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# Kiwanis®

## PALO ALTO

***KIWANIANS HAVE THE HOLIDAY  
SPIRIT (ALL YEAR LONG!)***

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***LET'S CELEBRATE TOGETHER!***

**Holiday Party and Potluck**

**Sunday December 3, 2023**

**5:30 - 8:00 PM (set-up starts at 4:30 pm... not the event  
itself)**

**Lucie Stern Community Room**

**[1305 Middlefield Road](#)**

Join your friends and bring your families to our annual Holiday Party and Potluck. There will be wonderful food, drink and fun to celebrate the holiday season. We will be at the Community Room at Lucie Stern (near the theater) and will be starting the festivities early to avoid too much

crowding once the theater crowd arrives.

Sign up to bring a dish to pass. The club is providing a holiday ham with the fixin's and the drinks.

**[SIGN UP HERE](#)** (or email [karenpauls7@gmail.com](mailto:karenpauls7@gmail.com) to sign up)

We will be collecting gift cards to distribute to the families living in trailers locally to brighten their holiday season. All those donating a gift card will be entered into a raffle to win a fun prize. Also, we are bringing back the holiday sweater contest (all in one, no subcategories this year) and adding a holiday hat contest.

We hope to see many of you there!!

Your Social Committee

Beth, Dave, Hal, Jim S, Karen, Lanie, Margie, Marie, Natalie, Steve



## ***2023 ANGEL AWARD EVENT A HUGE SUCCESS!***

The 2023 Angel Award event, our KCPA major fundraiser, was held at the Sheraton Hotel on November 9. One hundred percent of the Sponsor Funds raised for the Angel Award benefits programs, services, and scholarships for children and youth in the Palo Alto area through the KCPA Charitable Foundation.

Over 100 attendees enjoyed an evening of good food and camaraderie as they celebrated this year's honoree, Carol Thomsen, and her remarkable accomplishments. Carol is the founder and executive director of All Five, an early childhood education school located in the Belle Haven area of Menlo Park. All Five serves families of socioeconomically and ethnoracially diverse backgrounds.

The club welcomed a number of parents and their children who have benefited from All Five and wanted to be present to honor Carol. After listening to their heartfelt tributes to her, it was immediately evident that Carol and All Five was the perfect choice for the Kiwanis ANGEL AWARD. Carol and her dedicated staff, board members and community supporters have created a beautiful school environment that has been shown to be important to learning. Over the next two years, All Five will grow from serving 60 children today to 90 children.

***WELL DONE, CAROL AND ALL FIVE!!***

Special thanks to Jim Stinger and Tom Dubois, Angel Award Committee co-chairs; their dedicated committee members; AnaLisse Johannsen (great food, Sheraton!}; and emcee Elizabeth Santana.





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## ***KIWANIS CLUB MEMBER EVELYNE KEOMIAN HONORED***

Our own Kiwanis Member, Evelyne Keomian, was recognized with the **Humanitarian of the Year** award in Los Angeles at the annual film festival by the North Hollywood Indie Film Club. The film about her work and life, ("Fear Not", Splicer Film documentary about the Karat School Project), explores a passionate grassroots changemaker in her quest to break the cycle of poverty through education for her communities in Ivory Coast and Silicon Valley.

Growing up impoverished in the Ivory Coast, Evelyne Keomian was deprived of education and slipped into schools in a culture where only boys were educated. Determined to break the cycle of poverty through education, she founded the Karat School Project (KSP) in the Ivory Coast to empower the next generation of leaders.

After emigrating to the US, she noticed families living in vehicles around Silicon Valley who face barriers she once endured. Refusing to be a bystander, Evelyne expanded the KSP to educate and empower families to become financially independent.

Challenging the education system to help kids without a permanent address to register for school, Evelyne's work now includes addressing poverty and barriers to education in her home country, and in her new community.

**CONGRATULATIONS EVELYNE!!! WE ARE SO PROUD OF YOU  
AND YOUR WORK!!**



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***SERVICE PROJECTS: THE TRUE MEANING  
OF THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT!***

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Sign up on [Portalbuzz](#) to help our friends at the [Foundation for a College Education](#)...Volunteer hours on December 16 from 12:30 - 2:30.

