

Kiwanis Community

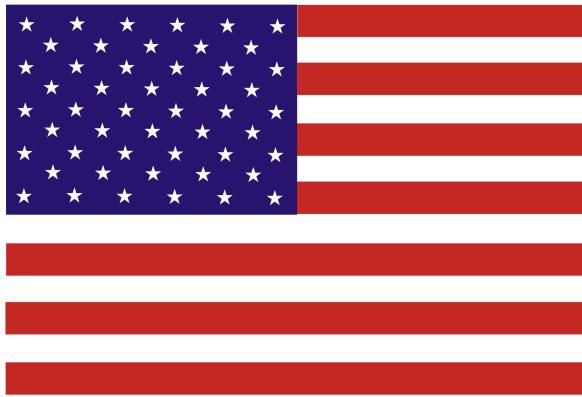


Kiwanis® CLUB OF MARTINEZ

January 2026 Newsletter

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

2026-A YEAR OF ANNIVERSARIES



Three Important Dates

2026 will be a year to celebrate anniversaries. The Kiwanis Club of Martinez will celebrate its centennial on April 15, 2026, 100 years after the club was chartered by Kiwanis International.

The City of Martinez will celebrate its sesquicentennial on April 1, 2026, 150 years after its incorporation as a California city. A commemoration of the event will occur at a City Council meeting on that date, but a bigger celebration is being planned for August 29 at the marina.

A semiquincentennial celebration of the declaration of independence of the United States of America will occur on July 4, 2026, 250 years after the promulgation of the declaration (the declaration was actually approved by the second continental congress on July 2, 1776).

Centennial Grants

Focus on Home

Centennial grants to mark the club's 100th birthday now focus on the club's home, the Kiwanis Youth Center. Members have already approved phase 1 improvements (mostly cabinetry) and will be asked to approve phase 2 (mostly flooring) at the January 8 meeting. The City of Martinez, owner of the building, has agreed to fund the purchase of giant screen TVs for the clubhouse and recently painted the exterior.

More information, and pictures, about the centennial grant project appear on page 2.

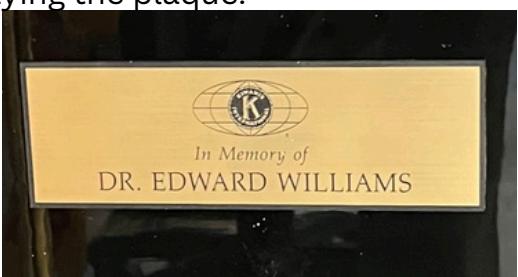
Please read the note from Treasurer Patty Winsor on page 2, and check to see if your name is listed for Invocation on the last page

Recent Programs

Our own David Gerson explained the history and traditions of Hanukkah, the Jewish holiday in December. Here he lights the menorah that commemorates the eight days of the holiday.



We dedicated the clubhouse piano to the memory of **Ed Williams**, a longtime Kiwanian who died in 2025. Ed and his wife Angie donated the piano to the club before his death. Here Angie stands by the piano displaying the plaque.



Important Note

The treasurer shows that the following members paid their dues via credit card. If your name is missing, and you paid your dues with a credit card, please contact Patty so she can make the correction

Members: **David, Dawn, Denis, Igor, Carol, Lara, Jane and Casey.**

More Centennial Grant



A check for \$10000 has been delivered to the Hometown Hero Project to help fund the mural across from the Amtrak station in downtown Martinez. Pictured above are **David Gerson** and **Steve Francis**, centennial grant co-chairs, handing the check to representatives of the project while wearing their "Joltin Joe" caps.



Here is the newly repainted clubhouse, built by the club's members in the 1950s and the club's home ever since. The building is owned by the City, leased to the club, and available for rent by the city when not used by the club.

Holiday Party Was Magical!



William Lewis entertained with magic and Jane loved it!



The club gathered for dinner and of course there was “carol” singing led by **Carol Walsh**.

Results of See's Candies Fundraiser 2025

The 25th annual See's Candies fundraiser is now history. Treasurer/fundraiser chair **Patty Winsor** has a tentative report on the financial results: total sales were \$58183, cost of goods sold \$40309, other expenses \$558, net profit \$17316. She reports that total sales were affected by the short selling period, and unsold candy to be sold at meetings starting January 8 and some future bank charges will affect the final figures.

This fundraiser would not be possible without the efforts of every member who pitched in staffing the retail schedule, setting up and taking down the store, and a big hand for **Patty**!

A new feature of the sales this year was the help of College Park Key Clubbers waving swinging signs to attract passersby; David and Lara (L) and Angelina and Kaitlyn(2nd from L) are pictured below. **Bob Braun** helped haul the store to the clubhouse and **Patty** shelved it.



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 Liason **Denis Smith**

Community Grants **Donald Pallotta**

Centennial Grants **David Gerson, Steve**

Francis

Dolly Parton Book Program **Frank Hall**

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

Program Chair **Igor Skardoff**

Jan. 8 Noon meeting: Invocation **Steve Francis**; official visit of Lt. Gov. **Cecilia Stone** and member vote on Centennial Grant clubhouse flooring, followed by

Jan. 8 1:30 pm Board meeting

Jan. 15 Noon meeting: Invocation **Susan France**, Program: **Igor** on “Growing Up Russian in Shanghai”

Jan. 21 6 pm Division Council Meeting (DCM)

Jan. 22 Noon meeting: Invocation **David Gerson**, Program: Bob Huttar of Friends of Alhambra Creek on arundo removal project

Jan. 29 Noon meeting: Invocation **Noralea Gipner**, Program: John Muir Association on revival of Mountain Day Camp

Kiwanians Celebrating...

Birthdays

1/13 **Laurie Pittman**

Kiwanis Anniversary

1/9/2014 **Maureen Cowger**

Wedding Anniversaries

None

Meals on Wheels Drivers



January 6 **Bill Patt**

January 13 **Bob Braun**

January 20 **Carol Walsh**

January 27 **Laurie Pittman**



Our condolences to **Susan France**, whose husband Carrol France passed away on December 10.