

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

1805 Upas Street San Diego CA 92103

Phone: 619-298-5021

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

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

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

### **MARCH 2021 NEWSLETTER**

#### **An Irish Proverb for you!**

May love and laughter light your days,  
and warm your heart and home.

May good and faithful friends be yours,  
wherever you may roam.

May peace and plenty bless your world  
with joy that long endures.

May all life's passing seasons  
bring the best to you and yours!

**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:**

In order to keep our community safe, 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: [president@bccsd.org](mailto:president@bccsd.org)

phone: 619-298-5021 ext. 208

Vice President Ethel: [ethel@bccsd.org](mailto:ethel@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/>

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

President: Sharlene Ornelas, Blind Member: [president@bccsd.org](mailto:president@bccsd.org)

Vice President: Ethel Kirtley, Blind Member: [ethel@bccsd.org](mailto:ethel@bccsd.org)

Secretary: Claude Edwards, Blind Member: [secretary@bccsd.org](mailto:secretary@bccsd.org)

Treasurer: Brook Logan, CPA, Associate Member: [treasurer@bccsd.org](mailto:treasurer@bccsd.org)

Past President: Gwendolyn Edwards, Blind Member

Directors:

Resource Development and Marketing: Lion Christie Greene, Associate Member: [christie@bccsd.org](mailto:christie@bccsd.org)

Diane Hall, Blind Member: [dianehall73@yahoo.com](mailto:dianehall73@yahoo.com)

Eric Linebarger, MD, Ophthalmologist, Associate Member

Magdalena Guillen, Blind Member: [nenag6610@gmail.com](mailto:nenag6610@gmail.com)

Lion Mary Manning, Associate Member: [edandmarym@cox.net](mailto:edandmarym@cox.net)

Rochelle Harris, Blind Member: [rdjharris@gmail.com](mailto:rdjharris@gmail.com)

Yvette Lee, Blind Member

Lions Optometric Vision Clinic Representative: Marcia DeRuntz

### **FROM THE PRESIDENT:**

**Heads up!** March 14 is Daylight Saving Time. If any of your clock's self-set, you have it made. If you use your cell phone for an alarm clock, not all will change unless you make contact by a call. Remember to turn your other clocks ahead 1 hour when you go to bed.

**Where Do I File a Consumer Complaint?** This is from USA Government: It can be frustrating to have a bad experience with a business and no idea of where to report it. You will need to report to a specific agency depending on your situation. If you've experienced a problem after you buy something, receive poor service, or get scammed or harassed by a company, understand where to go for help:

- Contact the Better Business Bureau (BBB) if you have a problem with a vehicle, your cell phone, or a business or charity service, product, or

practice.

- Having issues with debt collection, credit reporting, or other loan and money services? Reach out to the Consumer Financial Protection Office (CFPB).
- Report a problem with health products like a prescription drug, vaccine or medical device to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).
- Were you scammed, had your identity stolen, or your privacy invaded online? Notify the Federal Trade Commission (FTC).

**Stay safe, Sharlene.**

### **FROM SECRETARY CLAUDE EDWARDS:**

First, I received an unexpected and friendly phone call from a neighbor on Sunday afternoon, 2/14, wishing me 'Happy Valentine's Day', which was really nice. To make it even more special, we exchanged pleasantries in Spanish as they were originally from Mexico. But before signing off they had something really interesting to share, which was more like a rumor at the time. They said, told to them by someone else, that the Chula Vista Fire Department was coming to our senior mobile home community --- equipped to administer coronavirus vaccines!

Well, they were right, and on Wednesday, 2/17, I couldn't pass up the opportunity to get in line to receive my first dose of the "Moderna" vaccine. A team of 5 firefighters arrived with all the necessary gear, ready by 9 AM to begin calling people in, reviewing their paperwork before proceeding. This was a wonderful gift, benefitting from the kind-hearted public service of our local fire department, wanting to make things easier for those who might otherwise have difficulty setting an appointment and receiving their vaccination. Luckily, they will be back in 28 days with our booster shots!

