

Chulatarian



Rotary Opens Opportunities

ROTARY CLUB

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The weekly newsletter of the Rotary Club of Chula Vista
Chartered February 16, 1926 - Club Number 908 - District 5340

Friday, September 18, 2020—Noon on Zoom
Maria Kachadoorian
City Manager, City of Chula Vista



Maria V. Kachadoorian was appointed City Manager in June 2020 after serving as Assistant City Manager. She is the first woman and first Latina to serve as City Manager. She began her career at the County of San Diego. Kachadoorian has worked at the City of Chula Vista since 1998 where she started in the Finance Department, advanced to Finance Director, before becoming Deputy City Manager, Assistant City Manager, then City Manager.

Her strong finance background helped lead the City through the Great Recession and she will be instrumental in implementing innovative strategies to mitigate the financial, economic and community impacts to the City and residents from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Kachadoorian also will oversee efforts to advance the Chula Vista Bayfront development, boost momentum for the University and Innovation district, launch Ambulance Transport Services, and foster initiatives that better connect the City's diverse communities. She also will be involved in continued implementation and oversight of the Measure P and Measure A sales tax programs to advance infrastructure and public safety staffing.

She is a long-time resident of South County and lives in Chula Vista. Kachadoorian was born in Tijuana and immigrated to the United States as an infant. She earned a Bachelor of Science Degree with an emphasis in Accounting and a Master's Degree in Public Administration from San Diego State University. She is also a Certified Public Accountant.

Kachadoorian participates in a number of professional organizations including International City/County Management Association (ICMA), Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) and California Society of Municipal Finance Officers (CSMFO). In 2013, Kachadoorian was recognized by the San Diego Business Journal as CFO of the year. **She is a proud Chula Vista Rotarian.**



MEETING HIGHLIGHTS—SEPTEMBER 11, 2020

President Zaneta Encarnacion called the meeting to order. Jerry May pinch hit on the Invocation and Lisa Johnson did an excellent job—on the road to Minnesota, where her daughter Nora has secured a position at a new Omni hotel.

The breakout groups discussed “Where were you on 9-11-01?”

Great news: Africa—the entire continent—has been declared polio-free! This is a major step forward in the global challenge to eliminate polio.

Thanks to Rick Anderson and Albert Aguilera who have stepped up as Co-Chairs of the Club’s Fundraising committee.

Ben Koala, recently returned from duty, has agreed to serve as Audit Committee Chair.

Eric Rimmele is a new Board member (assuming Ralph Rodriguez’s position).

Dan Dredla has added a new “DONATE” button on the Chula Vista Rotary website.

Thanks everyone!

INVOCATION— by Jerry May

God, it’s been months now since we have been able to meet in person with our Rotary friends in fellowship. Maybe one lesson we are learning in our comfortable but sequestered lives is that the rest of the world isn’t as comfortable as we are. Maybe the forcing of us to realize how precious our lives are in this country is a good thing.

Other parts of the world put up with much more encroachment on their lives, much more suffering due to illness, much more sickness due to poor water, much more grief due to natural disasters like monsoons and earthquakes. We are reminded amidst this chaos in our lives that we have it so much better than much of the rest of the world’s populations.

God, we are thankful for your love of us. Grant us the wisdom and energy and call to action that is needed for us to share what we have and make the world a better place. “Service Above Self” is not just a set of words. It is a call to act and honor our theme this year “Rotary Opens Doors”. Amen and Shalom

**GOOD-BYE POLIO
THANKS ROTARY**





Jim Biddle News at Noon by Lisa Johnson

Lisa Johnson filled in for Betty Waznis this week. She too was on the road and sent us the following:

Let's talk about the weather. That's the news everywhere.

It was 104 when I left SD

111 in Vegas and the same at my sister's house in Chula Vista

Can anyone guess where I am right now (giant jolly green giant behind her)*?

This week's News at Noon sponsor Jesse Fernandez – Rotarian extraordinaire - is a native San Diegan and one of 7 children. He is a USIU grad where he played baseball. After college, he joined Pacific Telephone and worked there more than 40 years through many changes and retiring from AT&T in 2019. Seeing a move towards technology, Jesse got a Master's Degree at the age of 50 in IT. Smart man.

Traveling across the country, the weather gets colder and the gas gets cheaper. Temperature was down at 45 and gas at \$1.95. Snow is expected soon! All part of helping daughter Nora move to a new position in Minnesota.

*(Jan Mellinger was the quickest on Google and got the correct answer: Blue Earth Minnesota, two hours southwest of Minneapolis. She wins a Liberty Station swag bag from Lisa).



Thanks to everyone who participated in the bid for the gift basket. Dan Dredla was the determined high bidder with a \$225 contribution to the Chula Vista Rotary Foundation. Thank you Dan!





September 11, 2020 Meeting Highlights (continued)

Guest speaker, Susan Day, Executive Director of The Burn Institute, provided an overview of their many programs and how they have been adapted online during the pandemic. They are approaching their 50th anniversary.

The Burn Institute programs include prevention programs targeted to various age groups, support circles, camps, retreats and special assistance to burn survivors. They recently re-activated their smoke detector program for seniors—something our club has assisted with over the years in Chula Vista. (see page 5 for more information).

Thank you for a very informative presentation Susan!



The Burn Institute at a Glance

Serving San Diego & Imperial Counties Since 1972

We educate and inspire communities to reduce burn injuries and empower those affected by burn trauma.



On the Mend!

