

# Chulatarian



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ROTARY CLUB  
OF CHULA VISTA

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The weekly newsletter of the Rotary Club of Chula Vista

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Meets Weekly, Noon, 4475 Bonita Road, Bonita (Chula Vista Golf Course)

KRISTEN FOGLE  
SAN DIEGO WRITERS INK  
Friday, July 11, 2025, Noon



Kristen Fogle has led **San Diego Writers, Ink**—located in the vibrant Arts District at Liberty Station—for over a decade, supporting writers of all levels through classes, events, and community programs. She is the author of four prompt writing books published by **Rockridge Media** and previously served as an editorial director for college entertainment magazines. With a **M.A. in Rhetoric and Writing (Teaching Emphasis) from San Diego State** and certifications in **nonprofit management** and **teaching artistry**, she brings together deep experience in writing, education, and the arts, including years producing, directing, and acting in theater.

**San Diego Writers, Ink**, located in the Arts District at Liberty Station and online, has been a cornerstone of San Diego's literary and arts community for over two decades. As a nonprofit, we offer classes, workshops, readings, and events for writers of all levels—whether someone is just starting out or already published. Our mission is to provide a welcoming, inspiring space where people can explore their creativity, connect with other writers, and grow their craft. Through programs for adults and youth, art exhibitions, and collaborations with local organizations, we strive to make writing and the literary arts accessible to everyone in San Diego and beyond.

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## MEETING HIGHLIGHTS FOR JULY 11, 2025

President Ben Koala called his first meeting to order. Nancy Kerwin gave the invocation and Chuck Bevan led us in song. Before the song we were treated to video of the “Star Spangled Banner” sung by Sofia Hoffman (daughter of David and Hilda) at the Wednesday night Padres game—WOW!! She was amazing. Such presence, great voice, awesome delivery—WOW! Our first song of the year—the Chula Vista Rotary Fight Song—was really good too.

President Ben—very rapidly—reviewed upcoming programs, birthdays and anniversaries. He will try to slow it down for us. He shared some photos of his trip to the Rotary International convention in Canada—with new Rotary friends at the meetings and having some family fun.

Lisa Johnson, who teamed up with Past President Mora de Murguia on the Installation/Outstallation, presented new Past President Jesse Fernandez with a beautiful Padres Headlines book as part of his gifts.

Betty Waznis gave us the News at Noon and Jerry May was the sponsor. He was not able to join us and his trusted neighbor Chuck Bevan handled his duties in selecting tickets and giving the gifts. The lucky drawing winners were Ken Weimer (again!), Nancy Kerwin and Rasha Roshdy. Thank you Jerry!

Past President Jesse presented the “Rotarian of the Year” award to Bernard Hernandez, who assisted in youth certification, Youth Committee, Social Media, meeting technical set-up, serves on the Club Board and provided extensive support to the President. (He was out of town for the In/Out). Thank you Bernard!

Our very own Tina Matthias shared information about her non-profit, South Bay Sustainable Communities, as they continue to expand their work in our region. They even run a farm! The organization is now five years old and setting itself apart through their extension work with high school students, saving food from landfills and redirecting it to elders—and so much more! Thank you Tina for all your hard work.



Being President of our Club is not President Ben's only claim to fame—he is on almost every shopping cart at the Bonita Vons!  
Sofia Hoffman knocking it out of the park!

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## JIM BIDDLE NEWS AT NOON by Betty Waznis

LIVE



Brought to you by:

THIS WEEK'S  
SPONSOR

With Betty Waznis

Hello, everyone, and welcome to today's edition of the Jim Biddle News at Noon. Today brought to you by Jerry May and the Invocation Committee. Actually, Jerry is the Invocation Committee.

Homelessness has grown almost every month in San Diego County since 2021. Older adults make up 29% at last count. Housing someone in a shelter can cost up to \$120 per night, more than \$43,000 a year, and outdoor homeless encampments are unsafe and lead to serious mental and physical health harm for homeless people and surrounding neighborhoods. Experience has shown that it's cheaper and more effective to give someone on the verge of homelessness a little support to stay in their home, instead of waiting until they're evicted and needing to find shelter all over again. This is the idea behind the Seniors Safe at Home initiative, started with private donations and operating in cooperation with the San Diego Housing Commission. It offers qualified older people a few hundred dollars a month, depending on their income, just enough to let them stay where they are and keeps them off the streets. It currently helps over 60 seniors at risk of homelessness but will now be able to help an additional 25 vulnerable older people, thanks to \$700,000 donated this week by the Rancho Santa Fe Foundation and the Lucky Duck Foundation.

