

# Kiwanis Community



## Kiwanis® CLUB OF MARTINEZ

### June 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 Awards Scholarships



The Kiwanis Club of Martinez awarded a total of \$12000 worth of scholarships to graduating seniors at the Alhambra High School awards night May 26. Photos (thanks to Sheila and **Donald Pallotta**) and brief biographies of the winners are on page 2.

The **Frank Walsh** academic scholarship, named in honor of the educator and longtime Kiwanian, \$2000 renewable for four years, was presented by his widow **Carol Walsh**. The scholar is selected by the AHS staff.

The visual and performing arts and vocational scholarships, each \$1000, were presented by President **Steve Francis**.

The **Maurice Huguet** Family scholarships, named after the longtime Kiwanian and school board member, were presented by his children Mike Huguet and Michele Tornaghi. Two scholarships of \$1000 each are funded by the Huguet family and administered by the Martinez Kiwanis Foundation.

All except the Frank Walsh scholarship are chosen from written applications submitted by the students, by a club scholarship committee: **Carol Walsh**, chair, **Dawn Manley**, **Donald Pallotta**, **Bill Patt** and **Tom Watrous**.

## Kiwanis News in a Nutshell



A \$10000 centennial grant to Bullpup Music Boosters for repair and maintenance of musical instruments used by a growing number of junior high school students was approved by club members...

Members willing to serve as officers and board members are being sought by the nominating committee; contact **Connie Chapman** before she contacts you...

A member who takes home excess food reminds fellow members that the jar you see on the kitchen table is there to defray the cost of the food; there is no free food...

Christmas in July is coming soon, says Santa's helper **Perry Picchi**, who will tell us what toys for kids in hospitals need...

Three teams of Kiwanians and friends will play in the annual Colombo Club bocce tournament June 13 and hope to win the big salami...

A club Fourth of July Parade entry is being assembled and volunteers are needed to walk Main Street; here is your chance for a brief moment of fame...

The TV monitors in the remodeled clubhouse are being put to good use--time to ditch the songbooks?

# The 2026 Kiwanis Scholarship Winners

Here are the recipients of the 2026 Kiwanis scholarships. Photos are courtesy of **Donald** and Sheila **Pallotta**. The text is taken from applications submitted by the students several months ago.

## **Frank Walsh Academic Kirby Davoren**



Kirby ranked 5<sup>th</sup> academically in his class, held a leadership role on the water polo and swim teams, volunteered for the Martinez Historical Society and plans to attend UCSB to study mechanical engineering and physics and a career in the energy sector

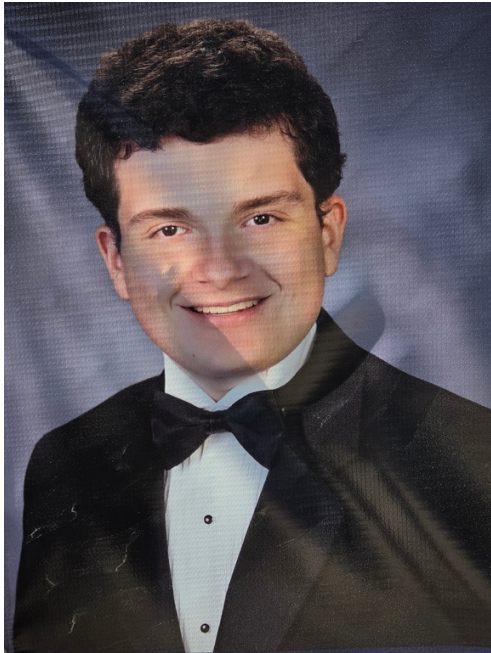
## **Huguet Family Letitia Torres del Valle**



Letitia, who has always loved pets, has worked in an animal shelter and is headed to Oregon State to study animal science and prepare for a career as a veterinarian.

Jack placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in his class, was a Key Club member and concert master of school and youth orchestras, played golf and was in the Civil Air Patrol and plans to study aerospace engineering. with a career goal of space exploration.

