

# Chulatarian

Rotary  
Club of Chula Vista



ROTARY CLUB  
OF CHULA VISTA

## BOARD 2024-2025

### President

Jesse Fernandez

[fernjam@pacbell.net](mailto:fernjam@pacbell.net)

### President-Elect

Ben Koala

[koalacpa@gmail.com](mailto:koalacpa@gmail.com)

### Treasurer

Rasha Roshdy

[sdeducator2014@gmail.com](mailto:sdeducator2014@gmail.com)

### Secretary

Risa Baron

[rbaron@republicservices.com](mailto:rbaron@republicservices.com)

### Past President

Mora de Murguia

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### Executive Secretary

Carmen Sandoval Fernandez

[csandovalzf@gmail.com](mailto:csandovalzf@gmail.com)

### Directors:

Kathleen Carroll

Bernard Hernandez

Laura Humphreys

Lane Pearson

Rick Richardson

Max Scrivens

[www.chulavistarotary.org](http://www.chulavistarotary.org)

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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)

ELIZABETH FITZSIMONS  
EPISCOPAL COMMUNITY SERVICES  
Friday, March 21, 2025 - Noon



Elizabeth Fitzsimons is CEO of Episcopal Community Services. ECS serves 10,500 people annually across San Diego County through programs focused on our community's greatest needs: homelessness, substance use disorder, and children's early education and mental health.

Twenty-five years ago, Elizabeth began her career in San Diego as a newspaper reporter. She built a career spanning the sectors of journalism, government, healthcare, business, and nonprofits based on trust, accountability, and collaboration, each role of service connected by an unwavering commitment to creating equity, opportunity, and possibility.

A proud member of Rotary 33, Elizabeth serves as a Mayoral appointee on the City of San Diego's Human Relations Commission. She is the mother of three, and lives with her family in the San Diego neighborhood of Del Cerro.

Rotary  
Club of Chula Vista





## MEETING HIGHLIGHTS—March 14, 2025

President Jesse Fernandez called the meeting to order. Kathleen Carroll gave the invocation. Chuck Bevan led us in the song of the week.

Lisa Johnson with the Community Service Committee introduced Betty Mohlenbrock with Reading Legacies and presented her with a check. Their mission is to facilitate supportive relationships for children through family and friends reading aloud with them.

President Jesse adjourned the Club meeting and called on Nominations Committee Chair David Hoffman to convene the Annual meeting. David presented the slate of new Board members and incoming officers:

### **Chula Vista Rotary Board 2025-2026**

Past President Jesse Fernandez

President Ben Koala

President-elect Rasha Roshdy

Treasurer Risa Baron

Secretary Bill Torre

Director Kathleen Carroll - Term Ends 2026

Director Bernard Hernandez—Term Ends 2026

Director Max Scrivens—Term Ends 2026

Director Jeanette Badal—Term Ends 2027

Director Michael Green—Term Ends 2027

Director Jan Mellinger—Term Ends 2027

### **Chula Vista Rotary Foundation Board 2025-2026**

Chair Rasha Roshdy—Term Ends 2026

Vice Chair Ben Koala—Term Ends 2026

Secretary Risa Baron—Term Ends 2026

Director Bob Bliss—Term Ends 2026

Director Diane Wages—Term Ends 2028

Director Mark Scott—Term Ends 2026

Director Mauricio Lutteroth—Term Ends 2027

There was a motion by Chuck Bevan, second by Bob Silvas: To approve the slate. Unanimous  
The Annual Meeting was adjourned.

President Jesse reconvened the Club meeting and called on Lisa Johnson who introduced Rochelle Carroll with the Chula Vista Sunrise Rotary Club. Rochelle presented our Club with a \$1000 check for the bike program. Thank you Rochelle and Sunrise friends!

Lisa gave an update on the Bike Project—it is going to be a major community resource fair with many partners participating. Save the date—May 24! This continues and builds on the long history our Club has in providing bikes to area children begun by Manny Adler and Jon Miller a long time ago.

We received 70+ applications for scholarships—after a slow start.

Laura Humphreys said Sunday, May 18 is the day to assemble dog beds at the CV Animal Care Facility.

Carmen Sandoval passed the sign-up sheet for the Tijuana Home Build on April 12.

Betty Waznis is back and gave us the News.

Wendy Wilson gave an excellent update on the Bonita Museum—many exhibits, events, classes and more!



## JIM BIDDLE NEWS AT NOON by Betty Waznis

• LIVE



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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 Bob Bliss and Robert Bliss, CPA.

San Diego State University's multiple efforts to become classified as a Research 1 school has paid off with its addition to an elite list of science-heavy institutions that includes Harvard, MIT, Caltech and UC San Diego, a list that generally includes fewer than 150 national members. SDSU was added to that list a few weeks ago by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, which said the school had met the two primary criteria for Research 1 status: spending at least \$50 million on research and development, and awarding at least 70 doctoral research scholarship degrees.

