

Highlights of the Thursday, 11 December, 2025 Weekly Meeting

President Maureen, welcomed everyone including our Guest Speaker and Member Faye Prince, to the Kiwanis Club of Brantford's meeting for Thursday, 11-December, 2025.

President Maureen called Phil Hoekstra to present the "Chase the Joker" Draw with Karen Adams and Leo Vos holding potential winning tickets. Neither Member found the Joker so the pot continues to rise.



Important note for the next years 50/50 Draw starting January 1, 2026.

The cost of the Chase the Joker tickets will change effective January 1, 2026, to

1 ticket - \$2

3 tickets - \$4 as part of the lunch package.

Additional tickets may be purchased at 3 for \$5

- The member who has their ticket drawn must pick the designated card from the deck of cards. The number of cards remaining will be reduced by two cards each draw. When the winnings exceed \$200 the number of cards remaining will be reduced by four each week until a winner has been declared.*
- Each draw will allow two purchased tickets to be selected at random until the potential winnings exceed \$200 at which point four tickets shall be drawn at random.*

President Maureen called Funmaster Joanne Murray to the microphone.

Joanne Murray had prepared a series of questions relating to little-known Christmas facts. This was a "table competition" with one spokesman at each table to give the answer to the question. Following are a couple of examples.

- Question:** In the classic "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" song, the 7th reindeer listed before Rudolph joins the team? **Answer:** Donner (also Dunder)
- Question:** The first and original artist to record "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree", was? **Answer:** Brenda Lee, who was just 13 years old when she laid down the track in 1958.



December Birthdays

Jim Steele – December 11

Recognizing Years of Service in December

Ivone DeMarchi 47 Years

Roxanne Bond 6 Years

Joanne Murray called for Happy Stories.

- Karen Adams said she had attended Brant County Singers presentation recently and gave them a very positive review. She also said that Scott and her are off to warm climates in the next few days, and won't be back in Canada until February 2026.
- Joanne Murray helped us celebrate Jim Steele's Birthday on 11 December, with an on-screen Happy Birthday message for Jim Steele as well as a resounding presentation of "Happy Birthday" sung by all members. Later today, we celebrated again at the Board Meeting.



President Maureen called Pallo Sahota to the podium to introduce our guest speaker Faye Prince for today's topic.



Pallos Sahota Introduce Fay Prince as our guest Speaker indicating that Faye's background of creating excellent centre pieces for all of our Seasonal event, involvement with our Kindness Day Events, retired Teacher, Chess expert and, presenter of a number of topics at our Weekly programs, to keep us informed and entertained, has prepared a presentation about different ways some countries celebrate New Years Eve. Pallo asked Faye Prince to come to the Podium.

Faye Prince thanked Pallo for the introduction and welcomed everyone. Faye told us her topic today was about, "New Years Traditions".

Faye suggested that, whether we choose to go dancing, to a party, to dinner or just stay home for a quiet evening, there are many ways to ring in the New Year. On January 1st there is always coverage of how many cities and countries around the world celebrated, ringing in the new year.



In New York City, there the display is always the Ball-Drop at midnight. This tradition began on New Years Eve, 1907 by the then owner of the New York Times, who wanted people to know of the location of the newspaper's publication site. Sometime thereafter, this area was named Time Square.

The original Ball, made of iron and wood was five feet in diameter and weighed 700 pounds. It was lit by 100 incandescent lights.

Over the years, the ball has been updated a handful of times. To honour the 100th Anniversary of the original Ball-Drop, the 2008 ball was redesigned by Waterford Crystal. The design used LED lights and a computerized lighting patterns that could produce 16.7 million colours. This ball consumed only enough electricity to power 10 Toasters, and it was only used once.

A sixth ball debuted in 2009 and is still in use today. The ball is 12 feet in diameter and weighs 11, 875 pounds. It is double the size of the 2008 ball and dropped from a 475 ft. flagpole, which remains in place all year long.

After Faye's overview, a video was played showing New Years Eve Celebration held by various countries around the world.

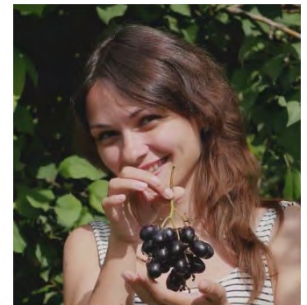
Following are a couple of examples of 20 celebrations shown in the video.

In **Spain**, when the clock starts to strike twelve, you have twelve seconds to eat twelve grapes. One grape, for good luck in each of the coming months.

Note: chomping down 12 grapes in 12 seconds is not as easy as it seems.



In the **Philippines (Manilla)** New Year's Eve is a Fashion fiesta. It is not about Fancy high fashion clothing, It all about rocking those, polka-dots. Why polka-dots? In Filipino cultures round figures symbolize prosperity and good fortune.



Bob Saunders thanked Faye Prince for the interesting and entertaining view of other people's distinctive way of welcoming in the New Year.

President Maureen called for Committee Reports and Announcements:

- Bob Saunders informed us that the Christmas Campaign has gone very well. We are down to the last few items for sale. At the time of this News Letter, following are the remaining products on hand.
 - 12 - boxes of Mixed Nuts
 - 3 - boxes of Cookies
 - 9 – Packages of Peanut Brittle

If anyone would like to purchase any of the above, please contact Bob Saunders or Dave Lewis.

- Faye Prince mentioned that the **“Christmas Sock Box”** for those in need, will be at the back of our meeting room weekly for collection of warm winter socks until Christmas
- Phil Hoekstra reminded anyone who had not signed up for the Family Christmas Lunch on Thursday 18-December, that the Signup sheets are on the table at this meeting or you can contact Phil Hoekstra or Dave Lewis by tomorrow, Friday 12-December.

Closing Thought for the Day: “Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow. The important thing is not to stop questioning.” Albert Einstein

President Maureen, thanked all members and Guest and wished everyone well.

President Maureen asked If there was anything else for the good of Kiwanis, seeing none, she adjourned the meeting with the ringing of the Bell.

Candid picture of some members at the meeting.

