



January 2022

President's Message

Happy New Year to each and everyone of you! I hope that you were able to safely celebrate with family and loved ones. This Omicron variant has certainly come on strong and it makes me so thankful that we were able to safely have Mannequins before the surge! What a festive and fun afternoon it was!! Thank you to Ellen Farewell for opening her beautiful home to us and to Sharon Swinford and Liz Reed for a wonderful party!

Due to the recent rise in cases, the board met this week via Zoom and we decided to hold the upcoming January General meeting via Zoom as well. The program we had scheduled will be moved to February, when we can hopefully meet in person safely again. In order to make the January meeting more fun and get people to log in, we will be having a social meeting with a "get to know you" feature... so hopefully we can all learn new and interesting things about each other, as well as help our new members get to know us all better!

If Zoom is a challenge for any of you, I am happy to spend some time walking you through it so that you can join us for the meeting! Just let me know how I can help!!!

This year is an assessment year again, as we discussed and voted on during the September General Meeting. In deciding to hold off on our benefit for another year, we are safeguarding our future and ability to make our donations by assessing again. Assessment letters will be sent out this month and will be easier to pay than ever with our new card on file system!

Our Nominating Committee, headed up by Mary Kay Prather, will soon be hard at work preparing the slate for next year's Board. Please consider taking on a role and being involved in the Board. There are a number of critical positions to fill this year, and we need all of us to pitch in to keep Oakmont League running

smoothly and successfully! Think about what positions you could fill and volunteer your time and service! The positions we need to fill are President, 1st VP Programs, 2nd VP Membership, 3rd VP Philanthropy, 4th VP Social, Corresponding Secretary, Ways and Means and Hospitality. These are crucial roles, but I can assure you that no job is too hard or too much for any one person and that taking on a role ensures the support and help of the Board. If you have any questions about a specific job, please always feel free to reach out to the person currently or to me. This is the time for each of us to step up and help make Oakmont League all that it can be!

I hope you are all staying safe and healthy and we will be together soon again, I hope!!

Virtual hugs,
Jackie Kubel
President

Programs

Please join us on Zoom for our January General Meeting on January 26. We will feature a "getting to know you" style program where each attendee will be asked to share a 2-3 minute bio (childhood, college, career, hobbies, current life, etc). We also ask that you throw in an interesting tidbit...a fact, story, or experience we may not know about you, just for fun! We hope to return to regular in person meetings in February and we hold out hope that 2022 will improve and allow us to be together once again soon.

Shauna Lehmann,
Program Chair

HOPE by Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer

Hope has holes in its pockets.
It leaves little crumb trails so that we,
when anxious, can follow it.

Hope's secret:
it doesn't know the destination-
it only knows that all roads
begin with one foot
in front of the other.



Nominating Committee

The Nomination Form for 2022-2023 is attached. Please consider how you will contribute to The Oakmont League next year. If you believe another member is the perfect fit for a role, please discuss it with her. A polite little arm-twist is appropriate!
All talents are welcomed and needed.

Mary Kay Prather

Nominating Committee Chair

Farewell to the Foothill Service Club for the Blind

Many Oakmont League members have fond memories of our annual Christmas Dinner for the Blind: a day when we came together to prepare a turkey dinner, complete with all the trimmings, for members of the Foothill Service Club for the Blind.

Our involvement with the club began long before the Christmas dinners began - - it was back in the forties when both groups were very new to the Glendale scene. (Both were founded around 39-40.)

At the time, the club for the blind had a very popular craft program, led by two state teachers two days a month. Many of the items were then sold at an annual crafts fair.

A few years later, the state disbanded the program. The club members wanted to keep the craft program going, as it provided members with a valuable skill, so they sought out volunteers.

One of those volunteers was Oakmont Leaguer Pat Mann. Not only did she agree to teach crafts, she brought along several other members who assisted on the first and third Thursdays of each month at the Thursday Afternoon Club - and served lunch to the craft workers one day each month.

Eventually, the league voted to assist the club in finding a permanent home, raising funds to purchase a lot at Maple and Verdugo, and then for the construction of a clubhouse. In December, 1950, the

Foothill Service Club for the Blind moved into their new home at 600 South Verdugo.

