



Baldwin Park Woman's Club Newsletter

The Lark Notes



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President: Cruz Baca

Theme: "May the joy and resilience of the Hummingbird, inspire us to create beautiful things together"

Symbol: Hummingbird



"Celebrating 120 years of service"

SEPT 2026 Volume 76 Issue 11

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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE



Hello Members! I hope you have had a beautiful and as cool as possible Summer. I'm always surprised by how quickly time flies. In our club, we're gearing up for a lot of great events that will be so much fun! I hope that many of you join us, shout out if you need a ride.

Please read the Lark Notes and all the information. Reminders are also sent out to remind us of events, keeping us informed. As some of you know I had a birthday on August 8...yes, I turned 77. Thank you for all the Birthday Wishes!! I'd like to share with you what Maria Shriver wrote on her 60th Birthday.

"I've been thinking...

1. Find every excuse to celebrate life!!
2. Stop thinking about what others think. It's a huge waste of time.
3. Stay connected with your childhood friends and introduce them to your grown-up friends.
4. Don't expect people to be perfect. Just as you aren't, neither are they.
5. Have faith that your best days are ahead of you, that your next frontier will be the most filling time of your life, and that you deserve to be seen as good enough just the way you are, including yourself.

Finally...

Dear God,

Thank you for this life, my life. The best is yet to come."

Cruz Baca, President

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SEPT 2026 CALENDAR

07 - Labor Day (holiday)	
10 - Lark Notes Due for Oct	
11 - Patriots Day (holiday)	
11 - Dean's Seminar	10 am
11 - Ice Cream Social HOBY Fundraiser	11 am
16 - Yearbook Committee Meeting	9 am
16 - Executive Board Meeting	10 am

Please **RSVP for activities** so we plan enough food! All it takes is a phone call and if you end up not being able to come, no worries! Having more food is not a problem, not having enough for all is!

On page 6 every activity will have a number to RSVP with a deadline date. If you miss the deadline but still plan to attend, RSVP anyway, every event is better with **YOU!** If you sign up to bring a food item to an activity, let the Chairman know if you cannot bring it so she can plan to replace that donation.

IN THIS ISSUE

Dean's Message, Membership, Ways & Means .	page 2
September, Health & Wellness, Birthdays	page 3
Bettie Nixon Memorial, Prayers for Mona	page 4
SGVD Calendar, Executive Team, Presidents	page 5
Ice Cream Social, Taco Bar, Oct Hair Cuts	page 6
Summer Party Pictures, Street Market	page 7
120 Years of Service, Backpack Donations	page 8
More Summer Party Highlights	page 9
Year in Numbers, Group Photo, Hair Cuts	page 10

DEANS MESSAGE

The first **Dean's Seminar** of the new term is **Friday September 11, 2026**, at 10 am. We will discuss financial policies, including the process of how we collect money at activities, how to get reimbursed and more. This meeting is a great opportunity to ask questions and **join committees**.

Dean's Seminars are open to all members and are less formal than our business luncheons. We use this time to make plans for activities, ask others for help on our committees and share info on how the club works. For newer members it is a great place to ask questions so you can become more involved and see where your interests or skill sets can benefit our club.

This meeting will be followed by a **Game Day**. See page 6 for details on our **HOBY Ice Cream Social**.

We will hold an election for the position of First Vice President/Dean at the October 2nd meeting. It is currently vacant and does need to be filled by election.

Second-Hand September



This month is known as the month to visit second hand or thrift shops to do your shopping and skip the big box stores. It's also the month to look through your own closets and shelves and declutter. By donating your clothing and personal items in great shape but no longer useful to you; you give someone else a great deal and you have the satisfaction of helping someone in need. If you need help in combing through your stuff, ask your grandkids if they want to earn a few dollars!

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

We welcome new members all year long. If you have an acquaintance or friend who might be a good fit for our club, invite them to our meetings or events. Great news is we have a new member joining us officially in October. Her name is **Roxann Sanchez** and you might have seen her at a few activities. Roxann will be officially initiated in October and we welcome her!

Alice Konopasek, 2nd Vice President
Phone: 626 512-3548

WAYS and MEANS

Music to my ears...was the phrase **SOLD OUT** for the Casino Trip! We did it with the help of all our members. Thank you to everyone who supported this return to Casino Trips, even members who did not ride the bus but provided donations or those who met us there! If you missed this summer trip for any reason, we hope that the next Casino Turn Around will be on your TO DO LIST.

