

# Chulatarian

Rotary  
Club of Chula Vista 



ROTARY CLUB  
OF CHULA VISTA

## BOARD 2024-2025

### President

Jesse Fernandez

[fernfam@pacbell.net](mailto:fernfam@pacbell.net)

### President-Elect

Ben Koala

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

### Treasurer

Rasha Roshdy

[sdeducator2014@gmail.com](mailto:sdeducator2014@gmail.com)

### Secretary

Risa Baron

[rbaron@republicservices.com](mailto:rbaron@republicservices.com)

### Past President

Mora de Murguia

[mdemurguia@baldwinsons.com](mailto:mdemurguia@baldwinsons.com)

### Executive Secretary

Carmen Sandoval Fernandez

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

### Directors:

Kathleen Carroll

Bernard Hernandez

Laura Humphreys

Lane Pearson

Rick Richardson

Max Scrivens

[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)

**JD WICKER**  
**SDSU ATHLETIC DIRECTOR**  
**Friday, January 24, 2025 - Noon**



John David Wicker was introduced as the San Diego State University's new Director of Intercollegiate Athletics in October 2016.

Wicker has overseen numerous capital projects upon his return to The Mesa, including the construction of Snapdragon Stadium, the Aztec football program's new state-of-the-art facility that serves as the centerpiece of the SDSU Mission Valley redevelopment plan.

Since Wicker took over the reins as SDSU's athletic director, the Aztecs have captured 26 Mountain West team championships. Including six men's basketball titles, four outdoor track and field crowns, four swimming and diving championships, three baseball titles, two men's golf championships, two women's soccer crowns, two softball titles.

"When we began this (AD) search, we envisioned a person who cares about our student-athletes, whose integrity is paramount and whose competitive fire inspires greatness. In short, someone who embodies our ideal of 'winning right.' John David Wicker is that person," said then-SDSU President Elliot Hirshman at the time of Wicker's hire.

Wicker worked as SDSU's Deputy Athletic Director from 2011 until departing for Georgia Tech in July 2015. During his first term at SDSU, he was responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Aztec athletics department, overseeing business operations, human resources, events and facilities, capital projects, strength and conditioning, academics, video, as well as providing sport oversight for football, rowing and men's and women's basketball. He and his family live in Santee.



## MEETING HIGHLIGHTS—JANUARY 17, 2025

President Jesse Fernandez called the meeting to order. Carmen Sandoval gave the invocation.

Soraya Martinez was inducted as a new member of our Club. This marks her return to the world of Rotary after an absence of a few years. She was previously a member of the Chula Vista-Eastlake Rotary Club. Soraya is the Vice President of Banner Bank Chula Vista branch on F Street. Soraya's husband is a retired sheriff's detective and currently working with the City Attorney's office in San Diego. They share two children; their daughter is completing her Masters and their son is a Chemistry major at UC Santa Barbara. We WELCOME Soraya!

Betty Waznis assisted with the check presentation to Kristi representing the Altrusa Club. We are supporting their gift baskets to grandparents raising grandchildren initiatives.

Lisa Johnson gave an update on our St. Paul Seniors Valentine's gift bags. She reviewed the items suggested by St. Paul's—it is similar to last year. Please bring in items the next few weeks until February 7, when we will fill the bags. If you prefer to have someone shop for you, please give \$ to Lisa or Mora. Thank you!

President Jesse said he and Kimberley Marshall are meeting to review the Scholarship process. Kimberley has agreed to serve as the Committee Chair this year. Members who wish to help, please contact her.

President Jesse presented a check to Rochelle Carroll, representing the CVESD. The donation goes to support the speech contest. Rochelle put her other hat on, representing our sister club— Sunrise Rotary—and invited us to participate with their Trivia Challenge event. She provided flyers with the information (March 14, 2025). She also invited us to help with their major food packing work party on February 1. Sign up online or just come that day.

Bob Silvas discussed the critical services Mary's Guest House provides to survivors of labor and sex trafficking. He introduced to Sister Mary McClain and her colleague who have helped women from 21 countries. They are celebrating 25 years of service. Bob honored Sr. Mary with a Paul Harris Fellowship. She said a few words and mentioned her father had been a Rotarian.

Sergio Martinez, with Sharp Community Relations, shared photos of two patients in the cancer unit with the blankets members donated in December. He said Sharp sends sincere thanks and appreciation.

President Jesse reviewed upcoming programs and activities.

Neisha requested help at the check-in table. Please check your calendars and sign up for a couple of dates.

Betty Waznis provided the Jim Biddle News at Noon. This week's sponsor was Gus Slovinsky, who recently celebrated his 70th—happy 70th Gus! Winners were: Risa Baron, Reed Dinsmore, and Mora de Murguia.

Risa Baron introduced County Assessor (and many other jobs) Jordan Marks, who gave a very informative presentation about the services his operation provides. They have a very strong commitment to innovative customer service. We will need him back to share more!



## JIM BIDDLE NEWS AT NOON by Betty Waznis

• LIVE



Brought to you by:

THIS WEEKS  
SPONSOR

With Betty Waznis

Hello, everyone and welcome to today's edition of the Jim Biddle News at Noon. Today brought to you by Gus Slovinsky and Genesis Family Law.

On Tuesday the county Board of supervisors decided to hold a special election to fill the District 1 Seat that represents the more than 630,000 residents in the South County, a district formerly held by Nora Vargas who resigned a few weeks after being elected. District 1 includes Chula Vista, Imperial Beach, National City, several south San Diego neighborhoods and five unincorporated communities, including Bonita and Lincoln Acres. The board chose to use a combination of in-person and mail voting for the election, to be held April 8.

