

LAS CANDALISTAS JANUARY NEWSLETTER

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

And just like that, we're back!!! But before we move on, I want to thank a few of our busy bees during the month of December. Las Candalistas is the gift that keeps on giving to our community.

- Jan Raymond and Donna Ciminera for assisting and mentoring our new Thrift gals, Joan Sedillo, Karyn Farris and Carla Smith on how to fill and distribute all of the toiletry bags! They and their team all made the recipients of our fantastic toiletry bags very merry!
- Kathy Black and Cathy Howard for their continuous work on our Adopt a Family.

Please read their articles in this newsletter for more information.

We managed to slip in some festivities also. Thank you for Selina Hamilton coordinating our 2nd annual Cookie Exchange and Sally Gutierrez for hosting again. If you haven't seen Sally's home during the holidays, you are truly missing out! It's stunning!

It's now 2025.....Are you ready for it? No rest for the weary as we've got an event to host! Our biggest ask for this event is to share with family and friends to buy tickets. This will be such a fun event and will help raise funds for our Top 3! Other things we're working on and looking forward to,,,,,

- Please plan on attending our January 15th General Meeting as we will be rolling out all the details of our Spring Event
- We're planning another Cocktails at Sunset in February
- Your Officers and BODs are working on updating our Philanthropy Standing Rules
- I will be setting up a Focus Meeting with the members that signed up at last year's June Luncheon on the President's Special Interest Form.

There will also be Bunco, Book Club and Excursions, oh my!!!

If you are ever curious how we are doing with our fundraising, please check out our Las Candalistas website which shows how much we have raised and our goal. We're doing good but we have a long way to go. I know we can do it! Who's up for the challenge???

Lorri Mino
President

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Happy New Year and welcome back! We hope you had an enjoyable break and are ready to dive into an exciting year ahead. As we enter 2025, there are many new and exciting opportunities for everyone to get involved with and have fun in the process.

The Board of Directors is happy to announce that preparations are already underway for the selection of our 2025 – 2026 Officers who will guide our organization through the new fundraising year. One of the first steps in this process is the formation of this year's Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee plays a crucial role in identifying and recommending individuals who possess the passion, dedication, and leadership skills necessary to steer our organization. Your involvement in this process is important, as it ensures that the leadership team reflects the diverse talents and perspectives of our membership.

In the coming weeks, the Board will be reaching out to potential committee members and assembling a dynamic group to lead the task of filling all Officer positions for the upcoming year. The Nominating Committee is comprised of the five Board members, two Officers, as well as two members at large. If you are interested in becoming an Officer yourself, serving another year as an Officer, or have recommendations for any member(s) who would make excellent leaders, please feel free to contact one of the Board members.

We are confident that we will be able to build a strong and effective leadership team for the upcoming year.

With enthusiasm,

Amy Mosher, Chair

Lynda Black, Ann Goodhart, Cindy MacFarlane, Carla Smith

Board of Directors

PARLIAMENTARIAN

Happy New Year! Our next General Meeting will be:

When: Wednesday, January 15, 2025: 9:00 AM Social; 9:30 AM Meeting

Where: Peninsula Center Library Community Room (on the library level) at 701 Silver Spur Road, RHE

ZOOM: For those members who unfortunately cannot attend this general meeting in person, you will be able to attend via Zoom. The link is in the email that came with this newsletter and will be sent again to all members the week of the meeting. Please note, according to our standing rules, to be counted present via Zoom, your video camera must be turned on at least at the beginning of the meeting and your *first and last name* must be displayed.

Michelle Drapeau

Parliamentarian

PHILANTHROPY

Happy New Year everyone. Because December felt very busy, we decided to change the visit to the International Bird Rescue to January. We will update everyone with the date as soon as we have it confirmed.

We will update at the General meeting of future visits to some of our other charities.

Lisa Nesicolaci & Debbie Sampson
1st VPs Philanthropy

WAYS & MEANS/ SPONSORSHIPS

GOOD NEWS! Thanks to Janis Davis and Diane Stone we now have two new Sponsors – Keenan and Associates and our own Diane Stone of Diane Stone South Bay Real Estate. We are so thankful to start the year off like this since we are kicking off January with our first event – the LOL Fundraiser.

AND ALL YOU HAD TO DO WAS ASK! Yes, sometimes our contacts say no (thank you Janis for being persistent!) and sometimes they just say YES (Diane!) We would love to keep this momentum going through our Spring Event so any recommendations of potential sponsors is greatly appreciated! You don't have to contact them necessarily – we are happy to do that. We get to support our Philanthropies but Sponsors also get great exposure through our website, constant contact etc...

