

KIWANIS CLUB LA CAÑADA LA CRESCENTA-AM March 5, 2025



2024-2025 Officers

President

Christie Crahan

President-Elect

Vice-President

Treasurer

Martha Burns

Secretary

Rosemary Hook (assistant)

Immediate Past President

Chris Ecker

<https://www.lcfkiwanisam.org>

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

LCF Sister Cities Vicki Schwartz & Tamar Tujan



NEXT MONTH AT A GLANCE...

ZOOM or IN-PERSON

Pledge/Flag Salutes:

03/12/25 – Dick Barley

03/19/25 – John Ryan

03/26/25 – n/a

04/02/25 – Barbie Eland

04/09/25 – Brian Hummel

Inspiration:

03/12/25 – Christie Crahan

03/19/25 – Joy Gibson

03/26/25 – n/a

04/02/25 – Rosemary Hook

04/09/25 – Dick Barley

Song Leader:

Brian Hummel





President's Announcements: Christie Crahan

- A tradition continued, our club donated \$100 to the Kiwanis Children's Fund in Dani Hydar's memory.
- Christie will attend the Kiwanis DCM meeting on Monday, March 10th in Glendale. If you are interested in joining her, please let her know.
- Our next Board Meeting is on Monday, March 31st @ 6:30 pm. A potluck dinner at Christie's house. New members working on their turkey badge tasks are welcome to come to this meeting, or any board meeting if this date does not work for you. RSVP to Christie. All club members are always welcome to submit topics for discussion.
- Scholarship Dinner is on Wed. April 16 @ 5:30 pm for members. Guests arrive at 6pm. We need helpers! Christie has a volunteer sign-up sheet so let her know if you can help.
- Reminder when you leave the weekly meeting, put chairs under the table, any trash in the waste can, turn in your name tag.

Kiwanis Announcements:

- Field trip: 90-minute tour in Sylmar on Wed. March 26 at 10am to visit the Guide Dogs of America (for blind, visually impaired, and autistic people). **Let Cindy know if you are meeting us there OR interested in carpooling from the church.** She will arrange drivers / passengers ahead of time so let her know if you can be a driver (how many passengers you can take). Carpooling group will meet at the church at 9:15 am and leave promptly to get there on time. See flyer attached.
- Jack Labrie gave a generous \$500 to create an academic scholarship for a young adult receiving services from the Journey House in Pasadena. We had the Journey House as a guest speaker back in November, and we were all very impressed with the services they provide for young adults aged out of the foster system. Jack asked our Board to match his donation, and it was approved ... so our club is giving a **\$1,000 Journey House scholarship** this year. The case manager will select the recipient, and that person will be invited to our scholarship dinner. I had the pleasure of calling the case manager today, and she is THRILLED that our club is doing this! <https://www.journeyhouseyouth.org>

H.A.M.S.:

Martha Burns: \$5 in appreciation of Vicki Schwartz quickly accepting the invitation to be our guest speaker today, on very short notice! Another **\$5** in excitement for her trip to Colorado to see family & friends!

Joy Gibson: \$1 to entertain us with his weekly joke! Today was about a 70-year-old widow's stay at a hotel ... funny!

Insook Park: \$10 to celebrate her grandson's 1st birthday party with 45 family & friends. Korean custom is to set out a bunch of items that each symbolize different things, the item chosen by the one-year-old is meant to predict something specific. Her grandson selected a pen, which means his future may include being a successful writer. So interesting!

Brian Hummel: \$5 in celebration of his granddaughter, Holly's 5th birthday on March 7th.

Christie Crahan: \$5 because she feels bad that she forgot to do the food run yesterday, another **\$5** in appreciation that yesterday's food was included in today's food run for Bailey Center, and **\$5** more for her enjoyment at a recent conference.

Chris Ecker: \$5 for a big raccoon that visited his home, thankfully only looked in window!

Vicki Schwartz (guest speaker): **\$5** for 5 hugs that Martha will give her niece (Vicki's dear friend) in Colorado.



