



**Blind Community Center of San Diego**

1805 Upas Street San Diego CA 92103

Phone: 619-298-5021

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

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

**JULY 2022 NEWSLETTER**

**BCCSD - 73 YEARS - 1949-2022**



**BCC 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, recreational and educational, activities. Beginning in June, we are phasing in on-site craft classes and continuing virtual experiences where participants can join by telephone and/or computer.

## **CLASSES:**

The Blind Community Center of San Diego has in-person classes on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. We have virtual classes on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. We have Water Ski and Surf events. Please call for a reservation.

**Our first priority is to protect our members, participants, and volunteers. Therefore, we have implemented the following mandatory procedures for in-person classes:**

- N95 or KN95 face masks at all times - no exceptions.
- Mandatory vaccinations and boosters for everyone, must show proof. No exceptions – Please don't ask.
- Temperatures will be taken
- Sign up for class by calling the BCCSD at 619-298-5021 and leave a message on ext. 206 at least one week before the class you want to attend.
- If you do not receive a confirmation callback two days before your class, please call Christie at (619) 997-8058.
- No one allowed entry if not on the daily reservation list.
- In person and virtual classes are listed below.
- Everyone needs to schedule their ride home by 1:00 p.m. We realize that MTS has a window around departure times.
- Everyone will receive a to-go lunch as they leave the building.

**These procedures may seem extreme, but they are temporary and will change as conditions change. We thank everyone in advance for their patience and cooperation to make the BCCSD a safe place to have fun.**

**Please note that these Blind Community Center of San Diego guidelines and policies may be subject to change based on latest COVID-19 cases and/or updates from the CDC, Cal OSHA, state or local authorities.**

## **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)  
Business Operations Manager 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)  
Interim Secretary: Marianne Winship, Blind Member  
Treasurer: Brook Logan, CPA, Associate Member: [treasurer@bccsd.org](mailto:treasurer@bccsd.org)  
Past President: Gwendolyn Edwards, Blind Member  
Directors:  
Business Operations Manager: 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: [nenaguillen6610@gmail.com](mailto:nenaguillen6610@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

### **Biden Administration Announces New At-Home Covid Tests For Blind And Low-Vision Americans**

Free at-home Covid-19 tests, designed to be more accessible for people who are blind or visually impaired. Tests ship through the US Postal Service. Here is the USPS form to place orders for Covid-19 tests that are more accessible to individuals with low vision:

<https://special.usps.com/testkits/accessible>

### **FROM PRESIDENT SHARLENE:**

We are starting our new fiscal year on July 1<sup>st</sup> and if you haven't paid your membership fee, now is the time. Thank you to those who have already paid. Paying your membership fee sends an important message to donors and our community. It says that you support BCCSD programs and

activities. Dues paying members bring in revenue for the BCCSD. Dues paying members will enjoy some perks that non-dues paying participants will not receive. As we get more and more happening at the Center there will be more membership benefits.

We will keep some of our activities remote but will add in person participation known as hybrid.

### **CRIBBAGE IS COMING**

Monday, August 1<sup>st</sup>, cribbage will be added to our in-person activities. All in-person class requirements, listed above, apply.

You ask, "What is cribbage?" Cribbage is a card game that combines math and poker to score points. There is strategy, socializing and fun included. Not knowing how to play isn't a problem, **Pat** will teach you. There are also 2 tournaments each year.

TRIVIA will continue via the WEBEX platform. **Pearl** will occasionally be absent but has arranged for members of **Delta Gamma** to fill in for her. She has over 1,000 questions organized in categories that she picks from. If you have any questions regarding TRIVIA please call **Pearl** at (619) 433-4493.

I will host Trivia on July 27.

Your words have so much power. Every day, if you tell yourself 'I love you,' if you give yourself one word of validation, it will change your mind. -**Ashley Graham**

HERE'S TO THE BEST YEAR EVER AT THE BCC.

**Sharlene Ornelas,**  
President

## **FROM VICE PRESIDENT ETHEL KIRTLEY**

**There is an Aira reward program at Starbucks:**

**A letter form Aira: <https://aira.io/>**

A new program, Aira Points, is our first loyalty and reward program and it began on June 7, 2022. Explorers can earn Aira Points every time you use Aira at Starbucks. You need to have the Aira app on your phone and you need to sign up for the Aira Points program.

**Get Starbucks to Get More Starbucks!**

Simply use Aira at any Starbucks location in the United States, and you will earn Aira Points. Once your Aira Points total reaches a certain amount, you will be able to redeem it for a reward.

