

Chulatarian

Rotary
Club of Chula Vista 



ROTARY CLUB
OF CHULA VISTA

BOARD 2024-2025

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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)

JAN MELLINGER
PERSONALITY DISORDERS-THE OTHER MENTAL ILLNESS
Friday, July 19, 2024 - Noon



Rotary International continues its commitment to raise awareness about mental health issues. Outgoing RI President Gordon McInally (Scotland) shared a poignant personal story about his brother who lived with depression and ultimately died by suicide. Our late District Governor Chuck Pretto also strived to deepen our knowledge on mental health and established collaborations with local mental health organizations such as NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness). The pandemic had a major impact on many and record numbers are seeking professional help.

Past President Jan Mellinger is an experienced professional in this field and has been invited to coordinate presentations for our club. Jan will present the first program and the topic will be about personality disorders. She is a native San Diegan and has lived in here for all except one year of her life. She earned her bachelor's degree and master's degree from USIU. She became a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist in 1987. She has worked over the years in many different settings providing mental health support. She served as president of her 35,000+member state professional association twice. In her spare time, she has showed horses, raced Porsches and bred and shown cats and quilted. Jan is a proud past president of the Chula Vista Rotary Club (2003-2004).



MEETING HIGHLIGHTS FOR JULY 12, 2024

President Jesse Fernandez called the meeting to order. Treasurer Rasha Roshdy gave the invocation. Songmaster Chuck Bevan led us in song with “This Land is Your Land.” Rasha introduced guests and visiting Rotarians. The club wished Ramon Moncada who was present and those that were not—Dave Corbin and Tanya Williams—a very happy July birthday in song.

Betty Waznis is off having fun in Mexico with her whole family on a cruise. She and her daughter will then take off on a trip to Greece! We wish her great fun. Meanwhile, back at the ranch, Lisa Johnson has stepped up to take care of the Jim Biddle News at Noon—so we can remain well informed. Thank you Lisa! Carmen Sandoval was this week’s sponsor. Rasha Roshdy, Chris Lewis and Jon Miller were the lucky winners.

President Jesse shared some insights into the Rotary International Convention which was held in Singapore. It is a beautiful place but very hot and humid. Meeting members from all over the U.S. and from other countries was great fun. The workshops were excellent and some can be accessed from the RI website.

The speakers and overall assembly were inspiring and a great reminder of how we as individual members, our club, district and the global Rotary family work together to do good in the world. President Jesse shared photos of various areas in Singapore including two different botanical gardens he visited and the view from the top of the Sands Marina, famous for the closing scene in Crazy Rich Asians.

President Jesse shared why the theme is “The Magic of Rotary.” RI President Stephanie Urchick was at a water sanitation project in the Dominican Republic. Dirty water entered the system through clear pipes showing its brown color and came out of the filtration system clear and clean. A young boy who was watching, tugged on her sleeve and asked her to do the magic again. This stayed with her. The reality is that we ALL do magic in our work as Rotarians.

President Jesse transitioned to the Club Assembly with an re-introduction to this year’s Polio Pig—a recent gift from Past President Mora. It now bears a striking resemblance to him! Jerry May pledged \$100 to name the pig Pancho. Other suggestions were Piggy, Chuy, Carnitas and Paco. No one outbid Jerry’s donation to Polio Plus—so Pancho it is. Thanks Jerry! Pancho will circulate the room on the first meeting of each month.

During the discussion on membership/retention suggestions included updating the member bios online, having a get to know each other program, return to the “who am I’s?” Other remarks were to use Facebook more, although many in the room do not use FB at all; to make sure we submit our new members to the District for inclusion in the weekly Newsbits; ensure new members understand what is expected of them as a member and to express what their expectations are of the club—to make sure it is a good fit.

In Gary Bryant’s absence, Tina Matthias shared about the Veterans’ 4th of July BBQ we hosted. It was a huge success and the veterans were very appreciative and happy to get to know us and share the meal. Bob Silvas encouraged members to find out what they are passionate about and work on it. There was strong consensus that we need to use the media to let people know what we are doing—public relations, media releases, social media, community calendars.

Ken Weimer shared that we will be doing bell ringing for the Salvation Army again this year. It was suggested we take our event flyers to the First Friday breakfast and share with those in attendance.

Mora de Murguia is helping with grants and writing a district grant for \$3200 to support the bike project. We are working in collaboration with the Chula Vista—Eastlake Rotary Club on a global grant to support the Home for Abandoned Elderly Men in Baja.

Bob Silvas reviewed the revitalized Youth programs and urged members to get youth certified. Interact is returning to CVH. Are we sponsoring another youth exchange student this year? Neisha Hernandez needs help with greeters. It is fun and a good way to meet members. She will circulate a sign-up sheet. Risa Baron is working on programs and doing well. Send suggestions to her. She enjoys learning about our city and recently heard all about the Elite Training Center.



JIM BIDDLE NEWS AT NOON by Betty Waznis

LIVE



Brought to you by:

THIS WEEK'S
SPONSOR

With Betty Waznis

Good afternoon, Rotarians, visiting Rotarians, and guests. Today's Jim Biddle News at Noon is sponsored by past president and current first lady of Rotary, Carmen Sandoval.

Well, it's news so I will mention it briefly...Joe Biden...will he or won't he? Should he or shouldn't he? And that's enough about that. At Rotary, we leave our politics at the door.

This past Sunday marked the conclusion of the SD County Fair for 2024. During this year's run, they greeted nearly 900,000 visitors, 38,569 turkey legs were consumed washed down with 20,100 gallons of lemonade – wow!