### **FROM BOARD MEMBER LION CHRISTIE GREENE:**

**NORTH PARK LIONS** is sponsoring a **We-Are-Thinking-Of-You** special food delivery for actively participating **BCC** members on Saturday, **March 13, 2021**. All active members and participants will receive a phone call prior to the delivery.

**The NATIONAL CHARITY LEAGUE (NCL)** normally sponsors our annual St. Patrick's Day party at the BCC. Due to COVID restrictions, there can be no party this year! So, the **NCL** will bring St. Patrick's Day goodies to you on Saturday, **March 13, 2021**. All active members and participants will receive a phone call prior to the delivery.

Please let me know if you have any questions about the deliveries.  
Thank You. [christie@bccsd.org](mailto:christie@bccsd.org)

**FROM NEW BOARD MEMBER LION MARY MANNING:**

Hi, as the newest member for the Board of the BCCSD I am so excited to be a part of this dynamic group of people. I can't wait for COVID restriction to allow us to reopen the BCC and see each other in person. For now, I am available to you via email, at [edandmarym@cox.net](mailto:edandmarym@cox.net) or 619-445-5044. I am new to the working of the protocol at the BCC so, until I learn, I am sure you will get a few laughs and grins from my mistakes. Just know how special the BCC and its members are to me.

Be happy.

Mary Manning

**SEE'S CANDY ONLINE FUNDRAISER for the BCC SWEET!**

Easter Sunday is April 4<sup>th</sup> this year, and we are excited to share this opportunity to purchase delicious, American made, See's candy. Easter candy will be available until March 19. Our year-round sale for traditional See's candy will last through December.

Please forward these links to the BCC/See's Candy storefront to your friends and family. We appreciate everyone's participation and a percentage of every candy purchase will go directly to the BCC. If you combine orders and spend over \$65, shipping is free. All candy will be shipped directly from See's to your home. Thank you.

**See's Special Event Easter Sale for the BCC.**

[https://www.yumraising.com/secure/blindcco\\_blind\\_community\\_center\\_of\\_san\\_diego62/candy?h=Chr\\_Gre3967](https://www.yumraising.com/secure/blindcco_blind_community_center_of_san_diego62/candy?h=Chr_Gre3967)

**See's Year Round Sale for the BCC:**

[https://www.yumraising.com/secure/blindcco\\_blind\\_community\\_center\\_of\\_san\\_diego4/candy?h=Chr\\_Gre3967](https://www.yumraising.com/secure/blindcco_blind_community_center_of_san_diego4/candy?h=Chr_Gre3967)