Other Announcements:

- **Martha Burns** announced that the “Les Tupper Community Service Awards” event will be Monday April 7 at 7pm at Flintridge Prop auditorium. Nomination forms will be available soon online at <http://lcfcc.info>. Also, the noon Kiwanis are accepting applications for “La Canadian of the Year”. Nomination forms can be picked up at the LCF Chamber of Commerce counter in City Hall or application submittal forms may be requested by emailing Joe Radabaugh LCOY@lacanadakiwanis.org.
- Our next service project is during our meeting on March 19th, we will make Snack Bags for Friends in Deed in Pasadena. We are looking for someone to shop for the supplies, a list of items at Smart & Final makes it easy. The club will reimburse the shopper. This person will also deliver the supplies to the meeting on March 19th. We are also looking for someone to take charge and oversee the project, and deliver the snack bags to Friends in Deed. Let Cindy know if you can help with any of this.
- Please let Martha or Cindy know if there are any changes in your personal info we have on file-like phone#, email or address change etc.

Health News: Contact **Insook Park** if you know a member who needs a card/cheering up.

THIS PAST WEEK...(today)

Members in Attendance: 9 members in person and 5 members on Zoom & 2 guests in person.

Guests: Speakers **Vicki Schwartz and Tamar Tujan**

Welcome Back: None **Birthdays:** None **Anniversaries:** None **Ribbon Cuttings:** None

Hospitality: **Cindy Bradford & Barbie Eland**

Newsletter: Zoom Operators: **Chris Ecker & Brian Hummel**, Editor: **Martha Burns**, Photos: **Martha Burns**, Web: **Cindy Bradford**

Next week our program is: Friends of the LCF Library - **Anne Browne, President**

NEXT MEETING at Church Fellowship Hall & zoomed on Mar. 12 at 7:30am.

Zoom meeting ID is 81544355138 and passcode is 505812

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81544355138?pwd=eDBvZmhMcng5NGV6dXBGQVN0NGhMz09>

ZOOM PROBLEMS: If you get booted out **JUST** go to the link and log back on

Programs/Speakers:

03/12/25 – Friends of the LCF Library-Anne Browne, President

03/19/25 – Service Project – Snack Bags for Friends in Deed

03/26/25 – NO MEETING-Field Trip-Guide Dogs of America in Sylmar at 10am

03/31/25 – Club Board Meeting, Potluck @ 6:30 pm at Christie Crahan house

04/02/25 – ?

4/9/25 – ?

4/16/25 – Scholarship Dinner @ 6pm, Members arrive at 5:30pm

4/23/25 – ?

4/30/25 – ?

HELP US FIND PROGRAMS!

Program/Speakers:

LCF Sister Cities Program – Co-Presidents Vicki Schwartz & Tamar Tujian



Their space academy is a 10-week program that used to serve 40 students at La Canada High School, and it has transformed into a much bigger program. Their International Space Academy now serves 4 local high schools, and 4 high schools in Spain.

The Student Exchange program sounds amazing! In the fall, a group of students at La Canada High School are matched with students in Spain. The students and families start communicating to get to know each other. During spring break, students from La Canada go to Spain and stay in the homes of the family they were matched with for 10 days. They go to school and attend all activities with the families. During a different time, the students from Spain come here to stay with the matched family. The friendships formed, and experiences enjoyed are incredible for participants. Impressive!

The Youth Leadership program is sending 9 students to Washington, DC this year. A program hosted by the US Diplomatic Core.

The Friendship Trail near Descanso Gardens is dedicated to the Sister Cities in Spain.

LCF Sister Cities is doing a music instrument drive to help provide 250 students with instruments lost in the Eaton Fire. If you have instruments to donate, contact Vicki Schwartz at VSchwartz2@icloud.com

Big News: Oscar Navarro has written special music for these 250 students to perform a concert here on November 1, 2025.