“The Foothill Service Club for the Blind has found a good and lasting friend in Oakmont League, which for more than two years has made the club its major philanthropy,” wrote Betty Preston, Glendale News-Press Women’s Editor, in 1947. “This year, in addition to actual hours spent with club members in craft work, the league presented \$3000 to the building fund. The gift, more than half of the \$5400 proceeds from Gold Gulch, is double that given last year.”

No, the Dinners for the Blind didn’t begin then either. That came later, after the club had moved to another location on Los Feliz Road. If anyone recalls when they began, let me know.

Our last dinner was in 2018. Since then, the club has disbanded and the property has been sold.



Pictured:
Ellen Farewell
Pam Sorem
Jackie Kubel

There's a great photo of one of the craft fairs here:



<https://www.latimes.com/socal/glendale-news-press/opinion/tn-gnp-0330-verdugo-views-oakmont-remains-in-league-with-foothill-club-story.html>

and a photo of Pat Mann here:



<https://www.latimes.com/socal/glendale-news-press/news/tn-gnp-0411-how-oakmont-league-helped-show-the-way-story.html>

And here are some memories from board members: (Lots of jello comments!)

"My favorite memories of the Dinner for the Blind were somehow my mother's memories and mine intertwined. My mom lost her sight in her left eye in her 40's. She went to Mayo Clinic for a month when I was 6 and they did surgery that repaired her vision loss. She was so thankful for the restoration of her vision, and of course the Dinner for the Blind was very meaningful to her. I remember her preparing food and always coming back so happy and thankful for her Oakmont Leaguers.

Fast forward, somehow the holidays just started for me with the Dinner for the Blind. Running amok with family responsibilities, work, etc., I would dash in for my shift with whatever I was assigned to bring. Somehow time stopped in that

Lily

few hours, with the set up and clean up, and in between sitting down for lunch with our members, it is a wonderful memory for me. We would quietly share what we were doing for the holidays, discuss the jello, (sorry, I love it!) I am so very thankful for my memories of this event and the time we spent together."

Ellen Farewell

"There is something special about seeing the smiles on people's faces and conversations over the Turkey dinner during the holidays. I am sad that this tradition has gone. I always make the stuffing and chow down on jello salad. It was so rewarding to be with others to help others at such a special time of the year. These wonderful memories will last for awhile."

Kim Klosterman

"I always loved interacting with the members of the blind club. They were so grateful for the lunch and our service, and despite not being able to see our festive aprons and decorations, they're holiday spirit was contagious. I also miss making dressing in 4x the amount I would normally make."

Jackie Kubel

"A joyful event for us and the club members each year. They always enjoyed the food that we prepared and the entertainment that was provided. It was an opportunity to wear your Christmas apron and enjoy holiday fellowship with our members and the blind club members."

Carol Eldred

"There was a lot of food to prepare and way too much jello salad. Apparently, the jello salad was a favorite with the clients!! I can't find that recipe!!!!"

Mary Jo Ferrell

"Christmas 2016 was my first time volunteering at the Dinner for the Blind. After being there a few hours and meeting the blind guests, I got a little weepy. Another Oakmont League member noticed and shared that she had a highly functional blind relative, so all is possible! After that I volunteered with a happier disposition and my husband, Tom, cooked a turkey each year."

Mary Kay Prather



“Ack.....the dreaded jello!!”

Pam Sorem

“For me it was a heartfelt experience because our presence was so appreciated by the attendees! Many times during the food service someone would grab your hand and thank you. The menu that was served every year was known by all and absolutely loved, especially the jello salad!”

Sharon Swinford

The chef was a diabetic and dropped something on his foot [in 2019] that required a very long hospital stay. They hired another service to take his place and that service would not let us in with our food or to serve.....We always bought a beautiful cake at the French bakery and described to them what it looked like as well as the Christmas decorations. We also put together bags of home made cookies for each to take home and diabetic cookie bags for those who needed them. Also, we always all wore Christmas aprons and had a group picture of us each year. Some years Santa came when we were trying to give a lot of gifts but, it ended because managing our games and the cost was too much.

