

Chulatarian

Rotary
Club of Chula Vista



UNITE
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GOOD



ROTARY CLUB
OF CHULA VISTA

BOARD 2025-2026

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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)

LUCY EAGLESON
A REASON TO SURVIVE—ARTS
Friday, September 12, 2025, Noon



Lucy Eagleson, Executive Director of A Reason to Survive (ARTS) brings her background in filmmaking and love of storytelling to every aspect of her work. She is dedicated to seeking out places where art and creativity creates space for humans to be creative, explore identity, and amplify voices to make meaningful change as individuals, within communities, and throughout the world. Lucy is passionate about working with youth, communities, and organizations to co-create the meaningful change we want to see in the world.

ARTS mission is to lift young people in the South County region of San Diego to become confident, compassionate, and courageous community builders through the transformative power of creativity. Their programs mobilize the creative and technical aspects of the creative economy to promote positive individual outcomes for youth around interpersonal skill building, academic proficiency and career readiness, and creativity and innovation. Since their founding in 2001, they have engaged thousands of youth and their families across South Bay through programs—offered at no-cost to the community—that uplift youth and mobilize region-specific resources to address barriers to well-being within the community.

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MEETING HIGHLIGHTS FOR SEPT. 5, 2025

President Ben Koala called the meeting to order. Suzanne Catanzaro gave the invocation. Chuck Bevan helped us sing “Hard Days Night,” which may have included his dance moves. Board Treasurer Risa Baron introduced guests and visiting Rotarian.

President Ben highlighted the September birthdays and we sang to those present. He announced the upcoming events and programs. The Golf Tournament will be held at the Chula Vista Golf Course. He presented badges to several members (see page 4).

Diego Quilantan was inducted as a new member of our Club. He grew up in Chula Vista, loves golf, is an accounting wiz, works with Koala Financial and President Ben is his sponsor. As it turns out, Nathan Oestreich was Diego’s professor at SDSU. He presented Diego with a Paul Harris Fellowship award to welcome him to the world of Rotary—wow! Congratulations and welcome Diego!

Bob Silvas provided another fun and interesting presentation on our Club’s history during the month of August over the years. They are very informative and very nice to hear names from the past that helped to shape our Club.

Betty Waznis provided the Jim Biddle News at Noon. Bill Torre was the sponsor for this week. The lucky winners were Mora de Murguia, Kimberley Marshall and visiting Rotarian (Club 33) and local neighbor, Diana Marjip-Chuh.

Stephanie James, Executive Director of the South County Boys & Girls Club, provided an update on their activities and projects. They currently serve nearly 3000 youth through their before/after school programs and location in Imperial Beach. The location on Oleander was closed just before the pandemic. They will return to Chula Vista with a facility in the Escada neighborhood in 2026. Thank you Stephanie!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Friday, September 12, 8:30 a.m.—**St. Mark’s Food Distribution**

Saturday, October 25—**Christmas in October**

Friday, October 31—**Golf Tournament Fundraiser**—Chula Vista Golf Course

CHULA VISTA ROTARY 100th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
Sunday, February 15, 2026

Tijuana Home Build—Saturday, April 11, 2026



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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, and welcome to today's edition of the Jim Biddle News at Noon. Today brought to you by Bill Torre. Step outside the new Gaylord Pacific Resort and you'll spot cranes, dry docks, and huge yachts being lifted from the bay for service at Marine Group Boat Works, the largest superyacht repair yard on the West Coast—and a growing economic engine for Chula Vista. Founded nearly 50 years ago, the shipyard was once focused on tuna boats and Navy vessels. In the early 2000s, that changed when new employee Todd Roberts, a 27-year-old graduate of Cal Poly Maritime Academy, helped shift the company's focus to superyachts—luxury vessels worth hundreds of millions of dollars. Today, Marine Group employs more than 250 workers at the Chula Vista shipyard, a second shipyard in San Jose del Cabo, and a superyacht marina in downtown San Diego.