For many years, SDSU held the far lower classification of R2. To bump up to the top league, the school hired more research-oriented faculty and won more research grants, not just in science and tech but also in humanities and social science. They've also awarded more PhDs following recent legislation giving the CSU as well as the UC the ability to offer independent doctorates.

A new cruise ship line is coming to San Diego. Royal Caribbean, which over the years has only been a sporadic visitor to San Diego, announced it will make 44 cruise calls that are expected to attract 211,000 passengers during the 2026-27 cruising season, more than San Diego's longest and largest cruise line client — Holland America — expected to call 36 times with 144,000 passengers during that same time frame. It will mark the first time ever that Royal Caribbean will homeport here. Plus, another newcomer, Norwegian Cruise Line, is planning to make 21 cruise calls during the upcoming 2025-26 season. It's estimated that each ship that begins and ends a cruise in San Diego contributes \$2 million to the local economy.

The West Coast is enjoying renewed interest with both cruise lines and travelers, driven partly by the convenience they offer Californians and others within driving distance. Plus, the cruise lines that already call in San Diego, Disney and Holland America have experienced better ticket sales in San Diego than out of LA.

A new set of triplets has eagle lovers all over the world focusing on Southern California. Friends of Big Bear Valley, a non-profit conservation group, operates a 24-hour webcam trained on an eagles' nest overlooking Big Bear Lake and has closely monitored an eagle couple named Jackie and Shadow for a decade. This week three beautiful bundles of fluff were fully visible, sitting up and ready for breakfast, all looking healthy, full of energy, and jostling around for position. The last chick emerged early last Saturday.

Thousands of people have followed the eagles' parenting journey and were elated by Saturday's good news, which follows years of disappointment. In 2023, the eagles' eggs were eaten by ravens. Last year, severe cold weather prevented another trio of eggs from hatching. Jackie and Shadow are diligently tending to their chicks, trading off feeding and sleeping times while protecting them from the elements. All three chicks are small enough to fit underneath whichever parent is guarding them. Jackie and Shadow are insulated and waterproof, and their body temperature of 105 degrees keep their offspring plenty warm. You can check out the family at FOBBV CAM.

This week's sponsor is that lucky duck Bob Bliss who this year celebrates 38 years of membership in Chula Vista Rotary. Bob has over three decades of experience in Chula Vista and has been a loyal and reputable member of the business community. Once you are his client, you are a part of his trusted network and he will treat your finances like his own. The vast majority of people that sign on with Robert Bliss CPA become lifetime customers and never feel the need to go anywhere else for their tax and financial needs. If you are a busy individual and do not feel like you have the time to handle your bookkeeping, personal expenses, and, most importantly, tax preparation, give Bob a call. This concludes today's edition of the Jim Biddle News at Noon, today brought to you by Bob Bliss and Robert Bliss CPA.







## MEETING HIGHLIGHTS—March 14, 2025



Lisa Johnson representing the Community Service Committee presents a check to Betty Mohlenbrock with Reading Legacies in support of their excellent work promoting literacy and family bonds.

Rochelle Carroll presents a \$1000 check to our Club in support of the Bike Project to be held Saturday, May 24th.

Duane Buckingham (second from the right) joined the CV-Eastlake Rotary Club at their Hike & Wine event Sat. March 15. It was a beautiful day—no rain and he made it the whole way. Way to go Duane!

# GOOD-BYE POLIO THANKS ROTARY







## MEETING HIGHLIGHTS—March 14, 2025 & MORE



Bob Bliss was this week's sponsor for the Jim Biddle News at Noon. L-R: Bob congratulates lucky winners Rasha Roshdy, Mary Johnson (rocking her Irish heritage all month long), and Ramon Moncada wins again!



Members of our Club (Duane, President Jesse and Carmen) joined the CV Sunrise Rotary Trivia Night fun with members of the Chula Vista Eastlake Rotary Club. You can see other CV Rotarians past Jesse—Bob Silvas, Jan Mellinger, Reed and Beta Dinsmore, Lisa Johnson and Jeanette and Sorokin Badal. It was great fun and raised funds to END POLIO NOW.



### REMINDER

Services for Jean Lewis are scheduled for Saturday, March 22, 11:00 a.m.  
at St. Mark's Lutheran Church.

Cards and notes can be sent to Chris at home: 2766 Degan, Bonita, CA 91902

### CLUB CALENDAR

**MODEL UNITED NATIONS— March 22 & 23—Del Mar City Hall**

**DISTRICT TRAINING ASSEMBLY—Saturday, March 29**

**TIJUANA HOME BUILD—Saturday, April 12, 6:30 am**

**CHULA VISTA ANIMAL CARE FACILITY (14 volunteers needed) - Sunday, May 18**

**BIKE SAFETY RODEO—Saturday, May 24 (two shifts needed—morning/afternoon)**

**GOVERNOR'S DINNER— Saturday, June 7, Mission Valley Marriott**

**INSTALLATION/OUTSTALLATION—Friday, June 27, 12-1:30**