



# News & Views

GFWC / CFWC

Hacienda Heights Women's Club

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## January 2026

*The creation of a thousand forests is in one acorn.*

Greetings and Happy New Year!

As we begin a new year filled with fresh possibilities, I chose the theme "Together We Serve" to reflect the heart of our club and the work we love to do. Service has always been at the core of who we are, and there is no better way to start the year than by continuing to give back to our community—together.

A favorite reminder as we enter the new year is this simple truth:

"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."

It beautifully captures the spirit of our club and the friendships we've built along the way. Through continued fellowship and friendship, we support one another, stay involved, and make a meaningful difference. I look forward to another wonderful year of service, connection, and shared moments with each of you.

Thank you for all that you do.



Warmly,  
**Angie Valenzuela**  
President, Hacienda Heights Women's Club



### ~~ January ~~

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| Thurs., 1/8  | <u>WC General Meeting</u> "New Beginnings - Together We Serve"<br>Marie Callender's, 1560 Albatross, City of Industry, 11 am<br>* Hostesses: Ampe & Lynn<br>* Inspiration: Katie<br>* Patriotic Moment/Pledge of Allegiance: Rita<br>* Annual White Elephant Sale |
| Fri., 1/9    | District Birthday Council, 9:30 - 12:30, El Monte Comm. Center  |
| Mon., 1/19   | Martin Luther King, Jr. Day   |
| Thurs., 1/22 | WC Board Meeting  |



**Next Meeting: Thursday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, Marie Callender's, 11 am**  
**Hostesses : Betty C & Betty Y- Inspiration: Betty C- Patriotic Moment & Pledge: Irene**



## January Birthdays:

Daisy, Rita G, Theresa L

### ***Program - Lucy***

Greetings! The Hacienda Heights Women's luncheon program welcomes the "New Year" with entertainment from the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department Band under the direction of Dawn Anderson! They are volunteer musicians who perform various types of music for your pleasure! Originally, there are as many as 50 in the orchestra that do concerts, and 30 that do smaller group performances. However, due to space constraint, we are fortunate to have 6 members perform after lunch, to toast in the New Year! See you there!

### ***White Elephant Sale - Carol***

Yes, it's that time of year again when we have the White Elephant Sale at our January meeting. So, search your cupboards and closets for that "Special Stuff" that you just don't want anymore and bring it to the meeting. All monies donated will be sent to Pennies for Pines. This is an organization sponsored by the San Gabriel Valley District Women's Clubs. Remember to bring cash in case you see something you just have to have! "One Woman's trash is another woman's treasure!"



### ***Kindness Angel - Mary T***



This year's Kindness Angel is long overdue for recognition. Her life is about volunteering at St. Mark's, the Women's Club, and the City of Hope. Sunday school is bible studies, arts and crafts, singing, set designs, and much more, plus making Baptism quilts and serving on the school board. At the Women's Club, she overlooks set up and decorations for each meeting. She always has a smile and a kind word for everyone. Our Club is blessed to have Betty C as our Kindness Angel 2025.

(District limits this write-up to 50 words, which does not do justice in Betty's case.)

### ***Clothing and Bedding Donation - Andrea***

This was the 3rd year since we began our donation event. We partnered with the Hsi Lai Temple/BLIA Long Beach Volunteers Chapter to collect donations of clothing, shoes, purses, coats, jackets, blankets, sheets, pillows and towels. Originally, we wanted to help the domestic violence shelter, Lydia's House. They had a fire in December 2023, and all of their supplies were lost. Since our first event, a huge success, the plan was to grow and help more people. This year's event was held on Saturday, December 13th in the parking lot of the Hsi Lai Temple Education Center at the corner of Colima and Hacienda. The goal was to involve the entire community to help those in need with clothing, hygiene products and bedding.

Our partnership also included the Union Rescue Mission who provided two big trucks, pallets and huge cardboard bins for the donations. The bins were rolled out, filled, removed & truckloads were transported throughout the day in a round-robin manner. Business donations were received earlier in the week.

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Theresa L. donated 1251 pairs of brand-new shoes in the boxes. Other businesses donated large amounts of various items as well. Ever grateful to all of our members who joined to volunteer their time and efforts, and to all of those from our organization and community that donated the much-needed items. It was a huge success. We continue to improve with our efforts. The 2nd year we collected 18 pallets and this year we doubled the amount to 36 pallets!



12/13: Donations taken a Hsi Lai Temple education center on Colima. Dense fog that morning, but not a problem for these volunteers. From the Women's Club: Andrea, Tracy, Mary, Irene, Rachel



### ***My Five Top New Year Resolutions - R. Ann, Lucy & Angie***

#### **R. Ann**

- **Be more intentional with my time.** I'm committing to paying closer attention to my schedule and avoiding overbooking or overextending myself. Whenever someone asks if I can do something, I'll check my calendar first and make thoughtful decisions.
- **Limit eating out.** I plan to eat out no more than twice a month. Once would be ideal but twice feels realistic and achievable.
- **Visit the Grand Canyon.** I'm finally making a trip to the Grand Canyon this year. I've never been, and 2026 feels like the perfect time to go.
- **Invest in personal and professional growth.** I want to take more real estate training courses, continue building my skills, and maybe even join Toastmasters to strengthen my public speaking.
- **Stay active in my community.** I plan to continue my involvement as Parliamentarian—and maybe even start a "Parliamentarian Corner" in the newsletter, hint hint—with the Hacienda Heights Women's Club and the Hacienda Heights Improvement Association.