San Diego made the national news this week! Yun Chuan and Xin Bao, the long-awaited giant pandas on loan to the San Diego Zoo from China, are adjusting to their new home after arriving June 27 — but aren't ready to meet zoo visitors quite yet. Zoo officials released “first-look photos” of the pair on Tuesday and provided a brief update on how their stay is going, saying they are “acclimating well to their new home.” The zoo has not said exactly when the pandas will be viewable by the public, but it is expected to be several weeks down the line. They are the first pandas to enter the U.S. in 21 years. Yun Chuan, the male, is nearly 5 years old and is from the Wolong Shenshuping Panda Base. He already has links to San Diego. He is the son of Zhen Zhen, a panda born at the San Diego Zoo in 2007. Yun Chuan is easily identified by his long, slightly pointed nose. He seems “extremely comfortable” exploring the grass and climbing trees in his new habitat, officials said. Officials hope he will produce babies with Xin Bao, a female who is nearly 4 years old. She was born at the Wolong Shenshuping Panda Base and here in San Diego she enjoys sunbathing. She has a large, round face and big fluffy ears.

The Zoo is working closely with Chinese experts to cater to the dietary needs and preferences of the giant pandas. They were given a variety of fresh bamboo and fed a local adaptation of wowotou (woe-woe-toe), a traditional Chinese bun also known as panda bread.

Today's sponsor, Carmen Sandoval Fernandez is a past president, our Chulatarian editor, and International Projects Committee Chair. Our Club has helped build NINETEEN homes in Baja with Project Mercy. Over the years we have purchased goats for women in Africa, supported microcredit to budding businesswomen and much more. More recently, we continue to support our sister Eastlake-Chula Vista Rotary Club to help the Abandoned Elderly Men's Shelter near Mexicali with their infrastructure. There continues to be great need in our world.

After decades of toiling away in the non-profit sector, public transit, and Caltrans, Carmen really loves the life of NO rush hour traffic. She and President Jesse enjoy world and domestic travels – mostly to Chicago to see wonder child - granddaughter Maricela who is 2+ and going to have a sibling in January. There is also Padres baseball, gardening, family events with their large extended families and of course Rotary!

Nearly five years after the gleaming 16-story Carte hotel opened in Little Italy, it has been sold to a global investment firm, which paid more than \$61 million for the Ash Street property. The hotel, which includes a rooftop bar and lounge, outdoor pool deck with a saltwater pool, a lobby restaurant, and a 25,000-square-foot athletic club, was built at a cost of \$89 million.

“We are excited to add one of the top lodging assets in the downtown San Diego market to our growing portfolio,” said Nolan Hecht, senior managing director at Certares, which already owns the 245-room Courtyard San Diego downtown. “We are bullish on San Diego,” Hecht said. “There's a strong, diverse demand base — leisure, convention, business, life science, health care, university, military, etc. — and very limited new supply.” (Continued on page 5)



MEETING HIGHLIGHTS—JULY 12, 2024



Lisa Johnson doing an excellent job filling in for the vacationing Betty Waznis, who is off on a Mexican cruise, before going to Greece. Carmen Sandoval, Chair of International Projects, presenting a donation to Rosalva Martha-Patten of the non-profit Es Para Los Ninos which supports families in Tijuana living with HIV. President Jesse explaining how he still has the REAL gavel after Michael Monaco stole his other one at his first meeting of the new Rotary year.



L-R: News sponsor Carmen Sandoval with Rasha Roshdy, the very lucky Jon Miller winning again, and Chris Lewis.



Meet Pancho our Polio Pig for this year. Naming rights secured by \$100 pledged by Jerry May.

In sports news, Yu Darvish remains on the restricted list for undisclosed reasons. The team said he is attending to a personal matter. Since players on the restricted list do not collect a paycheck, that might afford the Padres more flexibility as the July 30th trade deadline approaches. Currently, San Diego is 49-45 and in the third NL wild card position. According to the UT, payroll flexibility isn't the worst thing to have for a team in the Padres' position. The team could save about \$7M if Darvish doesn't return this season.

I can't conclude the news without addressing the weather. After Hurricane Beryl barreled through the south, devastating many Texas communities, it weakened but remained destructive as it headed north towards the Ohio River Valley. A historically intense and long-lasting heat wave in the Western United States, which has set hundreds of records from Washington state to Arizona, will continue to scorch the region for several more days. The first signs of even modest relief do not materialize until late this coming weekend.

This past weekend, astonishingly hot weather brought all-time highs of 119 degrees to Redding, Calif., and 120 to Las Vegas. Heat alerts remain in effect for most locations west of the Rockies for days to come. California, Nevada, Oregon and Washington state are nearly entirely covered. Excessive-heat warnings — the highest-level alert — are in effect for Boise, Idaho; Fresno, Calif.; Las Vegas; Phoenix; Portland, Ore.; and Reno, Nev., among other cities.

Here in America's Finest City, we are a bit spoiled weather-wise. The National Weather Service predicts we'll be a little warmer than usual this weekend...usual being low-to-mid 70's. Our coastal regions will be around 77 or 78, 80's inland, and if you're looking for more warmth in SD County, head to Julian or Ramona where it might get into the 90's. For a little relief...go to the beach or turn down your A/C.

And that concludes this edition of the Jim Biddle News at Noon...the first edition under President Jesse's leadership! Today's news was brought to you by Carmen Sandoval...Wonder Grandma to the Wonder Child Maricela.