

Chulatarian

Rotary
Club of Chula Vista



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ROTARY CLUB
OF CHULA VISTA

BOARD 2023-2024

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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)

DARK—NO MEETING
Friday, May 24, 2024 - Noon



CALENDAR—UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Wednesday, May 22—RED SHOE DAY—For Ronald McDonald House
Friday, May 24—CLUB IS DARK—NO MEETING
Friday, May 31—Club Game Day!
June 8—BIKE BUILD—Morning, Loma Verde Rec Center
June 8 - BIKE SAFETY EVENT—1-4 pm, sign up for shift
Friday, June 14, St. Mark's Food Distribution, 8:00 a.m.

SAVE THE DATE—Friday, June 28—Installation/Outstallation, NOON
at the Living Coast Discovery Center

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS FOR May 17, 2024



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President Mora de Murguia called the meeting to order. Carmen Sandoval gave the invocation and led the pledge. Songmaster Chuck Bevan led the song.

President-Elect Jesse Fernandez introduced visiting Rotarians and most of the guests were introduced by the Scholarship Students in attendance.

Gary Bryant gave an update on Red Shoe Day, Our intersection at Paseo del Rey and East H will be featured on Ch. 8 morning news. Get there early (5:30 a.m.) to be ready for your close up on TV.

Mark Scott shared a photo of the bikes that have arrived. On Saturday, June 8, helpers will be needed to transport the boxed bikes from Mark's garage to the Loma Verde Community Center. Please let Mark know if you can help. Assembly of the bikes will be in the morning. The Community Safety Bike Rodeo will take place from 1:00-4:00 and will include booths and feature our many partners.

Neisha Hernandez told us about Gus Slovinsky. Did you know he was born in Argentina? Gus has been in practice for many years and specializes in family law. He is this week's Rotarian of the Week.

The next St. Mark's Food Distribution will be Friday, June 14, 8:00 a.m. until the food runs out. Last week, over 400 families (1600) people benefitted from the distribution. Our Club supported the Chik Fil-A Leadership Academy pickleball tournament and Gary reported they raised much more than the high school students had estimated.

Treasurer Ben Koala announced that we received two checks totaling \$225,000 from Jim Algert's estate. These are in addition to funds previously received. We appreciate his amazing generosity.

Betty Waznis gave the Jim Biddle News at Noon. Fun fact: Did you know astronaut Ellen Ochoa's father, Joe Ochoa, was a member of our Club back in the day? He was the manager of the Chula Vista Sears store. Thanks for sharing Lane Pearson.

Thirteen talented high school students were awarded a \$1000 scholarship. Bill Padelford, who helped start this Rotary program many years ago, was on hand to present the awards bearing his name. The students, faculty and of course, fellow Rotarians, were very excited to see him and took photos with him. A beautiful program and inspiration to hear about future studies and colleges they will attend.

INVOCATION—Given by Carmen Sandoval

May all gathered here be blessed.
May our courage match our convictions, and our integrity
match our hopes.

May our faith bring us closer to each other.
May our meeting with past and present bring blessings for
the future. Amen





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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 sponsored by Ben Koala and Bonita Tax Services.

The Port of San Diego has issued an emergency declaration meant to help fight an invasive algae in San Diego Bay. The algae species, scientifically known as *Caulerpa prolifera*, was first spotted in the bay last September. It chokes out native seaweed and seagrasses, hurting local marine life and fisheries. The infestation was most likely caused by someone emptying a saltwater aquarium into the bay. In our bay, the species most at risk are eelgrass, along with the fish, green sea turtles, and birds that use that eelgrass as a source of food and shelter. Plus, eelgrass is a natural water filter that helps maintain good air and water quality. Thousands of square feet of *Caulerpa* have been found in the bay, including near the Coronado Cays and the National Wildlife Refuge off Chula Vista. The seaweed rapidly and aggressively spreads by contact with boats, fishing equipment and tidal movement. The seaweed does not pose a risk to humans, but boaters, divers and anglers who visit the bay should inspect their gear and supplies for the plant, and report sightings to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The City of Chula Vista unveiled its proposed budget for the 2024-25 fiscal year, boosting spending on public safety and homelessness while avoiding deep cuts. The draft spending plan released last week consists of \$274 million for its general fund, which covers police and fire protection and many other services, and \$81 million for capital improvement projects. Some of the city's spending priorities for the fiscal year are a new bayfront fire station and a new training facility for fire and EMS personnel; Casa Casillas, a new arts center on Fourth Avenue in the old YMCA building; the Patty Davis Park on D Street and Woodland Avenue and added support for the Homeless Outreach Team.

