

Kiwanis Community



Kiwanis® CLUB OF MARTINEZ

August 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 Joins City's 150 Festival

The Kiwanis Club of Martinez is joining the sesquicentennial Festival August 29 celebrating the 150th anniversary of incorporation of the City of Martinez. We will provide a climbing wall as part of the Kid Zone. Details below...



Club elects 26-28 Officers/Directors

Club members elected a slate of officers and directors for the coming years at its July 30 meeting. Officers elected for one year terms beginning October 1 are **Connie Chapman**, president; **Dawn Manley**, preident elect; **Bob Braun** and **Jane Schumer**, co-secretaries; and **Patty Winsor**, treasurer.

Directors elected for 2 year terms beginning October 1 are **Phil Harrington**, **Jay Howard**, **Jane Schumer** and **Marylee Taylor**.

Directors coninuing the second year of their terms are **John Noon**, **Donald Pallotta**, **Bill Patt** and **Perry Picchi**.

Members Approve Large Loaves & Fishes Grant

Members of the Martinez Kiwanis Foundation on July 23 approved a \$50,000 centennial grant to help Loaves and Fishes build a new kitchen. L&F have undertaken a capital campaign to pay for a new facility to serve 9000 meals a day at its 5 dining halls and mobile van; 30% of the meals are delivered at the Martinez dining hall. Kiwanis will be recognized as a major contributor to the campaign. The grant is the largest yet approved as part of the club's centennial program. The check will be presented at a future meeting.

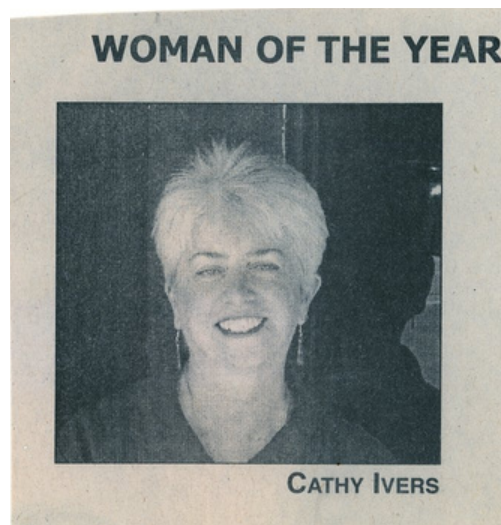
Welcoming New Members Cathy and Tony

Two new members were inducted into the Kiwanis Club of Martinez at its July 23 meeting. Sponsor **Donald Pallotta** introduced **Cathy Ivers** and **Tony Semenza** to us, but they needed little introduction: Cathy is a former member and served two consecutive terms as president, and Tony recently presented a program on CAER (Community Awareness Emergency Response). Please note that Tony dressed formally for the occasion. President **Steve Francis** formally inducted them.

Cathy is retired from community relations at Shell and was Woman of the Year 2007 and Kiwanian of the Year 2008. Tony is a former refinery fire chief and recently retired as executive director of CAER.

Pictured below are Tony giving his recent talk to the club, Cathy's Gazette photo and getting "pinned" as president by former Lt. Governor Sandra Hall.

These inductions are part of six new members welcomed this fiscal year.



A BIG THANK YOU to the crew that finished decorating the remodeled club house by hanging pictures and banners, organizing the closets and the storage room. We're moved in! Also, another BIG THANK YOU to **Kris Koller** for providing and installing the sound bars on the TV monitors.

Kiwanis Shines in 4th of July Parade

Our club proudly marched in the annual Martinez 4th of July parade, marking the semiquincentennial of the Declaration of Independence, the sesquicentennial of the City and the centennial of the club. Our “float” was assembled by Les Johnson, decorated by a crew of volunteers and accompanied by marchers carrying the club’s 100 year banners: we made our presence known.

Pictured below are the “float” on Main Street and President **Steve** and Carrie **Francis** riding in back. Further below see **Dawn Manley** and **Roy Jeans** walking with the banners (take a look at Roy’s patriotic pants) and Les driving with **Maureen Cowger** riding shotgun.



Sturgeon Baseball Becomes a Marathon

Kiwanis Day at the Sturgeon was held on July 16 and a good crowd of Kiwanians turned out to see baseball, and Phil Harrington threw out the first pitch. But baseball became a marathon as the game lasted eleven innings with the score tied 11-11 after 4 hours 25 minutes. The game was interrupted in the bottom of the first inning when a flock of Canada geese landed in left field and took considerable persuasion before leaving. John and PJ Noon reportedly stayed for the whole marathon. So neither the local Sturgeon nor the Dublin Leprechauns won, but Kiwanis did.

