

# Chulatarian

Rotary  
Club of Chula Vista 

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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)

**DAVID RIVERA**  
**CRISTO REY HIGH SCHOOL**  
Friday, January 9, 2026 - Noon

## BOARD 2025-2026

**President**  
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### Directors:

**Jeanette Badal**

**Kathleen Carroll**

**Rochelle Carroll**

**Mike Green**

**Bernard Hernandez**

**Jan Mellinger**

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David Rivera is President of Cristo Rey High School which has a 99% acceptance rate to four-year universities (100% last year), despite students coming from very limited economic means and on average enrolling two or three years below grade level. This amazing success is due in large part to students interning one day a week at over 40 companies and non-profits, who then rate Cristo Rey interns at 99% meeting or exceeding expectations in the workplace.

Over the next few years Cristo Rey hopes to grow from serving 200 students to ultimately 1000, with students in the school another 500 graduates in its Alumni Support Program.

In addition to David's involvement in the founding of a number of other schools, he was active in Cristo Rey High School's feasibility stage long before its 2020 opening. David also has decades of experience in real estate sales and development.

He is a graduate of the University of San Diego and the University of Notre Dame Law School. David has been recognized with a Leadership Award from ABC Channel 10 and as a ChangeMaker by CBS Channel 8. USD has awarded David the University Service Award and the Bishop Buddy Award for community service and honored him as its 2014 Commencement Speaker.

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## MEETING HIGHLIGHTS - DECEMBER 19



Celebrity judges District Governor Luis Carranza and Chula Vista Mayor John McCann enjoyed their taste testing duties. Thanks to everyone who brought goodies and everyone who bought them. The Bonita Vista Music Machine students brought considerable holiday cheer to our holiday program.

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MEETING HIGHLIGHTS - DECEMBER 19 (continued)



AND THE WINNER IS... **ROCHELLE CARROLL!** For her cowboy cookies. Way to go Rochelle! Second place: **Tana Lorah!** Congrats!



Board officer **Risa Baron** presenting a donation from our Club to the Music Machine Director.  
**Jan Mellinger** helped direct traffic to the BAKED GOODS.



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**HAPPY BIRTHDAY DEAR ROTARIANS!**



**Irma Flores - January 7**

**Bill Padelford - January 10**

**Jerry May - January 21**

**Risa Baron - January 21**

**Carmen Sandoval Fernandez - January 24**

**David Hoffman - January 31**

**SEND IN YOUR NEWS!**

**Recent milestone? Big event? Career change?**

**Under the weather?**

**Let Rotary in on your news—share with  
President Ben or Exec Sec Carmen**

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**Gary Bryant** continued to spread Chula Vista Rotary holiday cheer by presenting a check to Feeding San Diego. Thank you to everyone for your ongoing support of the Chula Vista Rotary Foundation which makes this and other donations possible.



L-R: Deborah Gentile (Salvation Army) sings along with Jon Miller with Joe DeMers on the piano. Sophia Prieto Guzman with Just in Time for Foster Youth accepting a donation from Bob Silvas and President Ben. Bob Silvas donated several bottles of homemade Irish Cream that were bought up by members to benefit the CVR Foundation. (This one is almost empty).

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The traditional end of the holiday season: the takedown of the decorations at the Chula Vista Veterans' Home on the first Saturday of the new year. L-R: Past President Jesse Fernandez, Rochelle Carroll, Gary Bryant, Bill Torre, Bernard Hernandez, Kimberley Marshall, Jon Miller, and Ken Weimer. Not pictured: Kathleen Carroll and Carmen Sandoval. Until next time!

JANUARY IS

VOCATIONAL  
SERVICE  
MONTH

*"Of all the hundred and one ways in which men can make themselves useful to society, undoubtedly the most available and often the most effective are within the spheres of their own occupations."* Paul P Harris



Rotary 

TAKE ACTION: Engage Rotary, Change Lives

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## ROTARY FRIENDS UPDATE

**Suzanne Catanzaro** sends her thanks for the card and flowers from the Club as she is recovering from recent breast cancer surgery. She is very happy to report it had not spread and everything looks good. Suzanne also cannot say enough about early detection—it was discovered during a routine mammogram. Do NOT put it off ladies.

**Eric Rimmele** is MUCH better after a week in the hospital for a very strange allergic reaction to a medication he has been taking FOR YEARS—scary stuff. It affected his breathing but thanking he made it in time.

Club Alumni and Montana resident **Nick Gistaro** is one of the *Chulatarian*'s biggest fans—he reads every issue faithfully! Nick sends this note:

**Happy New Year to all my rotary friends - Stay safe and healthy!**

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Friday, January 9 - **FIRST MEETING OF THE NEW YEAR!**

Friday, January 9 - **Food Distribution at St. Mark's—8:30 a.m**

**ROTARY MEANS BUSINESS—Tuesday, January 13, 6-8 pm**

**100th CLUB CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION—FEB 2026—TBA**

**TRIVIA CONTEST—Friday, March 13,**

**HAPPY 2026 ROTARIANS!**

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

