



Baldwin Park Woman's Club Newsletter

The Lark Notes



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President: Refugio "Cuca" Rodriguez

Theme: *"Let us resemble butterflies by attending to the needs of our community, pollinating it to bloom and bear fruit."*

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE



Are you ready for November & December celebrations? I hope that everyone is in good health will be able to enjoy the holidays! Cruz Baca, Maria Orozco, Vivian Reyes, Alice Kenopasek and myself attended the SGVD Gatsby Gala. We had a lot of fun and won prizes.

We recently visited with Bettie Nixon and she invited us for lunch at "Oakmont of Valencia". It is a very nice place with 24/7 care with many recreation areas and activities for residents. A beautiful place, great food and a nice view. She was happy to see us and gave a tour to Vivian, Lia, Maria, Suzanne, Barbara and myself.

Our November meeting was very exciting as we had a variety of guests. Vivian stepped in for Alice who has PT on Fridays and installed our new member Vida Flores, who we welcomed with open arms. We also hosted Olga Hathaway as a prospective member and Margarita invited two community members who are interested in joining The Thanksgiving lunch was great with all the trimmings. Suzanne did a wonderful job, going all out on the menu with help from members.

The HOBY students, Allan Cedillo from SVHS and Alyssa Rogel from BPHS along with their mothers were our guests. They talked about their exciting experiences and all the new ideas and activities they participated in. They were very articulate and enthusiastic. It was great to meet them both. Thank you to Laura Santos for coordinating.

Refugio "Cuca" Rodriguez, President

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G.F.W.C. - C.F.W.C.

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DECEMBER 2025 CALENDAR

"Season of Sharing"

02 - Santa's Clothes at Walmart	6:45 am
05 - Set up for luncheon meeting	8:30 am
05 - December Mtg & Mini Craft Sale	9:30 am
06 - Baldwin Park Parade	
10 - Lark Notes due for Jan 2026	
17 - Executive Board Meeting	10 am
19 - Holiday Party & Mini Craft Sale	10:30 am
24 - Christmas Eve (holiday)	
25 - Christmas (holiday)	
31 - New Year's Eve (holiday)	

Luncheon assignments for Dec 5th are on page 6. Please RSVP to the Lunch Chairman by Dec 1st, so she plans enough food! Meeting begins at 10 am. Social time begins at 9:30 am, time to catch up and get coffee. We will be celebrating our Honorary Life Members in December and enjoying the SVHS Choir. We hope many of you join us so the students have an encouraging audience.

Dec 19th Holiday Party is a potluck- bring something to share! There's an optional \$15 value gift exchange.

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DEANS MESSAGE

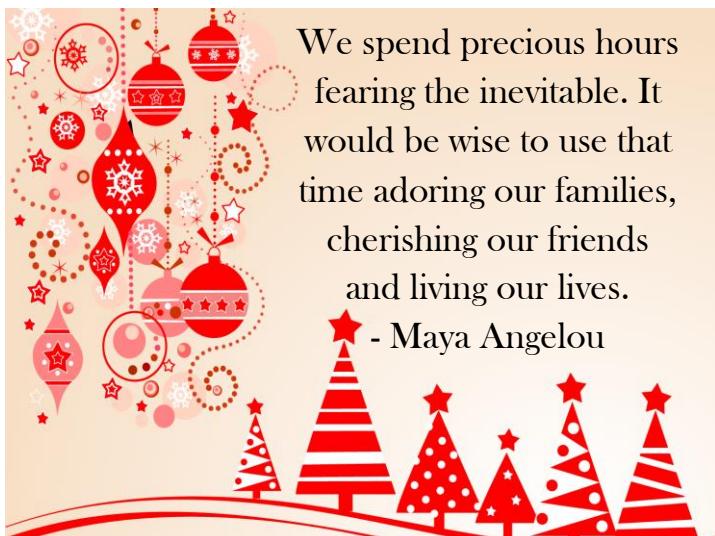
Hello everyone and 'Happy Fall'. Have you adjusted to the time change? That is always a difficult one for me...up at 4 a.m. A few weeks ago, some of us attended the SGVD meeting and their guest speaker was from the Whittier Woman's Shelter. This facility supports families from all over Los Angeles County. Women and their children, due to domestic violence, are housed in "Homes" so they not only get some stability, but this setting helps them start their lives over again. They have support and guidance.

