

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)

FOUR-WAY TEST
SUBREGIONALS
Friday, March 13, 2026, Noon



Talented students from the Sweetwater School District will present their speeches to our Club.

Be sure to attend Friday and be prepared to be inspired by the youth of our community.

Bring a friend!

GOOD-BYE POLIO
THANKS ROTARY 

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MEETING HIGHLIGHTS—MARCH 6, 2026

President Ben Koala called the meeting to order. Nancy Kerwin gave the invocation. Rasha introduced the guests—many family members and school staff of the student speakers.

Members with March birthdays—Chris Lewis, Mark Scott and Mike Bell—were treated to the birthday song.

Rochelle Carroll announced the Trivia Night is one week away and made a final request for donations of wine or a contribution toward the fundraiser. Please bring next week. Thank you!

Gary Bryant told us online registration for Red Shoe Day on Wednesday, MAY 20 is now open. Our Club will be at the same intersection as in other years—East H and Paseo Rancharo, near the Y.

Bob Silvas said the Mater Dei Interact Club reached their goal of 300 socks—with our help. Bob also shared that the Interact students will host a Veterans and students Got Talent event at the Veterans' Home on Saturday, March 21. Members are welcome to attend.

Michael Monaco and Lisa Johnson introduced the Above & Beyond recipient for this quarter—Kathy Muth from Sharp Hospital. Her colleagues shared stories about her perseverance and dedication in her role as Manager of Environmental Health/Workplace Safety.

Michael Oliveri was the sponsor of the News and the lucky drawing winners were:

Eduardo Reyes introduced the Speech Program and explained the students' topic was "How to Create a Strong Community." The four students were excellent! They represented Harborside, Olympic View, Heritage and Arroyo Vista Schools.



L-R: Michael Oliveri with drawing winners Rochelle Carroll, Betty Waznis and Jon Miller.



**JIM BIDDLE
NEWS AT NOON**

**BY
BETTY WAZNIS**

Hello, everyone. Welcome to today's edition of the Jim Biddle News at Noon, today sponsored by Michael Oliveri and the San Diego Foundation.

The San Diego Association of Governments is contracting with two Orange County transit agencies, handing them control of the billing and financial systems for the toll road section of State Route 125 in the South Bay and toll lanes on Interstate 15 in North County. The move could save the agency more than \$2 million a year and cut down on some of the problems with the tolling software on state Route 125 that have dogged SANDAG for years. The new contractor is Transportation Corridor Agencies, or TCA, which consists of two different agencies that currently oversee four Orange County toll roads and the billing system for some tolled lanes in San Bernardino County. SANDAG will continue to staff toll booths and provide customer service. Meanwhile, SANDAG plans to expand its use of toll lanes to be built by 2035. The lanes would accommodate buses and carpooling, and let individual drivers use them for a fee.

Construction for Chula Vista bayfront's new 12-acre Harbor Park kicked off Tuesday with a ceremonial groundbreaking. The space is currently a dirt lot sitting in front of the Gaylord Resort. The area was previously known as Bayside Park. Once fully completed, the new park will be twice as big as what's there now. It will feature a nautical-themed playground, a splash pad, new landscaping and pathways. The playground expected to be completed this fall, and the splash pad is expected to be open early next year.

Another park is in the news this week. San Diego Safari Park's 13-acre Elephant Valley opened yesterday, giving visitors a chance to get up close to the park's eight elephants. Visitors can walk alongside the elephants on a long, winding, closed-in path and bridge overlooking two habitats. There are viewing windows to see the animals up close. The exhibit also includes a new restaurant featuring African cuisine and a clear view of the animals.

Spring training is in full swing at the Padre's home field in Arizona. They played an exhibition game against Team Great Britain on Wednesday at Peoria Sports Complex with a final tie score of 2 to 2. It was a warmup to the International World Baseball Classic going on this week. The match featured the return of pitcher Joe Musgrove, marking his first live-game action since 2024 following Tommy John surgery. The Padres went on to beat the Seattle Mariners yesterday with an unbelievable score of 27 to 6.

