

Soroptimist International of Glendale

23rd Annual Bras for a Cause

Saturday, February 21, 2026

**REMARKABLE
WOMEN**

Honoring

**Miryam Orellana Finkelberg
Community Activist**

**Laura Duncan
Ascencia Executive Director**

**Master of Ceremonies
Paloma Esparza Rabinov**

**Thank you for supporting our mission to
improve the future for women and girls.**

Greetings



Good evening and welcome! We are delighted to have you join us tonight for this milestone celebration. Tonight, we gather not only for an evening of fun and fellowship, but also to honor two truly remarkable women who embody the spirit of service: Miryam Finkelberg, a dedicated community volunteer, and Laura Duncan, Executive Director of Ascencia.

At Soroptimist International of Glendale, we are a global volunteer organization of women committed to making our community—and the world—a better place. Each year, we are fortunate to advance our shared mission through partnerships with local and civic organizations. Together, we work to uplift women and their families toward economic self-sufficiency by providing resources and support services that build on their strengths and create genuine opportunities for a better quality of life.

Your presence and support here tonight are more vital than ever. As we navigate a landscape of political and economic uncertainty, your generosity ensures we can continue our work and deliver essential services to all ethnic and identity groups in need.

Thank you for believing in our mission, supporting our programs, and helping us turn dreams into reality. We hope you have a wonderful and inspiring evening!

With gratitude,

Desirée Portillo-Rabinov, President, Soroptimist International of Glendale



As Co-VP's of Fundraising, it has been our pleasure to have worked with our fabulous Fundraising Committee on the 23rd Bras for a Cause, a celebration of **Remarkable Women**. We are thrilled that you are here to participate in and support us in our mission to have a positive impact on the lives of women and girls.

The funds we raise allow us to provide scholarships to women who are heads of their family and are going back to further their education with our Live Your Dream program. The funds are also used to provide mentorship programs to teenage girls to open up the world of careers for them via our Dream It Be It program. We give grants to non-profit organizations in our community that develop programs to assist women and girls to be able to reach economic empowerment.

Our members have worked tirelessly to assure that we have an awesome event. Please have a great time this evening and help us raise the necessary funds to bring about change for women and girls in our local area and around the world.

We want to thank you for joining us tonight and your generosity. We also want to commend and thank all the bra artists who continue to entertain and amaze us with their talent.

Most appreciatively yours,

Carol Ann Burton and Debie Hess Wakeland, 2nd VP's Fundraising

Honoree Miryam Orellana Finkelberg



Born in Ecuador, Miryam moved to the United States with her parents. Miryam's life is anchored by her family. Lou & Miryam are the proud parents of three sons: Kyle, Sean, and Matt.

Since 1982, Miryam has worked in the legal profession. Since 1992, she has worked for her husband of 36 years, Lou, serving as the Administrator for **Finkelberg & Finkelberg Law Offices**. The firm specializes in helping disabled individuals secure Social Security benefits. For Miryam, delivering a favorable decision to a client is especially gratifying.

Miryam's journey into philanthropy began in 1995 with her three sons' schools and sports teams and evolved into a lifelong passion for service. A prolific volunteer, Miryam's non-profit involvement includes **Glendale Latino Association (GLA), Glendale Emblem Club 104, Glendale College Foundation, Rotary Club of Mental Health & Wellness, Glendale Arts, Cabrini Literary Guild (CLG), Glendale Kiwanis, Home Again Los Angeles, Childhelp, and Arturo Sandoval Institute**. In 2022, she founded the **Kiwanis Club of The Verdugos**, leading the chapter to "Distinguished Club" status in its inaugural year and every year since. A standout chapter of her service was her 14-year tenure with **Soroptimist International of Glendale** where she served as First Vice-President, Communications Secretary and SIA Programs Chair, working together to improve the lives of women and girls both locally and worldwide. She's a supporter and contributor to the LA Conservancy, Friends of Rockhaven, The Campbell Center, Ascencia, Glendale Educational Foundation, Glendale/Pasadena YWCA, Descanso Gardens and Glendale Historical Society.