This is a pilot program that will run from June 7, 2022 through December 31, 2022. The only way to earn Aira Points is to use Aira at Starbucks. Enthusiastic response from Explorers may lead us to rolling out a formal Loyalty and Rewards Program in 2023 with a variety of Aira Access Partners.

Here is what you need to know to get started:

1. You must sign up for the program between June 7 and July 31.
2. There is no relationship between this program and the Starbucks Rewards program.
3. You can earn points by using Aira at any Starbucks in the US between June 7, 2022 to December 31, 2022.
4. Accumulated points can be redeemed for a reward.
5. Aira will track and reconcile points at the end of each month, beginning on June 30th and ending on December 31st.
6. Aira will send an Aira Points summary via email, to the email address used to sign up for the program, at the end of each month.
7. Aira Points activity WILL NOT be available in the Aira app.

More information can be found here including additional terms and conditions, frequently asked questions, a link to the sign-up form, the Aira Points table, and a link to the Aira Points redemption form. <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeVJcMOxpB5ACgNJIUT6oxu1-ppTo0H7Xs6QyINmVPWO-JWBg/viewform>

It only takes 250 Aira Points to earn a \$25.00 Starbucks e-gift card. Points will be earned as follows:

1. 50 points when you sign up for the Aira Points program (requires providing your name, email address and phone number to Aira.)
2. 100 points when you kick start your account by making the first call from a Starbucks.
3. 20 points for each subsequent call from a Starbucks.
4. 20 points for shopping on Starbucks.com with an Aira Agent.
5. 100 points when you make 4 or more separate visits to Starbucks within a one-month period during the program. (Separate visits defined as being a minimum of 3 hours apart.)

Sign up today and earn your way to even more of your favorite beverages and snacks, on us!

**Ethel Kirtley, Vice President**

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

Good news everyone, it looks like our BCC bus will be back in action soon, thanks to Chula Vista Host Lions Club and Ed and Mary Manning. So sign up for summer activities, dues paying members receive priority for transportation. Sharlene has lined up a 'goat' visit for September, details in the August newsletter.

Our wonderful teens and moms from the National Charity league have signed on for a Halloween Party in October. If COVID restrictions are still around, members will have priority for registration sign ups.

Please think about becoming a member if you are not one already. Jim and I have signed on for another year as Associate members. The \$40 fee is the same for Associate members as it is for Blind members. Membership in the BCCSD is a show of support for our organization.

Cribbage and Ceramics classes have returned to the BCC, with some restrictions and we are slowly getting to a new normal. Thank you for everyone's patience as we work out the details for operating under the new guidelines.

Craft classes have been fun, students are making the old familiar crafts and we are getting ready for some new crafts.

We have signed up to participate in December Nights! Yes, It's back. The BCCSD will have a booth and our singers will be singing and we will sell our crafts. Come and join us in the fun.

See you soon at the BCCSD!

**Christie Greene**

619-997-8058

## **BCC FACEBOOK PAGE**

Why not share our Facebook link with friends and family? They will learn about the BCC, our fundraisers, our activities and about our blind and low vision community.

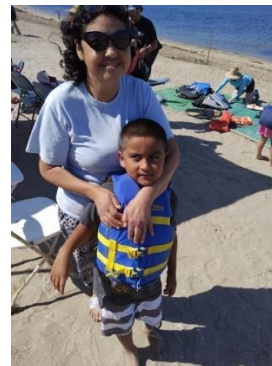
<https://www.facebook.com/bccsdcommunity/>



**WATER SKIING**  
**WITH THE SAN DIEGO MISSION BAY BOAT & SKI CLUB**

**Mark your Calendars:**  
**July 30, August 27, and September 24**

Thanks to San Diego Mission Bay Boat and Ski Club, our annual tradition of free blind water ski clinics continues in 2022. There will be water skiing, tubing, boat rides, fun in the sun and lunch. You don't need to know how to water ski and you don't have to get your feet wet if you choose to stay on dry land. **Please call 619-298-5021 ext. 206 before Friday, July 22, to sign up for July 30. We will call you back with details.**



**Pictures from June 23 Blind Water Ski at Fiesta Island**



**NORTH PARK LIONS** continues to sponsor monthly 'We Are Thinking of You' food deliveries for the BCCSD. **Our next delivery is scheduled for the week of July 11.** Active members and participants will receive a phone call prior to the delivery to coordinate their delivery date.

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



Picture of the June Delivery which included fresh potatoes, macaroni, oatmeal, stuffing mix, canned veggies, baked beans, canned tuna, canned fruit, graham crackers, marshmallows, chocolate chips (for s'mores) and frozen boneless, skinless chicken breasts.