We are adopting one of these "Homes" (family) not only for Thanksgiving, but for Christmas as well. For Thanksgiving we will prepare a basket with a turkey and all the fixings to prepare a dinner. For Christmas we will be collecting toys and clothing to donate to them. I will keep you informed of specifics. Please read all BPWC emails, Lark Notes or attend meetings so you can stay informed. See page 7 for more info on the "Shelter Project".

This will in no way take away from what we already donate with Baldwin Park Police Department, or our Tiny Homes...we will always continue giving to our community. Thank you for all you do. Please contact me if any questions. All cash donations for holiday projects should be made directly to BPWC; we can use that cash to purchase what is needed. See page 7!

Cruz Baca, 1st Vice President

Phone: 626-806-9583



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Please join us at the December 5th meeting when we celebrate our **Honorary Life Members**. Distance will keep most of our friends away but let's gather with loving hearts and together we will send prayers of love their way! We love them all!

Maryann Huetinck* Diana Asmundson

Bettie Nixon * Gloria Fierro

Edna White * Edna Rathel

In November, we welcomed new member **Vida Flores** and while I missed the initiation, I know it was a wonderful welcome! Thank You Vivian for stepping in for me and welcome VIDA!

Just so you know I am in PT on Fridays so you will not see me until that is complete and I am cleared! See below Vivian Reyes with **Vida Flores**.

Alice Konopasek, 2nd Vice President

Phone: 626 512-3548



WAYS and MEANS

Hi everyone, just a quick few words about the holidays. I know many of us will be busy with family...please remember our friends who are no longer able to participate in club activities. Send a holiday card or connect with a phone call. **Friendship is a terrible thing to waste!** I have written an update on page 8 for several of our special friends so I hope that inspires you all to reach out during this season of giving!

Maureen Foster Davis, 3rd Vice President



HEALTH and WELLNESS

Five Steps to Wellbeing in Body, Mind and Spirit

- **Connect.** Spend time with people who make you feel good. Reach out, don't wait for someone to call you first. Staying engaged is essential!
- **Keep Learning.** Try something different, even if it's a new card game with the grandkids or a new recipe.
- **Be active.** Get moving - do what you can when you can. This can be walking, chair yoga, or even Bingo.
- **Take notice.** Be mindful, be aware, be curious.
- **Give.** Help yourself by helping others, it not only feels good, it is so needed!

All of these steps bring us back to why you should participate and come join us at BPWC. You will fulfill all of the 5 steps by attending events or meetings. Remember we can pick you up!! No excuses not to spend time with friends, see you all soon!

In Sisterhood,
Cruz Baca, Health & Wellness Chairman

PAST PRESIDENTS

We enjoyed hearing stories from Diana Asmundson and Margarita Vargas; two of our Past Presidents who were recognized at the November 7th meeting. Both of our friends were gifted with beautiful plants.



THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

December is a month for family, friends and caring for others less fortunate. If you plan on giving this month for those in need, please consider bringing **gift cards or toys to the Dec 5th meeting for the local BPPD Christmas with the Cops**. The families they serve always appreciate our charity.

The birthstone this month is the **Blue Topaz**. This stone is believed to stimulate open communication and encourage positive action. It symbolizes opportunity and possibility and has associations with great wisdom and is believed to bring success.

Flowers for December include the **Holly** and **Narcissus**, particularly the paperwhite variety. Holly is an evergreen shrub or small tree known for its glossy, dark green leaves and vibrant round or oval berries. Paperwhite narcissus is a delicate and fragrant variety of narcissus, a genus of plants that also includes daffodils.

