

Chulatarian

Rotary
Club of Chula Vista 

UNITE
FOR
GOOD

rotary 

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)

ANITA KELLER SCOTT
YMCA OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY
Friday, February 6, 2026 - Noon

BOARD 2025-2026

President
Ben Koala

koalacpa@gmail.com

President-Elect
Rasha Roshdy

seducator2014@gmail.com

Treasurer
Risa Baron

rbaron@republicservices.com

Secretary
Bill Torre

wtorre@sbcglobal.net

Past President
Jesse Fernandez

fernfam@pacbell.net

Executive Secretary
Carmen Sandoval Fernandez

csandovalzf@gmail.com

Directors:

Jeanette Badal

Kathleen Carroll

Rochelle Carroll

Mike Green

Bernard Hernandez

Jan Mellinger

www.chulavistarotary.org

P.O. Box 324 Bonita CA 91908

Editor: Carmen Sandoval
Fernandez

csandovalzf@gmail.com

Rotary 
Club of Chula Vista



This Friday, we will hear about how the South Bay Family YMCA has emerged from the COVID era not just reopened—but reimaged. The Y has become an even stronger community hub, supporting working families through childcare and day camps, improving health and wellness through fitness, aquatics, and sports, and creating safe, welcoming spaces for people of all ages to thrive.

We'll also learn about the partnership with the YMCA of San Diego County's Community Support Services, which allows the South Bay branch to extend reach far beyond their walls—providing expanded learning programs, youth and family counseling, housing support, and childcare resources across Chula Vista. Together, these efforts reflect what Rotarians value most: collaboration, accountability, and meaningful, lasting impact.

UNITE
FOR
GOOD

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS - JANUARY 30, 2026

President-elect Rasha Roshdy called the meeting to order. Michael Bell gave the invocation. Songmaster Chuck Bevan had us sing the “Rubber tree” song.

Club Treasurer Risa Baron introduced the only guest, speaker Dominic Li Mandri.

We were so happy to see and welcome back member Hugo Thomaz. He addressed the club and shared his journey with and treatment for a rare and aggressive cancer over nearly two years. He had weekly chemo treatments for the head and neck sarcoma which took part of his face. Hugo brought with him the extra big card we sent him months ago and shared how our card, well wishes and prayers helped his recovery. It was truly moving and beautiful., - so thankful you are in recovery.

Bob Silvas gave a short update on upcoming Youth activities including RYLA. He asked for volunteers to help with screening student applicants. Please contact Bob to help out.

Ken Weimer (SEATTLE) and Bob Silvas (NEW ENGLAND) are coordinating a fundraiser of sorts around the Super Bowl. Choose your team, make a \$ pledge, if your teams wins you do not need to pay (donate). If you lose, you make a donation to the CVR Foundation—at least that is how I understand it...

The Polio Box was circulated for donations.

Betty Waznis provided the News at Noon, sponsored by Bob Silvas. The lucky drawing winners were Darrel Johnston, Mike Green and Michael Bell.

Risa introduced the guest speaker, Dominic Li Mandri, with the Downtown Chula Vista Association. He gave a very informative talk about current and new projects underway.

GOOD-BYE POLIO
THANKS ROTARY



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 Bob Silvas.

People across the eastern United States are bracing for the threat of another winter storm this weekend as a lot of the country is still dealing with snow and cold from last week's deadly storm. At least 73 people have died as a result of the monster winter storm that swept the country last weekend. Blizzard conditions, damaging winds, coastal flooding and dangerous cold are all expected along the East Coast this weekend as a powerful nor'easter rapidly intensifies into a bomb cyclone, when cold air and warm air masses meet and react violently.

The storm's heaviest snow will fall across the Carolinas, where 3 to 6 inches are likely, as well as along the coastline from southeast Virginia to southeast Massachusetts. This storm will be even colder than what the area experienced in the past week, with approximately 80 record lows possible from this morning to Monday. The National Weather Service said this period of frigid temperatures could be the longest duration of cold in several decades.

The price of gold reached a record high on Monday, surging above \$5,000 an ounce, as investors sense new global risks and look for security. Spot gold prices jumped as high as \$5,102 an ounce, after climbing 8 percent last week. Other precious metals were also rising. The price of silver topped \$100 an ounce on Monday and hit \$109.83, a record. Analysts say gold is now on track for its best year since 1979, when prices soared during a period of runaway inflation, a weakening dollar and instability in the Middle East.