Today's sponsor Michael Oliveri, is Development Manager at San Diego Foundation, working with donors and fundholders to achieve their philanthropic goals and expand their impact through grantmaking. He also supports nonprofit funds and seeks to engage regional partners with opportunities for collaboration and growth. Prior to joining San Diego Foundation, Michael worked for Pro Kids, First Tee – San Diego in City Heights and various branches of the Y of San Diego County.

He is originally from New York and moved to San Diego in 2010. He earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan (Go Blue!) and a Master's in Public Administration from SDSU (Go Aztecs!). He lives in Otay Ranch with his wife, Kaitlin, three boys – Luca, Jack, and Evan, and 13-year-old Yorkie, Maizey. With baseball season upon us, he looks forward to watching Team USA in the World Baseball Classic, hoping to see the Yankees in the World Series again, and helping coach his boys' teams at Park View Little League.

Since launching the San Diego Unity Fund in September, San Diego Foundation has raised more than \$32 million and granted or committed more than \$25 million to more than 100 local nonprofits, playing a critical role in helping organizations sustain essential services for residents as federal funding shifts and pressures on the safety net persist. To learn more about the San Diego Unity Fund or how the San Diego Foundation can assist with your charitable giving, please see sdfoundation.org or feel free to connect with Michael. This concludes today's edition of the Jim Biddle News at Noon. Today brought to you by Michael Oliveri and the San Diego Foundation.

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MORE CENTENNIAL HIGHLIGHTS



Many of the Club's Past Presidents joined together for a historic photo to make our 100th Anniversary.



L: Kevin Marshall, Sabrina and Michael Monaco and Peter Rullan.
R: Ginger Rullan, Eric and Yiway Rimmel.

PHOTO CREDIT: All Centennial photos by: Kylie Rienks





L-R: Eduardo Reyes (CVESD Superintendent) pictured with the super talented student guest speakers, and President Ben Koala.



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A large contingent from our friends at the Tijuana Rotary Club joined in the celebration. We were their sponsor many years ago and they regard us their Godparents in addition to sponsors (a major honor). L: President Gilberto Gamino and his wife join President Ben and Fernando de los Santos.



A major highlight of the evening was the Centennial Walk— a look at our Club history and milestones— presented by Betty Waznis who covered 1926-1951, Lane Pearson 1951-1976, Neisha Hernandez 1976-2001 and Chris Lewis 2001-2026. It was a wonderful review of all of the many contributions and impact of the Chula Vista Rotary.

Special thanks to **Bob Silvas** for all his hard work on this and the Centennial moments throughout this Centennial year.

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ABOVE & BEYOND RECIPIENT—KATHY MUTH!



(NOTE OF THANKS FROM KATHY)

Good morning,
Thank you for the wonderful surprise of the Above and Beyond Award last Friday!
To say I was surprised is an understatement - more like dumbstruck!
I am honored to receive the award and privileged to be able to work at Sharp Chula Vista Medical Center and help serve the community.
The meeting was great fun and I can see why your members have been part of the group for many years!
I was so impressed with the speech club winners - I envy them their composure in front of the group.
Thank you also for the gift card which will be put to good use!
Thank you for making last Friday so memorable!

Kathy Muth
Program Manager, Employee Safety
Sharp Chula Vista Medical Center



MORE CENTENNIAL FUN

Our friends from the Tijuana Club presented a beautiful plaque honoring our 100th anniversary.

Below: part of the contingent from Tijuana with Fernando de los Santos (formerly a member there, now a member with us) and President Ben.



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MARCH

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**WATER, SANITATION AND
HYGIENE**

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS

TRIVIA CONTEST—Friday, March 13—Sign Up Today

TIJUANA HOME BUILD— Saturday, April 11, 6:30 am

MULTI-DISTRICT MEETING—APRIL 24-26 @ GAYLORD PACIFIC

**INSTALLATION/OUTSTALLATION LUNCHEON
Friday, June 5—Noon**

DISTRICT 5340 GOVERNORS' DINNER—June 26, 5:00 pm

**2026 ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
TAIPEI, TAIWAN—June 13-17**