Don't forget we host **Day of Beauty Hair Cuts** for our members and friends. Next day is in October and signups will be at the Oct 2nd Meeting. It's just a great morning with friends! See page 6 for details. *Below see Mary Debo with Rosie Breceda.*

Rosie Breceda, 3rd Vice President
Phone: 626-523-2263
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HEALTH and WELLNESS

One of the healthiest things we can do as we age is to **stay engaged**; with friends, with family and with our church. These relationships give us purpose and help us navigate the changes that growing older brings. Loneliness and isolation are key issues as we enter a time of losing friends or spouses; children moving away for opportunities and we may also face losing some independence.

Your Woman's Club is about engagement and purpose. By joining your friends in endeavors that bring our community support, comfort and inspiration; we assist in ways no other generation understands, including helping ourselves.

Our **Day of Beauty Hair Cut** days are an opportunity to meet with friends to socialize, raising funds 'creatively' for our club, doing something we would otherwise do in the private sector. I want to thank Rosie Breceda and Josie Lopez for this opportunity to **bring us together**. *Picture below was taken during 'brunch' after our hair cuts.*

Cruz Baca, Health & Wellness Chairman



THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER

In this month we celebrate **Labor Day** on **Sept 7**, for all the hard working Americans and on **Sept 11** we honor our First Responders on **Patriots Day**. National holidays give us opportunities to recognize and share our gratitude for others.

The **birthstone** this month is the beautiful blue **Sapphire**, which is thought to sharpen the mind, promote clear thinking, helping the wearer discern truth from deception. It is a popular gem.

The month is under the influence of **Zodiac signs Virgo** and **Libra**. Virgos are often thought to be meticulous, thriving in environments where details matter. Libras are intelligent and kind, willing to put others before themselves, valuing harmony.

September **flowers** are **Aster** and **Morning Glory**. Aster looks elegant in colors purple, blue, pink, and white; sitting naturally beside other seasonal flowers. Morning Glory is more of a poetic accent which blue blooms have a trumpet shape that beautify any garden.

15 - Blanca Rubio 26 - Carol Woods

"Friendship is sharing a sweet cupcake!"

IN MEMORIAM OF BETTIE NIXON

Our friend Bettie was recently called home. While we are saddened, we know she is part of His heavenly realm, and we can rejoice in her reward! *Amen*

Bettie was honored in the club as Kindness Angel in 2020; in 1991 she was Clubwoman of the Year. In 2022, she was honored as an Honorary



*Above are many of our friends visiting Bettie in her new home in Valencia. What great memories we can share both recent and from decades of friendship. **Rest in Peace Dear Friend, Rest is Your Reward.***

PRAYERS OF COMFORT FOR OUR FRIEND

Let us all include **Mona McMillin** in our prayers. Mona's husband Clay passed away recently.

Mona has been such a great helpmate to Clay and in these past months, we know her service to the Lord and to Clay is one of triumph for he is home safe in our Lord's embrace away from earthly struggles. It is also one of sadness, but we are certain that Mona's gifts to nurture and care for others were of comfort to her husband and family; we pray for each of their hearts to receive healing and His grace.

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." – 1 Peter 4:10



Life Member. Bettie became a member in 1971 and in 2021, CFWC, SGVD along with local elected officials, all celebrated Bettie for her 50 years of service. Bettie, wore many hats during her decades of service remaining a loyal and supportive member. Her last contribution was \$500 for our Summer Party Fundraiser!

Bettie established vocational scholarships in her husband Clint's name which the community appreciated. She was well known for her cooking skills and especially for her steadfast friendships.

Bettie was always proud when reporting on new grandchildren and the goings on of her family. We share their grief and offer condolences to all.



Patti Dowel, Bettie Nixon and Edna Rathel; Heavenly Best Friends forever! RIP our wonderful friends.



PAST PRESIDENTS UNITE

During our 250th Year celebration party, our own Past Presidents united for a picture, *From left are Margarita Vargas 2015-18, Diana Asmundson 2011-15, Cruz Baca 2018-22 and Cuca Rodriguez 2022-26.*



SGVD SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

18 - SGVD Board Meeting @ **PPWC** 9:30 am
Pio Pico Woman's Club **PPWC**, 9214 Mines, Pico Rivera

Check out the SGVD website for fliers for other club's events and **'The Key' Newsletter** at **sgvd.org**. We plan to carpool so call me if you'd like to join us! See the attached flier for the **Area B Conference**. We'll share more details at the Dean's Seminar on Sept 11th. Theme is 'Fiesta' and costs \$55 for lunch. Looks like a great day to get inspired.



