

Chulatarian

Rotary
Club of Chula Vista 

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FOR
GOOD

Rotary 

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)

**BETO GURMILAN
GURMILAN FOUNDATION**
Friday, November 21, 2025, Noon

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Celebrating 10 Years of Empowerment

The Gurmilan Foundation is a Non-Profit Organization actively working in the community to support amazing adaptive individuals that are striving to acquire an education, and a higher quality of life in their communities.

Their programs focus on aiding young individuals within the adaptive community by providing scholarships, grants, and events so they can achieve their full potential. All funds impact our programs directly. Our meetings are held every month and are open to the public. We will meet founder Beto Gurmilan who will tell us much more.



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MEETING HIGHLIGHTS FOR NOVEMBER 14

President Ben Koala called the meeting to order. Chuck Bevan was back—you were missed! President-elect Rasha Roshdy asked members of the Club who are veterans to stand in recognition of Veterans' Day and to show our appreciation of their service. She introduced guests and one visiting Rotarian.

David Hoffman was in attendance and finally fined for his firm's BIG naming sponsorship of the recent Boys & Girls Club Golf Tournament. He was not very subtly invited to sponsor our upcoming golf tournament.

Bob Silvas told us about the recent Just in Time move in event for former foster youth which our club supports. A joke was made about how many Rotarians do you need to put together a bed? Bob also shared highlights about the Veterans' Day activity at the Chula Vista Veterans' Home. The vets asked when the students could return to visit—so heartwarming! Lunch was provided and there was a car show brought to their door step—it was a beautiful day.

Bill Torre circulated sign-up sheets for the Ronald McDonald dinner (December 10). In Gary Bryant's absence, Bill Torre presented a \$1000 check to Child Development Associates, represented by Rick Richardson, for their holiday event.

Tina Matthias spoke about the Veterans Home decorating day (December 6) and encouraged sign-ups. There will be baked goods and coffee for helpers and it goes FAST. We will distribute the calendars and puzzles books we have been collecting thanks to Beverly Sumwalt. Continue bringing them until December 5. Bring your eye glasses too.

Irma Flores invited everyone to the Christmas Kettle kickoff on Monday, Nov. 24 at 9 am at the Salvation Army. Mayor McCann will be the very first bell ringer!

Lisa Johnson reminded us the very popular BAKE SALE is coming on Dec. 19! Practice your recipes (and share).

Wendy Messina was welcomed to the world of Rotary. She has been with the South Bay Y in various capacities 20+ years. She did receive the traditional standing ovation—despite the Dodgers sweatshirt she was wear (cringe). She explained she grew up in the LA/OC area...

Betty Waznis gave us the News. Visiting Rotarian Diana Marjip-Chuh, Rick Richardson & Michael Oliveri won. Risa Baron introduced Felix M. Feliz, Board Chair of the Sweetwater Civic Association, who shared about the group and invited Rotary to collaborate where we can.

INVOCATION GIVEN BY CARMEN SANDOVAL FERNANDEZ

As we gather together, let us pause for a moment of reflection and gratitude. We give thanks for the gift of this day, for the opportunity to come together as members of Rotary, and for the many blessings—both great and small—that enrich our lives.

May we appreciate the support of friends, family, and colleagues, and recognize the kindness and generosity that surround us.

Let us be mindful of those who may be facing challenges, renew our commitment to compassion and understanding, and continue to open our hearts to serving others in need.

As we move forward, may gratitude guide our actions, wisdom inspire our choices, and hope brighten our path. Let our thankfulness be expressed not just in words, but through acts of service and care for others.

With thankful hearts, let us make the most of this month and other opportunities to serve to come.

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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 brought to you by Beverly Sumwalt.

Change is coming to how we make change. On Wednesday, the U.S. Mint ended production of the penny. The cost to make each penny had risen to almost 4 cents, and they are rarely essential in today's economy. Some countries have already eliminated their 1-cent coins. Canada, for instance, stopped minting its penny in 2012. The last US pennies were struck at the Philadelphia mint, where they been produced since 1793. There are about 250 billion pennies in circulation; they remain legal tender and won't go away anytime soon. Retailers worried in recent weeks when some stores have begun running short of pennies and have had to round cash transactions up or down to the nearest five cents.

The Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County decided to terminate the lease of the Tijuana River Valley Community Garden in September, after 23 years, with only 60 days' notice. The small plot gardeners and farmers fought to keep their community garden open and have succeeded in winning a one-year reprieve. The county has announced that it has selected Olivewood Gardens and Learning Center as the new operator, effective November 30. The garden, located within the Tijuana River Valley Regional Park, is the largest community garden in San Diego, with 210 public garden plots and 10 quarter-acre plots for local farming businesses.

Ushered in with a cannon-fire salute, a 111-year-old Norwegian tall ship arrived in San Diego Tuesday on a stop in an around-the-world tour, kicking off several days of special events exploring the city's involvement in maritime technology and ocean conservation. The *Statsraad Lehmkuhl*, one of the largest square-rigged sailing ships still in operation, arrived in port to a ceremonial escort and gunnery salute from the Maritime Museum of San Diego's fleet.

