

# Chulatarian



**CREATE HOPE  
in the WORLD**

**ROTARY CLUB  
OF CHULA VISTA**

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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)**

**BETTY MOLLENBROCK  
READING LEGACIES  
Friday, November 17, 2023 - Noon**



Reading Legacies is a San Diego based not-for-profit 501(c)(3) public-benefit organization whose mission is to facilitate supportive relationships for children through families and friends reading aloud with them.

Our vision is that ALL children will feel the security of caring adult relationships and develop a love of reading through the read-aloud experience – with a priority focus on children who are underserved and/or in need of special support.

Reading aloud with children is a powerful educational tool which nurtures the self-esteem of children, instills the joy of reading at an early age, and strengthens the bond young children need with their family and friends while preparing them for academic success.

During the more than two decades of managing her first nonprofit organization, Founder Betty Mollenbrock was able to witness the impact that reading aloud with young children has on people of all ages, not just the child or parents. Her findings, coupled with the personal belief that youth are a powerful and important resource for the future of society, led her to begin shaping the framework for programs that would positively impact all children and youth, especially those who are underserved.



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## MEETING HIGHLIGHTS - November 10, 2023

President Mora de Murguia called the meeting to order. Jerry May gave the invocation on behalf of Tiffany Hecklinski. President-elect Jesse Fernandez introduced guests and visiting Rotarians.

President-elect Jesse assisted with the induction of a new member/transfer Bill Torre, who told us a little about himself: lives in Chula Vista, worked at SDG&E for more than 30 years, retired, pursued other interests, retired again. Welcome Bill!

Past President Neisha Hernandez named Kathleen Carroll as our Rotarian of the Week. She recently assisted in the Christmas in October yard work and loves the friendly, outgoing nature of our Club.

Gary Bryant gave an update on upcoming activities. The food distribution was moved to Thursday unexpectedly. He encouraged Rotarians to sign up for a shift for the Ronald McDonald House holiday dinner. Our Club is hosting two meals this year. The Southwestern College Choir will once again provide holiday cheer to the families and volunteers on hand. Everyone will have to park offsite on Aero Drive on the other side of the 805. There is a shuttle that runs every ten minutes. He circulated a clipboard to sign up.

He also reviewed recommendations to the Chula Vista Rotary Foundation which include several local non-profits. (More information to follow.)

The Veterans Home Christmas decoration day is set for Saturday, December 2, 8:30 am. Gary and Troy Ray checked out the decorations and they are in good shape. Sign-up sheet circulated.

Ken Weimer will have the sign-up sheet for the bell ringers for the Salvation Army. He is coordinating with new member Irma Flores for the date, place and hours.

Kathi Tanaka Mits, back with us after a long absence (and missed very much!), was the happy sponsor of the Jim Biddle News at Noon. She brought See's chocolate for us to win. If that was not odd enough—she IS a dentist afterall...- Kathi encouraged us to freeze it, eat some, then call her. Very funny! The lucky winners were: Jim Biddle, Gary Bryant, Neisha Hernandez and Mora de Murguia.

### **INVOCATION Provided by Tiffany Hecklinski; Given By Jerry May**

Lord God, Almighty Father, creator of mankind and author of peace, as we are ever mindful of the cost paid for the liberty we possess, we ask you to bless the members of our armed forces.

Give them courage, hope and strength. May they ever experience your firm support, gentle love and compassionate healing. Be their power and protector, leading them from darkness to light. To you be all glory, honor and praise, now and forever. Amen.



## 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 sponsored by Dr Kathi Tanaka Mits and Tanaka Dental Corporation.

Attorney Bart Miesfeld and Deputy City Attorney Marco Verdugo appear headed for a March 5 runoff in the special election for Chula Vista city attorney. Verdugo edged past Miesfeld late last night with 9682 votes over Miesfeld's 9410. Miesfeld had a slim advantage over Verdugo on election night Tuesday, but that has changed as the vote count continues. General Motors' Cruise autonomous vehicle unit is recalling all 950 of its cars to update software after one of them dragged a pedestrian to the side of a San Francisco street in early October.

The crash prompted Cruise to suspend driverless operations nationwide after California regulators found that its cars posed a danger to public safety, and revoked its license. Cruise was transporting passengers without human drivers throughout San Francisco. In the crash, one of four reported to US regulators, another regular vehicle struck a pedestrian, sending the person into the path of a Cruise driverless car. The Cruise initially stopped but then proceeded to hit the person. Then it pulled to the right to get out of traffic, pulling the person about 20 feet forward. The pedestrian was pinned under one of the Cruise's tires and was critically injured.

Ever feel like the big-box retail experience is a little much? The music, the displays, the glaring lights. Walmart is making a change to its stores nationwide in an attempt to cater to shoppers who want a calmer environment. From 8 to 10 a.m. daily, starting today, all stores will have dimmed lights, the screens of electronics switched to a non moving image, and no overhead radio. Walmart said it had tested out its calmer quieter environment in a Saturday morning pilot project and that feedback was overwhelmingly positive. The company explained that it's trying to make its stores more welcoming for anyone who wants a less hectic, less noisy experience, and may be especially welcome for those shoppers with autism, PTSD, or others who may experience sensory overload.