## **WEEKLY ACTIVITY SCHEDULE**

### **MONDAYS**

**Craft Class – see sign-up procedures above**

**Free lunch for class participants at the BCC**



**Pictures of BCCSD lunch bags and Mary preparing lunches.**

## **CRIBBAGE**

**11:00 a.m.**

“Yay! Yay! Yay! Cribbage is back! I have missed you all! While the Center is working, gradually, to reopen, entirely, we have decided to start Cribbage the first Monday in August and ALL the Mondays, thereafter...Rules are: 2 vaccines and 2 boosters. N-95 masks at all times. That’s a small price to pay until this crazy virus is behind us...Cribbage starts around 11am to 11:15 until 1 o’clock. Refresher courses, new blind and low vision players, all are welcome. I teach new players one on one. Spread the word. You must call, text or email me when you know which Mondays you think you’d like to join us. © 619-417-1844, [cpatnewman@cox.net](mailto:cpatnewman@cox.net)

I have MISSED you! **Pat Newman**

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**

**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://giftedback.my.webex.com/meet/pearl.a.mecenas>

Access code: 623 586 039

## TUESDAYS

**Craft Class – see sign-up procedures above**

## WEDNESDAYS

### CERAMICS CLASS

**Jill Coleman** will hold in person ceramic classes at the BCC on Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m. Our COVID policy requires a reservation, the wearing of an N95 or KN95 facemask and proof that you are fully vaccinated. Please see **CLASSES** information above to sign up. Only participants whose names appear on the daily reservation list are allowed at the center each day. The minimum number of sign-ups to hold class is five, so ask your visually impaired and blind friends to join you at ceramics class. Jill has some fun projects lined up. Make your own mug, a tactile vase, a holiday ornament, or?

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

#### **Join by phone**

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

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

<https://giftedback.my.webex.com/meet/pearl.a.mecenas>  
Access code: 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**

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**

#### **Exceptions:**

Wednesdays with no Blind Rhythm, Open Mike/D.J., or Name That Tune:

Wednesday, July 6

Wednesday, July 13 no Blind Rhythm

Wednesday, July 20

## **THURSDAYS**

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

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

All are welcome to this ZOOM platform class!

Please call or email Clytie - 760-271-8138 [writers@bccsd.org](mailto:writers@bccsd.org)

## **FRIDAYS**

### **PLEASE USE OUR ZOOM NUMBER FOR FRIDAY CLASSES**

#### **Join by Phone**

1 408 638 0968 USA Toll+

Meeting ID: 494 996 8569

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

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

Meeting ID: 494 996 8569

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

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

## **SATURDAYS**

10:00 a.m. -11:00 a.m. **LIVE MARTIAL ARTS ZOOM CLASS** taught by **SENSEI JOSH LOYA**

**All abilities welcome. If you are interested in attending, please send an email to [info@bccsd.org](mailto:info@bccsd.org).**

**You can also message on Facebook link -**

<https://www.facebook.com/Blind-Community-Martial-Arts-211126265596001>

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

**Tuesday, July 12 6:00 p.m.**

#### **Join by Phone:**

1 408 638 0968 USA Toll+

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, July 26 2021 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

**Membership Meetings are held every month on the 4th Tuesday using the ZOOM virtual link from 1:00-2:30. Members, participants and guests are all welcome to attend. Attendance shows your support and appreciation for the BCC and our generous speakers. 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.**

**THANK YOU**

**AT&T Pioneers**

**Chula Vista Host Lions Club**

**Del Sol Lions Club**

**El Centro Lions Club**

**Encinitas Lions Club**

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

**Friends of the BCC**

**PDG Lion Rick Hannum**

**Harbison Canyon Lions Club**  
**La Jolla President's Club**  
**La Mesa Lions Club**  
**Mira Mesa Senior Center Garden Club**  
**National Charity League**  
**Oceanside Sea Lions Club**  
**Pride of Vista Lions Club**  
**Rancho Bernardo Lions Club**  
**Rancho Santee Lions Club**  
**San Diego County Employee's Charitable Organization (CECO)**  
**San Diego Executive Lions Club**  
**San Diego Hillcrest/Mission Valley Lions Club**  
**San Diego North County Lions Club**  
**San Diego North Park Lions Club**  
**San Diego United Lions Club**  
**Singing Hills Lions Club**  
**Spring Valley Lions Club**  
**Sweetwater Women's Club**  
**UCSD Pre Optometry Club**  
**University of San Diego**

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.

**The Lions Optometric Vision Clinic** is open by appointment only. It is a non-profit 501C3 agency, located on the third floor of the Blind Community Center building. Their Mission is to provide basic vision care for **low-income** individuals throughout San Diego County. For vision screening or a pair of quality, **low-cost** glasses, **call 619-298-5273 for an appointment.**