OK, so here is the deal ... my notes do not begin to compare to the lovely literature provided by Vicki and Tamar. I don't know how Martha does this task weekly ... she can't just sit and enjoy the presentation like the rest of us do!

So, see attached. Also, check out their website at LCFSisterCities.org

Our club gave a \$200 donation to LCF Sister Cities Association. Very worthy organization!



Dear Friends,

We have so much good news to tell you!

This newsletter is jam-packed with many pictures and stories about what's been going on this summer, including:

- LCF Winning Sister Cities International's Award for **Innovation in Arts & Culture**
- Opening the **Sister Cities Friendship Trail**
- LCHS 7/8 **Student Exchange** with Villanueva de la Cañada, Spain
- LCF **Mayor Michael Davitt's visit** to our Sister City (along with a local delegation of nine)
- Exhibit of eight local **La Cañada Flintridge Artists in Spain**
- A touching letter from one of our first exchange students, **Ana Cristina**, who is now studying abroad in Spain

During one of your last "lazy days" of summer, we hope you will peruse this newsletter and bask in the glow of these feel-good stories of how LCF Sister Cities is making an impact in our community and abroad.

It is **YOUR** continuing support that makes these opportunities possible! We are deeply indebted to our continuing members and community supporters. If it's been a while since we've heard from you, please go to our website at LCFSisterCities.org and renew your membership so we can continue to bring exciting programs to our community.

Many thanks and stay cool!

• Vicki & Tamar

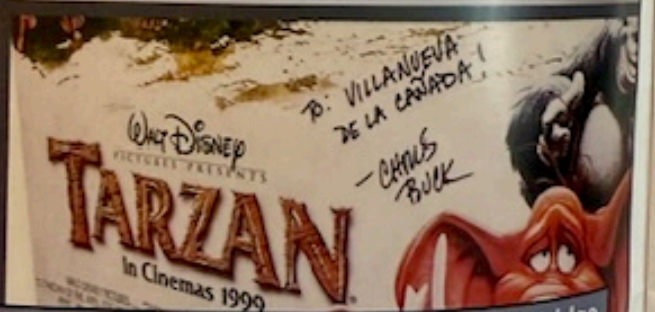
Congratulations to the Award-Winning LCF Sister Cities Association

A round of applause goes to the La Cañada Flintridge Sister Cities Association for being awarded the prestigious **2024 Sister Cities International Innovation in Arts and Culture Award** for our Miradas Artist-in-Residence project.

Innovation awards are accolades given to individuals, teams, or organizations that demonstrate exceptional creativity and originality.

Our Artist-in-Residence project consisted of three parts:





3. Villanueva de la Cañada's exhibition featuring eight La Cañada Flintridge artists and the exhibition at Plan d: Gallery in Spain

Co-Presidents Vicki Schwartz and Tamar Tujian commented: "This project was a huge success because of the team effort made by everyone involved. Whether it was providing a venue, expressing oneself through art, organizing the art sale, curating art, working at one of the events, purchasing art, coming to one or more of the art shows, selling tickets to the art show, or encouraging our artists, THANK YOU. You made a positive difference and contributed to our successful outcome."

Xavier Zapien, Robotics Engineer and Space Academy Co-Director, visits Villanueva de La Cañada



JPL Robotics Engineer and Space Academy Co-Director, Xavier Zapien, visited Villanueva de la Cañada, Spain in January. "I was thrilled to meet their city council members and Mayor Partida." "We discussed the importance of the sisterhood between Villanueva de la Cañada and La Cañada Flintridge as well as the value the Space Academy brings both these communities," commented Xavier.



Xavier toured all three high schools in Villanueva de la Cañada who are involved with the Space Academy: Escuela Internacional SEK, Colegio Kolbe, and El Instituto de las Encinas. He was accompanied by his host Randa Sayeg and four of the high school teachers who support the International Space Academy.



