

# Chulatarian

Rotary  
Club of Chula Vista 

UNITE  
FOR  
GOOD



ROTARY CLUB  
OF CHULA VISTA

## BOARD 2025-2026

President  
Ben Koala  
[koalacpa@gmail.com](mailto:koalacpa@gmail.com)

President-Elect  
Rasha Roshdy  
[seducator2014@gmail.com](mailto:seducator2014@gmail.com)

Treasurer  
Risa Baron  
[rbaron@republicservices.com](mailto:rbaron@republicservices.com)

Secretary  
Bill Torre  
[wtorre@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wtorre@sbcglobal.net)

Past President  
Jesse Fernandez  
[fernfam@pacbell.net](mailto:fernfam@pacbell.net)

Executive Secretary  
Carmen Sandoval Fernandez  
[csandovalzf@gmail.com](mailto:csandovalzf@gmail.com)

### Directors:

Jeanette Badal  
Kathleen Carroll  
Rochelle Carroll  
Mike Green  
Bernard Hernandez  
Jan Mellinger

[www.chulavistarotary.org](http://www.chulavistarotary.org)  
P.O. Box 324 Bonita CA 91908  
Editor: Carmen Sandoval  
Fernandez  
[csandovalzf@gmail.com](mailto:csandovalzf@gmail.com)

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 DARK—NO MEETING**  
**See You at the Centennial Celebration!**  
**Friday, February 27, 2026, 5:00 pm**



**The Chula Vista Rotary Club**

**Celebrates**

**100 years of service!**

UNITE  
FOR  
GOOD

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS—FEBRUARY 13, 2026



Members of Altrusa and the Chula Vista Rotary worked in collaboration to create dozens of Valentines gift bags for seniors at the local PACE program. (see article on page 7).

Top l-r: Bernard Hernandez helps PACE staff load the gifts as Iracema Quilantan and Lisa Johnson are ready to help. The assembly line of filling the bags with treasures.

L: It took a village! Pictured here: many of the people who lent a hand to make this project happen. THANKS EVERYONE!



UNITE  
FOR  
GOOD

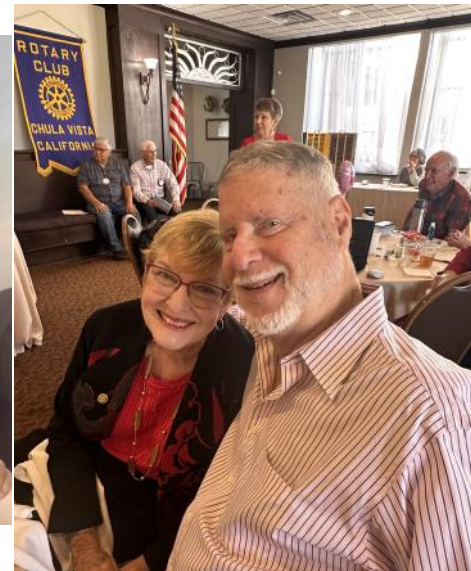


## MEETING HIGHLIGHTS - February 13, 2026



Foundation Chair Lane Pearson presented Bernard Hernandez another Paul Harris pin recognition for his support of the Rotary International Foundation.

**Thank you Bernard!**



L-R: Bill and Karen Torre, Carmen Sandoval and Past President Jesse Fernandez, and Kathleen and Joe Carroll.



UNITE  
FOR  
GOOD

## 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 Reed and Beta Dinsmore. The Swiss pharmaceutical giant Novartis has bet big on San Diego scientists. They broke ground on a \$1.1 billion research campus in Sorrento Mesa last Friday. When it opens in 2029, scientists will focus on creating medical breakthroughs in oncology, neuroscience, global health and diseases of aging. The West Coast headquarters, a 466,000-square-foot campus, will be a key part of the company's \$23 billion U.S. investment plan, is expected to house around 1000 employees, and should be up and running by 2029. Company executives mentioned San Diego as a science growth engine for them and the many breakthroughs in medicines and procedures that trace back to San Diego scientists.

Around 6 a.m Saturday, a wolf was seen in Los Angeles County for first time in a century, a historic moment in the return of wolves to California. The last documented wild wolf in California was shot in 1924. It wasn't until 2011 that a wolf ventured into the state from Oregon. Today, it's believed that at least 60 wolves roam the Golden State. This 3-year-old black-coated female reached the mountains north of Santa Clarita, according to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife after making her way south through the desert in Kern County. The wolf — known as BEY03F — has been wearing a GPS collar since last May. Fish and Wildlife say that BEY03F is seeking a partner and has come a long way looking for love. Born in 2023 in Plumas County, she's traveled more than 370 miles and walked the length of the Sierra Nevada crossing some dangerous freeways to get to her current spot.

NBC's Sunday telecast of the Seattle Seahawks' 29-13 win over the New England Patriots in Santa Clara averaged 124.9 million viewers, falling short of the record of 127.7 million set last year. NBC sold out the commercial time for the game at an average price of \$8 million for a 30-second spot, with some going for \$10 million. Bad Bunny's halftime show averaged 128.2 million viewers, higher than the game overall.