Zodiac signs in December are **Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21)**, which is a Fire sign, representing creativity and enthusiasm. This fiery quality often ignites passion and spontaneity in actions and thoughts. The second sign is **Capricorn (Dec 22- Jan 19)** which is an Earth sign, signifying grounding and stability. Capricorns don't just dream; they make things happen!

In this month, enjoy the Winter Solstice/21, Hanukkah/22, Christmas/25, New Year's Eve/31 and our **Holiday Party on December 19th!**

Happy December Birthdays!

02 – Diana Asmundson

11 – Laura Franklin

13 – Anna Grehova

24 – Maryann Huetinck

25 – Susan Rubio



CONSERVATION CORNER

When it comes to conservation, Baldwin Park is truly blessed to have some of the best environmental stewards in the San Gabriel Valley right at Baldwin Park City Hall. Our parks are very nicely maintained and offer a great deal of recreational opportunities to residents of all ages and leisure persuasions.

One of my favorites is Walnut Creek Nature Park, a 4.5 acre space with a reservable picnic shelter, restrooms, wooden play structure, fitness stations and picnic tables. New native plants have given it a nice upgrade.

In recent years we have gotten some fabulous new parks including the Susan Rubio Zocolo Park and some smaller pocket parks. As part of the San Gabriel Valley Greenway Networks, both waterways that flow to the San Gabriel River; Walnut Creek and the Big Dalton Wash, are being developed. They have bike paths which means we don't have to ride our bikes in the street with cars, trucks, stop signs, and stop lights!

I've been so jealous of El Monte because their parks on the San Gabriel Valley River have *access to the river*. I almost cried when I recently saw the new Walnut Creek development; the chain link fence between the Creek and the Nature Park is gone! There are new stairs and ADA ramps leading to the waterway from the park!

Bikes, strollers, wheelchairs, wagons, roller-skates and all walkers will all be able to make their way to the waterway from the Walnut Creek Nature Park! The area next to the

bike path has walking paths, and solar lights. Benches, drinking fountains, and landscaping are coming soon, it's going to be so beautiful!!

Tell your friends that live by the Walnut Creek Nature Park that their property values will soon increase being so close to this special recreational venue. Bikers from more affluent communities already know this and may try to move in, so beware. It is so exciting to be able to share this news and all the changes being made in our own neighborhoods. Our new City Manager Manny Carrillo along with Parks and Recreation Director Maria Moreno have been working on the Greenway project for 20 years.

This two decade collaboration includes LA County, the Army Corp of Engineers, animal and wildlife agencies from both state and local, SCE Edison, and many others; to make this happen.

We can't forget that our very own Cruz Baca also gets credit for working on parks projects and fighting for parks and open space during her time in elected office. It takes years for many of these projects to take root and come to fruition, but we are finally beginning to see what the fight was all about! It's so nice they are still with us to see the fruits of their labor and we're so lucky to have them!

Laura Santos, Conservation Chairman

2025 HOBY RECIPIENTS

At the Nov 7th meeting we were happy to meet Alyssa Rogel from BPHS and Alan Cedillo from SVHS. They attended our meeting along with their mothers and we enjoyed hearing their stories from HOBY. Thank you to Laura Santos for organizing the HOBY Project and leading the charge to fundraise for such a great cause. *From left with their moms; Laura Santos Hoby Chairman, Alyssa Rogel, Alan Padilla and President Cuca Rodriguez.*





SGVD GATSBY GALA

What a treat it was for several of our Club Members to attend the San Gabriel Valley District fundraiser, **"Gatsby Gala"**. If you have not yet seen 'Downton Abby' or 'the 'Gilded Age', you have missed out! Our friends were transported back to an elegant time; just see how our members wore their best.

In the above picture see from left; *Vivian Reyes, Alice Konopasek, Maria Orozco, Cuca Rodriguez and Cruz Baca*. Wowza! So fun to get dressed up...In the pictures below we see *Cuca and Cruz* joining in the fun! It was reported that the friends who attended had a great time, don't they all look fabulous?



