

Chulatarian

Rotary
Club of Chula Vista



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**ROTARY CLUB
OF CHULA VISTA**

BOARD 2023-2024

President

Mora Keller de Murguía

mdemurguia@baldwinsons.com

President-Elect

Jesse Fernandez

fernfam@pacbell.net

Ben Koala

Treasurer

koalacpa@gmail.com

Rasha Roshdy

Secretary

sdeducator2014@gmail.com

Mark Scott

Past President

msscott@encorerealtysd.com

Zaneta Encarnacion

Executive Secretary

zaneta.encarnacion@gmail.com

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www.chulavistarotary.org

Editor:

Carmen Sandoval Fernandez

csandovalzf@gmail.com

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)**

**MARCY WEAVER
CHULA VISTA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Friday, January 12, 2024 - Noon**



For nearly a century, the Chula Vista Chamber of Commerce has been the enthusiastic voice and supporter of our diverse business community. It is the largest business network in the city of Chula Vista, with over 500 members.

The Chamber provides networking, promotion, advocacy, business resources, and strategic partners to position members for success. From a one-person start-up with a vision to organizations with thousands of employees, the Chamber offers something for everyone who is a member.

The mission of Chula Vista Chamber of Commerce is to represent the business community in striving to preserve a working partnership of business and professional people that promotes, protects, and expands the free enterprise system, to enhance the members ability to conduct their individual businesses successfully, and to improve the economic stability of the community.

Come meet Marcy Weaver the CEO of the Chula Vista Chamber of Commerce and hear about their most recent activities.



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MEETING HIGHLIGHTS— JANUARY 5, 2024

President Mora de Murguia called the meeting to order. Kathleen Carroll gave the invocation and led the pledge.

President-elect Jesse Fernandez introduced the guests. January birthdays were saluted and those members with anniversaries in January were given a shout out!

President Mora went over the upcoming guest speakers. Bob Silvas provided an update on the support for Mary's Guest House which we are collecting items for as part of a District-wide effort. There is a District work project at GenerateHope (South Bay location) on January 20, 8:30-12. Contact Kim Schafer (kshcager108@gmail.com) if you want to help. It is outside work. Address provided upon RSVP. Another event will help Just in Time Foster Youth move into their first home. Shoppers, movers and drivers (SUV, trucks or large vehicles needed). March 2. Sign up by Feb 15. Email Kim also.

In addition, Bob asked us to save the date—Wednesday, February 7—for a Chula Vista Club Formation meeting for a Rotaract Club—designed for young professionals. More details to follow. Two young people shared their activities with us.

Cards were circulated for signatures. Jim Biddle broke a bone just above his ankle and just missed the criteria for having surgery, plates, screws. Hope he is better soon!

Dan Dredla apparently stole the gavel again and was up to his usual hijinks on the sign-in sheet. He pled innocent. Bob Silvas stuck up for Dan and wound up with \$100 less in his account after suggesting President Mora was less than attentive—complements of Assistant Finemaster Lisa Johnson.

World traveler Rasha Roshdy was the sponsor of the Jim Biddle News at Noon. Lucky drawing winners were—First Winner of the Year! - Bob Bliss, Risa Baron and Troy Ray.

Jesse Fernandez introduced Reggie Waller, whom he played baseball with at San Diego City College. Reggie did his homework on Rotary and shared several of his experiences with Major League Baseball over many years.

Jacqueline Zuno, Rotary Scholarship recipient, gave us an update on her academic progress.

She will be graduating from UC Berkeley this spring and will take a couple of "gap" years to decide whether to go to Law School or pursue a Master's.

She was a pandemic high school grad and one of the students we provided an at home pizza party to since there were no meetings.



Alejandra Cain, President of the Olympian High Interact Club received their Certificate of Organization and a terrific banner to display at their meetings and at their school.

Alejandra shared about one of their projects addressing binational pet issues and ensuring ongoing club viability through recruitment.