Xavier spoke about his work at JPL and other engineering endeavors and learned about the student programs at each school. He also had an opportunity to visit the European Space Agency's Center (ESAC).

Comments from Marion Price, former LCHS Spanish teacher and chaperone on the 7/8 student trip



Back in January/February of this year, La Cañada Flintridge Sister Cities hosted a group of 7/8 grade students from Villanueva de la Cañada. In April it was our turn to travel to Spain, reunite with our Spanish friends, and enjoy the beauty of their town.

The kids were very excited about their stay in Spain and looked forward to seeing their friends. They were welcomed at the Barajas airport in Madrid by their host families. As an observer, it looked like they had been friends forever.



Our students had many adventures while in Villanueva de la Cañada. They were invited to Escuela Internacional SEK, one of their amazing schools. The classrooms were separated by glass dividers which allowed natural light to come in. It was impressive to see the combination of formality in the teachers' and students' outfits, yet how accessible and approachable the exchange was between teachers and students.

Another observation was all teachers, no matter what subject they taught, spoke English, and very good English. The kids also enjoyed their trip to Segovia and Toledo and visiting the Real Madrid stadium.

Our kids were exceptional ambassadors. They were always smiling and never a single complaint. All were easy-going and not eager to leave this lovely country of Spain.

Pictures:

*(Top) Relaxing at LAX before take off
(Middle) Our LCF 7/8 students welcomed by their Spanish friends at Madrid airport*



Pictures:

*(Top) American group in front of the European Space Agency (ESA) in Villafranca del Castillo
(Bottom) Students in front of Church at Monasterio de El Escorial*

Student Allegra S. Reports on the 7/8 Exchange Trip to Spain



In April 2024 I was one of the fortunate 7/8 students who went on the Sister Cities exchange trip to Villanueva de la Cañada, Spain. I had an amazing time meeting new people and seeing many historical landmarks; one of them dating back to the Roman Empire (a very old, and very large, aqueduct).

I especially enjoyed meeting new friends from this trip, including my host and her friend group. There are not a lot of differences between Spanish teens and California teens, besides our primary languages. It was interesting to recognize the more subtle differences. Some were in clothing styles for kids my age, the food, and even the car games they play. Instead of playing "punch buggy," they play "coach amarillo," or yellow car in English.

I really treasure those nine days in Spain and the unforgettable experience that came with them.

LCF Sister Cities' Artist-In-Residence Program Continues in Spain

By Tamar Tujian, Co-President



What a wonderful opportunity to visit our Sister City in Spain, this past spring, as part of the Artist-in-Residence Program. The Artist-in-Residence program began in 2022 in La Cañada Flintridge. One of the many highlights was the Miradas art show and sale at the Boddy House in Descanso Gardens. Here the art of renowned Spanish artist and resident of our sister city, Villanueva de la Cañada, Spain, Javier Montesol, was showcased.

As part of our cultural exchange in May 2024, community artists from La Cañada Flintridge were invited to display their art at the Saint Isidro community celebration days in Villanueva de la Cañada, Spain. The celebration is a multi-day event where the entire community participates in activities which include an outdoor mass, a small parade, as well as lots of merriment in the park. The festive opening of the art show featured our La Cañada Flintridge community artists.



Our Honorable Mayor, Michael Davitt, and his wife, Alison, headed our delegation to Villanueva de la Cañada, Spain. Three of the artists who displayed their art work and were part of our delegation: David Dedlow and his wife Edwina, Anjum Khan and her husband Naghib, and Esther Vavoulis, her husband Ted, and family. The artists unable to attend were Chris Buck, David Morton, Ooty Moorehead, Mary Tracy and Lois Zanteson.

Mayor Partida, his entire staff, and our friends in Villanueva de La Cañada welcomed us warmly. We were treated to interesting tours of the city, a lovely cocktail reception following the opening of the art exhibit, and a Mayoral exchange with all their City Council members present in the city hall chambers. On Saint Isidro Day, many residents of the city were eager to meet us as we sampled paella and all sorts of local delicacies and drinks while circulating from tent to tent in the park.