Thanks in advance and Happy New Year to each of you from Ways and Means!

Susan Yamate & Randi Young
2nd VPs Ways & Means

MEMBERSHIP

Happy New Year to all our lovely Las Candalistas ladies.

Next general meeting is January 15 at Peninsula Center Library
Social 9:00 AM and meeting starts at 9:30 AM

If you can't make it please contact Joan Sedillo or Kelly Reinart
goombette@verizon.net or reinart5@aol.com

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Debbie Sampson 1/02; Michelle Drapeau 1/07; Penny Robbins 1/08; Stella Bullock 1/10;
Shelley Pogorelsky 1/14; Madeline Mello 1/14; Joan Kelly 1/15; Amy Mosher 1/20; Doreen Witty 1/21;
Nancy Bruce 1/22; Cheryl Deppe 1/22; Ann Goodhart 1/22; Christina Jespersen 1/22;
Danielle Weinstock 1/22; Janie Woodburn 1/22; Rena Einstein 1/24 ;
Megan Zimmer 1/24; Susan Udewitz 1/28 ; Marge Rankin 1/29; Lorri Mino 1/31

A Happy and Healthy New Year to you all!

Joan Sedillo and Kelly Reinart
3rd VPs Membership

****SPRING EVENT 2025****

SAVE THE DATE!

“Cruising Together For the Better”

Saturday, May 10, 2025, 5:00 pm

Norris Pavilion

Details at the January General Meeting

Susan Sanborn
Chair, Spring Event 2025

L.O.L. FOR CHARITY
SPECIAL JANUARY FUNDRAISER

We didn't have a holiday party this year, but you can start 2025 off with lots of laughs and support our philanthropies by purchasing tickets to our Special Fundraiser and enjoy it with other members, family and Friends.

L.O.L. For Charity
A Night of Comedy (and a little Magic) with Gary Cannon & Friends.

When? Sunday, January 26th, 5:00 pm to 10:00pm
Where? Michael's Tuscany Room, San Pedro

No pressure, no auctions, just a good time for a good cause.

Comedian Gary Cannon has emceed our last two Spring Fundraising Events, and we are honored that he is doing a special show, just for us! He'll be bringing along two other comedians, both of whom you may have seen at the Comedy & Magic Club in Hermosa Beach, The Hollywood Improv, The Comedy Store, and/or The Laugh Factory.

As an added bonus: You'll be mystified by the magic of Clark Brown (Member Hollidae Brown's son) who regularly appeared at The Magic Castle

Your evening will include:
A delicious Italian buffet dinner.
Coffee, tea, and lemonade.

Alcohol is not included, but there is a full bar available.

Tickets are a steal at \$100.

For tickets go to <https://lascandalistas.org/events/lol/>

Debbie Sampson
Chair, L.O.L. For Charity



LAS CANDALISTAS INVITES
YOU TO A
NIGHT OF COMEDY
AND FUN WITH
GARY CANNON & FRIENDS

L.O.L.

FOR CHARITY



Dinner by
Michaels of
Tuscany
470 W 7th St
San Pedro

January 26 , 2025
5-10pm
Tickets \$ 100



Tickets and Information
www.lascandalistas.org

All net proceeds will help support Cancer Support Community-South Bay,
Manes for Movement, and Providence Trinity Kidscare Hospice

BETWEEN THE LINES – THANK YOU FROM SILENT AUCTION

We want to reach out and thank everyone who helped with the Silent Auction. The event exceeded our expectations and brought in more money than we imagined.

We would like to start by thanking those that helped with the preparation and set-up at the event: Lynda Black, Patti Capeloto, Carla Smith, Lorri Mino, Debbie Bramhall and Randi Young. It was wonderful to see the tables full of quality items and beautiful displays.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts to the members that either donated items or solicited donations to make our auction a success. Big shout out to the following in no particular order: Lorri Mino (solicited), Carla and Doug Smith (donated/solicited), Susan Yamate (donated/solicited), Debbie Bramhall (donated/solicited) Kelly Reinhart (solicited), Stella Bullock (donated/solicited), Linda Belzer (donated), Kelly Wedel (donated), Joan Sedillo (donated), Polly Goodman(solicited), Jan Schlesinger/ Ed McClure (donated), Sue Soldoff (solicited) Stacey Navarro (solicited), Irene Almeida(donated/solicited), Lisa Nesicolaci (donated) Mary Ross (donated), Linda Rubin(donated), Nancy Hauge (donated), Nancy Pearson(donated) Patti Capeloto (donated), Brenda Holcomb (donated) Jan Raymond (solicited),Lynda Black (donated/solicited) Jane Butler Jackson (donated), Lois Riopelle (donated), Cathy Howard (donated), and Karyn Farris (donated). We could not have done this without all of you. You are wonderful! If we left anyone off the list, we are so sorry.