After nearly 60 years of its unique and popular open-seating policy, Southwest Airlines flew its last flight with unassigned seats Monday night. Customers on flights going forward will choose where they sit and whether they want to pay more for a preferred location or extra legroom. The change represents a significant shift for Southwest's brand, which has been known as a no-frills, easygoing option compared to competing airlines.

While many loyal customers lament the loss of open seating, Southwest has been under pressure from investors to boost profitability, one reason that last year, the airline also stopped offering free checked bags. Last year the airline determined that eighty percent of Southwest customers and 86% of potential customers prefer an assigned seat. The airline is now offering four new fare bundles that include tiered perks such as priority boarding, preferred seats, and premium drinks.

On Monday the US Olympic & Paralympic Committee announced all 232 members of the Olympic team that will compete at the upcoming Milan Italy Cortina Winter Olympics which begins this Wednesday with opening ceremonies Friday morning. This is the largest contingent of athletes we have ever sent to the Winter Olympics. Included in this year's roster are 98 athletes who have previously competed in the Olympics. Thirty-three are returning medalists. For seven of them, this is their fifth appearance, notably Lindsey Vonn, competing in alpine skiing at the age of 41.

Our sponsor today, Past President Bob Silvas, is a native Chula Vistan and has over 35 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. Bob and his wife, Patti, enjoy spending time with their two beautiful grandkids. Juju (9) and OA (4).

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

UNITE
FOR
GOOD

MORE MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



Hugo Thomaz thanking the Club for well wishes and prayers as he battled a rare and aggressive cancer over the past two years. (See page 2 for more info).



L-R: News sponsor Bob Silvas with drawing winners Darrel Johnston, Mike Green and Michael Bell.

SEND IN YOUR NEWS!
Recent milestone? Big event? Fun Trip? Career change?
Under the weather?
Let Rotary in on your news—share with
President Ben or Exec Sec Carmen

UNITE
FOR
GOOD

MEMBER NEWS

JIM BIDDLE is back home after weeks in the hospital. We wish him all the best—get well soon Jim! We **MISS** you!

Autumn Reid and her husband **David** (+ a couple of friends) are off to **Italy** for a trip and will actually take in several Winter Olympic events—fun!



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

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



*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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY DEAR ROTARIANS!



Kimberley Marshall - February 4

Suzanne Catanzaro - February 4

Gary Bryant - February 8

Peter Rullan - February 19

Diane Wages - February 21

Jim Biddle - February 27



**Remember to bring your unused glasses and put in the box at the Welcome Table.
We are giving them to the Lions Club for their work in this area.**



UNITE
FOR
GOOD



Rotary 
Club of Chula Vista

YOU ARE INVITED!

Centennial Celebration

Please join the Chula Vista Rotary Club to celebrate 100 Years!

Take a look back and a look ahead at the incredible years of club service, fellowship, and community support.

Enjoy connecting and reconnecting with Chula Vista Rotarians and enjoy refreshments, dinner and more!

FEBRUARY 27, 2026

5:00 PM TO 7:30 PM

4:30 PM Registration Opens

5:00 PM Cock tail Reception

5:30 PM Buffet Opens

6:15 PM Program + Dessert

Purchase tickets online

San Diego Country Club
88 L Street
Chula Vista, CA 91911

\$100 per ticket

\$75 for pre-paid members

PURCHASE TICKETS: <https://www.chulavistarotary.org/page/centennial100>

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**100th CLUB CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION—FEB 27, 2026, 5:00 pm
San Diego Country Club, \$100 per person—UPDATED DATE**

SENIOR GIFT BASKETS ASSEMBLY— FEBRUARY 13—Corrected date

TRIVIA CONTEST—Friday, March 13—Sign Up Open!

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

**UNITE
FOR
GOOD**

ST. PAUL'S SENIORS GIFT BAGS

Our Club, in partnership with Altrusa Chula Vista, will once again be providing 50 Valentine Gift Bags to Seniors.

Please see the list below to get an idea of what is needed or if you prefer, give cash to Lisa and she will buy items for you.

Bring items to this Friday and upcoming meetings.

Bag assembly is Fri. February 13 at 11:00 a.m.



- Canned or non-perishable food items
- Office supplies, pens, envelopes
- Cleaning supplies
- Kitchen, bathroom and home care items
- Hygiene care items
- Laundry detergent, fabric softener
- Dish sponges
- Toilet paper, Kleenex, paper towels
- Blankets
- Socks, sweatshirts
- Denture cleaner, Eye glass cleaners
- Treats - wrapped mints, chocolates

Thanks everyone!