An alternative halftime show was presented on YouTube, which topped 6 million viewers. The audience size showed that a popular musical act could attract a significant chunk of the audience already gathered to watch the game. It is giving network execs the idea they could present many different halftime shows in the future, appealing to different parts of the Superbowl audience.

We may be watching the Winter Olympics right now, but the 2028 LA Olympics are right around the corner for many sports fans. This will be the largest games in history, with more than 11,000 athletes across 51 sports and an estimated 14 million tickets to be sold.

You can now get in line for tickets for the 2028 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles. Fans can sign up now through March 18 to be entered into the lottery for a randomly assigned time slot to buy tickets for all sports when they go on sale starting in April. It's free to register; tickets start at \$28. The games are July 14–30. The Paralympics begin August 15. We have a few Olympic venues close to home. In addition to the soccer matches to be held at Snapdragon Stadium, world-renowned surf spot Trestles Beach will host the surf competition, and equestrian events will be going on Temecula.

Today's sponsors, Reed and Beta Dinsmore, have been married for 55 years this coming May. They joined the Chula Vista Rotary in 2015. They spend part of the year in Vermont and the rest in Chula Vista. They love to travel and enjoy their five grandchildren greatly. They enjoy the interaction and friendships with other members of Rotary and to have the opportunity to volunteer.

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

UNITE  
FOR  
GOOD

## CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR BRIAN WAGES

A Celebration of Life for Brian Wages, husband of Diane Flint Wages, will be held on March 7, noon to 3:00 p.m., at the San Diego Country Club, 88 L Street Chula Vista

We hope you can attend.



*Trivia Night 2026 is coming! Hosted by the Rotary Club of Chula Vista, this exciting evening of trivia and teamwork raises funds for local charitable causes.*

**ENTRY FEE**  
**\$50 PER PERSON**  
**\$400 PER TEAM**  
**OF UP TO 8 PLAYERS**

**FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 2026**  
**@ 6:00 PM**  
**(DOORS OPEN AT 5:15)**

**THE VENUE AT EASTLAKE**  
871 DISTRICT PLACE, SUITE 104  
CHULA VISTA, CA 91914

**REGISTRATION OPENS JANUARY 10TH**  
[www.chulavistarotary.org/page/trivia](http://www.chulavistarotary.org/page/trivia)

**EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION**  
Teams that have registered /paid in full by February 20 will receive two free mulligans (free answers!) Registration closes at midnight March 6.

### TABLE TAILGATE WHILE PLAYING

- Bring your own food & snacks
  - Beer and wine will be sold
- NO OUTSIDE LIQUOR  
ALLOWED DUE TO  
OUR LIQUOR LICENSE**

*Questions?*

[cvrotarytrivianight@gmail.com](mailto:cvrotarytrivianight@gmail.com)



*Your participation in this fundraiser will benefit the Rotary Club of Chula Vista's Foundation Fund. Proceeds will support local charities. The CV Rotary Foundation Fund is a 501 (c)3 organization and your contributions are tax deductible.  
(Tax ID # 33-0544219)*



UNITE  
FOR  
GOOD

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS—FEBRUARY 13, 2026



L-R: Scholarship Committee Chair Kimberley Marshall announces plans to begin the application period. Last year's committee will continue its work and anyone else who would like to help is welcome to join. Please contact Kimberley. Program chair Risa Baron, Lisa Johnson and others put together a fun program for Valentines' Day. Lisa was the emcee and had members fill out valentine messages of thanks with materials provided. Jan Mellinger was one Rotarian who shared what she loved about Rotary—hard to narrow down! Others who shared their thoughts were Gary Bryant, Mike Bell, Carmen Sandoval, Bill Torre and Rowena Carroll.



L-R: This week's sponsors Reed and Beta Dinsmore pictured with Karen Torre, Diana Marjip-Chuh (our friend from Club 33), and Rochelle Carroll.

UNITE  
FOR  
GOOD

## Hearts in Action 100+ Gift Bags Delivered to PACE Seniors

Rotary and Altrusa joined forces this Valentine's season to shower our local seniors with comfort, care, and a whole lot of love! Together, our clubs filled more than 100 bags with perishable and non-perishable goodies including blankets, beanies, gloves, socks, puzzles, lotions, toilet paper, paper towels, soups, canned goods, and snacks that brought smiles before they were even delivered.

The lively assembly event on Friday, February 13th was led by Lisa and Mora of the Chula Vista Rotary Club, joined by fellow Rotarians and Altrusans who packed with heart and humor. Our Valentine Altrusa sisters Betty, Glenda, Lillian, Shauna, and Jenny, ASTRA Advisor added their sparkle joined by Jenny's daughter and friend (both enthusiastic elementary school helpers) and Lillian's granddaughter, who brought youthful joy to the assembly line. The ASTRA Club also joined us, making this a true multigenerational celebration of service.

