

Chulatarian

Rotary
Club of Chula Vista



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ROTARY CLUB
OF CHULA VISTA

BOARD 2023-2024

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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)

TODD PERRY, CAPT, USN (RET)
Navy SEAL Museum, San Diego
Friday, January 26, 2024 - Noon



Through powerful personal accounts and impressive artifacts, The Navy SEAL Museum San Diego will be both an education and innovation for understanding these elite warriors. Authentic exhibits will showcase the impactful ways Navy SEALs and their predecessors have helped author the course of history.

The origin of today's Navy SEALs can be traced back to the formidable units created during the Second World War. Amphibious Scouts and Raiders were formed in August 1942 for the purpose of amphibious reconnaissance operations. Naval Combat Demolition Units (NCDUs) were formed in June of 1943, trained for clearing beach obstacles at Normandy.

CAPT (ret) Todd Perry is from Escondido, CA, and enlisted in the Navy in April, 1982. He retired in May 2022 after a 40-year career and is now Executive Director of Navy SEAL Museum San Diego, scheduled open in early 2025. He graduated with BUD/S Class 123 in 1983 and was commissioned while a Senior Chief in 1997.

His assignments included SEAL Team ONE, SEAL Team THREE, SEAL Team EIGHT and 18 years at an east coast Special Mission Unit. Command Tours included: Advanced Training Command CDR, Combined Joint Special Operation Task Force – Iraq (CJSOTF-I), NSW Leadership Education and Development (NLEAD).

Todd married his college-sweetheart Jackie a week before starting BUD/S in Sept 1982 and she is now the longest serving spouse in NSW's 80-year history! Jackie raised their 3 children during Todd's 21 deployments to Asia, Europe, Africa, and Central America – and countless training trips.



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MEETING HIGHLIGHTS— JANUARY 19, 2024

President Mora de Murguia called the meeting to order. Jerry May gave the invocation. President Mora provided the information on services for Past DG Chuck Pretto. Everyone received an email on this.

President-elect Jesse Fernandez introduced guests and visiting Rotarians. Neisha Hernandez presented the Rotarian of the Week—Troy Ray! Finemaster Michael Monaco enjoyed finding Ken Weimer for putting Neisha's phone in his possession. There was photographic evidence—100 bucks! Michael recently met and shared a photo of the young man who was saved by the Chula Vista Police Department from his burning car—and we saw the drone footage of it! Andrew is very lucky to be alive and very thankful.

Please remember to bring items for the District Anti-Trafficking activity. See page 5 for suggestions. Thank you!

Gary Bryant distributed a handout about all of the Community Projects our Club has supported this year. We are again creating gift bags for Seniors at St. Paul PACE. You can bring items or send a contribution via a QR code which designates it for this program. Thanks Ben Koala for setting this up!

Please consider fostering or adopting a new dog or cat. All the shelters are far over capacity. Please see Calendar below for meetings coming up you may want to attend. Thanks!

CALENDAR—UPCOMING EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

**All meetings in January—bring items for Mary's Guest House—Rotary District 5340
Anti-Trafficking activity (page 5 for suggested items)**

Chula Vista Rotary Centennial Planning Meeting, Thurs, January 25, 5:00 zoom
Please RSVP to Bob Silvas at: rotary@silvygroup.com

Chula Vista Rotary Scholarship Committee, Friday, January 26, 11:00 - at mtg site

Friday, February 2, Supervisor Nora Vargas, Club Meeting, Noon

Wednesday, February 7, 6:00 pm, Rotaract Formation Meeting & Social @ Novo Brazil

Friday, February 9, Valentine Program, Noon

**Friday, February 9—St. Paul's Senior Gift Baskets—Assemble before meeting.
Bring items or donate via QR code**

Friday, February 9, 8-11 am—Food Distribution at St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Thursday, February 20, noon—International Projects Committee Meets—TBD

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



JIM BIDDLE NEWS AT NOON by Betty Waznis



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THIS WEEK'S
SPONSOR

With Betty Waznis

Welcome to the Jim Biddle News at Noon. Today sponsored by Eric Rimmele and The American Wine Society, SoCal Chapter.