SGVD CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER 2025

03 - DVAC Meeting at CWC	11:30 am
14 - SGVD Fall Council at EMCC	9:30 am

CWC - Covina Woman's Club
128 S San Jose Ave, Covina, CA 91723

EMCC - El Monte Community Center
Grace Black Auditorium
3130 Tyler Avenue, El Monte, CA 91731

If you would like to attend any district regular meeting or special dates please remember we need to RSVP in advance. We also typically carpool to meetings, so it ends up being a great day out with friends! **Lunch in December is a POTLUCK**. Please call me to RSVP as soon as you know you'd like to attend.

The **SGVD Newsletter** is called "**The KEY**" and is available online at www.sgvd.org. For more information on what goes on in **California** you can visit the website cfwc.org. From there go to 'publications' and you can read the weekly newsletter '**Quick Bytes**' or the quarterly magazine '**California Clubwoman**'.

Vivian Reyes, District Registrar
Phone: 626-827-7457
Email: aginuzv@aol.com

Saturday, December 6, 2025



We are trying to arrange for cars for our club members. If you want to ride in cars; **let Cruz Baca know TODAY!** Call her direct. We'll update you at the Dec 5th Meeting on this participation.

CHRISTMAS WITH THE COPS TOY DRIVE

We will be collecting toys, books and gift cards (value \$15 +) for this annual drive.



Toys are given to local families in need. Many will be delivered to the Serenity Village families. Bring your donated items to the December 5th Meeting. If you donate cash, we will shop for you. THANK YOU!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Rosy Breceda (newly retired) and Vivian Reyes shared birthdays in November. Each received a bag of sweets and were serenaded in song! *Good to see ya Rosy!*



DECEMBER 5th LUNCH ASSIGNMENTS

Luncheon Chairman Maureen Foster Davis
Committee Vivian Reyes
Décor/Theme Maureen Foster Davis
Hostess Maria Orozco

Committee members, hostess and chairman should all arrive no later than 9:30 am to coordinate the check in of members and the lunch service. **SET UP** will take place on **Fri, Dec 5th** at 8:30 am just prior to the lunch. The cost of lunch is \$10.

We will have guests on Dec 5th. The **Sierra Vista High School Choir** will serenade our sisters after our luncheon meeting. They are scheduled to arrive at 12:15 pm. We hope many of our friends will join us to give these students an encouraging audience.

MINI CRAFT SALE

Friday, December 5th

9 am to 12 pm

Friday, December 14th

10:30 am to 1 pm



If you missed the November sale, we have good news! We will have a mini sale at both the luncheon meeting and Holiday Party in December. New items and hand crafted; great for hostess gifts or friend and family gifts.

BPWC HOLIDAY PARTY

Fri, Dec 19, 2025

11 am to 2 pm



Lunch is a **potluck** so bring something to share. We will also host a gift exchange (value \$15) which is optional. Celebrate the holidays with your friends as we gather for lunch and play a few games. Wear your favorite holiday sweater! We plan to play Holiday Bingo and a Holiday Songs game for special treats! We will be voting on a new Kindness Angel, we hope you plan to join us.

SANTA'S CLOTHES

Each year our community rally's by donating monies and time to support kids who need it most. Our club is supporting the event with a cash donation. We encourage all adults who can, to assist the kids in shopping. Adults are asked to come out and support the event by acting as escorts for the children; helping them shop.

Tuesday, December 2, 2025

Baldwin Park Walmart

6:45 am



We know it's an early call but being a shopping escort is a great way to serve the community. Pass this information on to all the adults in your life; it's early so it's prior to most work schedules. If we can entice or inspire the people in our lives who can help, *to actually help, it's a win-win!* Santa feels good when he gets new clothes! Imagine how these kids feel.



Thank you to all members who participate in our fundraisers, making our donation possible!

HOLIDAY COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS

This year we are pleased to share that we will be putting together a **meal basket** for one of the Serenity Village families for **Thanksgiving**. Cruz Baca has graciously offered to shop for an entire meal so a family at the shelter can make a full Thanksgiving dinner. They have access to a full service kitchen so this is a great opportunity for a family to celebrate their blessings.

