. 10**

**The Nutcracker Fundraising Event—Saturday, Nov. 18, 2:00 pm  
@ The Kroc Salvation Army Center**

**Bring toys for Chula Vista Police Foundation, present to Chief Kennedy— Dec. 1**

**Chula Vista Veteran's Home—Decorate—(date to be confirmed)**

**Kettle Bell Ringing—Salvation Army—(date to be confirmed)**

**Ronald McDonald House—Serve meal—Wed. December 13**