On Friday, the SANDAG board voted to hire co-contractors Deloitte and A-to-Be to replace its I-125 toll contractor ETAN Tolling Technology by early next year. ETAN has been paid millions to operate the South Bay Expressway toll system, even though agency officials knew the software was riddled with bugs that caused incorrect accounting despite attempts over the past five years to correct the software. The broken fee-collection system has cost taxpayers \$10 million in liquidated damages.

The city of San Diego and SeaWorld are butting heads over a legal claim that the theme park owes more than \$12 million in back rent and fees. This week they failed to settle the dispute in federal court. At issue is a long-running dispute dating back to September 2021 when the city first notified SeaWorld it was in default on lease payments it owed for a large chunk of the pandemic. The city made good on its threat and sued in September. Last October, SeaWorld filed a countersuit, contending that the city's forced closure of the park during the pandemic was a violation of its lease and therefore it owed nothing. Failure to settle moves the case one stop closer to trial.

CES 2024, the Consumer Electronics Show trade event put on last week in Las Vegas, hosted some 130,000 attendees and more than 4,000 exhibitors. The latest advances and gadgets were on display, with artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning dominating the spotlight. Here are just a few highlights – they may seem far-fetched today but, as we know, they might be things we'll all be used to seeing in a few years.

[GUIDi](#), an AI smart belt for the visually impaired, offers a personal navigation system that operates without the internet or GPS. Instead, it uses dual cameras, sensor integration, haptic feedback, voice commands, and a mobile app.

The [Oro Dog Companion Robot](#), is a smart bot pet nanny for when you're not around. It can navigate your home to follow your dog around and is fitted with two-way audio and video so you can interact with your pup remotely. An automatic food bowl and separate treat dispenser releases food on schedule, or on command. A ball thrower housed in Oro's middle will play fetch, as long as you can train your dog to bring the ball back.

The Cappella's [AI-powered phone app](#), here mounted over a crib with a demo cellphone, is capable of translating a baby's cries with 95% accuracy. It can identify whether the baby is hungry, uncomfortable, tired, or needs a diaper change using machine learning.

Lockly is showcasing a new door lock with facial recognition technology that allows homeowners to open a door just by looking at it, without any keys.

[Motionsleep's Motion Pillow](#) senses snoring and then adjusts the user's head position with airbags, decreasing snoring and improving sleep quality.

Today's sponsor, Eric Rimmele was born in London and grew up in a luxury hotel environment. From an early age he loved the bustling hotel atmosphere. He has had a very interesting life, as we can see here. He served a stint in the German Air Force, and has worked as a professional and executive in hospitality, catering, and restaurant businesses all over the world, including Germany, France, London, Dubai, and here in California. He's now an active entrepreneur and businessman. He's a 19-year member of the Chula Vista Rotary Club, serving as President 2014 –2015. His latest enterprise - Founding Chair of the American Wine Society, SoCal Chapter.

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





MORE MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



Ken Weimer was fined for inadvertently pocketing Neisha Hernandez' phone. She called it and it rang in Ken's bag—found!

Troy Ray was our Rotarian of the Week. Did you know he was born in New Mexico? Fun fact.



Eric Rimmel, with his guests Jesse Nevarez and Raul Palma van den Wyngaert assisting, present the drawing gifts to Michael Monaco, Bob Bliss! and Lillian Leopold. Congratulations!



