

# Chulatarian

Rotary  
Club of Chula Vista



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)

FRANKIE THAHELD  
SNAKE OIL COCKTAIL COMPANY  
Friday, June 6, 2025, Noon



Recognized in 2025 by BizBash as a Top 25 Industry Influencer, Frankie Thaheld's career journey is a testament to his passion for hospitality and mixology. He began his hospitality career in 1989 as a soda jerk at Ruby's Metro Diner in Fullerton, CA, where his hands-on work sparked a love of creating unique experiences for guests. After spending 11 years with California Pizza Kitchen, he rose to the role of Lead Bartender and Corporate Bar Trainer, where Frankie gained experience traveling the world launching new restaurant outlets. In 2006, he joined acclaimed Chef Trey Foshee at George's At The Cove in La Jolla, where the duo created a cutting edge, culinary mixology-focused bar atmosphere, known as the California Modern Bar.

Over the next several years, Frankie expanded his cocktail knowledge delving into spirit history and culture, and experimenting with innovative ingredients like herbal infusions and rare produce. His trip to New York's burgeoning underground "speakeasy" bar scene in 2008 served as a creative catalyst. He further honed his craft in San Diego, helping open Alchemy in 2009, where he hosted "Silent Sundays," a tribute to the Prohibition and silent film eras. In 2010, Frankie consulted on the cocktail program for Ignite Restaurant and Bar in Jackson Hole, WY, and revamped the program at Hotel La Valencia in La Jolla. In 2012, Frankie partnered with Michael Esposito from Snake Oil Cocktail Company to introduce innovative mixology to a broader audience. A consultation in Bogotá, Colombia, revealed the duo's potential for expanding the brand, and by 2014, Frankie became a partner in Snake Oil Cocktail Company, focusing on growth in new markets and specialty events.

Frankie's expertise has earned him media recognition in publications like *Tasting Panel*, *Food & Wine*, *Esquire*, among others. He's also made appearances on morning television and contributed cocktails to a variety of social and arts events. Today, Frankie focuses on cocktail innovation and interactive mixology experiences, continuing to shape the future of the craft. As a partner in the business, Frankie's area of responsibilities include oversight on creating team standards, HR, training, compliance and financial responsibilities within the companies.



## MEETING HIGHLIGHTS—May 30, 2025

President Jesse Fernandez called the meeting to order. Carmen Sandoval gave the invocation. Chuck Bevans led the song.

President Jesse provided a re-cap of a week+ in our Club like no other:

**Saturday**—we had a fundraiser at Mark Scott's home—despite the uncooperative weather. Members can still make donations via Club Runner—thanks everyone!

**Sunday**—we assembled and rehabbed 37 dog beds at the Chula Vista Animal Care Facility.

**Wednesday**—a team worked the intersection of East H & Paseo Ranchero for Red Shoe Day to support Ronald McDonald House Charities.

**Friday**—it was the big bike transfer from Mark Scott's home to the Loma Verde Community Center.

**Saturday**—Rotarians and friends assembled nearly 200 bikes in the morning, then helped distribute them to kids in the afternoon—for many—their FIRST bike ever. The Summer Safety Fair was amazing in its breadth of activities and opportunities for residents to connect with many community resources and to have fun as well.

Great job team! President Jesse shared a TV news item with the club about the bikes and safety fair—super excellent and moving coverage of the event.

Gary Bryant and Lisa Johnson provided additional information on the activities. Blood Bank donations will benefit 21 people. The families of 75 pets got their cats and dogs vaccinated and chipped free of charge; free swim lessons, free flu vaccines, free snacks—great fun!

Gary said we participated in THIRTY TWO (32!) hands on activities this year and we donated \$15,000 to support other groups. He said he may be the conductor but we make the music. Beautiful!

Michael Monaco (Finemaster) could NOT resist the impulse to FINE Lisa Johnson for her fantastic interview on the news about the bikes and summer safety fair—\$100 bucks!

President Jesse said Bob Silvas is spearheading a collection drive of needed items/gift cards for Mary's Guest House—more information to come. He has a cold and was not able to be at the meeting.

