

Chulatarian

Rotary
Club of Chula Vista 



ROTARY CLUB
OF CHULA VISTA

BOARD 2024-2025

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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)

REBECA LEE
SAN DIEGO REGISTRAR OF VOTERS
Friday, September 6, 2024 - Noon



Most of Rebeca Lee's professional life has been dedicated to education. While teaching in the Sweetwater Union High School District, she took a full-time position in the School of Humanities with the Universidad Autónoma de Baja California in Tijuana--UABC.

When she left teaching, she joined the Registrar of Voters as an assistant to the Coordinator for Volunteer and Public Services for Spanish language. She quickly became the Interim Coordinator, and six months later became a Voter Outreach Coordinator.

Rebeca was born in Morelia, Michoacan. Her father was a US Marine Veteran whose work took her to many different states in Mexico, finally settling in Mexico City where she completed her high School and first year of university. She is a lifelong learner, with two Associates, one Bachelor's degree, a teaching credential, and two Masters. She has degrees in Culinary Arts, Metalworks and is a certified translator and interpreter.



MEETING HIGHLIGHTS—AUGUST 23, 2024

President Jesse Fernandez called the meeting to order. Lori Torio gave the invocation and led the pledge. Chuck Bevans led the song.

President-elect Ben Koala introduced guests.

President Jesse presented a blue membership badge to Bill Torre, who has lived in Chula Vista for many years but was a member of the Big Bear Rotary Club, where he has a home as well. President Jesse also presented a blue badge to Nancy Kerwin, who transferred from the Chula Vista Sunrise Rotary Club.

President Jesse provided an update from the Board meeting on August 21, 2024 which included a review, update and approval of the Club budget for 2024/2025. He highlighted some of the changes and said the budget will be updated as needed during the Rotary year. It goes to the Chula Vista Rotary Foundation Board for approval. The Board also approved Rasha Roshdy and Risa Baron as authorized signers on the Club account.

He shared several events happening in our District 5340 and upcoming Club activities.

The team from the Prevent Drowning Foundation gave a very interesting presentation on their vital work to save lives in the region. They brought information, stickers and other fun items to emphasize their message. Between 2016-2022, there were 1524 fatal and non-fatal drowning incidents. They help with the Junior Life-guard program which is not held in Chula Vista. Members had several questions.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND

Summer Club Social—Friday, September 13, 5:00 p.m. \$10

At the home of Lisa & Eric Johnson—

We will be recognizing Red Badgers and there will be a Taquero preparing fresh food

Please respond if you plan to attend; pay on Club Runner or at our Meeting





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 brought to you by Gary Bryant and the Community Service Committee.

San Diego continued to be the busiest Border Patrol sector along the southwestern border last month, with 15,000+ encounters, followed by the Tucson sector with 11,000+. Arrests for illegally crossing the border from Mexico plummeted 33 percent in July to the lowest level since September 2020, a result of asylum being temporarily suspended June 5, due to border arrests hitting 2,500 a day. The steep decline earlier this year was widely attributed to Mexican authorities increasing enforcement within their borders.

The first of four consecutive supermoons shone in the nighttime skies on Monday night. Over the course of the next three month's lunar cycles, the moon will near its perigee, or the point in orbit where it gets closest to the Earth during a full moon. This makes the moon appear almost 15% larger and 30% brighter because it is much closer to us. Moonrise and moonset are the best times to catch the full moon at its brightest. The next supermoon will occur on Sept. 17 and will be even closer.

Three years after opening in the South Bay, National City's [Market on the 8th](#) food hall is revamping. Its new operator Roger Cañez will be unveiling a new lineup of food stalls mostly focused on Mexican cuisine. Cañez, a Chula Vista resident, was one of the market's original tenants and has opened multiple restaurants in San Diego over the last decade. New vendors in the food hall will include: [Kiko's Place](#), a local mariscos truck featured on Netflix's Taco Chronicles, [Carnitas Quiroga](#), whose chilaquiles were recently highlighted in local [best dishes column](#), and other restaurants with acclaimed outlets in Mexico City and the Guadalupe Valley. Grand opening is scheduled for early September.

The CIF introduced flag football as a high school varsity sport for girls last year and it was a rousing success in San Diego County. The quality of play and crowd enthusiasm were beyond expectations. The sport has now grown from 46 teams to 72 teams. The annual California Honor Bowl, an invitational for the area's finest football teams coming up Sept 6 and 7, features three top-flight tackle football games. This year, the Honor Bowl will feature flag games. Defending County Champion Bonita Vista, with Defensive Player of the Year Mahilya Wilson will play Classical Academy at Cathedral High School.