Recent Programs



Program chair **Frank Hall** introduces Janessa Oriol, chief of staff for Congressman Mark Desaulnier, described the services her office provides for citizens

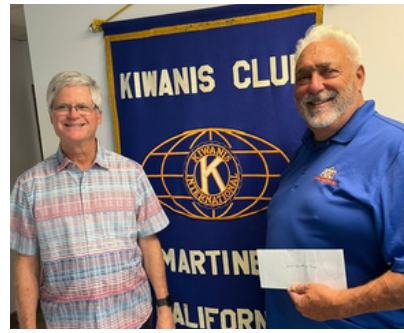


David Benet, a San Ramon Valley Kiwanian who manages Mobility Matters, described its free door to door transit service for qualifying seniors and veterans



Three College Park HS Key Club officers took over our meeting and gave an informative power point and video description of Key Club, the largest teen leadership organization in the world

Grantees Tell Us Their Plans



Ken Cheda, director of Opportunity Camp, which has provided a summer camp for disadvantaged children aged 8-14 for 46 years



Diane Coventry of AAUW with four campers from a recent Tech Trek session at Sonoma State, who described in words and pictures their participation in the STEM immersion program sponsored by AAUW



Andy Dunn, development manager for Cancer Support Community, which provides support for persons living with cancer



Michelle Grant of Center of Gravity which provides STEM based programs in Pleasant Hill for 2-6 year olds where play is the ultimate research.

Events of Interest to Kiwanians

18TH ANNUAL WINE EVENT
FEATURING CRAFT BEER

in participation with the Martinez Lions Club, Rotary Club of Martinez, the Martinez Women's Club, The Lady Lions, and Kiwanis to benefit

THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF CONTRA COSTA

Enjoy an afternoon with friends and fellow Club supporters sampling a variety of fine wines and craft beer, along with a silent auction and homemade hors d'oeuvres and desserts.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22, 2026
4-6PM
THANK YOU TO
MARJ AND MARK LEEDS
FOR GENEROUSLY HOSTING

\$65 TICKETS FOR 21 AND UP
FOR TICKETS, CALL 925-209-4947



IN LOVING MEMORY OF



Randal Scott Smith

Memorial Service
Saturday, August 8 at 1pm
Reception Following



105 Aspen Dr
Pacheco, CA 94553



Another Interesting Program



Dominic Aliano of Martinez Refining Company presented a provocative and detailed description of what MRC does, its impact on the area, and its tenuous future. Although it is one of only two refineries in the Bay Area (in the past there were seven), and it supplies a large proportion of jet fuel to local airports, it is heavily regulated and now must import most of its crude oil (the pipeline from San Joaquin oil fields has been shut down). He could not predict how long the refinery could remain in business.

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 **Belma Mirvic**

Th Aug 6 noon; club meeting: Invocation **Kristin Connelly**,
Program: annual Youth Services training with **Monica Willemsz** and **Andrea Hand**

Sat Aug 8, 1pm: service for Randy Smith, Jane Schumer's son, Casey Rose' brother, Gospel Light Church, 105 Aspen Dr., Pacheco (see flyer p. 5)

Mon Aug 10 5pm; Board meeting, place TBD

Aug 13-15, CNH Kiwanis District Education Convention, Sparks, Nevada

Th Aug 13 noon; club meeting: Invocation **Maureen Cowger** Program: Claudia Mercier of Contra Costa Foster Friends

Th Aug 20 noon; club meeting: Invocation **Lara Delaney** ;
Program: Councilmember Satinder Malhi on the Sikh faith and practices

Sat Aug 22 4-6pm: Boys & Girls Club wine event (see flyer p.5)

Th Aug 27 noon; club meeting, Invocation **Steve Francis**,
Program: **Belma Mirvic** on her trip to Bosnia

Aug 29, 11-7pm City of Martinez Sesquicentennial at Waterfront Park (see article p.1)

Meals on Wheels Drivers



Aug 4 **Carol Walsh**
Aug 11 **Bill Patt**
Aug 18 **Mark Ross**
Aug 25 **Don Sanders**

Kiwanians Celebrating...

Birthdays

August 28 **Donald Pallotta**
August 29 **Phil Harrington**

Wedding Anniversaries

8/13/1983 Sheila and **Donald Pallotta**

Kiwanis Anniversaries

8/4/2010 **Marylee Taylor**
8/14/1986 **Les Johnson**