JIM BIDDLE NEWS AT NOON by Betty Waznis



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SPONSOR

With Betty Waznis

Hello, everyone, and welcome to today's edition of the Jim Biddle News at Noon. Today sponsored by Rasha Roshdy and Amna Sanctuary.

Christmas is over and the season of Many Happy Returns (or not so happy) is here. Americans are expected to return some \$148 billion in holiday gifts — about 15 percent of all the merchandise purchased over the holiday season. Dealing with them is part of a complex and costly process known in the retail industry as “reverse logistics.” Retailers and manufacturers continue to figure out the most efficient and affordable way to transport returned items back to their stores, warehouses or suppliers. Despite their efforts, even brand-new returns may never end up back on shelves and instead are sent to landfills, increasing waste and decreasing profits. In addition, merchants have to be extra wary of fraudulent returns during the holiday season— merchandise that is used, is falsely claimed as defective, or is stolen — which they expect will account for about \$25 billion of holiday returns, 17%. Some are charging restocking fees, but at the same time, trying to avoid too strict return policies that hurt the customer experience.

This big wave surfer isn't in Hawaii, but right up the coast in Ventura County. Historically high waves combined with unusually high tides slammed into much of the California coast including San Diego County over the New Year's weekend. The churning surf overwhelmed some beaches like this scene in Redondo Beach Harbor, injured at least eight people, and damaged some homes and businesses. Ocean Beach Pier, only recently reopened, once again suffered damage. At least one piling on the south side of the pier was wiped away, all but ensuring that the nearly 2,000-foot concrete wharf will not reopen until at least spring.

Major upgrades to the notoriously congested Interstate 805 and Palm Avenue interchange in Otay Mesa will begin this year and are expected to be completed over the next two years. The project will reconfigure the 50-year-old bridge to allow additional left turn lane space, install six-foot-wide sidewalks and separated bike lanes, realign off- and on-ramps, install bus-stop sidewalk landings, add a new carpool lane for the northbound 805 on-ramp and retrofit for earthquake safety. More than 37,000 cars use the bridge on a typical day, with usage projected to increase to 58,000 cars per day by 2040. The \$47 million project combines federal, city, and Transnet funds, Otay Mesa developer impact fees, and other sources.

Dr Rasha Roshdy brings a wide range of experience to share with the club. She is a native Egyptian who has been a naturalized American citizen for 25 years. In addition, she's been: Investigative reporter, Author, Foreign language instructor for Navy SEALs, Stand-up comedienne, Ghostwriter and grant writer, Business college professor, independent contractor for private and public sector business; and international educator and speaker. She is now the head of AMNA Sanctuary, a non-profit organization that prepares immigrants and refugees to enter the U.S. workforce.

This concludes today's edition of the Jim Biddle News at Noon, today brought to you by Rasha Roshdy and AMNA Sanctuary.



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MORE MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



L-R: Dan Dredla, trying to look innocent.
President Mora with guest speaker Reggie Waller.



The FIRST winner of the year—Bob Bliss—with this week's sponsor Rasha Roshdy.
Risa Baron bought her tickets right after Bob. Troy Ray was the third winner.



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**Our Club is Supporting District 5340
Anti-Human Trafficking Hygiene Products Drive**

**Please bring any of the following items to a
Rotary meeting in January:**

Toilet tissue, Paper towels

Tide laundry detergents (pods please)

Bounce, zip lock plastic bags – gallon and quart sizes

Dish washing detergent, Cascade or Finish (pods, please)

Hand washing soap – any brand

A graphic for Rotary Vocational Service. It features a woman in a workshop wearing a plaid shirt, overalls, safety glasses, and a face mask, using a miter saw. Another person is visible in the background. The word 'Rotary' is in the top right with a gear icon. A blue vertical bar on the left contains the word 'JANUARY' in white. A blue horizontal bar at the bottom contains the words 'VOCATIONAL SERVICE' in white. A small '@PamB' watermark is in the bottom right corner.

JANUARY

Rotary

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