Dozens of people were out enjoying Crystal Pier in Pacific Beach on Monday, its first day reopening, 18 months after the public portion of the pier closed in December 2023 due to storm damage. The first phase of emergency construction work on the nearly 100-year-old pier began in January 2024, when crews replaced dozens of damaged and broken braces supporting the wooden structure. Even as repairs took place, storms caused additional damage, so emergency work continued for a year followed by the basic nonemergency finishing touches. All of the work was focused on the western publicly owned part of the pier. The easternmost wider section of the pier is owned by the Crystal Pier Hotel and its picturesque over-the-water cottages.

Once again, our own Lisa Johnson is in the news, making Tuesday's edition of the San Diego Union Tribune. She was featured under the headline "5 places to eat, drink and explore in Liberty Station from the Arts District's CEO." Lisa talked about her responsibilities to her many tenants and her enthusiasm for the Point Loma area. Then offered her five Arts District favorites for dining, shopping, open space, public art, and entertainment.

Very noteworthy week for our Padres. Four of our team have been named to the National League All-Star team – Manny Machado, Fernando Tatis Jr., Jason Adam and Robert Suarez. You can watch the game on Fox this Tuesday at 5 pm. Speaking of Manny Machado - The Padres' star third baseman became the fifth active player to reach 2,000 hits with his fourth-inning single against the Diamondbacks on Monday night at Petco Park (with Jesse and Carmen in attendance).

Today's sponsor, **Jerry May**, is happily retired from two careers, aerospace and teaching. Hobbies are string art, building Marble Machines and needlepoint. His children are here in San Diego County, plus three grandsons. Current passion is Percy, a 14-month Great Pyrenees and Shepherd mix. Percy is a handful for Judy, so they are going to use dog day care so that Jerry can come back to Rotary meetings. Since Jerry is puppy-wrangling, this morning Chuck is standing in for him. Jerry encourages every member to give to Rotary International through the Rotary Foundation. He says, "It's the best value for your charity dollar that will help the world."

This concludes today's edition of the Jim Biddle News at Noon, today brought to you by Jerry May and the Invocation Committee.



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## MEETINGS HIGHLIGHTS—JULY 11, 2025



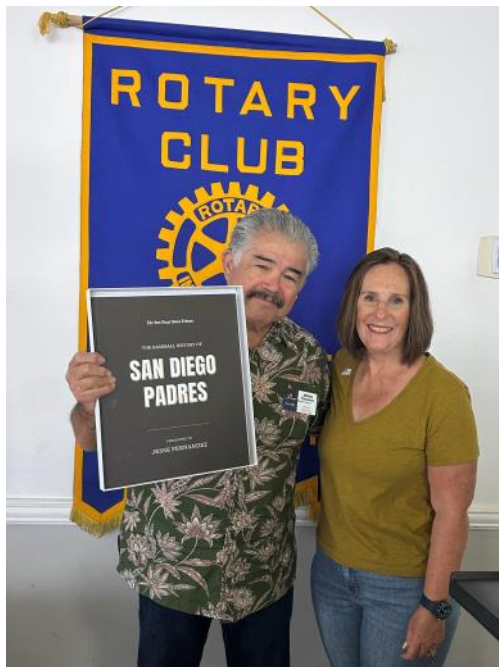
Past President Jesse presenting the “Rotarian of the Year” award to Bernard Hernandez, who assisted in youth certification, Youth Committee, Social Media, meeting technical set-up, serves on the Club Board and provided extensive support to the Club and President—and more!



Jerry May was this week’s sponsor and could not attend so Chuck Bevan helped out. L-R: Rasha Roshdy, Ken Weimer and Nancy Kerwin were the lucky drawing winners.

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## MEETINGS HIGHLIGHTS—JULY 11, 2025



Lisa Johnson presents Past President Jesse Fernandez with his final gift—a beautiful Padres headlines book. President Ben is determined to thwart the gavel takers in the club. The gavel is secured with this strap.



Tina Matthias brought along a nice box of fresh produce which Duane Buckingham took home as a prize.



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## SUMMER KICKOFF & WELCOME EVENT



A BIG thank you to Lisa and Eric Johnson who hosted our Summer Kickoff and Welcome party on Friday, July 11th. Several members transferring from the Sunrise Club and new to our Club were able to attend.



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

