

# Chulatarian



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ROTARY CLUB  
OF CHULA VISTA

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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)

## CLUB PAST PRESIDENTS' PROGRAM Friday, February 16, 2024 - Noon

This Friday, February 16, our Club will celebrate exactly 98 years of service to our community.

We have a tradition of the Past Presidents' program each year. This annual program offers a look back into our history with highlights of past Presidents and past good work.

Preparations are already underway for the BIG celebration of our Centennial in 2026. If you have not shared your ideas for that major event, please do so soon. Bob Silvas is helping to coordinate the planning.

**See you this Friday!**

(We will be DARK on February 23.)

## CALENDAR—UPCOMING EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Thursday, February 20, noon—International Projects Committee Meets—  
EL COMAL 262 Third Avenue, downtown Chula Vista

Friday, February 23—DARK—No Club meeting

May 22—RED SHOE DAY—For Ronald McDonald House

**SAVE THE DATE! Saturday, April 20—Tijuana Home Build**

**SAVE THE DATE! Friday, June 28—Installation/Outstallation**



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## MEETING HIGHLIGHTS— FEBRUARY 9, 2024

President Mora de Murguia called the meeting to order. The invocation was given by Chris Lewis. Songmaster Chuck Bevan led us in song.

President-elect Jesse Fernandez welcomed Tanya Williams into the Club. Her sponsor Chris Lewis assisted by giving her the Rotary pin. Everyone still enjoys yelling “the invoice!” to the rhetorical question—what else is in the packet?

Finemaster Michael Monaco temporarily turned over his duties to Lisa Johnson who fined him for a happy life event—the birth of his first grandchild Jolene Pabst Villanueva, who was born Saturday, February 10. Congratulations to the entire Monaco/Villanueva family!

The Gift Bags were put together before the meeting—over 1,000 items for 50 2 bags per Senior at St. Paul’s PACE Center in Chula Vista. Special thanks to Lisa Johnson who shopped for much of the items and helped coordinate the project. If you can help distribute the bags, please let Mary Johnson know. It will be Wednesday, February 14 at 1:00.

Club Runner is undergoing an update.

The District Training Assembly is March 9. Please sign up. It is very valuable for new members.

Lisa Johnson recently learned where former member Dave Corbin lives since he moved from Fredericka. Send him a card: c/o Boulder Creek Post Acute Care, 12696 Monte Vista Rd, Poway, CA 92064.

Bob Silvas shared information about the Rotaract Club Formation meeting this past Wednesday. There is strong interest in a South County group with ten potential members, and a minimum of eight to charter. Although age limitations have been removed, Rotaract is geared for younger people who may prefer a different meeting format and frequency. Please share with young adults you may know.

Chuck and Marilyn Bevan are celebrating 48 years of marriage—congratulations!

Carmen Sandoval and Jesse Fernandez donated the cookies today. Our meeting place has increased prices and dessert has become prohibitive. They will allow us to bring our own.

Betty Waznis kicked off the Valentine Program with a fun Trivia Quiz. Correct answers were rewarded with a tube of mini M & M’s—hooray!

Neisha Hernandez and Joe DeMers provided us with a very entertaining music quiz of love songs. The winning table shared a bottle of bubbly.

Thanks for a fun event!!

## JIM BIDDLE NEWS AT NOON by Betty Waznis



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• LIVE



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THIS WEEK'S  
SPONSOR

With Betty Waznis

Hello, everyone. Welcome to today's Special Valentine's Day edition of the Jim Biddle News at Noon, today brought to you by Beta and Reed Dinsmore.

Valentine's Day is next week – time for cards, candy, and flowers. Little things that say I love you. But the day wasn't always a celebration of love. Historians believe that the holiday has its origins in a Pagan fertility festival called "Lupercalia," which was celebrated on February 15 in ancient Rome. Dedicated to the Roman god of agriculture, the day was celebrated by sacrificing animals and slapping or touching women with animal hides, a practice that was believed to encourage fertility. Other historians believe that the women were not slapped, but rather lined up to be touched, hoping for better fertility luck.

At the end of the 5th century, Pope Gelasius officially declared the date of February 14 "St. Valentine's Day," lining it up as often happened with an already existing and celebrated pagan holiday. You may already know that Valentine's Day was named after its patron saint, St. Valentine. He was a priest in third century Rome, who defied Emperor Claudius's ban on marriage (he thought it distracted young soldiers), Valentine illegally married couples in the spirit of love until he was caught and sentenced to death, legend has it on February 14. It wasn't until the Middle Ages, though, that the holiday became associated with love and romance, a tradition that first started from the common belief in France and England that birds started their mating season on February 14.

