



# Kiwanis®

## CLUB OF GLENDALE



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Glendale KiwanisNews

December 8, 2023

2023-24

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**Laura Duncan**  
**John Juarez**  
**Rene Karapedian**  
**Savi Labensart**  
**Amy Taylor**

### Meetings

**December 8, 2023**  
**Program:** Music of the  
Holiday Season  
**Speaker:** Holy Family Grade  
School Chorus

**December 15, 2023**  
**Program:** Kiwanis Crazy  
Xmas Fiesta

**December 22, 2023**  
**\* Dark \***  
**Happy Holidays**

**Kiwanis Club of Glendale**  
**meets Fridays at**  
**12 noon**  
**at The Elks Lodge**  
**120 E. Colorado**  
**Glendale CA 91205**



**Lisa Brooks**  
Reporter

provided by the Elks Lodge and surrounded by good friends on the first day of the last month of the year. Not a bad place to be hanging out! See the beautifully lit Christmas tree at the front of the room flanked to the left by Santa Claus with a young girl holding a puppy on his shoulders, and to the right, Frosty the Snowman ready to sweep up the snow. True, we don't usually get snow in Glendale, as proven by **Page Whyte's** summer attire! But still, it's the feeling of Christmas. Though a smaller than usual crowd, all the best people showed up. **Susie Dell**.

**Cathy & Bob Keen. Karen & Mike Swan. Amy Taylor. Nancy Niebrugge.** And that was just at my table! Many other VIPs filled the room but I'm not naming names lest I forget someone. Before too long, the very capable **President Irma** took charge thanking her motley crew of helpers: **Richard Dell, Patricia Larrigan, Olesia Wojcieszyn, Claudia Syssock, and Bob Praun!**

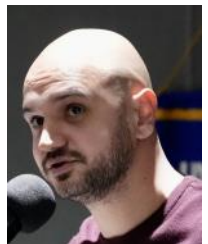


A lovely rendition of *America the Beautiful* was sung followed

by an inspirational pledge by Incoming President **Carl Povilaitis**, who informed us that former President Carter at this time in 1978 doubled the National Parks, the results of which we are all enjoying today! And guess who won the 50/50? **Bob Praun!** Well-deserved. We don't pay that man enough!

**President Irma** showed us a funny picture of her doing hard physical labor (sweeping) at the Habitat for Humanity event to prove to us that she's not afraid of getting dirty, although we already knew that! **Nancy Niebrugge** (not to be confused with **Laura Duncan**) inspired us, **Patricia Larrigan** bemoaned that PortalBuzz is going bye bye, but thanked **Gabriella Waterman** for helping her conquer the new system. There will be a gap, however, during which time we won't be able to send out mass emails to our fellow Kiwanians. What will we do with all that free time?

**Nzhde Avag-Petrosyan** proved to us that we can exercise wherever we are, and proceeded to lead us in a robust but seated routine, one that we can practice while we are eating our Turkey and Stuffing in the coming weeks! **Amy Taylor** did the guest introductions which was a good thing since there was only one guest--hers! Peter is an award-winning director and producer and soon to be working for the Boy Scouts! He lives in Burbank and his whole



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family are involved in scouting. We look forward to the day he joins Kiwanis!



**Fearless Finkelberg** told a joke about a 4-year-old on a construction site with a potty mouth. Hey, you had to be there!

No good will report today since everyone is doing well! Keep it up folks. December birthdays and anniversaries were celebrated with more singing, most notably the **First Gentleman Villegas's** birthday on December 31<sup>st</sup> making him a New Year's baby! Good going **Carlos!**

Great thanks to those who showed up to Autumn Hills making all the seniors very happy! And the guest chefs, too, at Ascencia who served a big hit pizza. **Liza Boubari** sent photos from the Cerritos K Kids where she helped out, and the K-Biz people had a great time. More guests are needed though so next year on January 24<sup>th</sup> (yes, really!) come and bring a guest. Has time gone by really, really fast this year, or is it just this reporter's imagination?