We look forward to continuing the Artist-in-Residence program in La Cañada Flintridge by inviting another Spain artist to visit us in 2025. If you would like to get involved in our activities and our cultural events, please reach out to us at www.lcfsistercities.org. It is truly an enlightening way to learn about other cultures and cultivate lasting friendships with the citizens of our sister city.

Sister Cities' Friendship Path Grand Opening



At the opening: Tom Reynolds, Trails Council President; Kathryn Barger, L.A. County Supervisor; Juliann Rooke, CEO of Descanso Gardens; Brad Schwartz, President of the Descanso Gardens Board of Directors; and Vicki Schwartz, Co-President of the LCF Sister Cities Association

Jennifer Seastrom poses next to the sign she designed to welcome people to the trail

What better day to announce the opening of the Sister Cities Friendship Path than on Earth Day 2024; the day that raises awareness of the need to protect Earth's natural resources for future generations.

Thanks to a collaborative effort by the City, Los Angeles County, the Descanso Gardens Foundation, the LCF Trails Council, and the LCF Sister Cities Association, the scenic 0.3-mile trail is now open to explore on foot, bike, or horseback. The first to explore the new, easily accessible, beautiful trail were the attendees of the opening.



Hike led by LCF Trails Council President Tom Reynolds



Hikers on their way up the new Sister Cities Friendship Path

Greg Brown, LCF Trails Council and Sister Cities Executive Board member, noted "part of this Descanso Trail was a bit too steep for many residents to enjoy." Early in 2020, Brown and Don Voss, also an active community member and Sister Cities Executive Board member, arranged a meeting with Descanso Gardens to discuss building a new trail to alleviate the issues with the existing trail. What was a future dream turned into a reality for LCF.

Several years back, when the Mayor of Villanueva de la Cañada, our sister city in Spain, was visiting, the proposed Sister Cities Friendship Path was dedicated to our sister city. According to Vicki Schwartz, Co-President of the LCF Sister Cities Association: "The Mayor was so excited he announced they would build a mile-long trail in Villanueva de la Cañada called the La Cañada Flintridge Sister Cities Trail."

La Cañada Flintridge Sister Cities presents . . .



Miradas

Crossing Glances ; the music of Oscar Navarro



Oscar Navarro (Alicante, Spain, 1981) began his musical studies at the tender age of three, specializing in the clarinet.

Later, he studied composition and conducting at the Allegro International Music Academy in Valencia before getting his master's degree at the University of Southern California in Composition for Film and Television.

Navarro's compositions have been recorded at Capitol Records, Paramount Pictures, and Warner Brothers Studios. His music has been performed in large concert halls around the world, including Carnegie Hall (New York), Tchaikovsky Hall (Moscow, Russia), Lincoln Center (New York), Walt Disney Hall (Los Angeles), La Scala Theater (Milan, Italy), Musikverein (Vienna, Austria), Zaryadye Concert Hall (Moscow, Russia), Palau de la Música (Valencia, Spain) and the National Auditorium of Spain, among others.

In April 2024, Navarro was chosen by the Royal Guard/Royal House of Spain to write the "Obertura Rey Felipe VI" (King Felipe VI Overture), dedicated to their Royal Majesties King Felipe VI and Doña Leticia for the 10th anniversary celebration of their Coronation.

Navarro's music has received international recognition, including awards and nominations from Spain, the United States, Holland, Singapore, Italy, India, France and South Africa. Highlights of the awards are the "Hollywood Music in Media Awards" (Los Angeles), "Premio BUMA" (Holland) for best international composer, "Mundo BSO Awards" (World's Best Original Soundtrack), the "Hollywood Independent Music Awards" (Los Angeles), and a nomination from the Spanish Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences for Best Original Soundtrack for the film "La Mula".

Currently, Oscar Navarro is part of the Spanish Film Academy and of the Latin Grammys as an academic.