We appreciate all of you!

Cindy Macfarlane and Stella Bullock
Silent Auction Chairs, *Between the Lines*

ANYONE FOR ITALY?

One of our guests purchased the fabulous Italy Hotel Auction prize at the Fall event. The friends that she thought might go with her couldn't go.

If anyone is interested in buying the package from her please contact Debbie Sampson,
debs744@hotmail.com

The 4-night Hotel Package in Tuscany included:

The hotel is [Bellavista Impruneta](#), just south of Florence in the hills and is owned by Matteo's Family. He was one of the Chefs that came to the Fall event.

- 4 nights in our Superior Double Room
- A welcome charcuterie plate & bottle of wine on our panoramic terrace
- A traditional Tuscan dinner served at our restaurant
- A wine & olive oil tasting in town

cost \$1,500

VALIDITY: 15 months (there may be some flexibility in this)

If you are interested but would like to go with Family or Friends, we could sell further packages at the same price.

SMALL SOCIAL 'FUN'DRAISERS

The Great Cookie Exchange on December 22nd was an afternoon of much fun! Thank you to Sally Gutierrez for hosting in her beautiful festive home and supplying tasty snacks. If you weren't there, you missed out on: thin chocolate brownies, pecan butterballs, ritz crackers with peanut butter dipped in chocolate, gingerbread, brownie chocolate chip, lemon meltaways, almond joy, no egg coconut, salted caramel chips brown butter and hanging out with your LC sisters!



Do you have a fundraising idea that you'd like to host? Give me a call or text. Selina Hamilton (626)399-8887.

Selina Hamilton
Small Social "FUN"draisers

FRIENDS & FAMILY HOLIDAY SALE 2024

The Friends & Family Holiday Sale was a big success again this year. Thanks to you, your family & friends, and our guests at the Fall event, we sold almost everything we made. We also have been filling orders over the last two months for those that needed extra items. We have only a few Cranberry Jalapeno and a few Jalapeno jellies left.

Thank you so much for your support of this important fundraiser. The funds raised add to the contributions we can give our charities this year to do their good work.

Happy New Year!!

**Ann Goodhart, Janie Woodburn
Janie Hasselman, Belinda Krekorian
Kathy Black, Cathy Howard
Laura Webb, Polly Goodman
Lois Riopelle
Friends & Family Team**

SUNSHINE & RAIN

- ◆ Note from Mary Sloper:

*Please thank Las Candalistas for their prayers, notes of encouragement and the beautiful bouquet of pink roses. All were very much appreciated. I am considerably better for which I am very grateful. It will however, take at least another month to be back to normal energy. I look forward to seeing many of you at the various events as 2025 progresses. In the meantime, I wish you all a joyous Christmas and all good things for 2025.
With kind regards,
Mary*

- ◆ Update on Carol Mead:

Carol is recovering well and gaining more independence every day as she continues her wound care treatments at the Oakmont of Torrance. She has been able to go to her home for short visits to help prepare for an upcoming estate sale and sale of her home. She has plans to relocate in June. Let's keep Carol in our prayers as she goes through this big step and send healing thoughts for continued improvement with her feet and leg injury.

- ◆ Update on Cheryl Gutierrez's husband, Hector:

Continued prayers would be appreciated for Hector as he recovers and is scheduled for two additional procedures in January.

Wishing you all a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Irene Almeida 310-486-1816 irenealmeidalascandalistas@gmail.com
Paula Redmond 310-987-9744 theredmonds7@gmail.com
Sunshine & Rain

LIAISONS OF FUN



Our last outing was to the Chen Art Gallery in downtown Torrance. Who knew that there was such an amazing collection of Asian art right here in Torrance! If I had to pick a favorite item, it would have to be the glass snuff bottles and the Faberge eggs, but I can't leave out the Picasso sketches. If you were there you would have a hard time choosing as well, there was so much to see. Of course, we were hungry and thirsty after the amazing collection, so we went to PF Chang's for cocktails and lunch.

We will start of the new year with – wait for it – more drinking. We are planning a tour, wine tasting and lunch at the historic San Antonio Winery in downtown Los Angeles on the 23rd of January. No dry January with Las Candalistas! We will have more information coming soon, as we are still in the planning stages. If this sounds like fun and you want to join us, please email one of us to let us know that you are interested.

Julie Waldron waldrons4@msn.com and **Janie Woodburn** jwoodlett@verizon.net
Your Liaisons of Fun

COCKTAILS AT SUNSET



Save the date!!!!