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Charles J. Pretto



JUNE 3, 1958 - JANUARY 15, 2024

FUNERAL SERVICE

Cypress View Mausoleum Mortuary and Crematory,
Wednesday, January 24th, 2024 10:00am
3953 Imperial Avenue, San Diego, CA 92113

His family requests that in lieu of flowers,
donations can be made to the
following organizations:

Rotary International Annual Fund
San Diego Rotary (Club 33) Foundation
Leukemia & Lymphoma Society

Our most sincere condolences to the family and many friends of Past District Governor Chuck Pretto who passed away last week. His many contributions and service through Rotary will continue to positively impact our world for many years to come. Services were held this week.

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





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SENIOR GIFT BASKETS

Senior Gift Baskets



The Senior Gift Baskets were a HUGE hit last year and very much appreciated by the elders at St. Paul PACE program. We are doing it again this year!

Here is a list of useful items:

- Home goods
- Canned/non-perishable food items
- Cleaning supplies
- Kitchen, bathroom and home care items
- Hygiene care items, Denture cleaner
- Clothing, Sweatshirts, Socks
- Cleaning supplies
- Laundry detergent, Fabric softener
- Dish sponges
- Toilet paper, tissue, paper towels
- Blankets
- Trash bags
- Eye glass cleaners

If you prefer to make a \$\$\$ donation instead, you can use the QR code on the left and it will be designated to this specify activity. Thanks!



Chula Vista Rotary and Chula Vista Altrusa working together on their Grandparents Raising Grandkids gift bags, which included books and items for the children. Our Club also donated \$600 to Altrusa. Several Rotarians are also in Altrusa—Lisa Johnson, Betty Wazniz and Carmen Richardson pictured here.
Right: Max Scrivens came by to help.





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Paul Raffer Obituary

It is with a deep sense of sadness that the family of Paul Raffer announces his passing after a courageous battle with cancer. He was 76.

At each step of his life journey, Paul fostered the closest of enduring friendships. He grew up in [Toms River, New Jersey](#), where his passion for sports and musical theater began. A Little League Champ later recognized in Toms River Regional Schools Hall of Fame, Paul graduated pre-med from Franklin & Marshall where he participated in football, acted and sang at the Green Room Theatre, and became a member and vice-president of Zeta Beta Tau fraternity.

His path to medicine continued at New Jersey Medical School followed by interning at Mt. Zion Hospital, San Francisco (where he met his wife Donna) and moving to San Diego for neurology training at UCSD, where he was Chief Resident. He had a solo private practice of neurology for decades, his office adjacent to Sharp Chula Vista Medical Center. Dr. Raffer will be remembered as a respected colleague and a highly knowledgeable, kind and compassionate physician.

A long-time Chula Vista Club Rotarian and recent president of the Rotary Club of Palm Springs, he planned musical events featuring the "Paul Raffer Singers," and often volunteered in Rotary projects helping his local communities. A talented musician and captivating singer, he delighted many by accepting requests to perform at weddings and special occasions.

A life filled with family and friendships spanning over the decades brought many treasured moments of laughter and camaraderie. Raffer holiday dinners featured enthusiastic gatherings at the piano and guitar. Local colleagues and neighbors mingled with Paul's fraternity brothers at events from touch football games to weddings and trips, concerts and theater. Paul enjoyed playing golf and tennis, solving crosswords and sudoku, listening to music, writing a book, and spending family time with his wife, children and grandchildren, sister and cousins. He inspired others, giving unwavering support and encouragement, his love, and loyal friendship.

Beloved husband, father, grandfather, and brother, Paul is survived by four daughters and sons-in law, Allison Steckley (Brian) of San Francisco; Nikki Whittemore (Mike) of Coronado; Sara Lee (Brandon) of La Mesa; Elizabeth Anderson (Karl) of Portland; six grandchildren: Madeleine Squire (Nathan), Aidan, Abigail, Stella, and Julian; and his sister, Sharon Raffer of Coronado. He was predeceased by his wife, Donna and by his parents, Ray and Leo Raffer.

A gathering of friends and family to remember Paul is being planned for sometime in the future.

Published by San Diego Union-Tribune on Jan. 14, 2024