

# KIWANIS CLUB LA CAÑADA LA CRESCENTA-AM June 19, 2024



## 2023-2024 Officers

### President

Chris Ecker

### President-Elect

Christie Crahan

### Vice-President

### Treasurer

Martha Burns

### Secretary

Rosemary Hook

### Immediate Past President

Joe Thompson

[www.lcfkiwanisam.org](http://www.lcfkiwanisam.org)

[LCLCKiwanisAM@outlook.com](mailto:LCLCKiwanisAM@outlook.com)

**Fiscal Year Oct 1-Sep 30**

**PO Box 1255**

**La Cañada, CA 91012**

**Wednesdays at 7:30 am  
LCIF Parish Hall or Zoom  
1700 Foothill Boulevard  
La Cañada, CA 91011**

**Mary O'Keefe  
Breakfast & Tour  
Firehouse @ St. Luke's Church**



## **NEXT MONTH AT A GLANCE... ZOOM or IN-PERSON**

### **Pledge/Flag Salutes:**

6/26/24 – Tom Petersmeyer

7/03/24 – Dick Barley

7/10/24 – Barbie Eland

7/17/24 – Chuck Hughes

### **Inspiration:**

6/26/24 – Insook Park

7/03/24 – Cindy Bradford

7/10/24 – Salli Dokko

7/17/24 – Rosemary Hook

### **Song Leader:**

6/26/24 – Brian Hummel

7/03/24 – Christie Crahan

7/10/24 – Brian Hummel

7/17/24 – Christie Crahan

### **Announcements:**

- **Kiwanis One Day (6/26/24)** – Collect plastic grocery bags to donate to the Bailey Center, which was an idea of Marilyn Cable. **Bring them to the meeting on June 26<sup>th</sup>**, we will fold and organize all the bags and deliver them to the Bailey Center. If you are willing to deliver them to the Bailey Center after the project, let Cindy know.



**NEXT MEETING at Church Fellowship Hall & ZOOMED on June 26<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30am PST.**

**Come chat at 7am. Zoom meeting ID is 81544355138 and passcode is 505812**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81544355138?pwd=eDBvZmhMcng5NGV6dXBGQVN0NGhMZZ09>

**Next week (6/26) our program is: Service Project: Bags for the Bailey Center.**

### **Monthly Events:**

**Club Board Meeting**-7:30 am, 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month (except on holidays then 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday) at small room near Parish Hall or Zoom.

**Division 3 (DCM) Board Meeting**-5:30 pm, 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month at the Elks Lodge, 120 E Colorado St, Glendale

### **KEY CLUB/BUILDERS CLUB MEETINGS**

**St. Bede Builders Club**-12:15pm, 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday, at Parish Center with Glory Williams.

**Rosemont Builders Club**-12:30 pm, 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday in Multi-purpose Rm with Jessica Cole.

**St. Francis HS Key Club**-11:45 am, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday, Rm #104 with Patrick Davitt and DARK during the holiday season and summer months.

**Franklin Key HS Club**-12:22 pm, every Tuesday, Rm #530, with Davy Mouremann and DARK during the holiday season and summer months.

**Crescenta Valley HS Key Club**-12:17 pm, every Tuesday, Rm #7205, or North Gym with Saul Sheridan and DARK during the holiday season and summer months.

**Clark Magnet HS Key Club**-11:50 am on odd-dated Wednesday, Rm #5215 with Ms. Mardirosian and DARK during the holiday season and summer months.

**Village Christian HS Key Club**-12:30pm, once a month on Thursday, Rm #B-2 with Ms. Lilit Vartanian and DARK during the holiday season and summer months.

### **Programs/Speakers:**

**06/26/24 - Service Project: Bags for the Bailey Center food pantry.**

**If you want to deliver all the bags to Bailey Center let Cindy know.**

**07/03/24 – Service Project: Snack Bags for Ascencia emergency shelter.**

**If you want to be the shopper OR deliver to Ascencia let Cindy know.**

**07/10/24 - ?**

**07/13/24 – Our Club recognition award from Ascencia @ 2-4 pm at Elks Lodge. Cindy will RSVP for our group this Friday, and we have 1 more space available so please let her know (818-421-2177) if you want to join us. Attendees: Dick & Evelyn Barley, Cindy Bradford, Martha Burns, Christie Crahan, Chuck Hughes, Insook Park, Joe & Lynne Thompson.**

**07/17/24 - ?**

**07/24/24 – Friends in Deed, Tim Nistler**

**07/31/24 - ?**

**ZOOM PROBLEMS: If you get booted out JUST go here and log back on.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81544355138?pwd=eDBvZmhMcng5NGV6dXBGQVN0NGhMZz09>