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## ***FAMILY GIVING TREE SERVICE PROJECT***

**The Family Giving Tree Project** has been a tradition for many years with the **Kiwanis Club of Palo Alto**.

We will gather at the warehouse in Sunnyvale and help sort, go to the

shelves in the store to find missing gifts, wrap gifts and various other tasks--depending on what is needed. If you need a sitting job, please let someone know when you get to the warehouse.

We have 2 dates this year; each host is allocated 15 spots , but our club was given a few extras.

**1) Friday , December 15, 2023 10am- 12pm**

**( 10 spots )**

**2) Saturday , December 16, 2023 3pm- 5pm**

**10 spots**

Deadline to sign up this year is **December 1, 2023**. After that date any remaining spots, we will have to return so that people waiting for volunteer spots can use .

We will have a Virtual Tree this year; Marie Ridley will send out the link in a separate email. This can be shared with your family, friends etc and any donation with be credited to Kiwanis of Palo Alto.

Please sign up on [Portal Buzz](#) or email Marie Ridley (turtleridley@yahoo.com) and she will sign you on. If you have any questions do not hesitate to ask.

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***REBUILDING TOGETHER PROJECT--ROBIN'S  
DAYCARE***



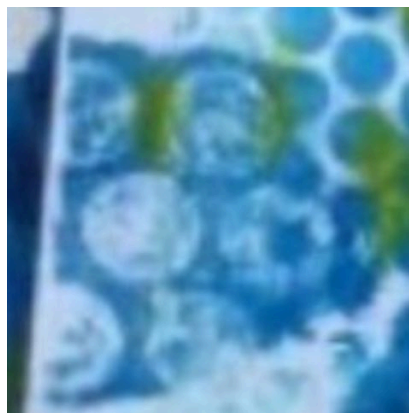
Each year our club sponsors and supports a project for Rebuilding Together. This year we agreed to work with another sponsor on a small project at Robin's Daycare. Robin, who runs the program, needed a variety of interior and exterior repairs and improvements done. A dedicated group of club members painted a large expanse of fence and a storage shed, hung some shade cloths, did some interior repairs in one of the bathrooms, and did some electrical stuff in the garage. We also did some finishing work in the bathroom and strung a cable to

support a patio sunshade.

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## ***NEW DATE FOR JIM STINGER'S "BUY IT NOW" ART EVENT***

Club member Jim Stinger's "Buy It Now" art workshop has been changed from Sunday, 12/3/23 to **Sunday, 12/10/23, 2 - 4 pm** at the Mitchell Park Community Center. The workshop will teach the art of *Gelli printing*, which is a relatively new form of mono printing that uses flexible printing plates to create textures and layers of color. Gelli prints are amazing for creating backgrounds. You can create simple backgrounds for cards or art journal projects with one print. It is also possible to create more complex backgrounds using grids or shapes to be used as a base for an acrylic painting or a mixed media piece. You can also print on fabric with a Gelli plate. Gelli plate printing requires little to no artistic talent to achieve a decent print on paper. Jim will provide all supplies, which you may take home with you after the workshop. The duration of the workshop is two hours with self-selected breaks as needed. Cost is a \$100 donation to our Foundation. No prior art experience is required, just a willingness to learn and have fun! [Sign up here!](#) **Limited to 10 people!**



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## **CALLING ALL MEMBERS--OUR COMMITTEES NEED YOU!**

A new Kiwanis year is underway and we would like to remind everyone (and particularly new members) of our set of committees and how joining a committee (or more) is an important way for members to plan and participate in club activities. The committees and their chairs are listed on [Portalbuzz](#) and we encourage people to contact the chairs for more info about how they operate and when they meet.

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## ***END OF YEAR APPEAL FOR KCPA CHARITABLE FOUNDATION***

By now all club members should have received their end-of-year appeal letter from the club's Charitable Foundation. We hope that each of you will contribute to help KCPA continue to the good work we do both locally and internationally. Member donations to the Foundation comprise about 35% of the total Foundation income available for our philanthropy efforts. ***Your contribution is critically important!***

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## ***BEFORE WE GO...***

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.

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