

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)

SOPHIA PRIETO GUZMAN
JUST IN TIME FOR FOSTER YOUTH
Friday, November 22, 2024 - Noon



In 2010, Sophia volunteered as a mock interviewer for San Diego Second Chance Program, an agency that serves youth and adults who were involved in the justice system.

After that experience, Sophia realized she wanted to continue working with people who sought to move on from their past and better their lives. So she joined the organization and worked as a Job Developer and Business Services Coordinator. Sophia continued her career with other workforce development organizations. These positions allowed her to create a bridge to connect at-risk youth, veterans, and justice involved persons with meaningful relationships and job opportunities.

In 2018, Sophia connected with Just in Time at the annual Pathways to Financial Power conference, where she participated in the career fair speaking to youth about work-readiness and mentorship opportunities. She was impressed by her experience and is now happy to be serving as JIT's Volunteer Services Manager. One of Sophia's goals is to continue to build strong, meaningful, and long-lasting relationships within the JIT community. She hopes to be able to introduce JIT's services to youth in the foster care system prior to them aging out at age 18 so that they understand there is an established community and support system to help them transition.

In her free time, Sophia enjoys hiking and salsa dancing. Her favorite place is Zion National Park, which she calls "breathtaking."



MEETING HIGHLIGHTS—November 15, 2024

President Jesse Fernandez called the meeting to order. Cheryl Shields gave the invocation. Songmaster Chuck Bevan introduced a song for Troy Ray's upcoming departure "Leaving on a Jet Plane."

Gary Bryant reviewed recommendations from the Community Programs Community who met this week. They will be sent to the Board and Foundation.

Bob Silvas reported on the Veterans Day event at the Chula Vista Veterans Home. It was excellent! Olympian High Interact Club came through with approximately 24 volunteers and helped make cards/notes for the residents, served lunch and played games with the Vets. Kudos to Rick Richardson for taking care of many of the logistics, Altrusa Club of Chula Vista for the opportunity to collaborate and Chik fil-A for hosting lunch. (See photos on pages 5 & 6).

Bob emphasized the need for more members to become youth certified. Several have part of the process going but just need to bring it to the finish line. He offered his assistance to get more members certified. It is vital to continuing our collaboration with students.

President Jesse encouraged members to join the Holiday Choir, which is rehearsing every Tuesday, 5:30-6:30 pm at the Community Congregational Church on F St. Enter at the gate near the Church's lighted sign.

Chris Lewis took on the role of chief cajoler to get approximately \$2000 in cash and pledges to purchase 25 bikes for the Ronald McDonald House holiday drive. Even the speaker and his assistant donated \$200—wow! It was very moving and yet another wonderful example of our members' generosity.

Guest speaker Sandeep "Sandy" Varma gave a very interesting presentation on Charitable Trusts. Many will definitely want to learn more.



Ronald McDonald
House Charities
San Diego

THANK YOU ROTARIANS!

Bikes will be provided in their box for easier storage at Ronald McDonald House while they are under construction.

Members can pay at this week's meeting or online on ClubRunner with a note that your \$\$ are for the R McD bikes.



JIM BIDDLE NEWS AT NOON by Betty Waznis

LIVE



Brought to you by:

THIS WEEK'S
SPONSOR

With Betty Waznis

Hello, everyone, Welcome to today's edition of the Jim Biddle News at Noon. Today sponsored by Mora de Murguia.

We are just weeks away from the enforcement of a new California law designed to reduce pedestrian injuries and deaths in intersections. California's new law [AB413](#), nicknamed the "daylighting" law, prohibits both personal and commercial vehicles from parking or stopping within 20 feet of any marked or unmarked crosswalk anywhere in the state. The law applies to curbs whether they're red striped or not.

The goal is to improve the range of vision for drivers and decrease pedestrian deaths which have been growing over the past 10 years, partly due to larger vehicles. This weekend, the City of San Diego started red striping curbs in many neighborhoods. Other cities in the county including Chula Vista are moving at their own pace with their own implementation plan. Parking police can start enforcing the daylighting law January 1. It's expected they will start with warnings for a few months before issuing citations.

Those with loved ones buried at Glen Abbey Memorial Park & Mortuary often place flowers at their gravesites. But since the middle of last summer, the cemetery has been struck by thieves targeting the metal vases used to hold flowers. Cemetery officials say it has been hit dozens of times, most recently last weekend, with each vase costing about \$1,000. The Sheriff's Office is investigating the thefts but no suspect has been identified. They encouraged families to report thefts to the authorities and also have reached out to scrap metal dealers asking about any suspicious attempt to sell vases of this type. The cemetery has dealt with similar issues in the past, but this is the first time this year. Glen Abbey is not alone in facing metal thieves. Hundreds of bronze plaques were stolen from the historic Lincoln Memorial Park Cemetery in Carson earlier this year.

The third annual Gathering of Nations will be celebrated tomorrow from 11 am to 4 pm at our next-door neighbor, the Bonita Museum & Cultural Center and the Bonita Sunnyside Library. The gathering, held here in our area, a traditional home of the Kumeyaay, celebrates indigenous cultures, featuring craftspeople, storytellers, art, music, dance, and food from both sides of the border. The event is free and open to the public. Sponsored by Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation, it's just one of the many exhibitions and programs at the Bonita Museum, recently a finalist in the San Diego Reader Poll in the category "best museum outside of Balboa Park".