Following the welcome, the vessel docked at Broadway Pier, where it will host a series of public tours, educational programs and an innovation summit. The Norway-based vessel — which serves as a sail-training ship and research platform dedicated to advancing ocean awareness and sustainable development worldwide — made the San Diego stop as part of its global One Ocean Expedition. The public will be able to tour *Statsraad Lehmkuhl* tomorrow, and learn about San Diego's roles in the global "blue economy."

Big changes in store for our San Diego Padres. Last week a new manager was announced to replace retiring Mike Schildt - Craig Stammen, a former Padres relief pitcher and current member of the player development staff. Stammen, who retired from active play in 2023 was a dark horse candidate who's never coached or managed, but is well known and highly respected by the players and organization.

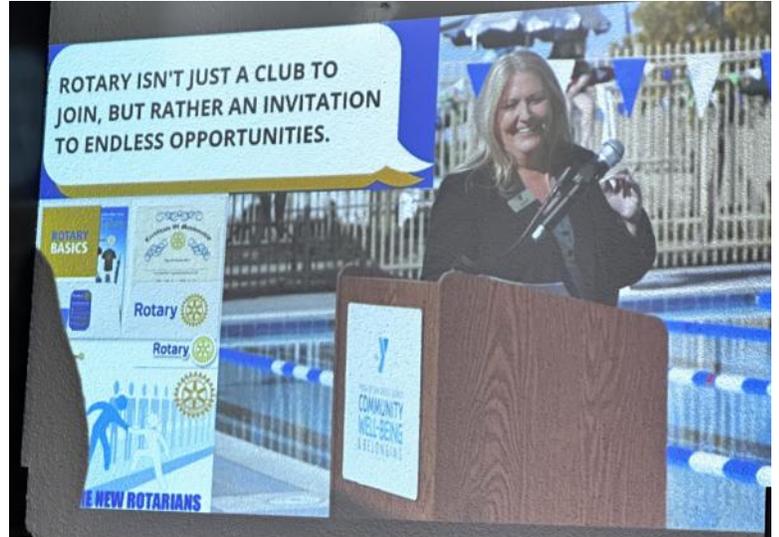
In addition, John Seidler, brother of late owner Peter Seidler, announced that the family has decided to begin a process of evaluating its future with the Padres, including a potential sale of the franchise,

Today's sponsor, Beverly Sumwalt was born in Ohio, grew up in Phoenix, and has spent most of her adult years right here in Bonita! She holds a BS degree in Biology/Chemistry, an MBA and several professional designations, and is a published professional author. Beverly's professional career includes: Clinical laboratory work with Sharp, Kaiser, UCSD, Rady Children's and several medical groups and consulting firms. The highlight of her career has been 20+ years of international work with the US Navy, CDC affiliates, and assignments in teaching, training and improving healthcare systems all over the globe.

(News continues on page 5)

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A warm Chula Vista Rotary welcome to our newest member Wendi Messina. L-R: President Ben presents the new member packet, pin, plaque—along with the invoice to Wendi. Her sponsor Nancy Kerwin helped out. A fun photo by President Ben using his creative talent to welcome Wendi.

A poster for Rotary Foundation Month. On the left, the text "NOVEMBER IS" is written vertically in large orange letters. The main image shows a man in a checkered shirt interacting with a group of children in a developing area. A large yellow Rotary International gear logo is on the right. Text in the center reads "ROTARY FOUNDATION MONTH" and a quote: "Much of the trouble in the world today is not so much the noise of the bad as it is the silence of the good." attributed to "Past RI President W. Jack Davis 1977-78". At the bottom, it says "Rotary" with the gear logo, "TAKE ACTION: Join Rotary, Get Involved", and a row of social media icons.

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L-R: This week's sponsor of the Jim Biddle News at Noon Beverly Sumwalt pictured with visiting Rotarian (Club 33) and Bonita resident Diana Marjip-Chuh, Rick Richardson and Michael Oliveri.



(News continued from page 3)

Beverly's Rotary career includes: Active Rotarian for 36 years, with perfect attendance for 27 and a 3 time Paul Harris Fellow. She has been a member of four Rotary Clubs, has been Club President 3 times, was 2007 Group Study Exchange Medical Team Leader to Africa, and has held multiple Foundation and District positions. She has 3 grown children (2 are veterinarians, 1 is a professional Rock-Star drummer) and 4 grandchildren living in Southern CA fortunately, so she sees them all often!

She continues her volunteer work with international laboratory training and management consulting and stays active with Rotary and the community. She wears hats, rides horses, and loves adventure travel, cooking and wine--the rest is subject to change without much notice! This concludes today's edition of the Jim Biddle News at Noon, today brought to you by Beverly Sumwalt.

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TWO MEETINGS LEFT TO BRING CALENDARS & PUZZLE BOOKS FOR VETS



L-R: Rick Richardson accepts donation from the Club for the CDA Holiday event from Bill Torre.



**GOOD-BYE POLIO
THANKS ROTARY**



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Friday, November 28—**DARK**—No Meeting—Thanksgiving

Saturday, December 6, 8:30 am—Veterans' Home Decorating—Building C

Wednesday, December 10 - **Ronald McDonald House Dinner**

Friday, December 19 — **Holiday Program & Bake Sale!**

CHULA VISTA ROTARY 100th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
February TBD, 2026

TRIVIA NIGHT— Friday, March 13, 2026, 5:30 pm