## Lucy

First. As a retired employee of the Hacienda La Puente Unified School District, I created many programs such as dance at my assigned elementary school. That meant programs need visuals such as tangible items and costumes. Money was no object, so I was always buying things for display, sewing costumes, making props to complete the attire for a dance recital. Collecting items became so much that I had to rent storage space. **That became expensive and now is goal number one - to empty it.**



The next opportunity was searching my family's lineage, which I was somewhat familiar with but needed confirmation. The Ancestry search gave me both correction & confirmation. Then I studied era's to connect with my family history. As I began the search, I learned that names were sometimes spelled as sounded. So, it was like a game in searching or doing detective work in narrowing twenty John Does to the family John Doe. At the same time, I collected and had many family pictures. I was given a camera at the age of twelve. At that age, I realize that one day my family would pass on and I would not have anything to document their image. I do now! (My father came from a family of 16 siblings.) **The love of my great grandparents to my 5th cousin today will be in my "Family History Book" and the time is now!**

Third, I served the community during my involvement with many organizations in Hacienda Heights. **Now, I have an interest in helping the wildlife and dogs/cats who are abandoned or have nothing to eat at shelters.** I haven't taken the first step but give me time.

Fourth, **I love to return to my Arts & Crafts.** It is a time for me to enjoy creating items and relax. For example, I crochet baby blankets for my grandchildren to save for when they have children of their own.

Fifth, **keeping close to family.** At this point in my life, I enjoy being surrounded by my family and my brother's family as we celebrate a holiday or just get together! I am proud to see they are good citizens, educated, and raise a family of their own. They follow old and make new traditions and mimic outings they used to complain about. Yes it's true, your children will become their parents one day. lol

## Angie

### Return to Sunday Church

- Attend church weekly
- Spend time in reflection and gratitude
- Rebuild a consistent spiritual routine

### Deepen Connections with Family & Friends

- Reach out to one person weekly
- Schedule meaningful visits or calls
- Reconnect with those I haven't seen in a while

### Daily 10-Minute Stretch & Strength Routine

- Stretch daily for 10 minutes
- Do strength/weights 3× a week
- Track consistency

### Travel More & Twice-a-Month Discovery Days

- Plan at least one big trip
- Take weekend getaways
- Explore new places
- Twice a month: try a new restaurant, café, museum, or local spot

### Read More Books

- One book per month
- Or read 15 minutes before bed
- Keep a reading list

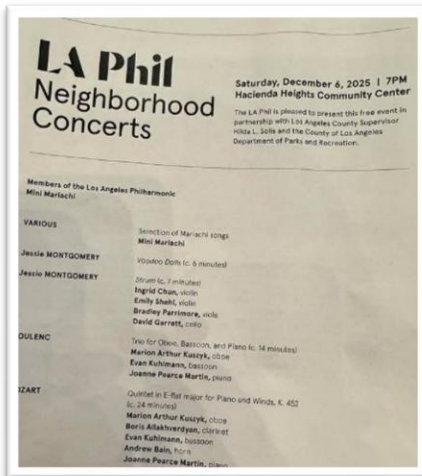


**Happy New Year!!**

## December Highlights



12/6: LA Phil Neighborhood Concert at the HHCC. Thanks to Hilda Solis and her staff for an inspiring concert. All attendees received vouchers for another concert at the Disney Concert Hall in coming season. Rachel and Mary T attended with their husbands for a date night, and Betty C came with the mysterious Mr. C.



12/4: WC Christmas Luncheon. Entertained with members of Chorale Bel Canto





Leslie made a mailbox for our Christmas cards to be delivered to those presently serving our country. Some will be sent to the military hospital. If you look at the details... It was made with lots of love.



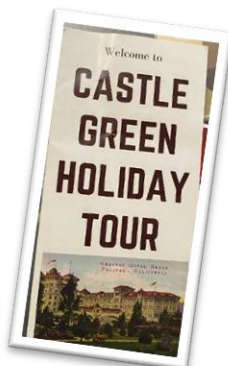
Katie, game hostess of "Two Truths and a Lie". Players – Terry V, Betty C, and Rachel K



Gabby created and printed amazing poster for lectern. Thank you!!



Leslie with brother and wife at Castle Green Holiday Tour



December hostesses and decorators Gabby, Nancy, and Ann. Beautiful! Thank you



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Rita coordinated the "Making Spirits Bright" this year. A Big Success!

16 families and individual servicemen at Fort Irwin received gifts at December 20th Christmas Party.

Thank you to all the volunteers who shopped, wrapped, and bagged all the presents.

Thanks to Rita, Betty C, and especially to Angie and her husband who successfully collected and delivered all the bags on December 18th!



The Moore's grandkids getting ready to shop for the family in Making Spirits Bright



~ from Leslie

Airlines announces boarding for flight 2026.

Your luggage should contain only the best memories of 2025.

The bad or sad moments should be deposited in the nearest dustbin..



The duration of this flight will be 12 months. So adjust your seatbelt comfortably and the next refuelling will be with Love, Joy, Kindness, Humility, Patience, Self Mastery, Harmony, Wellness, Peace and Spiritual Study with Faith and Hope.

During the flight the Captain offers you the following menu:

- \*A cocktail of abundant health.
- \*An appetizer of prosperity.
- \*A bowl of excellent news.
- \*A salad of Success,
- \*A main course of peace. \*A cake of Happiness,
- \*and most importantly desserts and "Faith"

All accompanied by bursts of smiles...

Upon starting your journey please allow yourself to thank the people who made your 2025 beautiful.

Wishing you a Happy Journey aboard Flight 2026... . Hope to see more of you, and so excited to celebrate life with you! Cheers and lots of love and hugs!