The Padres can feel good about at least one facet of their team as the offseason begins: defense. Fernando Tatis Jr. won a National League Gold Glove in right field and Ha-Seong Kim won as a utility player, a first for both in years in which they switched positions to accommodate shortstop Xander Bogaerts' arrival. Tatis led all NL defenders with 27 total runs saved while transitioning from shortstop to right field. He beat out the Dodgers' Mookie Betts and the Nationals' Lane Thomas. Kim, meantime, was a finalist at shortstop in 2022 and a finalist at second base this year but ultimately won his first defensive Gold Glove as a utilityman. Kim ranked 11th this year among all defenders with 16 runs saved across second, shortstop and third base. He also beat out Betts and the Cardinals' Tommy Edman.

Today's sponsor, Dr Kathi Tanaka Mits, wants to thank all veterans and their families for their service to our great country as Veterans Day rolls around. Her father was Navy, her husband Mark's father was Army. She joined Rotary in 1992 (with Brad Wilson). For 23 years total, she volunteered in Mexico with her father, dentist Dr Terry Tanaka, and later with Thousand Smiles. She has served a few terms on the Chula Vista Rotary Board, and 8 years with RYLA, among many other things over the years!

Mark and Kathi just celebrated 30 years of marriage; children Michael and Kristin are at SDSU, both studying Business. She has been working as a dentist for 32 years (says this is her hobby not a job) and she has no plans so far to retire!

This concludes today's edition of the Jim Biddle News at Noon, brought to you by Dr. Kathi Tanaka Mits and Tanaka Dental Corporation.



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## MEETING HIGHLIGHTS - November 10, 2023



L-R: **Kathleen Carroll** wearing her Rotarian of the Week medallion presented by Neisha Hernandez.

WELCOME to our Club **Bill Torre**! Jesse Fernandez, Bill, Eric Rimmele (his sponsor), Mora.

President Mora presents Jim O'Callahan, South County EDC a coveted Rotary mug as thanks.



Kathi Tanaka Mits was the News at Noon sponsor and brought four gifts—bonus! L-R: Gary Bryant with Kathi, Neisha Hernandez, Jim Biddle and President Mora won the See's. Congrats everyone and thanks Kathi!





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## UPCOMING EVENTS



### IDEAS FOR GIFT/TOY DRIVE— ITEMS FOR OLDER KIDS NEEDED!

#### Popular for All

Headphones, ear pods, portable chargers  
bluetooth Speakers

#### Boys (10&12)

Stem Kits, Lego Building Sets, Board  
Games, Memory Games, 3-D Printing  
Pens, Sports Equipment, Remote and  
Tech games

#### Girls (10-12)

Handbags, Backpacks  
Instant Print Cameras  
Jewelry Making Kits/Craft Kits  
Stem Kits, Decorate Water Bottle Kit





Gary Bryant and Mike Green presented a check for \$350 from the Chula Vista Rotary Foundation to Teresa Merghart, Principal of Rosebank Elementary School. Mike Green matched that donation with a \$350 donation from Green and Green.

Rosebank Elementary School has a total of 464 students, ranging from Transitional Kindergarten to 6<sup>th</sup> grade. With current budget cuts, one of the shortfalls the school has experienced is with physical education equipment. Their PTA is working to raise \$5,000 to furnish durable and quality P.E. equipment for their playground. P.E. provides a time for all children to play outside and enjoy themselves. P.E. strengthens the students' physical, emotional, and social well-being.

### **CALENDAR—SAVE THE DATES**

**The Nutcracker Fundraising Event—Saturday, Nov. 18, 2:00 pm  
@ The Kroc Salvation Army Center**

**Bring toys for Chula Vista Police Foundation—NOV 17—NOTE NEW DATE**

**Chula Vista Veteran's Home—Decorate— Saturday, December 2, 8:30 a.m.**

**Kettle Bell Ringing—Salvation Army—(date to be confirmed)**

**Ronald McDonald House—Shifts begin at 4:00—Wed. December 13**

**GOOD-BYE POLIO  
THANKS ROTARY**





## SOCKS AND SLEEPING BAGS DRIVE

Family, Friends, Rotary and Community:  
Collection drive to help Dreams for Change assist the housing insecure this holiday season. Contact Miriam Gonzalez at 619-259-9810, Stephanie Ramos at 619-851-2984, or Anthony Millican at [anthonymillican84ej@gmail.com](mailto:anthonymillican84ej@gmail.com) to donate!

Donations to Dreams for Change/Safe Parking Program collected from Oct. 14 to Dec. 9, 2023.

**CONTACT:**  
MIRIAM @ 619-259-9810  
STEPHANIE @ 619-851-2984


The Safe Parking Program provides support services and a safe place to park for families and individuals living in their vehicles.



 **Rotary**  
Chula Vista Eastlake  
People of Action

Our sister Rotary Club of Chula Vista Eastlake is organizing a socks and sleeping bag drive to support the Safe Parking Program run by Dreams for Change.

# NOVEMBER IS



## ROTARY FOUNDATION MONTH

EVERY ROTARIAN EVERY YEAR

The Rotary Foundation transforms more than 90% of its gifts into service projects that change lives both close to home and around the world.

**The Rotary Foundation** 

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