There was one gentleman who always attended who had a lab seeing-eye dog. We always took the dog a toy for Christmas and the gentleman was always so appreciative and told us how much his pup enjoyed its Christmas toy.

Lydia Brown-Trout

I have fond memories of helping with ‘dinner for the blind’ making two jello molds; one for the dinner and other for my family.

Mary Wells

“The Christmas lunch was a long established tradition by the time I joined in 1985. I never signed up for making a turkey.....if memory serves, I made one of the many batches of jello!”

Katherine Yamada



Cranberry Cream Cheese Salad

- 1 – 6 oz. package of Cherry Jell-O
- 2 – Cups boiling water
- 2 – Large apples, peeled and grated
- 1 ½ - Cups chopped pecans



- 1 – 16 oz. can whole cranberry sauce

Cream cheese topping (see recipe below)

Dissolve cherry Jell-O in boiling water.

Cool slightly

Add grated apples, chopped pecans and cranberry sauce

Pour into a 9 x 11” glass baking dish and refrigerate until firm

Cool Whip Topping

- 1 – 8 oz. package cream cheese, softened
- 1 – (1 lb. 4oz. ca of crushed pineapple, drained
- 1 – carton of cool whip and 1 tsp. vanilla

Mix the first 2 ingredients with the Cool Whip

Spoon cool whip and cream cheese topping over the Jell-O mixture, spreading evenly

Cover and chill overnight until set.

Courtesy of Mary Kay Prather

Christmas Dinner for the Blind
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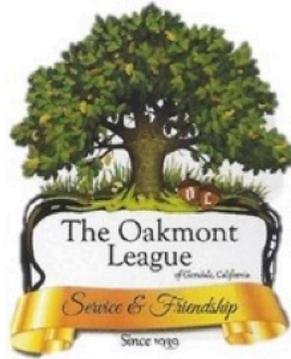
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Bring to the event in a glass dish with your name on it.



The Board of Directors of Oakmont League unanimously approved a 2021– 2022 assessment in recognition that we will not be able to hold a benefit in Spring 2022. The amount is the same as the purchase requirement for the 2020 Fashion Show. Each active member will be assessed \$250 and each sustaining member \$125. We are hoping that Honorary Inactive and Active Professional members will also be able to donate \$100 each. Your donation will be 100% tax deductible. There will be no cost that will be deducted from your donation and the entire amount will be given to charities and scholarships in our community. The amount is due February 1, 2022 and will be late March 30, 2022. A letter will also be sent to each member this month.

If you have a card on file your card will be charged on March 5th. If you would prefer to arrange for another form of payment, please contact Pam prior to that date. Checks can be mailed to :

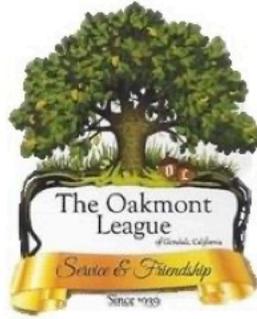
Pam Sorem

1340 Grandview Ave

Glendale, CA 91201

Email Pam@BeautifulVerdugoHomes.com or call/text 818-281-8397 to arrange payment or if you have any questions.

Pam Sorem - Treasurer



PROPOSED SLATE OF OFFICERS 2022-2023

President: (2 yr. term) _____

First Vice President (Programs): _____

Second Vice President (Membership): _____

Third Vice President (Philanthropy): _____

Fourth Vice President (Social): _____

Recording Secretary (2 yr. term): Mary Jo Ferrell (2nd year of 2 term)

Corresponding Secretary: _____

Treasurer (2 yr.): Pam Sorem (2nd year of 2 term)

Benefit Chairs: Lydia Trout and Kimberly Klosterman

Ways and Means Chair: _____

Nominating Committee: Carol Eldred, Mary Kay Prather, Mary Broerman, Barbara McCullough,
Kimberly Klosterman
Ellen Farewell, Shauna Lehmann (alternates)

Per Oakmont League bylaws, any active member may nominate herself for a position