Roberts recently purchased the company with two investors, is now president and has announced expansion plans to make Chula Vista the hub of a new West Coast superyacht service network stretching from Mexico to Alaska. The additional docks and greater capacity being created will bring more superyachts to the South Bay, raising Chula Vista's profile in the worldwide luxury market. The growing shipyard should mean more jobs, more business for local restaurants and hotels, a steady stream of wealthy visitors who will spend money locally, a stronger tax base, and a very different global profile for the city.

Keeping financially at-risk people from being evicted is the most cost-effective way to prevent homelessness. So the City of Chula Vista has launched the Shallow Rental Subsidy Program to support housing stability and promote aging in place for low-income older adults who are severely rent-burdened. This program is specifically designed for city residents age 55 and older who spend more than 50 percent of their monthly income on housing and who are at risk of displacement. Renters who qualify can receive up to \$500 per month for 12 months. More information at 619-691-5047 or AFFhousing chulavistaca.gov. The Living Coast Discovery Center in Chula Vista announced last week it raised a record \$175,000 at its recent annual Farm to Bay fundraiser. Fun fact: The Center recycled more than 90 percent of waste generated by the event thanks to the volunteer trash-sorting efforts of graduates from the Center's Master Composter Training Course.

No wonder this red bird is smiling. The Padres were swept this week in a three-game series against the Baltimore Orioles, who have the second worst record in the American League. Tomorrow our team is up again, facing the worst team in either division, the Colorado Rockies. The three-game series starts tonight at 6:40 in Denver. Still two games behind the Dodgers and one game ahead of the Mets in Wild Card standings.

Today's sponsor, Bill Torre, enjoys doing fun things with his wife and family, and granddaughter. He enjoys his time at their cabin in Big Bear fishing and boating. His favorite past-time is helping out in community volunteer work for various organizations including his church, Rotary Club, Red Cross disaster relief, Engineers Without Borders providing fresh water and power for developing countries, Meals on Wheels and other organizations. His background is in electrical engineering and research; he holds two graduate degrees in engineering. He has worked as manager and Chief Engineer for the engineering department at SDG&E for 30 years, led research as Director of Research at UCSD in the engineering department for 5 years, and taught graduate electrical engineering classes at SDSU for 8 years. He currently has an engineering consulting company and another company focused on aerospace and electrical engineering. Bill looks forward to continuing to support the great work that Chula Vista Rotary Club is doing for our community.

This concludes today's edition of the Jim Biddle News at Noon, today brought to you by Bill Torre.

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MEETINGS HIGHLIGHTS—September 5, 2025



Transferring members from Chula Vista Sunrise Rotary Club received their Blue Badges from President Ben. L-R: Nathan Oestreich, Ryan Crawford, Mike Bell, and Rochelle Carroll with President Ben. R: Tana Lorah received her Blue Badge as well.



President Ben presented Past President Jesse Fernandez with his Club Past President badge. Jesse then presented Assistant District Governor Mora de Morguia with her long overdue Past President pin for her service to our Club as President (23-24).


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WELCOME NEW MEMBER DIEGO QUILANTAN!



New member Diego Quilantan was inducted into our Club. L-R: Nathan Oestreich was Diego's professor twice! He presented him with a Paul Harris Fellowship to honor his entry into the world of Rotary. President Ben is Diego's proud sponsor (and employer). He has jumped in and is organizing the upcoming Golf Tournament on October 31. Welcome Diego!

by Alyce Hanson. © Rotary International. Design layout by Gilbert Thier Rotary Club of Mtri.




SEPTEMBER IS


**BASIC EDUCATION
AND LITERACY
MONTH**

"Education is a social process. Education is growth. Education is not a preparation for life; education is life itself."

John Dewey

Rotary 

TAKE ACTION: Join Rotary, Get Involved



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CONGRATULATIONS LOURDES!



Lourdes Valdez (pictured in pink), a former member of our Club and great friend, recently transferred to the Downtown San Diego Evening Rotary Club. Next thing you know—she is the new President! All the best to Lourdes and congratulations!



Great CONGRATULATIONS to our own Lisa Johnson on the grand opening/dedication of The JOAN at Liberty Station, the new home of the Cygnet Theatre. We know it has been years in the making, a huge labor of love, not to mention mega fund-raising to bring this into reality. You rock Lisa!
(P.S. That is Irwin Jacobs, founder of Qualcomm on the left).