Today's News at Noon sponsor is Mora Keller de Murguia, Past Club President 2023-2024 and current District 5340 Interact Chair. She is married to Valdemar who is in the consulting business. They have a 26-year-old daughter, Bella, who is an IT consultant for entertainment and media companies in Manhattan. Sadly, they fear they will never get her back to California full-time. But, the flip side for them is more trips to New York.

Mora has worked for the developer, Baldwin & Sons, for the last 32 years and is actively involved in the Chula Vista community, serving on the Southwestern College Foundation Board, Chula Vista Community Foundation Board, Sharp Hospital Governing Board and the Rotary Board. Mora, Valdemar, Bella and Matt (Bella's boyfriend – new addition to family travels) take as many trips as they can domestically and internationally. Next stop - Japan over Thanksgiving. Sayonara!

This concludes today's edition of the Jim Biddle News at Noon, today sponsored by Mora de Murguia.



MEETING HIGHLIGHTS—NOVEMBER 15, 2024



L-R: Sponsor of the day, Past President Mora de Murguia presents gift cards to newest member Michael Oliveri and Gary Bryant.



L-R: President Jesse was the third lucky winner—after a couple of tickets were selected that no one had purchased. Our speaker Sandeep Varma, with his assistant Bella, kept everyone engaged and interested. President-elect Ben Koala was the Program coordinator.



VETERANS' DAY EVENT—A BIG SUCCESS!



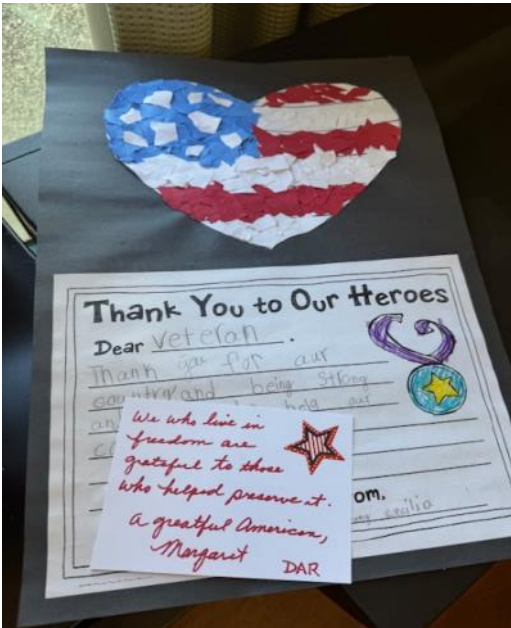
It was a very successful Veterans' Day event. The administrator was thrilled with all the game donations by Rotary and Altrusa members. Lunch donated by Chick-fil-A, then some time was spent chatting and playing games with Veterans. Rick Richardson made a few remarks. Students, Altrusa and Rotary members pause for a photo. Rotarians (l-r) are Carmen R., Bob S., Rick and Cheryl Shields. Not pictured Tina Matthias and Gary Bryant



The magic of youth! More than 24 Interact students came on their day off to brighten Veterans' day for residents of the Chula Vista Veterans' Home.



VETERANS' DAY EVENT—A BIG SUCCESS!



The event was co-sponsored by the Chula Vista Rotary, Altrusa Club of Chula Vista, & supported by the Olympian High INTERACT club. It was part of World Kindness Week. Everyone shared their gratitude for all Veterans have done and endured.
(Pictured above—some of the games donated—Thank You!)

Two examples of the many cards and notes created for Veterans by the students.
Kaeyla, President of the Interact Club, also said a few words.



THANK YOU CHIK FIL-A! Our favorite Eastlake location donated lunch for the Veterans AND all the volunteers—delicious!



CLUB CALENDAR

Saturday, December 7, 8:30 a.m.—Chula Vista Veterans' Home Decorating

**Wednesday, December 11—Ronald McDonald House Christmas Dinner
Various shifts starting at 4:00 pm—Sign Up for a Shift**

**Friday, December 13—Holiday Program, Bake Sale, Cookie Contest!
Blanket, scarves, wooly hat drive for Sharp Cancer Patient Unit**

Friday, December 22—Roundtable, noon

Friday, December 29 and Friday, January 3—DARK—No meetings

SAVE THE DATE—Friday, March 14—TRIVIA EVENT (see below)

GIVING TUESDAY
3 DECEMBER 2024

The Rotary Foundation

November is Rotary Foundation Month

The Rotary Foundation

14 Years in a Row
Charity Navigator



CHULA VISTA SUNRISE ROTARY TEAM TRIVIA CHALLENGE XIV

Come & support Chula Vista Sunrise Rotary's largest fundraiser of the year!
All proceeds directly fund local charities and community organizations in Chula Vista.

Save the Date!

Friday, March 14, 2025

Doors open at 6pm
The Venue at Eastlake
871 Showroom Place #104
Chula Vista, CA 91914



\$320 per team (Early Bird Registration Jan 13-27) \$360 per team (Registration Jan 28-March 7)

The Chula Vista Sunrise Rotary Community Benefit Fund is a 501 (c)3 organization, and your contributions are tax deductible.
(Tax ID 33-0622092)