Lot of toy drives going on, most importantly, one that our own **Nzhde** is doing for Home Again LA with a December 9<sup>th</sup> deadline, and the Toy Drive for Kops for Kids also needs your support. Help ring those bells for the Salvation Army on the 9<sup>th</sup> and the 16<sup>th</sup> in hour increments. See **Richard Dell** and **Bruce Hinckley** for more info. Or how about a ride in the Rose Float? **Patricia Larrigan** will tell you how.



**President Irma** called on **Paulette Wood** to tell us why she joined Kiwanis 35 years ago. **Paulette** told us how women were not so accepted back then, but she didn't let that stop her. She was honored to be part of the first group of women to join, along with Mary Hamilton and others. She is proud to be the longest serving active female member of Glendale Kiwanis, and we are proud to call her one of our own!



During the fine period we learned that Katy who helps serve us at the Elks Lodge is leaving to go into a five-month academy for officers in the Sheriff's Department. Well done, Katy!

We will miss you. **Dave Greenbaum** paid for having his car stolen from his *secure* building, and for the Glendora police arresting the woman who got a prison sentence for that and other crimes, as well as paying full restitution! What goes around comes around!



The program speaker was **Dr. Laura Duncan**. She started off by acknowledging how many people mix up her and **Nancy Niebrugge**, even when they are wearing their correct name badges, although sometimes, like naughty identical twins, they purposely switch them!

**Laura** spoke about her colorful family background



(musical theater, flight attendants, published author, Air Force and much more) and how it informed her empathy for others and her life-long career helping the most vulnerable.

**Laura** excelled in sports, music and fixing things, but her true passion was making a difference in other people's lives. She has surely done that, both in her personal life as foster parent with her partner of 6 special needs children. Not only is she the Executive Director of Ascencia, she also manages rental property in Orange County where she lives, and is passionate about animal rights and art! During Q & A she was asked about her PhD Dissertation topic (Childhood traumas and how they correlate to subsequent mental health issues) and whether benefits for mentally ill Veterans have decreased (It has gone up!) and growing homelessness of college students. (True.) She pointed out that older adults in their 70s to 90s are the fastest growing homeless population because they are on fixed incomes and if something goes wrong (onset of dementia, financial abuse, often by family members, and other unexpected crises) things can quickly spiral out of control. Those who are homeless are not different from the rest of us. (i.e., it could happen to any of us.) The good news is that Ascencia has expanded its footprint under **Dr. Duncan's** leadership with 15 consultants, \$5.9M budget, 61 staff and 25 board members. The Glendale shelter now has 45 beds and works with five area hospitals. To date they have permanently housed 153 people and the good news is that the retention rate of those who stay housed is 90 to 95%!



At the end of the meeting, after the announcement of next week's program (The Holy Family Choir) and Hail Kiwanis, this reporter was so moved, she went up to **Dr. Laura Duncan** to thank her for her fascinating presentation. Guess what? It was **Nancy Niebrugge!**

*Hail Kiwanis!*



### KIWANIS KALENDAR

**December 9**—Salvation Army Bell Ringing, Ralphs LaCrescenta

**December 16**—Salvation Army Bell Ringing, Ralphs LaCrescenta

**December 22**—\*\* Dark \*\* - Happy Holidays

## Cheerful Kiwanians With A Happy Holiday Spirit



**Sponsors** are randomly selected by the Publisher each week from the Kiwanis membership. If all five posted sponsors are present at the meeting on the date of the newsletter, the President pays a \$20 fine. If no posted sponsors attend the meeting, each member in attendance pays a \$1 fine (members only, no guests). The collected funds go into our Club account to offset Administrative expenses .

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*Merry Christmas  
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### OBJECTIVES OF KIWANIS

- To give primacy to the human and spiritual rather than to the material values of life.
  - To encourage the daily living of the Golden Rule in all human relationships.
- To promote the adoption and the application of higher social, business, and professional standards.
  - To develop, by precept and example, a more intelligent, aggressive, and serviceable citizenship.
- To provide, through Kiwanis clubs, a practical means to form enduring friendships, to render altruistic service, and to build better communities.
  - To cooperate in creating and maintaining that sound public opinion and high idealism which make possible the increase of righteousness, justice, patriotism and good will.