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PALO ALTO

JANUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER

ENDING THE YEAR IN SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY





FOUNDATION FOR A COLLEGE EDUCATION

Members of KCPA volunteered several hours to serve refreshments and help with entertainment at the annual Foundation for a College Education "Holiday Faire" on December 16. FCE is one of the organizations that receive support from the Kiwanis Club Foundation. FCE's mission is to increase the number of low-income students of color from East Palo Alto and similar communities who graduate from a four-year college or university.

Pictured at the food stations: Paula Collins and Jon Klein, popcorn station; AnnaLisse Johansson, drink station; Joy Rewick and Brenda Birrell, dessert and nacho station.





FAMILY GIVING TREE

KCPA volunteers teamed up with Family Giving Tree on December 16 to help sort and distribute gifts to recipients. FGT is a Silicon Valley nonprofit dedicated to serving children in need with wished-for holiday gifts and backpacks filled with school supplies.

Thanks to Lanie & Dave Wheeler, Brian Dahlquist, Jim Stinger, Sandra Shimuzu, Jerry & Guenet Nightingale, Marie Ridley, Molly and Beth May for lending a hand to this worthwhile project!





FREE LITTLE LIBRARIES

Several members of KCPA have been involved in the ongoing project of construction and installation of Little Free Library “houses” in East Palo Alto. Pedro Rivas Lopez, a muralist and art teacher in East Palo Alto has added an MLK-themed design to the library houses, which were unveiled in time for MLK day on Monday, January 15. Thanks to club members Brian Dahlquist, Marty Degeller, Larry Kavinsky, Leif Erikson, Kimo Hempstead, Tom Sanders, and Jim Stinger for many hours and weekends of hard work!

WE BADE FAREWELL TO 2023 WITH...





HOLIDAY PARTY!

You can't say goodbye to the old year without a rousing holiday party. And KCPA knows how to throw a great holiday party! Members brought tasty treats, and the club added a ham and drinks. And what is a holiday party without contests for outfits? "Best holiday sweater" winner was Sandra Shimuzu; "Best Holiday Hats" winners were Bonnie Packer and Renee Greenstein.

Many thanks to Social Committee Chair Karen Pauls and her committee members Beth Whitmore, David and Lanie Wheeler, Jim Stinger, Marie Ridley, Natalie McClure, Hal Lovell, and Steve Beitler.

SPECIAL EVENT: DOCUMENTARY SCREENING "A DIVINE JOURNEY"

On December 18, a number of KCPA members were treated to a

special screening of “A Divine Journey” at the home of Rob Ruskin. This Splicer Films documentary spotlights a young changemaker, Divine Mugisha, striving to overcome the hardships of living in extreme poverty. The story follows her heroic journey as she sets out to study psychology to treat depression and prevent suicides in disadvantaged and refugee communities.

Divine grew up in extreme poverty in a refugee camp in Malawi, facing hunger and mental health challenges. Despite her struggles, she dedicates her life to creating change and advocating for human rights. As a young advocate, she started [Supportive Pillar Organization](#), a CBO dedicated to helping youth stay in school. On a mission to address mental health issues, Divine recognizes she must now leave home to pursue her own education so she can better serve her community.

Divine Mugisha was the guest of honor and talked about her life and her journey at the end of the film. KCPA members may remember that Splicer Films highlighted the life and work of one of our club members, Evelyne Keomanian, in the documentary “Fear Not”.





LOOKING AHEAD:

GRANTEE RECEPTION 1/18/24

On Thursday, January 18, 2024 KCPA will be hosting our 5th annual Grantee Reception at 6 PM at the Westin Hotel. This is an opportunity for club members to meet representatives from the 30+ nonprofits that will be receiving grants from KCPA in the current fiscal year. At the event, the grantees will receive their checks and introduce their organizations.

Please join us in welcoming the wonderful organizations we support and to learn more about how our fundraising efforts and Foundation donations are utilized in the community.

NEW SERVICE PROJECT WITH PALO ALTO HIGH SCHOOL "BREAKING DOWN THE WALLS"

KCPA has been asked by Palo Alto High School to provide volunteers

for a new program, “Breaking Down the Walls”. This is a program run by Ignite2Unite to build student-to-student connections. This program will be offered at the high school as a replacement for Challenge Day, and unlike Challenge Day, will serve as many as 1000 students over the four program days. Volunteers have been requested from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on January 23, 24, 25, and 26.

Our role will be to act as chaperones during the day. To learn more about *Breaking Down the Walls* and *Ignite2Excite*,

visit <https://www.ignite2unite.com/>

Please consider signing up on Portalbuzz for one or more sessions at <https://members.portalbuzz.com/Member/Event/Details/177576>

ELECTION LOGISTICS SUPPORT

Election season is beginning...and that means opportunities for club members to fulfill their civic duty and earn money for the club by providing election logistics support to Santa Clara County Board of Elections. We encourage members to sign up on Portalbuzz for shifts as a driver or passenger (logistics supply headquarters is at Cubberly Center). Shifts start on February 24 and end on election day, March 5. Lanie Wheeler will keep us posted on our progress; we have 102 slots to fill!

MAY FETE

It's never too soon when the new year rolls around to start thinking about May Fete! You can help us plan for the May Fete Fair on May 4. For the past several years, KCPA has hosted a community building event at Heritage Park featuring free booths for local non-profits, and activities and prizes for children who have participated in the City's May Fete Parade. This year the Parade and Fair will be on [May 4](#). We will have more information in the coming months—but save the date!

100TH BIRTHDAY PLANS UNDERWAY

Our club has a very exciting new year ahead of us as we begin planning for the 100th anniversary of the chartering of the Kiwanis Club of Palo Alto. On February 13, 2025 our club will be 100 years old. Our **100 Year Birthday Committee**, chaired by Jim Stinger, is already hard at work planning for this celebration of 100 years of service to our community. If you're interested in being part of this history-making event for our club and our community, please contact Jim Stinger.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER BRENDA BIRRELL!



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