

# 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)

**CLUB VALENTINES PROGRAM**  
Friday, February 14, 2025 - Noon



Bring your favorite person, friend or co-worker for a fun music program prepared by Joe DeMers and his friend Larry Okmin.

See you this Friday!

## CLUB CALENDAR

Sat, Feb 22, Finish Rotary Youth Certification Party!  
At Neisha's Dance & Music Academy (870 Jetty Lane) 6:30 pm  
RSVP to Bernard 619 246-2525

TEAM TRIVIA CHALLENGE—CV SUNRISE ROTARY CLUB—  
Friday, March 14, 6:00 pm

SAVE THE DATE! Saturday, April 12—TIJUANA HOME BUILD

BIKE SAFETY RODEO—Saturday, May 24



## MEETING HIGHLIGHTS—February 7, 2025

President Jesse Fernandez called the meeting to order. Jerry May gave the invocation for Lori Torio who was under the weather. President Jesse presented Jerry with a “Magic of Rotary” pin for all his work on invocations. Thank you Jerry! Chuck Bevan led us in a more robust than usual song of the week.

President-elect Ben Koala introduced guests. President Jesse shared that Pancho the Polio Pig was fed \$283.36 in the month of January—way to go Rotary friends!

Members celebrated the February birthdays by serenading members with the birthday song. President Jesse shared some fun facts about the Super Bowl and worn gear from the two Super Bowls that were held in San Diego.

Gary Bryant shared photos and a report on the Food Packing project we helped the Chula Vista Sunrise Rotary Club with. Ten Rotarians, including spouses, helped out and completed the mission is about an hour—remarkable!

Past President Mora de Murguia shared exciting news about the Bike Project. Baldwin & Sons will be donating \$10,000 to help purchase bikes. The event is set for Saturday, May 24th and will be held at Loma Verde Recreation Center. There are several new partners committing to join. More details to follow.

PP Mora is District 5340 Interact Chair and shared about a training held last Saturday that several members participated in.

Bob Silvas shared that Hugo Thomaz is doing much better and is cancer-free—but still taking chemo treatments. Keep him in your thoughts and prayers! Rotaract is meeting the first Monday of every month at Novo Brasil.

Pinch hitting for an ill Sophia Salgado-Robitaille, President Jesse shared many fun facts about Neisha Hernandez—our Rotarian of the Week. She wore the giant Rotary wheel for the entire meeting.

President Jesse introduced Veronica Meza with St. Paul’s PACE program who shared all about how they help seniors stay in their homes as they age and provide support in their daily lives. Thank you Veronica!

President Jesse with Veronica Meza, our guest speaker.

Jan Mellinger providing directions during Senior Gift Bags packing.

Thank you for your donations and \$ to provide these very appreciated gifts.





## 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 Bob Silvas. NASA's two stuck astronauts took their first spacewalk together last Thursday, exiting the International Space Station almost eight months after moving in. Suni Williams and Butch Wilmore removed a broken antenna and wiped the station's exterior for evidence of any microbes that might still be alive after launching from Earth and escaping through vents. After some initial trouble unbolting the antenna, the astronauts finally pried it off nearly four hours after popping out of the hatch, watching for any floating parts from the antenna removal that might escape into space.

The pair expected to stay just a week when they arrived at the space station last June. But their brand-new ride, Boeing's Starliner capsule, encountered so much trouble that NASA decided to return it empty. That left the two test pilots, both retired Navy captains, in orbit until SpaceX can bring them home. That won't happen until late March or early April, extending their mission to 10 months.

The Pacific Coast Highway reopened Monday, nearly a month after it was closed when flames from the deadly Palisades fire ripped through hillside Los Angeles neighborhoods, destroying properties all the way down to the beach. Traffic along the shoreline route began moving again at 8 a.m. with just one lane in each direction and limited speed from Santa Monica to the Ventura County line.

Essential traffic only is strongly encouraged while cleanup and utility repairs continue. Proof-of-residence or entry passes are still required to enter the actual burn zone. PCH partially reopened Sunday morning on the northernmost section in Malibu. Reopening of the remaining section in the Pacific Palisades area was delayed as Los Angeles city officials made a last-minute decision to keep the checkpoints in place over concerns of public safety and looting.

In more fire related news - Last week, a homeowner in Altadena, Calif., who had been displaced by the Eaton fire, returned to find a 525-pound bear still nestled in a crawl space underneath his house. The bear had arrived before the fires, and had apparently decided to shelter in place. After the fire, when utility workers arrived to restore power, they realized that a very large bear was there to greet them, and could not complete their work, so called on the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for help. Bears are not actually uncommon in LA's foothill communities. They often get into crawl spaces in the area; this particular bear had been spotted by neighbors in recent months.

The wildlife experts decided against tranquilizing the bear, since he would have been too large and heavy to pull out of the crawl space. So they constructed a trap. Then, they lured the bear out of the crawl space with a feast including rotisserie chicken, peanut butter, apples, and sardines with tomato sauce.

Within minutes, the bear emerged from the space and into a box-shaped trap, which a team of eight loaded onto a truck. The bear was taken to Angeles National Forest, sedated and fitted with a GPS collar before eventually being released.

Our sponsor today, Past President Bob Silvas, is a native Chula Vista and has over 30 years in the airport business. His programs earned both local and national recognition during his time at the San Diego International Airport. He now runs his own private consulting practice, devoted to all matters of the airport business, and has been asked to speak at numerous conferences including an international one in Sweden. He leads several initiatives for our club's Youth Services committee, including representing us on the District Anti-Human Trafficking committee, team advisor for Model UN, and supporting our Interact clubs at Olympian High School and Mater Dei and the new Chula Vista Rotaract Club for young adults.

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



MEETING HIGHLIGHTS—February 7, 2025



L-R: Bob Silvas provided the goodies. Betty Waznis, Duane Buckingham and Autumn Reid took them home.



L-R: It was good to see Ramon Moncada. Where had he been? It turns out he had the terrible flu for a month! Glad you are better finally! Thank you to his doctor and antibiotics. (We SEE you Michael M.).  
Chuck Bevan is sporting a nose turban to spare us all the sight of his schnozz after Peter Rullan & Co took care of some serious sun issues. He may be wearing it for WEEKS!  
Neisha Hernandez was sporting the coveted Rotarian of the Week wheel for all her business success and support of our Club.



L-R: New member Soraya Martinez brought goodies and popped in to help out. A group photo of the packing team. PACE staff helped too. Not pictured Lisa Johnson who coordinated the effort along with Mora de Murguia.



L-R: Beta Dinsmore is ready for action. President Jesse picking out the right pair of socks. Duane Buckingham, Bill Torre and Irma Flores were packing two bags + at a time. Teamwork!



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY DEAR ROTARIANS!**



**Kimberley Marshall** - February 4

**Suzanne Catanzaro** - February 4

**Gary Bryant** - February 8

**Peter Rullan** - February 19

**Diane Wages** - February 21

**Max Scrivens** - February 25

**Jim Biddle** - February 27

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