Lisa and I proudly led the project for Altrusa, and by Monday, February 16th, the beautifully prepared bags were delivered by Rotary's Bill and Karen, who went above and beyond to ensure every gift reached the seniors at the St. Paul's PACE Akaloa Center on L Street. Altrusan Eva also joined us for the distribution, adding even more warmth to the day.

Opened in 2012, the PACE Akaloa Center serves low-income, medically vulnerable, culturally diverse older adults who need coordinated care to remain healthy, independent, and connected to their community. This year's project held special meaning as it honored our beloved Mary Thighpen, whose passion for seniors continues to guide and inspire us.

Grateful for the opportunity to help deliver this year's Altrusa Valentine's Senior Project lifted by our shared spirit of service and wrapped in Mary's legacy of love.

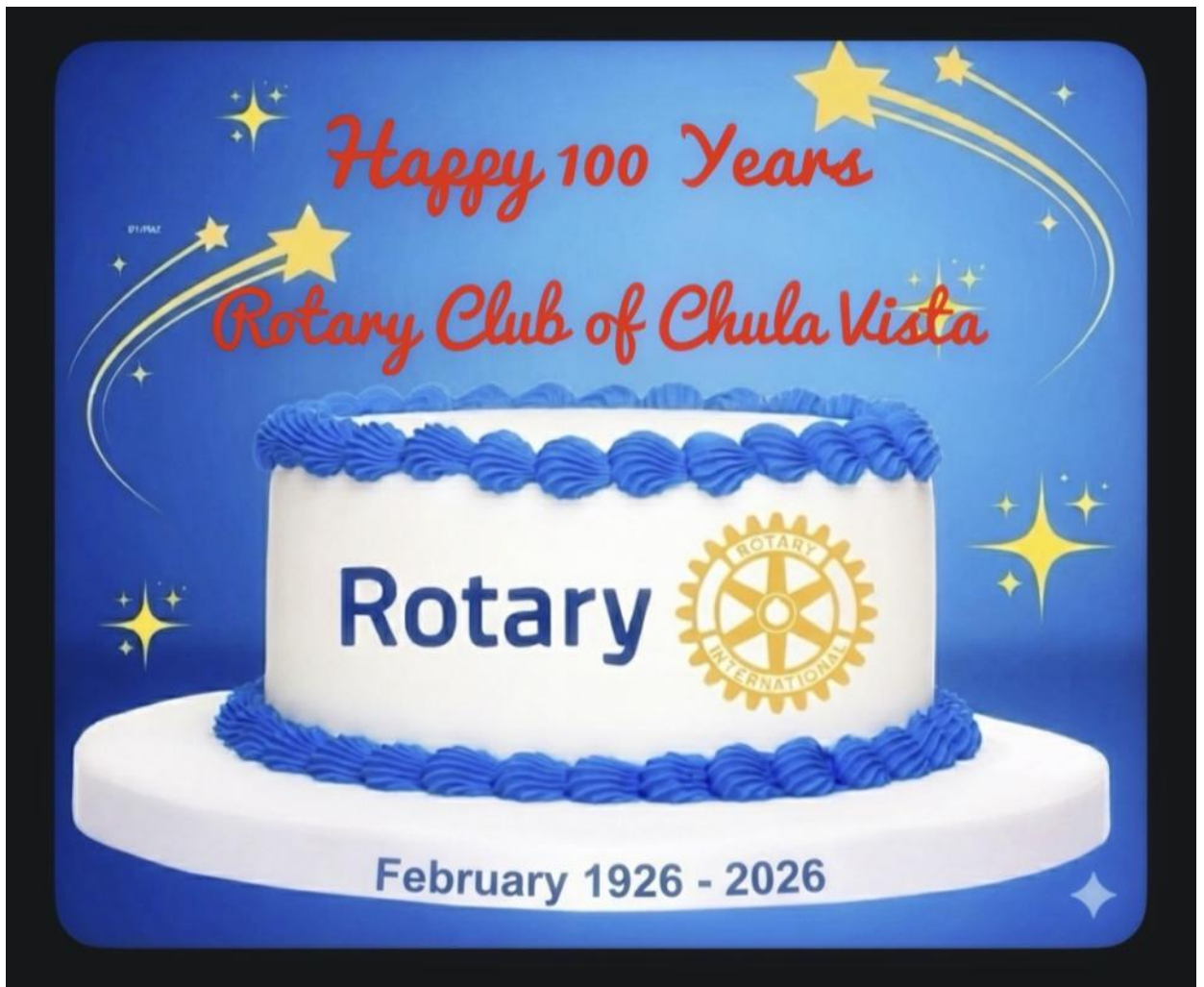
(Submitted by Iracema Quilantan, long-time member of Altrusa and soon-to-be Rotarian)



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



UNITE  
FOR  
GOOD



**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

**100th CLUB CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION—**

**February 27, 2026, 5:00 pm**

**San Diego Country Club, \$100 per person; \$75 for members who pre-pay for weekly meeting meals**

**TRIVIA CONTEST—Friday, March 13—Sign Up Today**

**TIJUANA HOME BUILD— Saturday, April 11, 6:30 am**

**PLEASE RESPOND TO THE SURVEY**