For the past 20 some years, the rare and unique diversity of native birds, mammals, fish and reptiles of the [Florida Everglades](#) ecosystem has been threatened by an invader. The Burmese python, a large, nonvenomous constrictor snake accidentally introduced through the exotic pet trade is now considered the area's apex predator. It can grow up to 20 feet in length, reproduces in great numbers, has excellent camouflage, and an insatiable appetite for a wide variety of food, from eggs to small deer. In 2017, Florida began hiring contractors to try to humanely euthanize these destructive snakes. Through 2023, more than 11,000 pythons have been removed by these contractors, who are paid on a size-based scale. Once a year, the annual weeklong Florida Python Challenge gives ordinary citizens a chance to help in the hunt. This year's Challenge concluded last Sunday with a \$10,000 grand prize awarded to the hunter with the most total captures, which in recent years has reached close to 30 snakes. Speaking of hunting ---

Our sponsor Gary Bryant began community service as a boy when his folks moved to the Mt. Helix area of La Mesa in 1957 when he and his twin were 8 years old. DeMolay, the Masonic sponsored youth group for boys 13 to 21, really cemented his initiation into community involvement.



L-R: The team with Prevent Drowning Foundation brought several items to help with water safety. Bill Torre and Nancy Kerwin received their Blue Badges from President Jesse. The speakers with their mugs of appreciation.



L-R: This week's sponsor Gary Bryant with Ken Weimer—who WINS again! - Mark Scott and Troy Ray. Congrats everyone!



Member Spotlight



Jeanette Badal
Founder, Lucid HR Solutions

Jeanette's favorite thing about being a Rotarian is taking part in the Youth Services Committee.

Jeanette Badal was born in Pasadena, CA and grew up in Tijuana and San Diego. She pursued her education on both sides of the border, eventually graduating from National University with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice. Her college internships in law enforcement and education guided her toward realizing that these paths weren't her calling. Jeanette discovered her passion for Human Resources and embarked on a 20-year career in various industries, including hospitality, manufacturing, and biotech.

She is actively engaged in her community as a proud Rotarian, and as a member of the San Diego chapter of the National Latina Business Women's Association and National City Chamber of Commerce. Residing in Otay Ranch with her husband and two boys, William, 13 and Daniel, 11, Jeanette values family time and indulges in listening to podcasts, reading, tending to her succulents and a good pinot. Her hidden talent is dancing salsa.

News at Noon (continued from page 3)

Gary enjoys hunting, fishing, and shooting all over the US and the world. His upcoming trips – back to Montana's Missoula River Lodge in October; another pig hunt in the Central California Coastal Range in November, and then next August a return to his favorite place, Alaska, for his 10th trip there. He says, if he had been 30 years younger on his first trip, he probably would have stayed and not come home. But a good thing for us that he did come home.

Gary leads, supports and volunteers for many community and charitable organizations, including Chula Vista Charitable Foundation, YMCA Board, Ronald McDonald House, Christmas in October, Chamber, plus leading our Community Service Committee. Thank you, Gary, for everything you do for our club and our community. This concludes today's edition of the Jim Biddle News at Noon, today sponsored by Gary Bryant and the Community Projects Committee



HAPPY BIRTHDAY DEAR ROTARIAN!



Eric Rimmele - September 1

Bob Bliss - September 4

Steve Brodbeck - September 4

Jennifer Bustamante-Lowther - September 16

Jeanette Badal - September 20

Gus Slovinsky - September 22

CLUB CALENDAR

**Wednesday, September 11, 8:00 am—Community Service Committee
at Chik Fil-A Eastlake**

**Friday, September 13—FOOD DISTRIBUTION AT ST. MARK'S (Hilltop & I),
8:00 am**

Friday, September 13 - DARK—No meeting

Friday, September 13, 5:00—*Summer Social*



L-R: Several friends gathered to visit with former Rotarian Donna Moss, visiting from Indiana for the upcoming birth of a new grand baby. Betty Waznis, Donna, Laura Humphreys, Cheryl Shields, Neisha Hernandez, Carmen Richardson, Carmen Sandoval and Jan Mellinger. A fun time catching up!



CONGRATULATIONS TINA!

Tina Matthias, pictured with students in her program, was recently recognized by the California Resource Recovery Association for the Outstanding School Recycling program.

They work to reduce food waste in the schools and redirect produce and other food items to senior centers and other locations that can use it.



Services for **Naomi Tanaka** will be held Saturday, September 14, at 11:00 at the San Diego Buddhist Temple, 2929 Market St. San Diego.

The family requests in lieu of flowers, if so inclined, that a donation be made to the Chula Vista Rotary Foundation

To celebrate Naomi's love of Hawaii, Hawaiian shirts, tops etc. are encouraged.