

# 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)

**HOLIDAY PROGRAM**  
Friday, December 13, 2024 - Noon



If you enjoy our weekly singing, you are really going to enjoy our Holiday Program this Friday. It is very much in the tradition of our long-time, late member Paul Raffer. Before you know it, you may even find yourself singing along. It is very hard to resist joining in when Peter Rullan shows up with his guitar...

Before all the singing, we will have our 2nd Annual Bake Sale, a super fun opportunity to bid on homemade or purchased holiday treats—all to benefit our Chula Vista Rotary Foundation.

Bring your entry for the cookie contest which will be fun to see if Mary Johnson wins again.

We are also gathering blankets, scarves, and knit hats for patients undergoing treatments at the Sharp Cancer unit.

**See you this Friday!**



## MEETING HIGHLIGHTS—DECEMBER 6, 2024

President Jesse Fernandez called the meeting to order. Autumn Reid gave the invocation. Chuck Bevan had us sing “Jingle Bells.” Treasurer Rasha Roshdy introduced guests. President Jesse recognized members with December birthdays and club anniversaries. Chris Lewis topped the list with 34 years as a Rotarian.

Michael Monaco and Lisa Johnson, co-chairs of the Above & Beyond recognitions, shared about the program which honors four members from our community who are making a real difference in the areas of education, health, fire safety and law enforcement. Our Club honored BSN, RN Angel Bahena for his extraordinary service and support for patients and co-workers. His supervisor Jolene Buenconsejo shared an extensive list of his many accomplishments, areas of responsibilities and commitment to excellence. Great work Angel!

Our friends at Altrusa are seeking assistance as judges for an event on Saturday, December 14, 9:00 am. Please see Betty Waznis if you can help.

President Jesse presented a check to Rick Richardson for Child Development Associates to support families with food, clothes and more during the holidays. He also presented a check to Irma Flores for The Salvation Army in Chula Vista.

Bob Silvas highlighted a Anti-Human Trafficking event in January and encouraged members to participate.

Betty Waznis gave us the News at Noon and Nancy Kerwin was the sponsor for the week. The lucky winners were Ken Weimer, Lisa Johnson, and Mark Scott. Thanks Nancy!

Maria Kachadorian and Zaneta Encarnacion presented information and the latest developments in the University Now project. The new Library is coming soon and will have additional space available which the SDSU School of Nursing will use for expansion into South County. They also shared that film and production groups are committing to developing facilities at the same location and adjacent properties. Great news for Chula Vista and fun to get the scoop on these major developments. Thank you Maria and Zaneta! (We now know why we have NOT seen them at Rotary in a while...- keep up the great work!).



L-R: This week’s sponsor of the Jim Biddle News at Noon Nancy Kerwin with Ken Weimer, Lisa Johnson and Mark Scott.



## 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 Nancy Kerwin.

San Diego County last year saw its gross domestic product or GDP rise 1.4% to \$261.7 billion — bigger than half the states in America. Also reported in data released Wednesday by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, the U.S. GDP grew 2.9% to \$22.7 trillion — by far the largest in the world. San Diego County had the 10th-largest GDP in the nation. While San Diego County might not top the U.S. list, it still is bigger than the gross national product of many nations, including Greece and Hungary. Another way to look at it: The GDP of San Diego County is more than 25 entire states, outpacing all of Louisiana, Alabama, Utah, Kentucky and more. We have our science and technology industries to thank in part - after all we are part of what they call "Bio Tech Beach" — but we also have thriving blue collar, service, hospitality, and import/export sectors.

Balboa Park's Botanical Building and Gardens is finally ready for visitors again and will reopen today with limited hours, just in time for December Nights. The iconic structure is three years into a \$28.5 million renovation project meant to restore its original 1915 design with modern upgrades. This first phase renovation included restored historic stucco arcades, urns and balustrades, a new redwood lath roof, water-saving irrigation systems, new LED lighting, improved access for people with disabilities, and adding a flexible education and programming space. The building's more than 2,100 plants were moved to an offsite nursery for the duration of the project and will be replanted when construction is complete. Now, the renovation project is moving into Phase 2, the building's exterior, improving walkways, gardens and irrigation systems, and restoring fountains and a historic pergola.

