

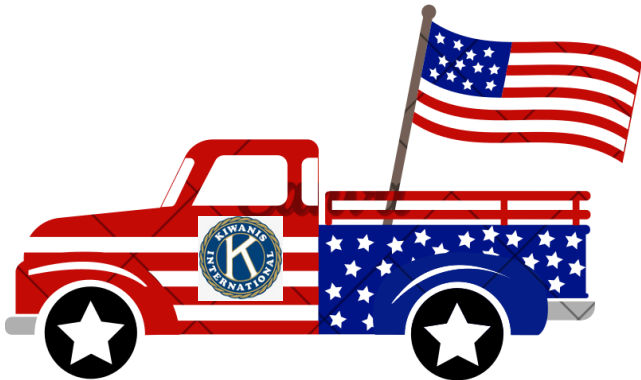
Kiwanis Community



Kiwanis® CLUB OF MARTINEZ

July 2026 Newsletter

Kiwanis is a global organization of men and women dedicated to improving the world one child and one community at a time



Kiwanis Parades on Independence Day

Kiwanis will be represented in the City of Martinez' Independence Day parade. The parade down Main Street will begin at 10 am on July 4(!). Our club will be seen in an appropriately decorated vehicle occupied by President **Steve** and First Lady Carrie **Francis**, and will be accompanied by several members carrying club banners marking our hundredth year. Turn out to cheer on your fellow Kiwanians and celebrate your country's semiquincentennial!

Take the Independence Quiz

1. On what date did the Continental Congress vote in favor of independence from Great Britain?
2. The Declaration says the vote for independence was unanimous but what state abstained?
3. Who made the motion for independence?



Kiwanis Celebrates Christmas in July

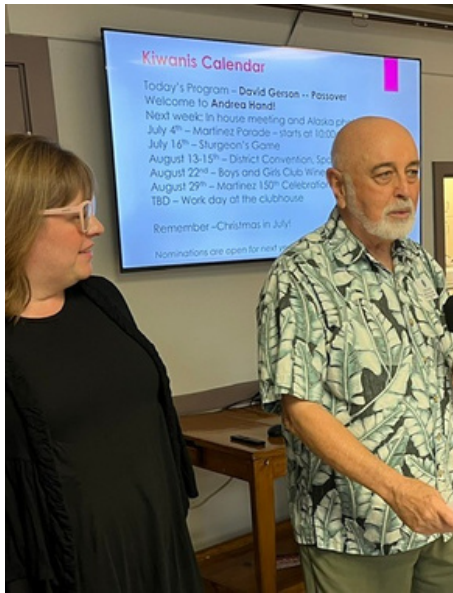
For the third year, the Kiwanis Club of Martinez will celebrate Christmas in July by collecting toys for children in local facilities. A barrel will be in the clubhouse throughout July to accept your toy donations.

Summer Santa **Perry Picchi** says that toys will be donated to the John Muir Hospital pediatrics ward, Community Violence Solutions children's interview center and Bay Area Crisis Nursery. Perry suggests the best toys are Barbi dolls including black dolls, Hot Wheels without tracks, coloring books without crayons, age-appropriate jigsaw puzzles 100 pieces or less, plush toys, and teen gifts such as team logo hats, shirts and balls. Gun or war type toys are not accepted. Check your closet or Dollar Tree, Amazon or Walmart for under \$25. Toys should be unwrapped.



Answers to the quiz will be found elsewhere in this issue

Kiwanis Welcomes Andrea Hand



Membership chair **Denis Smith** introduces Andrea



Andrea Hand admires her new member regalia



President **Steve**, Andrea's sponsor, formally inducts her

Andrea Hand joins a growing club as she is inducted into membership in the Kiwanis Club of Martinez on June 25. Andrea resides in Martinez with her husband Chris, is a native of Contra Costa County and a graduate of DVC and Sacramento State. She is employed as a construction lending specialist in Walnut Creek.

Andrea has already shown her interest in Kiwanis, as she was active in the formation of a Kiwanis Club in Pleasant Hill, and she is working with club advisor **Denis Smith** at our Key Club at College Park High School. She states she loves the club's mission to serve our community. She has demonstrated that love; welcome Andrea!

Recent Programs From Marylee Taylor

One of the strengths of our club is the weekly programs of interest to our members. These programs are arranged by our monthly program chairs, assisted by president elect **Connie Chapman**. June's programs were provided by **Marylee Taylor**:

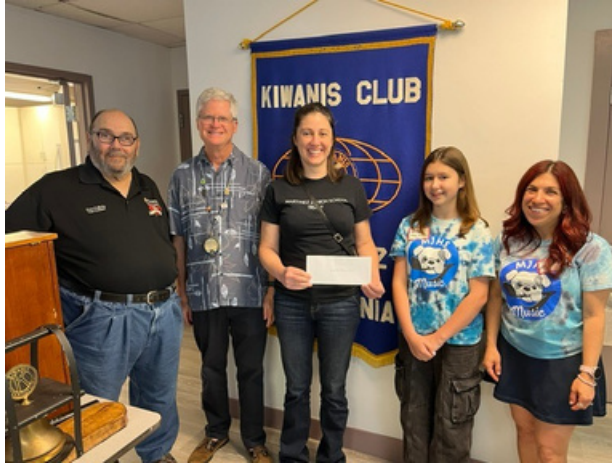
A group from the Martinez Historical Society oral history project presented excerpts of interviews of former Kiwanians **Barbara Kapsalis** and **Paul Kraitz**. In a continuing series, **Marylee Taylor** presented recordings of her late brother **David Gerson** gave us a historical, Biblical and cultural perspective on Passover and Seder meal with technical assistance from Jasvinder Gahla.



