

Chulatarian

Rotary
Club of Chula Vista



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**ROTARY CLUB
OF CHULA VISTA**

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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)

MARIA POWER & CORRINE RODRIGUEZ
NATIVITY PREP
Friday, July 31, 2026, Noon



Nativity Prep Academy is a private-independent, all-scholarship Catholic middle school and college access program for young men and women from historically under-resourced communities who represent the first generation in their families to graduate from college.

Maria Power has been at Nativity Prep for 18 years and currently serves as the Director of Donor Relations. She has dedicated her career to helping students discover their potential while building strong partnerships with families, donors, and community members. Whether mentoring students, leading fundraising initiatives, or creating meaningful programs, Maria is committed to making a lasting difference in the lives of young people.

Corrinne Rodriguez serves as Community Engagement and Mentoring Coordinator and Grant Writer at Nativity Prep Academy, where she helps strengthen connections between the school, its students, mentors, families, alumni, and community partners. Though she joined the staff in 2025, Corrinne's connection to Nativity Prep runs much deeper—she is a proud alumna and a product of the very program she now helps support. Corrinne earned her bachelor's degree in Sociology and Psychology, from Notre Dame de Namur University.

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CLUB HIGHLIGHTS - July 24, 2026



Top L-R: Smiling through the pain! A very animated Kathleen Carroll returned to our Club meeting for the first time since her big tumble. We were very happy to see her and welcome her back.

President-elect Risa Baron gave an update on the recent Club Board meeting. Minutes will be sent to all members.

President Rasha Roshdy thanks Wendy Wilson with the Bonita Museum for an excellent talk.



L: International Projects Chair Carmen Sandoval welcomed Altrusa member, Eva Salas to accept a donation in support of a Reading Corner at an orphanage in Baja.

Altrusa Chula Vista is a service club, dedicated to improving the community. A key focus is on literacy and encouraging a love of reading in all ages. Irasema Quilantan (IQ) gave a history of the project and plans for additional locations.

INVOCATION GIVEN BY CARMEN SANDOVAL:

As we gather for fellowship and service, let us pause with gratitude for this meal, for the hands that prepared it, and for the Rotary community that brings us together.

May we listen generously, speak honestly, and remember that disagreement need not divide us. Even when we see issues differently, may we seek the shared ground of goodwill, fairness, and service above self.

May our conversations today strengthen understanding, our work together reflect integrity, and our differences become a source of better ideas rather than barriers between us.

With open minds and willing hands, may we leave this meeting better prepared to collaborate, to serve, and to build upon our 100 years of service in our beautiful Chula Vista/South County community.

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●LIVE



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**THIS WEEK'S
SPONSOR**

With Betty Waznis

JIM BIDDLE NEWS AT NOON

**BY
BETTY WAZNIS**

Hello, everyone and welcome to today's edition of the Jim Biddle News at Noon. Today brought to you by Gary Bryant and the Community Projects Committee.

Comic-Con International is back in San Diego this Wednesday through Sunday with an explosion of activity around the San Diego Convention Center. A badge is required to get inside, but outside the convention center, all kinds of fandoms, brands and studios welcome anyone willing to wait in line for activities and exhibits. The conference will host 135,000 visitors and features thousands of exhibits, programs, celebrities, artists, and specialty vendors, plus previews of top science fiction, fantasy and adventure offerings from HBO, Marvel, DC Comics, Apple TV, Star Trek and many universally beloved franchises. And the costumed crowd never disappoints.

Searchers have found the wreckage from a 1952 Pan Am flight that plunged into the ocean off Puerto Rico, killing 52. This tragic accident led to the passenger safety briefings given on every commercial flight that we are all very familiar with. The plane, the Clipper Endeavor, made a hard water landing after losing power shortly after takeoff. The 17 on board who survived told investigators everyone lived through the landing impact, but panic set in as passengers struggled to find life vests and the crew tried unsuccessfully to pull out life rafts. Within minutes, the plane sank to a depth of 2000 feet. Now, because of this, before takeoff we're instructed on where the exits and life vests are located and how to use them.