Vivian Reyes, District Registrar

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MEET YOUR EXECUTIVE TEAM – Past President Advisor Diana Asmundson, President Cruz Baca, 3rd Vice President/Ways & Means Rosie Breceda, Clubhouse Chairman/Rentals Margarita Vargas, Parliamentarian Karen Garnier, Financial Secretary Suzanne Perez, Co-Secretary Laura Santos, Co-Secretary Maureen Foster Davis, 2nd Vice President/Membership Alice Konopasek. Not Shown, Treasurer Carmen Vargas

Our **new theme** includes the symbol of the **Hummingbird** whose attributes include endurance and perseverance as they move with great speed, maneuvering in any direction on a dime. May we be inspired to persevere to meet our goals and use the ability to change direction as motivation to welcome change and move in new directions. New members on the team, means new voices and new ideas, so bring it on!



Ice Cream Social

Friday, Sept 11, 2026
11 am to 2 pm
\$15 per person

After the Dean's Seminar in September, we will host lunch and a 'Make Your Own' Ice Cream Social where you make your own sweet treat. Plan to have some fun, we're playing L-C-R so **bring 9 quarters to play!**

Monies raised will benefit our HOBY fund so we can send students to the **Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Conference** in 2027. **RSVP by September 15th**

Laura Santos 626-261-9358

Maureen Foster Davis 951-674-8407

As always if you miss this date, please consider donating, supporting HOBY is so important!

Donations for Ice Cream toppings: Contact Laura Santos if you would like to donate items from our list:

Small Chocolate Ice Cream ½ gal
 Small Strawberry Ice Cream ½ gal
 Small Cookies n Cream Ice Cream ½ gal
 5 Bananas, 1 pkg Strawberries
 Chopped Nuts, 1can Spray Whipping Cream
 Hot Fudge Sauce, Caramel Sauce
 Crumbled Candy Bar or Cookie Bits, Sprinkles

*We have
Vanilla Ice
Cream!*

Day of Beauty

HAIR CUTS

\$15



9 - 11 am

WED, OCT 14th

Sign ups at the Oct 2nd meeting!

Mexican Loteria Bingo & Taco Bar



Friday, August 28, 2026
11 am to 2 pm
\$15 per person *

*Last Chance
to RSVP!*

**includes Taco Bar and 3 games Loteria*
\$10 Taco Bar only (Chicken & Beef w/sides)

We hope you'll join us for great Mexican food and a great time! Monies raised will fund Music Scholarships for students. We'll play Loteria; so much fun! There will be beautiful plants as prizes for the winners! Extra plants will be sold to help raise more money. **RSVP by August 24th**

Vida Flores 626-715-7246

Cruz Baca 626-806-9583

Take Out meals are available if you cannot stay for Loteria! Stop by and support our Music Students! Donations are also welcome!



Donations of Food: Please contact Cruz Baca or Vida Flores if you can bring a food item on the list:

Chicken or Beef taco meat	Tortillas regular corn 60
Shredded Cheese (3 cups)	Diced Tomatoes (2 lg)
Diced Onion (2)	Cilantro or Lettuce
Salsa or jar of Jalapenos	Guacamole, 1 16 oz
Rice or Beans for 30	Sour Cream, 1 16 oz
Taco Sauce/hot sauce	Sherbert ½ gal

We are planning for 30 meals total. (60 tacos)



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Attending a community event and sharing our Casino Trip scheduled for August 15th is our new 3rd Vice President Rosie Breceda! Rosie took to the stage at the first Street Market in the Park to promote our Casino Trip.

The Baldwin Park community brings quality activities to the residents. Both Rosie and Vida Flores are actively participating in local summer events to promote our club programs! **Kudos to both Rosie and Vida!**



SCENES FROM OUR SUMMER PARTY

Good food, great friends, sweet entertainment and all that was missing was **YOU** if you missed the fun! **Happy 250th USA!**



Clockwise top – (1) Laura Santos, Rosie Breceda and Diana Asmundson; (2) Thai Dancers; (3) Alice Konopasek, Vida Flores and Maria Orozco; (4) Margarita Vargas and Enedina Tamayo with friends, Delores and Isabelle.



