

Birthdays & Anniversaries  
 Upcoming Events  
 Announcements

At the board meeting, we voted to donate \$1,500 to the Brawley Girls' Wrestling Team, with Simon Canalez donating \$1,000 of that himself. BUHS Girls' Wrestling Team now has a proud new sponsor! Thank you for your generosity, Simon!

The Chamber of Commerce for Greater Brawley announces the 3rd annual "Santa's Local Workshop"! Friday, December 15th from 5-9PM at the Plaza Park in Brawley. There will be over 40 local vendors, a petting zoo, and SNOW! Mayor Castro will be there to light the City of Brawley Tree. Mark your calendar and take the kids or grandkids!

Valley Jazz will have their 34th annual Holiday Concert on Saturday, December 16th at 7PM at the Jimmie Cannon Theatre at Southwest High School in El Centro. Admission is free with 2 food items for the IV Food Bank. Our very own Sal Ortiz will perform!

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- December 13th: The Honorable Christopher Plourd, Superior Court Judge
  - December 20th: We are DARK for Christmas
  - December 27th: We are DARK for the New Year holiday
  - January 3rd: Regular meeting
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**December Birthdays:**

10th: Eddie Gee

**Member Anniversaries:**

- 1st: Bill Gates, 62 years
- 7th: Sam Couchman, 12 years
- 12th: Simon Canalez, 5 years
- 16th: Annette Fortier, 31 years

**Wedding Anniversaries:**

- 10th: George and Martha Fareed, 7 years
- 30th: Carter and Sandra Taylor, 40 years

This Week's Meeting

**Guests:** Oreda Chin and Mary Sue Shank

**Recognitions:** President Stephen Smith recognized Robert Trimm \$10 for his fake claim of bronchitis as an excuse to defer leading the patriotic song to Sal Ortiz. Kenny Humes came to the meeting but ate lunch elsewhere, he paid \$5.

**Program:** Sal Ortiz introduced Oreda Chin, who is the Associate Director of Development at San Diego State University since April of this year. Oreda has been in the Valley for 8 years now, trying to get involved in every organization she could. She claims her mission is to "beg" for funds. Oreda's skills include supporting the fundraising needs of SDSU by developing strategies that can be used to secure funding and sponsorships and maintain relationships with donors and the community. She has been able to include her breast cancer support while still working at SDSU. Today, she informed us about the nursing program. The main campus is in La Mesa and referred to as just "Mesa". She said the Imperial Valley is a country of its own, nothing like the San Diego area. She told us that they had potential donors who were interested in supporting the nursing program. They came down, had lunch at Olive Garden, and everything went well with the presentation. When it came time for them to leave, they expressed their gratitude, and told them they could "only" donate \$500 thousand. Although she was floored, the donors acted like it was nothing. SDSU has had a nursing program in the Imperial Valley since 2007 but could only admit students who had already received associate degrees in nursing at a community college. That meant no freshmen and no transfer students. That bottleneck has big impacts on medical care in Imperial Valley. As of last year, we had just 900 nurses to serve a population of almost 180,000 which is one of the lowest ratios in the state. Visiting nurses are an expensive necessity, because they get paid up to 4 times more. They are accelerating the program and now you can earn your Bachelor's degree in nursing in less than 4 years. She's hoping to recruit doctors to pay incentives to nurses to stay here, or help with a scholarship. There are currently 185 people on the waiting list. They are hoping to add nurse practitioners to the program. They will have to expand the building to do that. Right now, we only have two oncologists, no oncologic nurses, forcing patients to drive to San Diego for a simple shot. She encouraged us to donate, every little bit helps. After her presentation, at the board meeting, your board voted to donate \$250 to the SDSU nursing program.

Thank you, Oreda!



"I've been working here twenty years and I've never seen anyone in there!"