

Kiwanis Community



Kiwanis® CLUB OF MARTINEZ

September 2026 Newsletter

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

Installation Dinner September 24

The 101st annual installation dinner of the Kiwanis Club of Martinez will be held Thursday, September 24, in the garden of Carrie and **Steve Francis**, 6713 Corte Poquita. Main course of ham and lasagna will be furnished; members sign up to bring appetizers, salads, side dishes or desserts. Main order of business is the swearing in of President **Connie Chapman** and her officers and board members for the coming fiscal year.

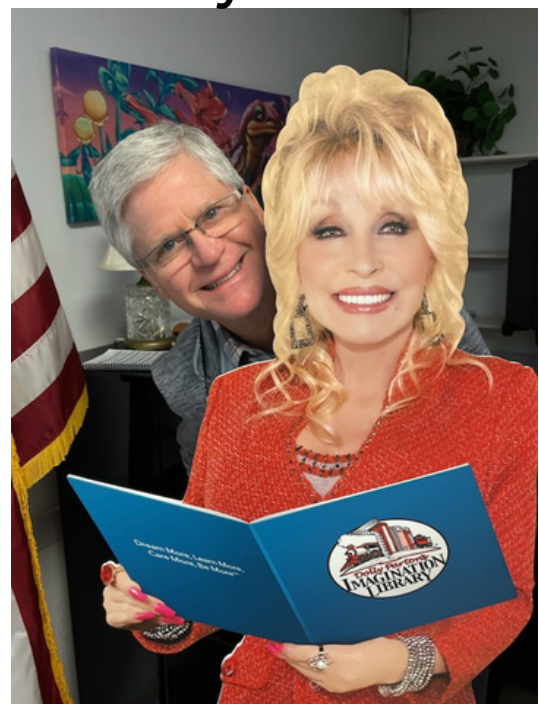
Here is the scene at last year's affair...



Members Voting on Change in Meal Charge

Members are currently voting whether to adopt a new meal charge and to elect whether to be a regular or service member. Meal charges would be reduced to \$17 for regular members, and would remain at \$20 for service members, if the change is approved. Get a ballot from treasurer Patty Winsor. The change would take effect October 1.

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Continues



Dolly has passed but her Imagination Library will continue, reports **Susan France**, our program coordinator. Susan says we are currently funding books to 195 children, and the program grows.

Get Ready.. Go 150 City Celebration

Add a little bit of body text



President Steve presents check to city Park & Rec's Eve Kearney to fund the climbing wall



A crew erects the new popup with our name and logo; **Tony Semenza** assembles it while **Jay Howard** holds it in place



Here is the climbing wall in action with several kids testing their skills



The popup tent at the Sesquicentennial Festival served to advertize our club and provide shelter for a large crew of Kiwanians including **Casey Rose, Donald Pallotta** and **Jane Schumer**

Frank Walsh Scholar Visits Club

Kirby Davoren, 2026 winner of the Frank Walsh academic scholarship, visited the club recently. He excelled academically, placing fifth in his class and starred on the water polo team. He told us he plans to attend UC Santa Barbara, major in physics, and pursue a career in the energy sector. He is pictured with his mother, Alhambra HS librarian Mary Rittenhouse and scholarship committee chair **Carol Walsh**.



A Big Grant and Recent Programs



Loaves & Fishes accepts our \$50,000 centennial grant to help build a new kitchen in Antioch that will serve all its dining rooms, including 30% to Martinez. President **Steve Francis**, fundraiser **David Gerson**, co-executive directors Janette Kennedy and Joleen Lafayette, and board member **Jay Howard** (L to R) do the honors.



Andrea Hand and **Denis Smith** presented the annual youth protection guidelines in an informative program.



Claudia Mercier of Conta Costa Foster Friends spoke of her passion for foster children and families with program chair **Belma Mirvic**.



Councilmember **Satinder Malhi** shared history and traditions of his Sikh religion.



Our own **Roy Jeans** discussed the music of 1890 to 1920, an era that changed how we consume music, from Tin Pan Alley to live performance.

Kiwanians Invited to These Events

Joe DiMaggio

HOMETOWN HERO PROJECT



Dear Steve and the entire Kiwanis Club of Martinez,

On behalf of the entire Board of the Joe DiMaggio Hometown Hero Project, we want to extend our heartfelt thanks for your generous \$10,000 donation in support of our “**Welcome to Historic Martinez**” mural, which we are pleased to report is now complete.

Your contribution helped us to bring this meaningful tribute to life—honoring not only Joe DiMaggio’s extraordinary legacy, but also the spirit of community, perseverance and hometown pride that he represents. Because of supporters like you, this mural will stand as a lasting symbol of inspiration for generations to come and a point of pride for our community.

Please know how deeply we appreciate your support and belief in our mission. We invite you to celebrate with us at the mural’s dedication event scheduled for **Thursday, Sept. 17 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Hillside Tap Room** at 400 Ferry Street, Martinez. If you’re able to join us, please RSVP to (925) 788-8824. As a small token of our appreciation, we will be providing a free meal and drink for two.

Bob Cellini

President of the Joe DiMaggio Hometown Hero Project

ROCK OUT WITH ROTARY

SINGO



SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 19

**DOORS OPEN AT 6:00PM
GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
130 Muir Station Rd, Martinez**

PURCHASE TICKETS \$40 EACH
MartinezRotary.org

SCAN FOR TICKETS



Q: How does a printer make an insult? A: used ink (say it fast)

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 and Andrea Hand**
Scholarships **Carol Walsh**
Social Media/Promotion **Dawn Manley/Connie Chapman**
Newsletter Editor **Tom Watrous**
Staff Photographer **Denis Smith**



Kiwanis Kalendar

Monthly Program Chair **Roy Jeans**

Th Sep 3 noon; club meeting: Invocation **Susan France**,
Program: **Belma Mirvic** on her trip to Bosnia

Th Sep 10 noon; club meeting: Invocation **David Gerson**,
Program: Tom Greerty reminisces

Th Sep 17 noon; club meeting: Invocation **Noralea Gipner** ;
Program: Bruce Campbell

Th Sep 17 1:30pm Board Meeting at clubhouse

Th Sep 17 5-7pm Hillside Tap Room 400 Ferry, dedication
of "Welcome to Historic Martinez" mural; RSVP requested
(see flyer p.4)

Sat Sep 19 6pm; Rock Out with Rotary (see details p.4)

Th Sep 24 5:30 pm Installation Dinner at Francis' (see
story p.1); Invocation **Frank Hall**. No noon meeting

Meals on Wheels Drivers



Sep 1 **Perry Picchi**
Sep 8 **Bob Braun**
Sep 15 **Carol Walsh**
Sep 22 **Laurie Pittman**
Sep 29 **Perry Picchi**

Kiwanians Celebrating...



Birthdays

Sep 12 **Les Johnson**
Sep 12 **Igor Skaredoff**
Sep 13 **Barbara Smith**

Wedding Anniversaries

Sep 14, 1963 Ann & **Tom Watrous**
Sep 20, 2008 Lindsay & **Don Sanders**
Sep 27, 2013 Nancy & **Kris Koller**

Kiwanis Anniversaries

Sep 3, 2009 **Roy Jeans**
Sep 12, 2014 **David Gerson**
Sep 20, 2018 **Barbara Smith**
Sep 25, 1980 **Tom Watrous**