From left – Cynthia Espinoza BPPD, President Cruz Baca, Cuca Rodriguez and Vivian Reyes; dropping off our donated backpack supplies.

BACKPACK SUPPLY DONATION

Many thanks to the members who heeded our call for school supplies. We collected notebooks, folders, pencil sets, markers, highlighters, sharpeners, composition books, crayons, glue sticks and pencil totes. We estimate the value at \$700+.

Donations were given locally to the BPPD as they plan to distribute to organizations making up backpacks for back-to-school drives.

You cannot underestimate how important our donations are as school supplies are a costly burden especially for families with multiple children. Helping our local Police Department is a great way to support them and our residents.

Thank you again to all who donated!



In the picture above, President Cruz Baca receives the Proclamation for a successful 120 years from Assemblywoman Rubio's office. To the right are Cruz Baca, Elena Robles (rep from Senator Rubio's office) Veronica Lopez, Rosie Breceda and Cuca Rodriguez together, as we receive recognition for our 120th year of service from the Senator's office.

CELEBRATING OUR 120TH YEAR OF SERVICE

In 2026 we celebrate our 120th year of service within the Baldwin Park community. We took time out from the fun of the Summer Party to receive proclamations and recognition from both Assemblywoman Blanca Rubio and State Senator Susan Rubio's offices. We were honored to host representatives Veronia Lopez and Elena Robles from their respective offices. Both joined us for dinner, enjoying our party.



MORE SUMMER PARTY HIGHLIGHTS...

WOW! There was so much fun we had to have a second page! Attendees were entertained by the Thai Dancers that our friend Maye promotes. They were enchanting and fun to watch. Thank You Cruz Baca for coordinating their participation. Great food was made by our members with so many delicious salads and sides to choose from, no one went hungry! Thanks to everyone who donated food or helped in some way! Thanks to Kevin Davis for manning the grill and especially to Diana and Cruz for making last minute runs to Smart N Final and Little Ceasars! Great thanks to Suzanne Perez and Javier Vargas for setting up the tables and chairs in advance.

We loved sharing our patriotic party vibe with family and friends while also enjoying the company of Katherine Hansen CWC President and Gina Morales EMWC President who joined us as well. *Below see Rosie Breceda, Cuca Rodriguez and Maureen Foster Davis. Bottom left picture is Gina Morales.*



Top from left – Raine Brussard, Enedina Tamayo, Lia Ritter and Anna Grehova. Below are Suzanne Perez, Kevin Davis and Suzanne's friend Danny.



Decorations were themed to our Salute to the 250th Year and attendees wore a lot of R-W-B. We raised almost \$1,400! **THANK YOU!** *In the picture below - Cuca Rodriguez, Margarita Vargas, Enedina Tamayo and friends, Delores and Isabel.*



OUR CLUB BY THE NUMBERS

In the last reporting year (2025) we received several awards as reported in these Lark Notes. Every hour spent, every dollar raised or spent, adds up. Members relay the information from club and community activities where it is made part of our annual report where it best fits. This year we reported in 8 of 11 available categories; winning awards in 7. The numbers here would be higher if we reported in all 11. We received \$100 as part of winning the SGVD Leadership Award. These numbers represent what members individually spend in terms of dollars and time, so it really does add up! **Don't forget to report!**

Number of Projects Reported	85
Number of Volunteer Hours	6,959
Monies Raised or Spent	\$ 65,730
In Kind Value of Donations	\$ 12,208



HAIR CUTS RAISE \$460 in JULY!



Getting a hair cut never looked so good! In July we raised \$460 from our Day of Beauty program. Thank you to Josie and Rosie for their expertise, and to everyone who participated! We had a great day with friends!



Clockwise- Laura, Dawn & Josie, Carol.



2026-27 GROUP PHOTO - Top row from left – Maureen Foster Davis, Vivian Reyes, Diana Asmundson, Karen Garnier, Carol Woods, Maria Orozco, Suzanne Perez, Vida Flores, Laura Santos. Bottom row from left – Margarita Vargas, Rosie Breceda, Cruz Baca, Cuca Rodriguez, Barbra Ottem, Alice Konopasek.

The Lark Notes Newsletter is intended to inform members of the Baldwin Park Woman's Club about our general activities; it is not intended for public distribution. Do not forward or copy for non-Club Members.