



## Woman's Club of Laguna Beach

### YEAR IN REVIEW January – December 2023



Board member and Museum docent, Dee Perry, hosted sold-out private art showings at the Museum in January, April and November, with Happy Hour/Wine Tastings afterwards. It is clear our members like their art and their libations!



What a **HONOR** to be featured in the Magazine, entitled *Special Edition* / the Club's mission of friendship, service children in-need within our community, celebrated our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in



February 2023 issue of Laguna Beach *Fabric of the Community*, which focused on and philanthropy, helping women and and our Century of Service (having November 2022).

**WHO DOESN'T LOVE A PARADE??** Fourteen of us marched in the Annual Patriot's Day Parade to Honor Our Heroes. A blast was had walking the route, waving to the CHEERING crowd and passing out pinwheels to all the kids. And, once again, you could find us all enjoying lunch and champagne in the side lot of Zinc Café afterwards.



The month of May was quite busy: Our members selected Debbie Neev as our 2023 Woman of the Year and Board Officers for 2023-24 were elected: Kitty Malcolm (President), Debbie Brown (Vice President/Community Outreach), Stephanie Percy (Vice President/Membership), Debbie Neev (Secretary), Robin Miller (Treasurer). Directors-at-Large: Dee Perry, Annette Davis, Susie Ristuben, Patty LeDonne, Paula Dumas, Tessa Hazlett, Miranda Barone, Tammy Gagne and Deb Foster.



**MAY 18th  
WINE & CHEESE  
SOCIAL**



In June, we honored *Debbie Neev* as our *Woman of the Year*. This award goes to a local woman who has consistently and/or significantly enhanced our community. She is nominated by and voted for by our membership. Not surprisingly, it was another sold-out event, packed with well-wishers and filled with joy and happiness.

**SEPTEMBER 14<sup>th</sup> - WINE & CHEESE SOCIAL**



Guests were asked to bring food contributions to support our Food Pantry. \$1000 was raised in cash donations that evening and 20 lbs. of food items was collected.



Yummy appetizers supplied by An Angel in Your Kitchen and smiles galore from our bartenders, Board Member, Stephany Percy and Reza.



September and October were also Community Outreach 'giving' months. Working with the Laguna Beach School District, 45 backpacks were provided to kids in each of our four community schools. In addition, we presented dollar donations to the Food Pantry and the Friendship Shelter.



\$10,000 to the Friendship Shelter  
\$6,000 to the Food Pantry

October also provided a time for a service project! Several of our board members visited with the kids at our local Waymakers Shelter to help with pumpkin decorating. Look at our Fab Five 'Pumpkins'!



In November, we started preparations for our Holiday Luncheon. Providing another service project, we reached out to our members to participate in the Club's purchase of toys in support of our Fire Department's Spark of Love program for in-need children. Our members provided 52 toys. THANK YOU to those who gave.



**ON DECEMBER 8<sup>th</sup>, WE ENDED 2023  
BY RAISING OVER \$20,000  
TO SUPPORT THE CLUB'S  
ADOPT-A-CHILD AND  
COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMS**



The Woman's Club has been involved in charitable giving since its inception in 1922. Because of your generosity at our 2022 Holiday Luncheon (where we raised over \$11,00), we were able to significantly increase our giving for **2023**, which included:

- \$1,500 to send kids to various City summer camps
- \$2,000 to Camp Pinniped (Marine Mammal Center) for kids to attend summer camp
- 45 backpacks for kids attending our local schools
- \$4,000 to Laguna Beach High School Foundation to assist in sending two senior young women to college
- \$6,000 to the Food Pantry and provided over 150 food items
- \$10,000 to the Friendship Shelter for specialized programs for transitioning women
- Adopting 26 children (from 11 families), for a total of approximately 150 gifts
- Providing \$150 Ralph's gift cards for each of these families (\$1500)
- 130 toys for Spark of Love (52 provided by members; 78 provided through Community Outreach funds)
- 72 gifts to the teens at Waymakers Youth Shelter. Note: In addition to these holiday gifts, we have made a commitment to Waymakers to provide duffle bags throughout the year for each kid to take their personal belongings with them as they are able to leave the Shelter.

A condensed 'thank you' note was recently received from one of the families we supported this holiday season, which reminds us of how important this aspect of community giving is to those in need:

**“Yeva was absolutely thrilled and delighted when she received the gifts. Your thoughtful gesture brought immense joy to our family during the holiday season. In these challenging times for us, the support we have received from the Women's Club has been invaluable. Your generosity not only touched our hearts but also made a significant positive impact on our family. We want to emphasize how important and meaningful your support is to us, especially during these difficult moments. Once again, thank you for your kindness and for making our Christmas brighter. Your thoughtful gifts have created lasting memories for Yeva and our entire family”.**



The Board assesses the growth and needs of our members throughout the year. Today, we have grown to 165 members! As we started seeing this growth we realized our members needed additional smaller group activities in an effort to provide an opportunity to have more activities for meeting, mingling, and

making new connections. In February, we began with - -

**Get up-to-date information and news bits about activities, programs, and events by visiting our website at [wclb.org](http://wclb.org).**

Photos are courtesy of member Nancy Villere, of Crush Photo Studios. If you would like to see more pictures of our most recent events, please visit our website at [wclb.org](http://wclb.org) / Events / Past Events. Nancy is listed in our Membership Directory as well.

The Board is always in our activities. If you have ideas/suggestions contact [info@wclb.org](mailto:info@wclb.org). (pictured below), have lots of fun and would like to



interested in member participation are interested in participating or you might like to share, please We have a terrific Board (pictured hear from you.

Laura (Property Manager), Tessa, Debbie Neev, Stephany,  
Kitty, Marie, Debbie Brown, Patty, Annette, Susie, Tammy,  
Deb, SANTA, and Dee. Not pictured: Paula



*Best wishes for 2024!*  
*Kitty*