

## **BLIND COMMUNITY CENTER OF SAN DIEGO**

1805 Upas Street San Diego CA 92103

Phone: 619-298-5021 website: <https://bccsd.org/>

Donate with PayPal at <https://bccsd.org/>

Email: [info@bccsd.org](mailto:info@bccsd.org)

## **SEPTEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER**

**BCCSD MISSION:** To enrich the lives of blind and visually impaired adults preparing them for a normal, active life in a society that is principally sighted by encouraging independence.

**The Blind Community Center of San Diego** gives blind and visually impaired people in our community an opportunity to socialize and interact. It helps members build skills, confidence and self-esteem through our various social and recreational activities. During the pandemic, we are featuring virtual experiences where participants can join by telephone and/or computer.

### **BUSINESS HOURS:**

Our building is temporarily closed following the extended 'Stay at home order'. We will keep you informed in this newsletter when the time is right to re-open. Please stay safe and follow all recommended guidelines.

### **CONTACTS:**

**We are here for you:**

President Sharlene - phone: 619-298-5021 ext. 208

email: [president@bccsd.org](mailto:president@bccsd.org)

Board Director Christie - [christie@bccsd.org](mailto:christie@bccsd.org)

BCCSD email: [info@bccsd.org](mailto:info@bccsd.org)

Website: <https://bccsd.org/>

### **MESSAGES:**

#### **HELEN KELLER:**

"When one door of happiness closes, another opens; but often we look so long at the closed door that we do not see the one which has been opened for us."

“I would rather walk with a friend in the dark, than alone in the light.”

### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

Chosen for the newsletter by HODGEPODGE participants.

"If we could look into each other's hearts and understand the unique challenges each of us faces, I think we would treat each other much more gently, with more love, patience, tolerance, and care."

### **BLIND COMMUNITY CENTER FUNDRAISERS**

#### **TALK WITH AN OPHTHAMOLOGIST FUNDRAISER**

We have a new fundraiser scheduled for September. The format will be similar to TALK to a DOCTOR about COVID-19, however, this time it will be TALK WITH AN OPHTHAMOLOGIST. We will be asking for a \$25 minimum donation to join. If you are a member or participant of the BCC, the request is waived. You may participate by using the same WebEx number that we use for BCC activities. The number of registrants will be limited so that each participant will get an opportunity to ask questions.

#### **Here are the dates:**

- **Saturday, September 12**, 11:00 a.m. (PT)-1:00 p.m. (PT): Dedicated BCC session
- **Saturday, September 19** 11:00 a.m. (PT)-1:00 p.m. (PT): Session for paid donors
- **Saturday, September 26** 11:00 a.m. (PT)-1:00 p.m. (PT): Session for paid donors

### **WEEKLY ACTIVITY SCHEDULE**

#### **MONDAY**

1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. **Spanish led by Nena**

#### **WEDNESDAYS**

This updated schedule starts in September.

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. **LUNCH HAPPY HOUR**  
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. **TRIVIA** hosted by Pearl  
2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. **NAME THAT TUNE** hosted by Shon

## **FRIDAYS**

9:30 a.m. -10:30 a.m. **BLIND RHYTHM** led by Shon  
10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. **FRENCH** led by Theresa  
12:00 p.m.- 2:00 p.m. **BINGO** led by Christie, with a BINGO Caller and volunteers **Dora, Marty, Theresa**, members from the **NATIONAL CHARITY LEAGUE, NCL**, and occasional other community volunteers.

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

**Tuesday, September 8, 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

There will be a Board of Directors meeting on Tuesday 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. using the web platform we use for other activities. Everyone is welcome to attend. If you have something for the agenda, please send an email to [president@bccsd.org](mailto:president@bccsd.org) or leave a message on my office phone, 619-298-5021 ext. 208. I check my office messages from home.

## **MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**Tuesday, September 22, 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

Please save the date for a Membership Meeting on Tuesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> at 1:00 p.m. You can join by dialing into the same WebEx telephone number we use for BCCSD activities.

## **MEMBERSHIP DUES**

It's that time of year again. Annual membership dues of \$40 are due every July 1<sup>st</sup>. Thank you to those who have already sent in their dues and are supporting the BCCSD with your membership.

Reasons to pay the Membership Fee:

1. Membership shows your support and belief in the Blind Community Center of San Diego. This helps when we are seeking donations from outside sources.
2. Membership qualifies you to vote at membership meetings.
3. Membership qualifies you to run for a board position as long as you meet other qualifications. You will have the opportunity to help make decisions for the Blind Community Center.

4. Prior to the pandemic, other membership benefits like free one-way MTS tickets to or from the BCCSD, on certain days and free admission to certain events were available. Although those amenities are not available right now, they will be available again when we re-open.
5. The BCCSD has two classes of membership, **Blind and visually impaired members**, and **associate members**. Associate members are individuals who support the mission of the BCCSD but do not vote. Do you want to learn more? Email: [info@bccsd.org](mailto:info@bccsd.org)

We would like to thank all of our volunteers and teachers for their time and skills to keep activities and contact during this time of separation. The Center could not function without all of our dedicated volunteers.