The nomination process for the special election will begin almost immediately, with a nomination deadline of January 28. Four South Bay officials - Chula Vista Mayor John McCann, Chula Vista Councilmember Carolina Chavez, San Diego City Councilmember Vivian Moreno, and Imperial Beach Mayor Paloma Aguirre - have already said they are running. If any candidate wins at least 50% of the vote in the April 8 election, they could be sworn in in May. But if nobody wins a majority outright, the top two vote-getters will move on to a runoff set for July 1. The newly elected supervisor would then be sworn in by August.

Los Angeles-based retail developer PrimeStor confirmed last week that it has bought the Chula Vista Center Mall and plans to turn the mall into a centerpiece of a new revitalized west Chula Vista. PrimeStor owns more than a dozen shopping centers in California, Nevada and Arizona and specializes in buying and renovating retail complexes. The company's website envisions the shopping center becoming "a key retail and mixed-use hub in the region." Community input meetings are in the planning stages. And in more mall news from the other side of town, last week Macy's identified more than five dozen stores across 22 states that it will close under a three-year plan to rid itself of unproductive locations. The stores include two in San Diego County: Mission Valley and Otay Ranch Town Center in Chula Vista. The majority of the targeted stores will close during the company's first fiscal quarter of this year.

Sessions by the Bay, opening next month in National City, is making history as San Diego County's first legal cannabis lounge, a high-concept venue offering cannabis smoking, non-alcohol cocktails, all-day brunch, and immersive art installations. Co-owned by San Diego natives and married couple Alex and Pearl Ayon and by the Sycuan tribe, Sessions has been in the works for nearly four years. The 16,000-square-foot venue is spread across three stories, starting with a retail store and dispensary on the ground floor, a 5,000-square-foot lounge on the second floor, and eventually a rooftop bar with sweeping bay views. The lounge has paired up with next-door Kimball Coastal Eatery, which has designed a separate high-end menu and food service specifically for Sessions.

Today's sponsor, Gus Slovinsky, has been lawyering for over 43 years, and has been a member of Chula Vista Rotary for 20 years. The law offices of Slovinsky and Slovinsky at Third and I Streets have provided personal and professional representation to clients in all family law matters since its establishment in 1981, including Divorce, Legal Separation, Paternity, Child Custody and Visitation, Child and Spousal Support, and Domestic Violence Restraining Orders. See Gus for any and all family law needs. He recently turned 70 and decided to merge his practice into a larger family law practice and take more vacations. He can still be reached at Genesis Family Law in Chula Vista.

This concludes today's edition of the Jim Biddle News at Noon, today brought to you by Gus Slovinsky and Genesis Family Law



MEETING HIGHLIGHTS—JANUARY 17, 2025



L: President-elect Ben Koala welcomes Soraya Martinez to our Club. Representing sponsors, Mora de Murguia, and President Jesse help out. R: Betty Waznis presents Kristi Phillips with Altrusa, with a check to support the Grandparents raising Grandkids project.



L: President Jesse presents Rochelle Carroll, representing CVESD with a check in support of the annual speech contest. R: Rotary Foundation Club Chair Lane Pearson presents Sr. Mary McClain, with Mary's Guest House, with a Paul Harris fellowship, initiated by Bob Silvas.



## MORE MEETING HIGHLIGHTS—JANUARY 17, 2025



L-R: Pictured with this week's drawing sponsor, Gus Slovisky are lucky winners Reed Dinsmore, Risa Baron and Mora de Murguia. Congrats everyone!



Jordan Marks presented the Board of Director with Certificates of Recognition in honor of our "Outstanding Community Leadership."  
Welcome back (from Vermont) Reed and Beta Dinsmore! They spend half a year with each adult child & co.



- Home goods
- Canned/non-perishable food items
- 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

\*\*\*Or if you prefer to have someone else shop for you, give \$ to Lisa or Mora

Thanks everyone!

**Volunteers Needed!**



Register to volunteer by scanning the QR code



SCAN ME

**HELP US PACKAGE 15,000 MEALS FOR SOUTH BAY FAMILIES IN NEED!**

**Saturday, February 1, 2025**  
**8am - 12pm**  
Allen Elementary School Auditorium  
4300 Allen School Lane, Bonita

Sponsored by



**Have fun while fighting hunger!**  
Join us for a high-energy hands-on volunteer project where you'll help assemble thousands of nutrient-rich meals in just a couple of hours!



### ST. PAUL'S SENIORS GIFT BAGS

Our Club will once again be providing Valentine Gift Bags to Seniors through St. Paul's


Please see the list to get an idea of what we have provided in the past.



An updated wish list is coming soon.

We will provide information on when to bring items.

Bag assemble is Fri. February 7 at 11:00 a.m.



**Rotary**  Mental Health Initiatives  
Rotary Action Group  
District 5340



**FREE QPR  
TRAINING FOR  
SUICIDE  
PREVENTION**

**QUESTION, PERSUADE, REFER**



**Wednesday, February 12, 2025 |  
6-7:30PM**

Bonita-Sunnyside Library  
4375 Bonita Road  
Bonita, CA 91902

Limited to 25 people

**CLUB CALENDAR**

**Fri, February 7, St. Paul's Senior Gift Bags assembly, 11:00 am**

**Sat, February 1—Food Packing Project with Sunrise Rotary Club, 8:00 am**

**Fri, February 14, St. Mark's Food Distribution, 8:30 a.m.**

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

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