February 13th, 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Galentine's Cocktails at Sunset
At the home of Cindy Macfarlane
Invitation to come at a later date.

THRIFT/HOLIDAY TOILETRY BAGS

We would like to thank all of you for your generous donations of cosmetics, toiletries and cosmetic bags as well as cash for us to make purchases to complete and fill the gift bags for our charities. We would also like to thank our Elves who made the process fun and efficient.

We were able to donate 388 bags to our charities!

We would like to give special thanks to Barb Morel who was able to obtain a donation of 1000 socks from Bombas that we were able to add to our gift bags. We are approved for the same donation from Bombas for next year.! Thanks Barb.

We will be collecting Thrift items as well as new cosmetics at the January meeting. Please make sure that all clothing is clean and small appliances are in working order.
Just a note we are no longer collecting used makeup.

Joan Sedillo, Karyn Farris, and Carla Smith
Thrift/Holiday Toiletry Bags Chair

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

For those of you who don't know, you can help Las Candalistas and the philanthropies we support every time you shop at Ralphs.

First, go to their website:

<https://www.ralphs.com/i/community/community-contribution-program>

Once you click on the website link above, the instructions are very clear on how to create a digital account and then link it to Las Candalistas. Once you link your Card to us, all you have to do is shop at Ralphs and swipe your Shopper's Card.

Every time you shop, your receipt will state that there was a contribution to Las Candalistas on the bottom of the receipt.

Thank you for participating!

Susan Sanborn susan.p.sanborn@gmail.com
Community Partners

ADOPT-A-FAMILY



Adopt A Family was an ENORMOUS success due to the generosity, commitment, and devotion of our selfless Las Candalistas members and their families and friends. We raised enough money to fulfill the wish lists for six families. We provided four families from Community's Child with gifts for 12 children and 4 moms. We also were able to provide two families from the Cancer Support Community South Bay with gifts for 4 children and 5 adults. Not only did the Las Candalistas elves provide all six families with their wishes, but we were also able to provide stockings filled with treats for all 16 children!!! We would like to thank you for generously donating to such a worthy cause. Whether it was cash, gift cards, items, or gift wrap, it was all greatly appreciated. We would also like to thank those of you on our committee who volunteered to wrap: Randi Young, Nita Birnbaum, and Janie Woodburn. Once again, thank you ALL so much.

Have a Wonderful New Year!!!



Warmly,
Kathy Black and Cathy Howard
Adopt A Family Committee Chairs



BUNCO

We will be having our next Bunco Night on Wednesday January 15th at Lucy Huebner's home. An Evite will be sent on January 1 to those players who originally signed up at the September 2024 meeting. The first 11 ladies to respond will secure a spot.

The Las Candalistas Bunco Group is a fun way to get together with other members, play a game, eat snacks, drink wine, and be silly. We meet the third Wednesday of every month with the exception of December, June, July, August, and September.

If you would like to be included in Bunco this year and did not have an opportunity to sign up at the September meeting, please contact one of the Bunco co-chairs.

Hollidae Brown: hollidae12@gmail.com

Janie Woodburn: jwoodlett@verizon.net

**Hollidae Brown and Janie Woodburn
Bunco Chairs**

BOOK CLUB

Happy New Year!! Hope all of you had a really fun holiday season.

Our January Book Club will be held on January 22nd, 2025, at 4:30pm. Lois Riopelle will be hosting this month...1424 Brett Place # 260, San Pedro...off Western and Capitol Drive.

THE WEDDING PEOPLE by Jenna August is this month's selection...from Jenna Hager's Book Club {two Jennas!). This is the story of two women who are experiencing the most important week of their lives, very different reasons, in the same hotel. Their experiences are heightened as they are about to make permanent decisions which will change their lives forever.

If you're able to join us, please contact Marlyn Franklin, marlyn.franklin@gmail.com. Further information will be sent to you before the meeting. Hope you enjoy the book!

**Marlyn Franklin
Book Club**

DONORSNAP

As most of you know, DonorSnap is the database we use to track donations, write thank-you letters, and to generate labels for event invitations. You can help by kindly letting us know if your contact information changes between annual roster issues. Also, if you are in touch with a corporate or non-member donor (or are reaching out to new ones) please send us the name of the organization, point of contact and postal address. Please send any updates via email to Tracy and Lois at tag4646@gmail.com and lois1936@live.com. Thank you for helping us communicate at our best with an effective DonorSnap database!