### **OTHER NEWS**

**The American Council of the Blind (ACB)**, has a community calendar that is open to anyone that wants to join a session. There is a very wide range of topics to choose from. They are accessed through ZOOM on a computer, tablet or cell phone. If you would like to receive a daily schedule, send your email address to ACB-Community-Events mailing list:

[ACB-Community-Events@acblists.org](mailto:ACB-Community-Events@acblists.org)

<http://www.acblists.org/mailman/listinfo/acb-community-events>

### **THANK YOU**

To all of our generous individual and community partner donors: Thank you for your continued, faithful support of our Blind Community Center programs and facility.

A special thanks to Lions Clubs who have continued to support the Blind Community Center during the pandemic (You know who you are and we appreciate you). Your unwavering financial assistance is helping in many ways, including some much-needed building repairs. Although we are not physically at the center, we are getting everything ready to come back. We know that because of your support of the BCCSD and your investment in us, we will be around for a long, long time to come! Thank you!

**Chula Vista Host Lions Club**

**Chula Vista Harbor Lioness Club**  
**North Park Lions Club**  
**Del Sol Lions Club**  
**Oceanside Sea Lions Club**  
**Rancho Bernardo Lions Club**  
**Rancho Santee Lions Club**  
**AT&T Pioneers**  
**Foundation for Delta Gamma at San Diego State University**  
**U.S. Navy**

**La Mesa Lions Club**  
**Encinitas Lions Club**  
**Spring Valley Lions Club**  
**Harbison Canyon Lions Club**

## **INTUIT**

**University of San Diego**  
**San Diego County Employee's Charitable Organization (CECO)**

Please visit our web site at <https://bccsd.org/> for more information about our wonderful supporters and find out how they contribute to the Blind Community Center of San Diego.

## **THANK YOU TO AL HOOPER OF CHULA VISTA HOST LIONS CLUB**

Thanks Al for all of the time and effort you spend taking care of our vehicles. It's a lot of work and we appreciate you!

## **THANK YOU IVAN AND NENA**

For pressure cleaning our sidewalks, outside stairwells, driveways and patio. You are two in a million! Thanks.

## **THANKS TO THERESA AND MICHAEL**

THE BCCSD received 60-70 banquet chairs donated by **Sacred Heart Parish Ocean Beach Catholic Church**. They will make sitting for events in the Auditorium more comfortable because they are padded.

## **THANK YOU NATIONAL CHARITY LEAGUE**

BCC participants enjoyed oatmeal raisin cookies and citrus fruit with home deliveries by NCL mothers and daughters! Social distancing and masks were mandatory and the thoughtful gesture was appreciated by all. Thank you for thinking of us.

NCL members also help with online Bingo every Friday! Thank you.

## **THANKS TO SAN DIEGO COUNTY EMPLOYEE'S CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION (CECO)**

CECO has awarded the Blind Community Center a generous grant which has allowed the purchase of new tables for the craft room. We will also have long banquet tables to be used for dinners and events in the auditorium. Thank you CECO for your continued, dedicated support of local organizations in our community, including the Blind Community Center of San Diego.

## **THANK YOU DELTA GAMMA AT SDSU**

Our Craft Fundraiser is off to a good start and we are grateful to you for spreading the word about our Blind Community Center Crafters.

## **HOW CAN YOU HELP?**

### **ANYONE CAN DONATE AT ANY TIME AND WITH ANY AMOUNT**

#### **Here's how:**

1. Go to [www.bccsd.org](http://www.bccsd.org) and click on "donate"
2. Once on the donation page, click on "donate" again
3. Enter the donation amount and then click on "donate with a debit or credit card"
4. On the next page, you can choose whether you'd like this amount to be donated on a monthly basis.
5. Immediately after that, there is a section where you can type instructions and designate what the donation is for. For example, if a donation is for the Craft Fundraiser, please type "Craft Fundraiser."
6. Complete the rest of the form and provide your email address to receive confirmation of your donation.

#### **Don't have a computer or access to one? Want to make a donation?**

**No problem.** If you're comfortable providing your credit card information over the phone, we can have a volunteer help. Or you can mail a check or money order to:

BLIND COMMUNITY CENTER OF SAN DIEGO or BCCSD

1805 Upas St.

San Diego, CA 92103.

Due to the pandemic, checks are deposited twice per month.

**SMILE! DO YOU EVER ORDER FROM AMAZON?**

**You Can Support the Blind Community Center When You Shop.**

Did you know that Amazon donates 5% of the price of eligible items to the non-profit of your choice if you shop through their special donation portal at **smile.amazon.com**? Imagine making charitable donations to support the Blind and Visually Impaired every time you shop.

To enroll in the program, go to <https://smile.amazon.com/>. The enrollment process couldn't be easier and takes less than five minutes. The BCCSD appreciates your support of our programs through all channels, including shopping.