As the years went on, the holiday grew sweeter. Chaucer and Shakespeare romanticized it in their work, and it gained popularity throughout Britain and the rest of Europe, and made its way to the New World

What about that Valentines trifecta – cards, candy, flowers? The tradition of Valentines Day cards started with paper cards in the Middle Ages. The earliest surviving Valentine card was sent from the Tower of London in 1415. from Charles, the French Duke of Orleans. Captured by the English and held as a pawn, he wrote to his wife: "I am already sick with love, my very gentle Valentine".

The Industrial Revolution ushered in machine printed cards in the 19th century. And in 1913, Hallmark Cards of Kansas City, Mo., began mass-producing Valentines Day cards. What goes along with cards? Candy and flowers. The first heart-shaped box of chocolates was created by the British Cadbury Company, famed for its chocolate. They produced the first heart-shaped box of chocolates for Valentines Day in 1861, hoping to increase sales. The popular candy that we probably remember from childhood and still see today are -- these little candy wafer hearts with sayings, called conversation hearts. They date to 1847 and came about in an unexpected way.

The machine used to make the candies was initially developed to produce apothecary lozenges, an improvement over the medicinal syrups of the day. Realizing that the lozenge machines could also make candy, The New England Confectionary Company was the first to use the new technology for sweets. Heart shaped molds and little phrases came into play right after the Civil War. The hearts have gotten smaller and the sayings have modernized over time, with one theme for instance moving from "write me" to "call me" to "fax me" to "page me" to "text me" to "DM me". (Continued on page 4).



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## MORE MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



L-R: Half of the bags to be delivered to St. Paul PACE Seniors, Gary Bryant getting ready to fill the bags with treats, food and practical items. Kim Marshall and Bernard Hernandez working together to get the job done. THANK YOU to everyone who helped with project.

### NEWS AT NOON (CONTINUED)

This year, to reach out to Gen Z, they have come up with Situationship messages – with the tagline “as blurry as your relationship”. So popular they have already sold out. And finally, the flower connection to Valentine's Day dates to the 19th century, when Victorians used floral bouquets to deliver messages of love. This system is called "floriography" with color conveying different meanings. Traditional red roses represent romance and passion, the pink rose stands for appreciation and grace, the yellow for friendship and happiness, and the white one for innocence.

Today's sponsors, Beta and Reed Dinsmore, are real life valentines. They met in Iceland in 1969, and it was love at first sight. Beta born and raised in Reykjavik, and Reed stationed there in the Air Force. They married in 1970 and lived in Southern California where they raised their 2 children. When Reed ended his law enforcement career, they moved to Oregon in 1984 so he could attend law school. Reed worked as a Deputy District Attorney, and Beta serviced SBA loans and prepared taxes until they retired in 2013.

Now they mix travel and watching five grandchildren grow, and have lived in Michigan, Maine, and Vermont as well as California. They enjoy being members of Rotary and the volunteer opportunities it gives.

This concludes today's special Valentine's Day edition of the Jim Biddle News at Noon. Today brought to you by Beta and Reed Dinsmore.





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## MORE MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



Reed and Beta Dinsmore provided gifts for the drawing. L-R: The lucky winners were Jan Mellinger, Jesse Fernandez and Bob Silvas.



The winning table of the Valentine's Name That Tune contest—with 100% correct  
L-R: Beta and Reed Dinsmore, Jan Mellinger, Ben Koala, Jesse Fernandez.  
Not pictured: Carmen Sandoval and Bill Torre.



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**WELCOME NEW MEMBER TANYA WILLIAMS!**



President Mora's husband Valdomar was a regular CUPID sharing red roses. Thank you!



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## ROTARACT FORMATION MEETING



Rotarians came to lend support to the formation of a South County Rotaract group. Bob Silvas was the lead and it was held at Novo Brazil at Otay Ranch. L-R: Carmen Sandoval, Bob Silvas, Jeanette Badal, Mora de Murguia, Eric Rimmel, Gary Bryant, Etienne Rimmel, Jesse Fernandez.



District leadership, current Rotaracters, Chula Vista Rotarians and potential members got to know each other and learned about the world of Rotary.