## **ONLINE BLIND COMMUNITY CENTER CRAFTS FUNDRAISER**

**Gifts for everyone**

**All hand made by BCC crafters and Friends of the BCC.**

**New Item - Beaded Easter Egg Lamps- Suggested Donation - \$25**

**New Item - Beaded Bunny Lamps - Suggested Donation - \$25**

**New Item - Small Beaded Bunny - Suggested Donation - \$12**

**Beaded Lamps - Penguin, Santa, Mrs. Santa, Snowmen,**

**Pink Elephants - Suggested Minimum Donation - \$25**

**Beaded Mary Lou Angels - Suggested Minimum Donation - \$12**

**Beautiful Handmade Quilts – Suggested Minimum Donation - \$60**

**Shades of Pink, Blue or Gray Soft Scarves – Suggested Minimum Donation - \$25**

**Loop-it Yarn Soft Blankets - Suggested Minimum Donation - \$25**

**Hand Made Crocheted Slippers - Many colors to choose from**

**Suggested Minimum Donation - \$12 per pair**

**Beaded Candy Canes and Beaded Icicles – \$2 each – Buy 5, get one free.**

**For questions or orders, please email [info@bccsd.org](mailto:info@bccsd.org).**

## **NEW CLASS:**

**OUR COMMUNITY ENGINEERING CLASS WITH USD BEGINS AGAIN ON MARCH 4 AND RUNS THROUGH MAY 6 2021.**

**See Thursday schedule for details.**

## **WEEKLY ACTIVITY SCHEDULE**

## **MONDAYS**

### **PLEASE USE OUR WEBEX NUMBER FOR SPANISH CLASSES**

#### **Join by phone**

+1-510-338-9438 USA Toll+  
Access code: 623 586 039

#### **Join by computer**

<https://riosassociates-dfc7.my.webex.com/meet/pearl.a.mecenas>  
Meeting Number: 623 586 039

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. **BEGINNING SPANISH** taught by **Nena**

1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. **INTERMEDIATE SPANISH** taught by **Nena**

## **TUESDAYS**

### **FOR TUESDAY ACTIVITIES, PLEASE USE OUR ZOOM NUMBER:**

#### **Join by Phone**

1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose)  
Meeting ID: 494 996 8569

#### **Join by computer:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4949968569>  
Meeting ID: 494 996 8569

11:00 a.m. – noon **BCC History, future program discussion, ideas and brainstorming for fundraising and new programs. Everything BCC.** Led by **Christie and Ethel** March topics will include fundraiser game show plans: Please join the fun and help the BCC at the same time!

## **WEDNESDAYS**

### **PLEASE USE OUR WEBEX NUMBER FOR WEDNESDAY CLASSES**

#### **Join by phone**

+1-510-338-9438 USA Toll+  
Access code: 623 586 039

## **Join by computer**

<https://riosassociates-dfc7.my.webex.com/meet/pearl.a.mecenas>

Meeting Number: 623 586 039

12:00 p.m. - 12:30 p.m.

**BLIND RHYTHM** led by **Shon**

12:30 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

**OPEN MIC** led by **Pearl**

Open Mic for March: March 10, **Tom Treher**, Music

March 17, **Marianne Winship**, Music

1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

**TRIVIA** led by **Pearl**

2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

**NAME THAT TUNE** coordinated by **Shon**

## **THURSDAYS**

10:00 a.m. – 11:40 a.m.

**BLIND COMMUNITY CENTER WRITERS WORKSHOP** with **CLYTIE**

Please call Clytie for instructions. 760-271-8138

10:30 A.M. – NOON

**USD COMMUNITY ENGINEERING CLASS** begins on **MARCH 4** and runs through **MAY 6 2021**.

**To confirm participation, please contact Dr. Odesma Dalrymple:**

**443-929-6781 – [odesma@sandiego.edu](mailto:odesma@sandiego.edu)**

In this class, you can share ideas for improving products that are used by blind and low vision people every day to allow more independence in a sighted world. Re-imagine everyday experiences. Join a design team with students from the University of San Diego, the Blind Community Center, the Center for the Blind, the Braille Institute and the National Federation of the Blind. No prerequisites needed, just an inquiring mind and desire to share ideas.

Classes are virtual and are held every Thursday from 10:30 am until noon.

### **Join by phone**

+1-669-900-6833

Access code: 970 4396 5615

### **Join by computer**

<https://sandiego.zoom.us/j/97043965615>

Meeting Number: 970 4396 5615

## **FRIDAYS**

9:30 a.m. -10:30 a.m. **BEGINNING FRENCH** taught by **Theresa**

10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. **INTERMEDIATE FRENCH** taught by **Theresa**

11:30 a.m. 12:00 p.m. **TIME TO SOCIALIZE**

## **PLEASE USE OUR WEBEX NUMBER FOR ABOVE ACTIVITIES:**

### **Join by phone**

+1-510-338-9438 USA Toll+

Access code: 623 586 039

### **Join by computer**

<https://riosassociates-dfc7.my.webex.com/meet/pearl.a.mecenas>

Meeting Number: 623 586 039

## **FOR BINGO, PLEASE USE OUR ZOOM NUMBER:**

### **Join by Phone**

1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 494 996 8569

### **Join by computer:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4949968569>

Meeting ID: 494 996 8569

12:00 p.m.- 2:00 p.m.