One of our local businesses, Marine Group Boat Works, a massive boat repair and refurbishment facility, recently made Chula Vista an unlikely destination for the world's biggest, most exclusive yachts. The family-owned company, founded as South Bay Boatyard in the 1980s, was instrumental in securing a recent designation by U.S. Customs of a free trade zone for yachts in San Diego Bay. The zone, which encompasses both Marine Group's Chula Vista yacht repair facility and a mega-yacht dock operated by the company near the San Diego Convention Center, enables yacht owners to park their yachts and put them up for sale or charter without paying customs duties until an actual sale.

Outside such a zone, owners must pay a duty of 1.5 percent of a yacht's value the moment they put it up for sale, whether they find a buyer or not. That's a lot when applied to boats priced at \$30 million and up. It's estimated the free trade zone designation will draw roughly 12 additional mega-yachts to San Diego Bay per year, an additional \$7 million to the local economy. This development vaults San Diego—and Chula Vista—into a rarified worldwide league of yachting destinations for the super-rich. Only two other U.S. cities have such zones: Fort Lauderdale, Florida and Newport, Rhode Island.

Today's sponsor, Nancy Kerwin, has been a Rotarian for over eleven years, most of that time as a member of Chula Vista Sunrise Rotary. She is also on the boards of South Bay Family YMCA and the Chula Vista Welfare Council, and currently serves as a member of Chula Vista and San Ysidro School Districts Citizen Bond Oversight Committees. This concludes today's edition of the Jim Biddle News at Noon, Today brought to you by Nancy Kerwin.





## HOLIDAY FUN!



### COOKIE CONTEST COMING UP!

Prizes are great but bragging is better—and we have both!

To enter, just bring two of your finest cookie creations on a plate.

Presentation is fine...last year's winner, Mary Johnson, blew our celebrity judge away with her sides of whisky and milk.

**Date:** Friday, December 13, noon

**Who:** Any CV Rotarian or spouse

**Limit:** Three entries per baker

**Judge:** Surprise celebrity judge

**Prize:** \$100 Gift Card

### SECOND ANNUAL BAKE SALE

*Donations will support our Rotary Programs*

**Bring anything Homemade,  
Bakery made— Sweet or Savory!**

*Pies, Cakes, Cookies, Brownies,  
Bread, Candy, Toffee,  
Empanadas, appetizers etc.*

***Be ready to bid on items!  
Friday, December 13, noon***





**MEETING HIGHLIGHTS—DECEMBER 6, 2024**

**ABOVE  
&  
BEYOND  
AWARD**



Sharp Chula Vista Employee of the Year and RN, Angel Bahena was recognized and honored for his excellent work on behalf of Sharp patients and the Hospital.

His supervisor Jolene Buenrostro outlined his numerous accomplishments.

L-R: President Jesse, Jolene Buenrostro, Angel Bahena and Lisa Johnson.



L-R: President Jesse Fernandez presents a donation to the Irma Flores with the Salvation Army, longtime supporter Ken Weimer assists. President Jesse presents a check to CDA, accepting is Rick Richardson.





## VETERANS' HOME DECORATING



L-R: Chris Lewis, District Governor Diane Crawford, Gary Bryant, Chuck Bevan, Kimberley Marshall, President Jesse, Mora de Murguia, William Badal. Front: l-r: Jeanette Badal, Tina Matthias, Bob Silvas. Everyone worked to brighten the facility for the holiday season.

**DECEMBER IS**

**DISEASE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT MONTH**

*Disease prevention and treatment takes on many forms, supporting studies to helping immunize people to improving drinking water and the sanitation infrastructure.*

**Rotary** 

**TAKE ACTION: Join a Project**

Photo by Joseph Tan Meng Lim, © Rotary Club of Miri. Displayed with permission.



## VETERANS' HOME DECORATING



Top l-r: Bob Silvas, Chuck Bevan, Kathleen Carroll, Jerry May, Kimberley Marshall, Tina Matthias, Chris Lewis, President Jesse Fernandez and Gary Bryant. (taking photo: Carmen Sandoval); above l-r: Tina Matthias, Mora de Murguia with District Governor Diane Crawford, Jerry May and Kimberley Marshall.

### CLUB CALENDAR

**Friday, December 13, 8:00 a.m. (Hilltop & I) - Food Distribution at St. Mark's**

**Friday, December 13—Holiday Program, Bake Sale, Cookie Contest!  
Blanket, scarves, wooly hat drive for Sharp Cancer Patient Unit**

**Friday, December 20—Roundtable, noon**

**Friday, December 29 and Friday, January 3—DARK—No meetings**

**January 10—Happy New Year—First meeting of 2025**