Another outstanding graduate of San Diego State University is receiving a national honor this week. Astronaut Ellen Ochoa, an SDSU alumna, was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom at the White House last Friday, one of 19 people recognized with the nation's highest civilian honor. The La Mesa native enrolled at SDSU in 1975, earning a bachelor's degree in physics, and then earned a doctorate in engineering at Stanford. She was accepted into NASA's elite astronaut corps in 1990. In 1993, Ochoa soared into orbit on the shuttle *Discovery*, becoming the first Latina to travel in space. She made three more shuttle flights, two to the International Space Station, logging nearly 1,000 hours in space, a feat achieved by few astronauts. She finished her distinguished career as director of NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston, the home of Mission Control. T

Today's sponsor, Ben Koala, was born and raised in San Diego. Husband to the lovely Fiona and father to three beautiful kids--Lua (13), Aer (7), and Kya (2). Worked for the County of San Diego for six years, starting as a student worker in the County library fiscal department and leaving as an associate accountant with the Health and Human Services Agency. In 2012, he started Koala Financial, Inc. and bought the long-running local business Bonita Tax Services. As a CPA (Certified Public Accountant) with numerous other licenses and credentials including CFP (Certified Financial Planner), CLU (Chartered Life Underwriter), PFS (Personal Financial Specialist), Series 7 (Registered Representative), Series 66 (Investment Advisor Representative), and a real estate sales license, expanded the services offered beyond tax and accounting to also include wealth management, retirement planning, life/long-term-care/disability insurance, real estate sales, mortgage lending, and more. He works with hundreds of local business owners and individuals in the Chula Vista / Bonita area to help them make the most of their money. He also works as an aircraft maintenance officer with the Air National Guard. Loves to enjoy the beautiful outdoors we have here in San Diego with the family, including hiking, biking, watersports, etc.

This concludes today's edition of the Jim Biddle News at Noon, today sponsored by Ben Koala and Bonita Tax Services.



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MEETING HIGHLIGHTS—MAY 17, 2024



L-R: Gus Slovinsky with Neisha Hernandez—Rotarian of the Week! Visiting Rotarian, Beverly Zumwalt, won Ben's fun gift bag. Chris Lewis won one too!



L-R: Rasha Roshdy won the last gift bag. Neisha Hernandez KNEW she was going to win! Bob Bliss wins again!



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MEETING HIGHLIGHTS—MAY 17, 2024



Students from Olympian, Otay Ranch, Chula Vista, Hilltop, and Launch Online Academy received the Bill Padelford Academic Scholarship and the Joseph Rindone Service Scholarship. One student received the Veenstra Family Arts Scholarship.



There were lots more drawing winners than usual thanks to the generosity of members who brought extra gifts including theatre tickets and the beautiful orchids. L-R: Betty Waznis and Chuck Bevan took home orchids.

Bill Padelford, with his daughters Laurie and Lisa, was beaming with pride all throughout the event.



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CV ANIMAL CARE FACILITY HIGHLIGHTS



Above l-r: Cheryl & Greg Cox, Laura Humphreys, Lori Torio, Bob Silvas, three Interact students from Olympian, Mauricio & Fernanda Lutteroth, Gus Slovinsky (top of head), his friend Leticia, Carmen & Jesse Fernandez and Gary Bryant. Below: President Mora and Max Scrivens!



Top: Laura Humphreys and Lori Torio assembly the dog beds, Mauricio Lutteroth is in the background. Above: Gary Bryant and Bob Silvas work as a team. Gary was wounded in action—blood and everything! He is OK.





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The first shipment of bikes has arrived and they are safely stored in Mark Scott's garage.