Our Grantees Tell Their Stories



Stehanie Tavis and Nick Wilson of the development team at Loaves & Fishes Contra Costa told us of the tremendous growth in meals served at their Martinez and other locations (check out the story of the Barker garden on their website)



Juliet Norton of Bullpup Music Boosters, a student, and Samantha Flanzbaum, band instructor, accept our centennial grant check to help refurbish dozens of instruments needed by the hundreds of Junior High students participating in the school's music program.



Pat Mori makes another appearance on behalf of the children's interview center to inform us our grant will provide snacks and toys for children, victims of child abuse while being interviewed for law enforcement.



Dulce Torres-Petty and Nain Villanueva de Lopez of Tandem Partners in Early Learning told us our grant will supply books to aid their program of equitable, high quality learning experiences for children ages 0-5.



Tara Bartholemew of Bay Area Crisis Nursery accepts our grant which will support their program providing a respite for children of families in crisis.



Louise Barbee of Diablo Valley Giving Partners (formerly Assistance League) on behalf of their 400 members said our grant will support their school clothing program which served 43 Martinez students in need.



Mike Beck, Rochelle Badgley and president Jack Funk of the Martinez Education Foundation will add our grant to their support of...

MUSD teachers, which totaled almost \$228000 last year. Jack also informed us that there will be no Family Fun Night pasta feed this year following the withdrawal of Rotary.

Kiwanis Club of Martinez

750 Allen St., P.O. Box 1886, Martinez CA 94553, www.martinezkiwanis.org

[You can find this newsletter on the website](#)

Officers 2025-2026

President **Steve Francis**

President-Elect **Connie Chapman**

Treasurer **Patty Winsor**

Secretary **Bob Braun**

Immediate Past President **Igor Skaredoff**

Directors-Trustees 2024-2026

Migs Carter

Dawn Manley

Maureen Cowger

Marylee Taylor

Directors-Trustees 2025-2027

John Noon

Donald Pallotta

Perry Picchi

Bill Patt

Committee Chairs

Bocce Capo **Les Johnson**

City Liasion **Donald Pallotta**

Chamber of Commerce Liasion **Phil & Michelle Harrington**

Community Grants **Donald Pallotta**

Centennial Grants **David Gerson, Steve Francis**

Dolly Parton Book Program **Susan France**

Safeway Food Bank Drive **David Gerson**

Loaves & Fishes **Maureen Cowger**

Meals on Wheels **Bill Patt**

Membership **Denis Smith**

See's Candies fundraiser **Patty Winsor, Maureen Cowger, Connie Chapman**

Service Leadership Programs (SLPs):

Alhambra High Key Club **Kristin Connelly**

College Park High Key Club **Denis Smith**

Scholarships **Carol Walsh**

Social Media/Promotion **Dawn**

Manley/Connie Chapman

Newsletter Editor **Tom Watrous**

Staff Photographer **Denis Smith**

Answers to Independence Quiz

1. July 2, 1776. The text of the declaration was adopted on July 4.
2. New York; they hadn't received instructions, but later joined
3. Richard Henry Lee of Virginia



Kiwanis Kalendar

Monthly Program Chair **Frank Hall** with **Denis Smith**

Th July 2 noon; club meeting: Invocation **Patty Winsor**, Program: House Meeting led by President **Steve Francis** and his Alaska trip

Sa July 4, 10am; Martinez Independence Day Parade, Main Street

Th July 9 noon; club meeting: Invocation **Gina Zagotta**, Program: David Benet of Mobility Matters

Board Meeting at 130 pm

Th July 16 noon; club meeting: Invocation **Bob Braun**; Program: Janessa Oriol, chief of staff for Congressman Mark DeSaulnier



Th July 16, 6pm: Kiwanis Day at the Sturgeon, Waterfront Park vs. Dublin Leprechauns

Th June 23 noon; club meeting, Invocation **Migs Carter**, Program: Key Club takeover, CPHS and AHS

Th July 30 noon; club meeting: Invocation **Connie Chapman**, Program: Dominic Aliano of Martinez Refining Co.

Meals on Wheels Drivers



July 7 **Don Sanders**

July 14 **Bill Patt**

July 21 **Bob Braun**

July 28 **Carol Walsh**

Kiwanians Celebrating...

Birthdays

July 2 **Mark Ross**

July 6 **Cathy Ivers**

July 8 **Tom Watrous**

Kiwanis Anniversaries

None

Wedding Anniversaries

none