**BINGO** led by **Christie**, with a bingo caller app and sighted volunteers.

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

**Tuesday, March 9 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

**To Join, please use the ZOOM number below:**

1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 494 996 8569



**Join by computer:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4949968569>

Meeting ID: 494 996 8569

**Guests are welcome.** If you would like to address the board, please call 619-298-5021 ext. 208, 24 hours prior to the meeting to be added to the agenda.

**MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**Tuesday March 23 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

**To Join, please use the ZOOM number below:**

1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 494 996 8569

**Join by computer:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4949968569>

Meeting ID: 494 996 8569

March Guest: **Pioneer Karen Schon** from AT&T Pioneers will talk about her volunteering experiences with Lions, Tigers and Bears.

April Guest: **BCC Cribbage Teacher Pat Newman** will talk about volunteering for the Sheriff's Department.

Remember, Membership Meetings are held every month on the 4th Tuesday using the BINGO virtual link from 1:00-2:30. All are welcome. Please connect 10 minutes early so we can get started on time. The meetings are one way to catch up on what is happening at the BCC.

**WELLNESS CALLS**

**Please let us know if you would like to sign up to receive a weekly phone call from a friendly BCC volunteer.**

Are you lonely? Do you just need someone to talk to once in a while? Do you want to share thoughts about how we all are doing while many of us are home bound during the pandemic? Would you like to hear a funny story that might help cheer you up? We care about you! Please send Ethel an email if you would like to participate and she will match you up with a volunteer. Ethel's email: [ethel@bccsd.org](mailto:ethel@bccsd.org)

## **THANK YOU**

**Everyone who supported BCC Fundraisers**

**North Park Lions Club**

**AT&T Pioneers**

**Chula Vista Harbor Lioness Club**

**Chula Vista Host Lions Club**

**Harbison Canyon Lions Club**

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

**National Charity League**

**Foundation for Delta Gamma at San Diego State University**

**Rancho Bernardo Lions Club**

**San Diego Executive Lions Club**

**San Diego United Lions Club**

**Oceanside Sea Lions Club**

**UCSD Pre Optometry Club**

**San Diego Association of Insurance Professionals**

**University of San Diego**

**COSTCO**

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: North Park Lions, AT&T Pioneers and Friends of the BCC** for contributing to our Valentine's day gift package. Here are a few thanks from our folks:

From **Vice President Ethel**: Thank you to North Park Lions, COSTCO, and Friends of the BCC for our wonderful Valentine's day gift. We appreciate your thoughtfulness.

From **Clytie Koehler**, Writing class:

**THANK YOU FOR THE VALENTINES GOODIES!**

Sweet gifts from strangers! How thoughtful and kind they are!

But in the spirit of giving and receiving, I gratefully acknowledge that they are not strangers, after all. They are as sisters and brothers who are connected throughout time and beyond physical life.

To the great corporations: may your doors always be open to the limitless blessings of giving and receiving. I thank you for my part.

To the North Park Lions Club: Your faithful generosity and support for the Blind Community Center and its participants has brought much joy and delight to us all again and again. I thank you – again and again – for my part.

To the wonderful volunteers, from AT&T, and from the Friends of the BCC: I am in awe of your great and giving hearts – and the more so of your unfailing willingness to step up to meet the call when you are needed. I thank you!

From **Frances Chavez**: Thank you to all who took time to give us a special gift, we really appreciate you all and are very grateful. I wish we could thank you in person, but maybe sometime in the future. You do give us hope and help us not to not feel so alone. Thank you again, and God bless you all for your thoughtfulness and kindness and especially those with the BCC who give so much of their time and dedication to us. I truly thank you all.