## **Visual/Performing Arts Benjamin Williams**



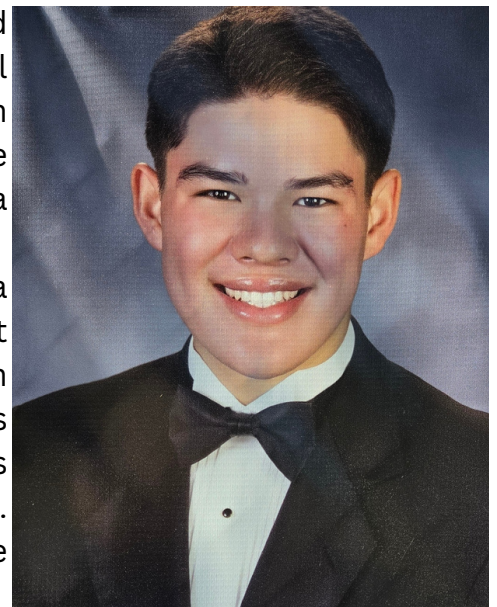
Benjamin, ranked 11<sup>th</sup> in his class, has appeared as lead in many school and professional productions, plays percussion in concert band, has a “commanding presence” and is headed to a UC school to major in theater and then on to Broadway

## **Vocational Jalisa Martinez**



Jalisa has overcome several personal challenges to become a high school graduate, studied anatomy and physiology, played flag football, and is headed to cosmetology school to become a beautician

## **Huguet Family Jack Williams**



# Our Grantees Tell Their Plans

Grantees of our annual community grant program visit us to tell how our grant supports their programs



Diablo Day Camp's Lynn Sanford told us about the summer camp for girls operated by volunteers at the Girl Scout's Twin Canyon property in Lafayette



Janice Quek Collins of AHS Career and College Center told us how our grant helps students with post graduate planning



Our own **Dawn Manley** accepts a grant check for her employer Food Bank of Contra Costa-Solano and showed us graphically how they serve all of northern California



Mark Thompson of John Muir Association told us that our grant will enable more children to attend the summer Mountain Day Camp



Michele Leporini of Meals on Wheels thanks us for our financial support and our volunteer drivers



Ellen Concepcion and Nicola Elliott of New Leaf Collaborative thank us for our grant that supports their EcoKids summer workshops



# More Grantees, Programs and an Interclub

Diane Beck of Diablo Regional Concert Band thanks the club for its grant and invites us to the Band's concert on June 6 at John Muir NHS ( see flyer opposite)



Tony Semenza, dynamic executive director of CAER(CommunityAwareness+Emergency Response) told us about his organization's goal to protect the public during emergencies and urged us to sign up with the community warning system ([cwsalert.com](http://cwsalert.com))



Leona Patterson and her intake coordinator of Cat Chillin' Zone not only accepted our grant but were the program explaining their home for senior cats



Rafael Martinez accepts a grant for the CheckIn Project which he founded to prevent suicide



Seven fellow Kiwanians from the San Ramon Valley club visited our club on May 28, reviving a Kiwanis tradition of interclub visits. Anyone interested in visiting other clubs?



# Kiwanis Club of Martinez

750 Allen St., P.O. Box 1886, Martinez CA 94553, [www.martinezkiwanis.org](http://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**



## Kiwanis Kalendar

Monthly Program Chair **Marylee Taylor**

**Th June 4** noon; club meeting: Invocation **John Surges**, Program: Chris & Teri Wills "Birds from Pole to Pole"

**Sa June 6**, 1pm; Diablo Regional Concert Band at John Muir NHS ( see flyer on p.4)

**Th June 11** noon; club meeting :Invocation **Marylee Taylor**, Program: Tom Taylor songs with singalong; Board Meeting at 130 pm

**Sa June 13**, 9am; Colombo Club bocce tournament at MBF courts

**Th June 18** noon; club meeting: Invocation **Carol Walsh**, Program: Oral Histories of former Kiwanians **Barbara Kapsalis** and **Paul Kraintz**

**Th June 25** noon; club meeting, Invocation **Tom Watrous**, Program: **David Gerson** on Passover and other Jewish traditions



## Meals on Wheels Drivers

June 2 **Bob Braun**

June 9 **Carol Walsh**

June 16 **Laurie Pittman**

June 23 **Perry Picchi**

June 30 **Mark Ross**

## Kiwanians Celebrating...

### Birthdays

June 8 **Connie Chapman**

June 13 **Steve Francis**

June 20 **Gina Zagotta**

June 20 **Jay Howard**

June 29 **Bill Patt**

### Kiwanis Anniversaries

6/13/1985 **Steve Francis**

41 years

6/26/2014 **Gina Zagotta**

12 years

### Wedding Anniversaries

6/2/95 Stacii and **David Gerson**

6/14/64 Shirley and **Igor Skaredoff**

6/24/67 John and **Laurie Pittman**