If you would like to help you may make a cash donation. We suggest a \$5-10 contribution; bring to the Dec 5th meeting and there will be a special box for your cash OR you can mail a check to the P. O. Box. **Thank You!**

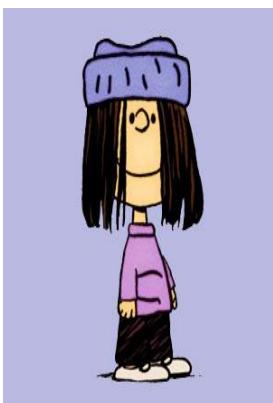


"As our families gather to share a meal in gratitude, we Thank the Lord for the opportunity to share our own blessings that allow us to provide for others in need".

BEANIE, SOCK & BLANKET DRIVE

If we have extra cash from what we collect for the **meal basket**, we will use that money to purchase beanies and socks for the singles housed at the Esperanza Villas (*transitional housing*). If you want to help with the **Beanie, Sock and Fleece Blanket Drive** by donating these items we can accept them at the Dec 5th meeting. This is something the residents look forward to receiving as essentials.

We hope you will all consider a purchase that will support those people in our community facing insecurity with housing. Cash donations also accepted!



WHITTIER SHELTER PROJECT

We will be providing dinners at Thanksgiving and gifts at Christmas time for two families. The Whittier Shelter not only houses families fleeing a violent home, they provide inspiration and tools to start over.

This is our DVAC Project for the year. With monies from our DVAC and Veteran's funds we will make Christmas a new start for two families; one a military family. Thank you again to everyone who attended our fundraisers this year so we could do something special for these families in need.

Cruz Baca, DVAC Chairman

SPECIAL MEMBER UPDATES

Here is an update on our special friends we don't get to see too often; they're always in our hearts and in our prayers!

MARYANN HUETINCK

Maryann Huetinck is residing in a residential senior living facility so they can assist her in managing her daily life. She can welcome visitors, and we suggest you do visit. Call the facility first and inquire how Maryann is doing. Be prepared to introduce yourself to her; the good thing is she lightens up when old friends visit, it makes her day!

Atria Senior Living
Maryann Huetinck #102
825 W San Bernardino Rd, Covina, CA 91722
Atria # - 626-967-9621

AMANDA SERRATO

Amanda Serrato is often seen at mass daily so she is being taken care of with love. She still resides in Baldwin Park, with her children assisting with her daily life. Reports are she may not be able to remember old friends faces but it is good to know she is able to follow her faith! Prayers!

EDNA WHITE

Edna White is healthy and well, residing in her beautiful home with her daughter Angie, just next store. She has been welcoming when friends visit but she has ended her community engagements. If you want to catch up with Edna, we encourage to call and connect! We are sure she would welcome hearing from old friends!

BETTIE NIXON

Bettie Nixon is now residing in Valencia close to her daughter. Her home in BP has been sold and her new life is about an hour away. Several members have visited Bettie in her new apartment which has layers of assistance so she continues to be independent. She can entertain; call ahead to arrange a visit and bring along a friend or two to share the ride. Can't travel? Just give Bettie a call to catch up!

Oakmont of Valencia
Bettie Nixon #150
24070 Copper Hill Drive, Valencia, CA 91354
Betties# - 661-200-3106



Amanda Serrato and Edna White are no longer on our club's member list so if you need contact info, look in an old Yearbook. We encourage all to reach out to your friends over the holiday season. We LOVE our friends and miss them!

EDNA RATHEL

Edna left the area a few years ago but resides in our hearts and our thoughts always. She still receives the Lark Notes and her daughter Donna reports she loves hearing from her friends in Baldwin Park. Now residing in Kansas, feel free to send holiday cards or letters to share with her what's going on!

Edna Rathel
10340 SW Valencia Rd, Auburn, KS 66402
Edna's # - 785-250-6918