**Tracy Glover, Lois Riopelle, & Polly Goodman
DonorSnap Chairs**

WEBSITE, SOCIAL MEDIA AND EMAIL MARKETING (CONSTANT CONTACT)

Have you seen the new and improved LC website? www.lascandalistas.org. Please check it out! There are two parts to our site: a Public portion and a Members Only portion. The Public portion promotes us, our events, our current projects, etc. The Members Only portion is just for us. It has a calendar and all the documents you need such as check requests, deposit forms, newsletters, and more. To access it you need to register. Click on the menu at the top of our website, scroll down to Register and follow the instructions. I (Laura HB) will have to approve you. Once you are approved, you can then log in. A code may be sent to your email for security reasons.

Social Media:

We have two Facebook pages accounts: a public and private one:

Public Facebook Page: please like our page and like and share our posts. Type in Las Candalistas in the search bar to find us.

Private Facebook Page: This is for Las Candalistas Members Only (please don't confuse this with our website Members Only section). We use this to post photos of LC social events, share info about our philanthropies and more. Type in Las Candalistas Members in the search bar to find this page. You have to ask to join.

Instagram: Type in lascandalistas in the search bar to find us. Click on follow. Like our posts!

Email Marketing (Constant Contact):

We have been using Constant Contact for email marketing for several years. I want to explain what this is, for those of you who are not familiar with it.

Constant Contact is an email marketing company that will send out emails for your organization. They have professional templates and the ability to send mass emails. If you subscribe to receive emails from your favorite stores, you have most likely received emails via Constant Contact. We utilize Constant Contact mostly to advertise our events. In fact, our most recent fundraising events used Constant Contact as the primary advertising source (along with a follow-up postcard)

All LC members are on the Constant Contact email list so any time one is sent out, you will receive it. You can, in turn, forward it on to friends, which helps us spread the word. However, often times emails sent through companies like Constant Contact can wind up in your Promotions box or Spam box rather than your Primary inbox. So please check all your inboxes to make sure you haven't missed an email. If you have gmail, please check your Promotions tab, it will most likely go there. You can also add lascandalistas@gmail.com to your contact list. That will help.

Thank you!

Laura Henson-Broussard - Webmistress, Email Marketing, Social Media

Janis Davis McGarry – Webmistress

Stacey Navarro – Social Media

RECIPE FROM THE LAS CANDALISTAS ARCHIVES

Happy New Year! Many cultures have certain foods that are served on New Year's Eve or Day to ensure good fortune for the upcoming year. In Italy and Mexico lentils are one of these lucky foods. Here is a lentil soup from the archives that will warm you up on a cold day and hopefully bring in a fabulous 2025!

*L*ENTIL SOUP WITH SPINACH AND CUMIN

<i>5 T. olive oil</i>	<i>1 lb. lentils, rinsed</i>
<i>3-4 leeks, white part, chopped</i>	<i>2 ham hocks, ham bone, or a</i>
<i>2 stalks celery with leaves,</i>	<i>'hunk from a ham'</i>
<i>chopped</i>	<i>10 c. chicken stock</i>
<i>2 carrots, peeled and chopped</i>	<i>1 lb. spinach, chopped</i>
<i>3 tsp. ground cumin</i>	<i>1 lemon, juiced</i>
<i>2-6 cloves garlic, minced</i>	<i>salt and freshly ground pepper</i>

In stockpot, heat olive oil and sauté leeks, celery and carrots over moderate heat until soft. Add cumin and garlic and sauté vegetables 2 more minutes. Add lentils, ham hocks and stock and bring soup to a boil. Lower heat, cover pot partly and simmer 1 hour. Remove ham hocks and shred meat, removing all fat and gristle. Reserve meat. Purée about half of the cooked lentils in blender for food processor and return to pot. Add meat, spinach, lemon juice, salt and pepper to taste and simmer soup 15 minutes more.

Recipe Note: Serves 6

Laura Henson-Broussard
Unofficial LC Historian

JANUARY 2025

January Birthdays

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			01	02	03	04
			Happy New Year! 	Debbie Sampson		
05	06	07	08	09	10	11
		Michelle Drapeau	Officer Meeting Penny Robbins		Stella Bullock	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
		Madeline Mello, Shelley Pogorelsky	General Meeting Bunco Joan Kelly			
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	Amy Mosher	Doreen Witty	Book Club *6 Members see below	Excursion to San Antonio Winery	Rena Eisenstein, Megan Zimmer	
26	27	28	29	30	31	
L.O.L. For Charity Fundraiser		Susan Udewitz	Marge Rankin		Lorri Mino	

*1/22 Birthdays: Nancy Bruce, Cheryl Deppe, Ann Goodhart, Christina Jespersion, Danielle Weinstock, Janie Woodburn