**Newsletter:** Zoom Operators: **N/A** Editor/Photos/Web: **Cindy Bradford**

### **THIS PAST WEEK...**

**Members in Attendance: 11 members & 3 guests in-person.**

**Guests: Mary O'Keefe, Evelyn Barley, Barbara Gibson**

**Birthdays: Tom Petersmeyer (6/18)**

**Anniversaries: Dick & Evelyn Barley (6/23)**

### **H.A.M.S.:**

**Dick Barley** – In celebration of their 62<sup>nd</sup> anniversary, he gave a \$62 donation today!

**Scholarship Dinner:**~ A note from Christie Crahan ~

Our club once again held its sixth annual Scholarship Dinner. This year the club was thrilled to award ten scholarships totaling nearly \$10,000. Recipients and their parents were treated to a lasagna dinner and festive cake as each student was personally honored with a recognition of their individual accomplishments orchestrated by Ms. Elaine Harada with each student being presented with a certificate, lawn sign and check. Parents were extremely appreciative to be included in the celebration. Looking on with great admiration of the students many accomplishments were our Kiwanis members. Tables were decorated with a red, white, and blue theme in honor of flag day. Center pieces were provided by Chuck & Susan, who personally sponsored a scholarship for community college bound seniors. Other scholarships recognized students involved with ROTC, Scouting, and Key Club. Thanks go to Joe Thompson and Dick Barley for heading the official welcoming committee, Lynne Thompson for providing soft drinks, Elaine Harada for providing the cake, Brian and Marie for leading music, Barbie Eland for providing balloons, Insook Park for picking up and assembling lawn signs and general membership for coming together to decorate the hall, set the tables and serve dinner. Christie Crahan was the dinner chairman, Martha Burns wrote the checks, and Chris Ecker (President) officiated.





**Program / Speaker:**  
**Mary O'Keefe / Firehouse @ St. Luke's Church**

We enjoyed pancakes, sausage, coffee & fresh squeezed orange juice for breakfast this morning, what a special treat! The Firehouse is used as a meeting center and safe house for local middle schoolers and teens. The Firehouse is open on Wednesday mornings from 7-9 a.m., they serve a pancake breakfast once a week, on banking day, to middle schoolers who attend nearby Rosemont Middle School. This breakfast regularly serves over 100 students. On Thursday afternoons students can go there for free tutoring.

There is a cozy room with fireplace for general gathering, a game room, and another room in the back with lots of board games. This is a safe place for all students!

### HISTORY OF THE FIREHOUSE

The possibility of using the old Fire Station 19 that was on the lower end of the church's property as a youth center was proposed to the Diocese even before the church came back to the Episcopal's and the new minister, Fr. Bryan Jones, was officially named. The CV area had been suffering from a heroin epidemic months before the church changed hands. A teenager had died from an overdose, several others had been hospitalized. Burglaries were increasing and an increasing number of students were being expelled from school. All of this was something the community had not seen before, or since. The CV Drug and Alcohol Prevention Coalition was created by Glendale police officers, parents of kids who were addicted to heroin and a reporter who covered the increase in heroin use. The Coalition was divided into sections including law enforcement, counseling, parent education and youth. The youth leader gathered several teens together and asked them what they wanted, which was a place to just be kids. The youth committee chair, who was the reporter and a former member of St. Luke's congregation, reached out to St. Luke's to ask if they could use the small stone structure and if they would partner with the Coalition on a youth center. The Diocese was not only open to this idea but supported it. Fr. Jones got to work on his first day at St. Luke's with members of the youth and the Coalition. For several months the committee met with community leaders, teens, counselors, religious leaders at St. Luke's, law enforcement and the fire department. The Fire House opened nine years ago. Its rules have been made by the youth that attend. Over its history it has held several events for the community youth, including Girl Empowerment Day, college nights, resumé building, and art classes.



As a mission of St. Luke's of the Mountains, the Fire House has been able to reach kids that normally would not enter a church, or even a youth center. The youth center has been a place where kids feel safe, and in fact was the first Safe Place in La Crescenta. Safe Place is a nationwide program that helps kids who are in immediate need. The mentors at the Fire House have partnered with law enforcement, the fire department, Glendale school district, veterans, Boy and Girl Scouts, and many more in the community on a variety of events. But the most important

function of the Fire House is to be a place where kids can feel safe and not judged. When the school district had proposed to no longer have open lunch, meaning kids had to stay on campus,



many kids did not agree that would be the best choice. The Fire House invited the Asst. Superintendent of Schools to a meeting and over 150 kids came with google maps and a lot of research to make their case. They did and the school campus is still open during lunch. A survey after the discussion showed that kids felt their views had been respected by the Fire House mentors and felt safe to face the school's administrators without fear.

It is that type of self-esteem building the Fire House has worked toward. Soon after the Fire House opened its doors, the Coalition changed leadership and they no longer supported the youth center. It was picked up by the former member of St. Luke's and mentors from the community who volunteered hours every week to keep the youth center open.

A member from St. Luke's congregation had heard that a church that hosted special needs students from 18 to 26 years old in a church youth group was closing. The member immediately offered to open the Fire House for this amazing group of young adults that are now called the Cool Group. These kids are Fire House kids. They are recognized by mentors and kids, and all are accepted.



One of the highlights of the Fire House came from a group of Fire House skaters. They complained they had been stereotyped and wanted the community to see they weren't bad kids but just liked skateboarding. Mentors at the Fire House asked them what they wanted; they said their own Crescenta Valley skate park. From that point on they formed a committee, the leaders reached out to the community getting letters of support from the Town Council, Chambers and Shopping Parks. They worked with the LA County Parks and Recreation and the Supervisor's office. They held community meetings, created a written plan, went to every skate park in LA and Ventura Counties and designed their park. It took several years, and the kids never gave up but, in the end, the LA Parks and Rec was awarded \$1.2 million dollars and the skate park, the Fire House kids designed was built. It is at the CV Park and is very popular.



That is what the Fire House does best. Kids are part of every decision made at the Fire House. They are respected and heard, and always know that the mentors have their back.

The Fire House is planning more events like Resumé Building night, partnering with Crescenta Valley High School PTSA, and a Girl Empowerment Day. The youth center is also responding to a request from a high school freshman and planning a spiritual night to add to its schedule.