**Thank you: Trivia and Name That Tune players:**

Dave, Diane, Ethel, Francis, Gus, Gwen, Jennifer, Joyce, Marianne, Michael, Sharlene, and Tom, have all generously donated their Name That Tune and Trivia winnings back to the center. Thank you for supporting BCC programs and the BCC.

**Thanks to Pearl Mecenaz and Goi Cuon restaurant** for sponsoring BCC Name That Tune and Trivia winnings. Each player receives a BCC Buck for each correct answer. Your thoughtful donation helps to make sure our BCC buck games continue when many in our community are isolated and stuck at home during the pandemic. The games provide a fun respite while the center is temporarily closed.

Our sincere thanks to the **San Diego County Employee's Charitable Organization (CECO)** again this year for approving a grant for the BCC. With this money, we will be able to purchase 32 comfortable chairs with padded arms, seats and backs for the craft room. Crafters are in for comfortable seating, in time for our grand re-opening when pandemic restrictions are lifted.

**Thank you: San Diego Executive Lions Club** for your generous donation of office supplies and eye glasses to the BCC and the LOVC. Office supplies that cannot be used by the BCC or LOVC will be put up for sale and the proceeds will benefit both organizations. We will post a list of available keyboards, adding machines, 3-hole punches, staplers, one Fujitsu 6230 sheet-fed scanner, one 6130 Fujitsu scanner, monitor stands, in-basket trays, tape dispensers and other items. All items will be listed for sale at buy-me-now prices at <https://bccsd.org/>.

**Thank you: Donna Lee and Mike Brandenburg** from the **San Diego United Lions Club**, **Helen Quantanilla** from the **San Diego Executive Lions Club**, and **Luis Tocco and Hua Jin Jeng** from the **Mira Mesa Senior Center** for redesigning and planting succulents in the tile planter boxes in front of the BCC. Here are the before and after photos.

#### **HELP WITH FREE MEALS FOR SENIORS:**

#### **GREAT PLATES: Free meals delivered to your home**

San Diego County: call [800- 339-4661](tel:800-339-4661)

#### **To qualify for the Great Plates Delivered program, applicants must be:**

- Individuals who are 65 or older
- Individuals must live alone or with one other program-eligible adult
- Participants must not be currently receiving assistance from other state or federal nutrition assistance programs, such as CalFresh
- Participants must have an annual income within the following range:
  - \$24,981-\$74,940 (single household)
  - \$33,821-\$101,460 (two-person household)
  - Those who have an income BELOW \$24,981 for a single household or \$33,820 for a two-person household are not eligible for the program. However, they may be eligible for CalFresh benefits or other food and meal programs. Please call 2-1-1 to learn about other resources.
- Individuals must affirm that they have limitations that currently prevent them from being able to prepare their own meals or independently purchase meals that could be delivered to them (e.g., lack of transportation, lack of knowledge on how to cook, disability, etc.)

**HELP PROTECT AGAINST THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 VIRUS  
EVEN IF YOU ARE VACCINATED!**

- Step 1: Wash your hands
- Step 2: Wear a face mask
- Step 3: Avoid touching your face
- Step 4: Disinfect frequently touched surfaces
- Step 5: Practice social distancing
- Step 6: Wash your hands

**BE SURE TO GET VACCINATED!  
AND THEN FOLLOW-UP WITH THE SECOND VACCINATION!**

**STILL NEED A COVID VACINATION?**

Here is the information to the accessible link for vaccine distribution and to learn if you qualify for the vaccine at this time. You can also call 211 and they will help with scheduling an appointment and a ride to and from.

<https://myturn.ca.gov/?fbclid=IwAR2jgmuRa3WnX5XOV5TBJ8UFIMRa8gLLZ1Cpyv3PIhcPAKO9yH6LAEJp0Hc>

**BE WELL**

**BE SAFE**

**TOGETHER WE CAN GET THROUGH THIS!**