Lisa Johnson read the Jim Biddle News at Noon—pinch hitting for Betty Waznis who was also a little under the weather. Eric Rimmele was this week's sponsor and the lucky winners were Lori Torio, Nancy Kerwin and visiting Rotarian Irwin Gebroe.

Carmen Sandoval introduced Gabe Fasolino with the La Mision Rotary Club in Baja California. He shared their journey from only English speaking ex-pats to a membership that includes Spanish speaking locals and officials. They undertake many projects to help their community. Gabe invited us to visit and gave President Jesse a club banner. Our club presented them with a \$1500 check to support their vision project and school partnership program.

When President Jesse gave Gabe the speaker's gift—a Rotary mug, he gave us a mug from their club and invited us to auction it off. After a very lively auction, Gary Bryant went home with a \$225 mug—to benefit the Chula Vista Rotary Foundation (!). Then Lane Pearson said he would match it when Gabe sends another mug—a BIG thank you to Gary and Lane.



## 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 Eric Rimmele.

California University State San Marcos is the first out of the gate to offer bachelor's degree programs at Southwestern College. They'll introduce degrees in business administration, computer information systems and cybersecurity in fall 2026, and human development and bilingual speech language pathology in fall 2027, with other majors expected to follow. Courses will be taught by CSU San Marcos faculty. Participants will be Southwestern students in their freshman and sophomore years, who would then become CSUSM students in their junior year. Other local universities will soon follow. UCSD plans to introduce a bachelor's program in public health at Southwestern in the next few years. SDSU is negotiating with Southwestern to jointly offer a bachelor's degree in nursing that would be taught at the new Millennium library.

KJ Muldoon, a 9½-month-old boy with a life-threatening disorder, has made medical history as the first patient of any age to receive custom gene-editing treatment, designed to fix his precise genetic disease. His rare condition, CPS1 Deficiency, affects just one in 1.3 million babies. Half of all babies with the disorder die in the first week of life. But KJ's treatment, which built on decades of research, offers a new path to develop personalized unique treatments for the millions who suffer from rare genetic diseases.

Illnesses like KJ's are the result of a single mutation — an incorrect DNA letter among the three billion in the human genome. To correct the mutation, the baby received a series of infusions made just for him, from February until just a week and a half ago. The injections carried molecular instructions that command his cells to fix the gene, along with a molecular GPS which searched his DNA until it found the exact DNA letter that needed to be changed. Instead of an almost certain death, KJ is ready to go home with his family.

A pygmy hippo that was rescued more than twenty years ago broke a world record this weekend by becoming the oldest living captive pygmy hippo in recorded history. She's alive and well right here in San Diego County at the Ramona Wildlife Center, part of the San Diego Humane Society. Her name is Hannah Shirley, she's 65 inches long, weighs around 450 pounds and on Sunday surpassed the previous age record for her species of 51 years, 6 months and 2 days. Hannah Shirley's longevity can be attributed to top level diet and vet care, and a 13,000-square-foot pen complete with a pond, a pool and a barn. Her daily routine includes back rubs with a broom, sprinkler showers, and a diet of fresh fruits and vegetables. She has a friendly outgoing personality and serves as one of the wildlife center's animal ambassadors to educate audiences about good stewardship, wild animals and vulnerable species.

No shortage of drama for Padres fans this week. On Wednesday, a day after the Padres came back from a six-run deficit to beat the Marlins, the Marlins came back from a five-run deficit to beat the Padres, keeping us from sweeping the series. Next up — a three game weekend series at home against the Pittsburgh Pirates, starting tonight at 6:40.

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. 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 retiree, enjoying his family and traveling the world! He's a 19-year member of the Chula Vista Rotary Club, serving as president in 2014 –2015.