The American Heart Association told us this week to have yourself a cup of coffee, because regular consumption up to five cups per day may improve heart health. Recent studies suggest consuming about 400 milligrams of natural caffeine daily (not artificial as in energy drinks) may lower the risk of Type 2 diabetes, stroke, heart disease, and heart failure due to coffee's rich antioxidant profile.

Major League Baseball's Automated Ball-Strike (ABS) challenge system introduced to the majors this season has heavily impacted veteran umpires. Data shows umpires 50 and older get overturned over 57% of the time, compared to around 50% for their younger colleagues. The ABS system strictly measures strikes using a 2-dimensional camera setup, requiring a precise zone that contrasts sharply with the individualized, human strike zones older umpires developed during their prime. Younger umpires, having come up with the ABS system in the minor leagues, are generally outperforming them.

As of this week, umpires under the age of 40 have been overturned 50.1% of the time when challenged. That figure increases to 54% for umps in their 40s and jumps to 57.2% for umps aged 50 and older. The 16 umpires who are 55 or above are being overturned a whopping 58.2% of the time and also are having their rulings challenged more frequently. The umpiring ranks are about to get younger—and, as far as ABS goes, more accurate. Seven of MLB's 76 full-time umps average age 61, have accepted buyouts and will retire after this season.

Today's sponsor Gary Bryant began community service as a boy when his folks moved to the Mt. Helix area of La Mesa in 1957 when he and his brother were 8 years old. The Order of DeMolay, the Masonic sponsored youth group for boys 13 to 21, really cemented his initiation into community involvement. (Continued on page 5)

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MORE MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



L-R: This week's sponsor of the News at Noon, Gary Bryant, with the lucky drawing winners: President-elect Risa, our guest from Altrusa Chula Vista, Eva Salas and our regular visiting Rotarian Diana Marjip Chuh. Thank you for supporting the Chula Vista Rotary Foundation.



Just steps from the USS Midway Museum on San Diego's historic waterfront, **Freedom Park** stands as a living tribute to the men and women who have served in America's armed forces. Now, Rotary District 5340 has the opportunity to leave a lasting mark on this landmark through the Freedom Park Legacy Granite Stone Paver Program.

Through a \$100,000 naming rights agreement, District 5340 will secure a permanent Rotary roundel embedded within Freedom Park's walkways—a visible symbol of Rotary's commitment to service, community, and the men and women who defend our freedoms. The roundel will stand alongside the Park's other tributes, ensuring Rotary's presence is felt by the thousands of visitors, veterans, and families who walk through Freedom Park each year.

To help fund this initiative, individual and club-sponsored granite pavers are available for purchase, offering Rotarians and community members a personal way to honor a veteran, celebrate a club milestone, or simply show support for those who served. **Our Club will be represented at Freedom Park.** For more info, see District 5340 Newbits.

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(Continued from page 3)

Gary enjoys hunting, fishing, and shooting all over the US and the world. Trips this year were fishing the Big Horn River and the North Platte River in Wyoming in April, and Zamora, North California for sporting clays in June. His upcoming trips this fall and winter - fishing the Lower Sacramento River near Redding, and an Elk hunt in Wyoming. His favorite place to go is Alaska. He's been there 9 times since 2000. He says, If he had been 30 years younger on his first trip, he probably would have stayed and not come home.

But a good thing for us that he did come home. Gary leads, supports and volunteers for many community and charitable organizations, including Chula Vista Charitable Foundation, YMCA Board, Ronald McDonald House, Christmas in October, Chamber of Commerce, The ARC of San Diego, Ducks Unlimited plus leading our Community Projects Committee. Thank you, Gary, for everything you do for our club and our community.

**GOOD-BYE POLIO
THANKS ROTARY**



THOUGHT OF THE DAY

**Be more concerned with your character,
than your reputation.**

**Because your character is what you really are,
while your reputation is merely
what others think you are.**

—John Wooden