Our friend Jim Biddle is doing much better after battling an aggressive infection in his leg for much of the past couple of months. He was hospitalized for 26 of 60 days and was on drip antibiotics from July 26 until last week. The bacterial infection was a direct result of melanoma surgery on June 10th.

Jim was released from Sharp CV on Sept. 4th. Kudos to Gertrud who continued the drip process at their home until last Saturday.

Glad you are doing much better Jim!



21-Day Racial Equity Habit-Building Challenge*

The Peace Building Committee of LGTRC is proud to offer participation in a “21-Day Racial Equity Habit-Building Challenge ©”. The 21-Day Challenge concept was conceived several years ago by diversity expert Eddie Moore, Jr. to advance deeper understanding of the intersections of race, power, privilege, supremacy, and oppression. Sept. 22 thru Oct. 20 The 21-Day Challenge will begin on Tuesday, September 22. The goal of the Challenge is to prompt discussion that assists each of us to become more aware, compassionate, constructive, engaged people in the quest for racial equity.

***The Peace Building Committee of the La Jolla Golden Triangle Rotary Club is the sponsor of the Challenge. For more information, please see District 5340 Newsbits (September 6). The syllabus and more information is available on the link there.**

Remember to register by September 19 if you would like to participate.



The Burn Institute Highlights

Fire Safe Kids

2019: 17,000+ Participants

- Kindergarten through 3rd grades
- Interactive storybook format
- Take home materials



Fire Safe Seniors

2019: 1,900+ Homes

- Free smoke alarms and Co2 detectors installed
- 62+ years of age
- Homeowner
- Fire safety information reviewed
- Adhere to California State Law Residential Code



Youth Firesetter Intervention

New Program in 2019! 26 youth referred

- Restorative justice and educational curriculum
- Ages 0-17
- Minors referred from family member, fire departments, school police, juvenile justice system or probation





PROJECT MERCY UPDATE

Our club has partnered with Project Mercy, a local non-profit, to build homes for very impoverished families in eastern Tijuana. Our scheduled spring build was postponed due to the pandemic with the hope of constructing this fall. As it became apparent restrictions would continue, we did not want to wait any longer and gave the go ahead to have Project Mercy's crew in Mexico build the home when possible.

Crews began work again in late August and this past Saturday, September 12, the Torres-Santana home was built.

This is a screenshot from the Project Mercy website that highlights our Club and pictures Cruz Santana and her three children (not pictured Jose Torres). Cruz has had serious health issues (brain tumors) and multiple surgeries. Jose scrapes out a meager living from scavenging at the nearby dump. Their daughter is a top student and hopes to become a doctor.

Thank you Chula Vista Rotarians! We are making a difference in the world.





AFRICA DECLARED POLIO FREE

Rotary and its partners in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) are proud to announce an historic public health achievement as the World Health Organization's African region is now certified wild poliovirus-free.

The milestone comes four years after Nigeria – the last polio-endemic country in Africa – recorded its final case of wild poliovirus following decades of effort from GPEI partners, local and national leaders, and health workers throughout the African region. Over the course of the effort, 9 billion doses of oral polio vaccine have been administered, hundreds of millions of children have been immunized, and 1.8 million cases of wild poliovirus have been averted throughout the region.

The announcement is in part a result of the cumulative actions of Rotary and its members, who have contributed nearly US\$890 million—and countless volunteer hours—to eliminate polio in the African region.

“In the face of a pandemic, the world has had very little good news to celebrate in global health this year, and the challenges ahead are formidable,” said Rotary International President Holger Knaack. “That is why we must recognize this great achievement and commend all of the people who played important roles in eradicating wild polio in the African region. It took tremendous effort and partnership over many years. I’m particularly grateful for the Rotary members throughout Africa and around the world who have dedicated themselves to making polio a disease of the past.” (Source: *Rotary International News*)



We have come a very long way since 1937 when the iron lung was a necessary part of treating polio.





FISHING ROTARIAN FUN

Thirteen Rotarians and friends rendezvoused in Missoula, Montana from August 23rd through the 29th. We spent 5 nights and 4 days fly fishing on three rivers just north of Missoula. We stayed at the Missoula River Lodge which was located on the banks of the Clark's Fork River.

Nick Gistaro drove down from northern Montana, about 2 hours north of the lodge and Steve Miesen flew in from Northern California. We fished/floated in drift boats the Bitterroot, Black Foot and Clark's Fork Rivers. The last pic was a group shot the morning we left. Nick Gistaro, Ken Weimer, Mauricio Lutteroth, Mark Scott, Troy Ray, Dave Pigden, Steven McGowen, Bob Bliss, Lane Pearson, David Hoffman, Gary Bryant, Mike Green and Steve Miesen. A great time was had by all. *(Submitted by Gary Bryant)*





MORE FISHING FUN



Top: Troy Ray's catch of the day. A bear watching the fishermen from the bushes.
Nick Gistaro's unique fishing technique.





Last Ones!

Below: One of the 'robust' cocktail hours at the end of each day. Ken Weimer worked out the schedule and assignment in each drift boat—two per boat max. Beautiful scenery, relaxing fishing and fun fellowship. (*Why is Gary sitting on Steve Miesen's lap?*)



Send us pictures of your summer/fall fun—share!





SOME BACK TO SCHOOL FUN FOR TODAY

Homeschool day
1:
Wondering how I
can get this kid
transferred out
of my class.

**Parents in drop off line
The night before schools
Open back up...**



**Home schooling going
well... two students
suspended for fighting
one teacher fired for
drinking on the job**