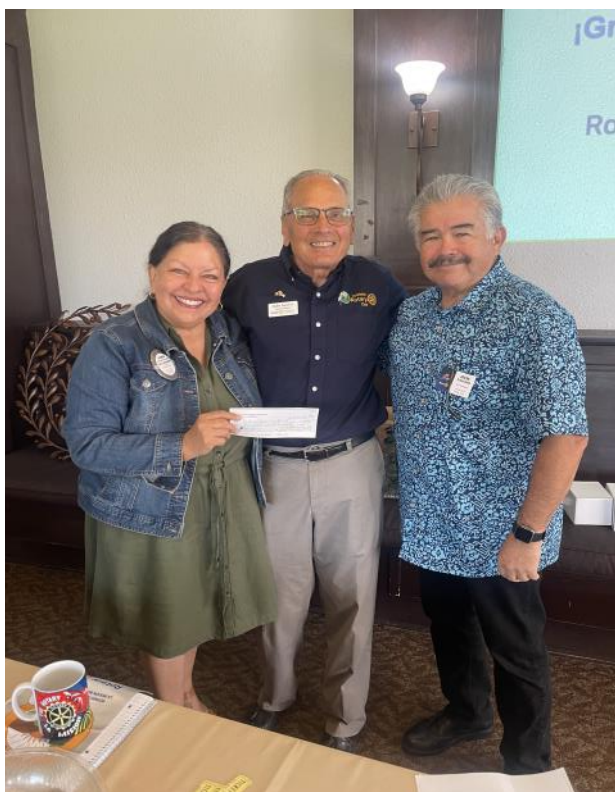




## MEETING HIGHLIGHTS—May 30, 2025



Eric Rimmele was the sponsor of the week. L-R: Lucky winners were Lori Torio, Nancy Kerwin and visiting Rotarian Irwin Gebroe, from the Club Rotario of La Mision in Baja (45 minutes south of Tijuana).



Guest speaker Gabe Fasolino shared the progress the Club of La Mision has made in the past few years which include increasing more participation from locals and undertaking many projects to benefit their community.

The International Projects Committee was impressed with their work and passion and recommended support for their Vision Project and School Partnerships program in the amount of (\$1500).

Gabe brought a club mug which features their beautiful logo and auctioned it off. It was a surprising and lively auction with a fierce battle in the end between Gary Bryant and Lane Pearson—wow! In the end, Gary went home with a \$225 mug (!). Actually, he will donate that amount to the Chula Vista Rotary Foundation. After the meeting, Lane said he would match the \$225—Gabe will be sending another mug! Way to go guys!

We are invited to visit their club. Sounds fun!

L: International Projects Chair Carmen Sandoval presents Gabe with the check, with an assist from President Jesse.



**YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED!**



**FROM OUR FRIENDS AT THE CHULA VISTA-EASTLAKE ROTARY CLUB**



**Rotary**   
Club of Chula  
Vista Eastlake

**Noche Mexicana**  
*(A fundraising event benefiting our charitable programs)*

**\$110 Ticket**      **Saturday**  
Includes:      **June 14, 2025**  
Food      **5:00 PM**  
Drinks  
Music  
Dance  
Auction Items  
Fun

**Pay Here:**



2017 Chardonnay Terrace, Chula Vista





## HAPPY BIRTHDAY DEAR ROTARIANS!



**Mora de Murguia - June 4**

**Tina Matthias - June 5**

**Michael Monaco - June 23**

**Rasha Roshdy - June 23**

**Reed Dinsmore - June 25**

**Maria Kachadoorian - June 27**

**Brad Wilson - June 28**

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





## DONATIONS FOR MARY'S GUEST HOUSE REQUESTED

Our club is hosting a hygiene drive to support Mary's Guest House. Mary's Guest House is a safe home for victims of human trafficking.

Collection of the following items will take place during the next two weeks. Bring your items to the meeting for collection.

Items requested include:

- laundry detergent (i.e. Tide pods or any)
- Downy for laundry
- Bounce, Shout (laundry stain spray)
- paper towels, toilet paper, Kleenex
- bathroom cleaning supplies
- dish soap (ie. Dawn) or dishwasher
- deodorant
- hand wipes
- toothpaste
- lotion
- feminine hygiene products
- gifts cards for Walmart, Target, JC Penney
- gift cards for food stores - Food 4 less, Northgate, Albertsons, Vons, Sprouts

June is  
**ROTARY FELLOWSHIPS**  
Month



Rotary  
District 5340