Her recognitions include being named the **2024 Glendale Chamber of Commerce Woman of the Year**. Additional honors include: "**Diamond Award**" from The Learning Castle & La Canada Preparatory schools, (2009); **Business Life Magazine "Women Achievers"** (2014); the **YWCA "Heart & Excellence Award"** (2015); Three-time "**Kiwanian of the Year**" (2016, 2020, 2021); **Cal-Nev-HA "Distinguished Service Award"** Glendale Kiwanis (2018); **CLG "Glendale Beautiful Memorial Tree"** honoree (2018); **GLA "President's Award"** (2020); and **SIG "Laurel Society Membership"** (2021).

Known for her vibrant and adventurous spirit, Miryam appreciates life's finer pleasures. She enjoys traveling, gardening, the arts, hitting the karaoke stage, and engaging in lively book club discussions. Whether sharing a glass of fine Scotch or wine with friends, entertaining at home, playing games, or dancing, Miryam treasures every role and every second of her life, finding her greatest reward as a wife, mother, and friend to many in this room — with a heart dedicated to making a lasting difference

Honoree Dr Laura Duncan



Executive Director Dr. Laura Duncan joined Ascencia in 2014 as the Director of Programs. She has worked in the non-profit and education sectors since 1977 and in a leadership capacity since 1989. She was promoted to Acting Executive Director July 1, 2018, and to Executive Director November 1, 2018. Her background includes clinical services; residential treatment; non-public education; adjunct faculty membership; approved dissertation panelist and reader for two universities; vocational rehabilitation; workforce investment; community care youth, dependent adult, and elderly licensed facilities administration; veteran services; and homeless services. Under her leadership, programs and operating budgets grew substantially while third party accreditations with the Board of Education, the Commission on Accreditation for Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF), and State Community Care Licensing received the best possible outcomes. Under her leadership Ascencia grew from \$3.1 million to nearly \$7 million between 2019 and 2024. Dr. Duncan earned her Ph.D. in Psychology from Alliant University and her B.A. in Psychology and M.S. in Counseling degrees from California State University, Fullerton. She is a California state-approved instructor and certified administrator with expertise in Title 22 regulations. In 2017, her course outlines were chosen as the State's Best Practice Model and in 2022 she was selected as "Woman of the Year" by the Glendale Chamber of Commerce. She also co-owns and manages a commercial real estate and rentals business. She fostered six children through LA County DCFS between 1998 – 2007 and is a current member of Rotary International, Kiwanis International, The Muckenthaler Cultural Heritage Center, Glendale Chamber of Commerce, Crescenta Valley Chamber of Commerce, West Hollywood Chamber of Commerce, and the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce.

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Janet Hamilton

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Enjoy spending a relaxing week from **05/17/2026 to 05/24/2026** at the **CORAL MAR** in Cancun, Qro Mexico, for 6 people. Check-in on arrival at 4 p.m., checkout on departure day at 10 a.m.

Value: \$2000 Donated by Carol Ann & Alasdair Burton

One week in Las Vegas and a concert with **NO DOUBT**



Arrive in Las Vegas on **June 5, 2026**, to start your 1-week stay at the Hilton Grand Vacation Club at Trump International Hotel (#D592). 1 bedroom, full kitchen, for 4 people. On **Saturday, June 6**, use your 4 tickets for a concert, **No Doubt** at the Sphere.

Value: \$3250 Donated by Carol Ann & Alasdair Burton

The Hollywood Bowl



Picture yourself at the Hollywood Bowl in a 6-seat central box on Wednesday evening, July 22 at 8 p.m. 2 parking passes are included. Joe Hisaishi Film Music Concert featuring Studio Ghibli & more.

Value: \$850 Donated by Carol Ann & Alasdair Burton

One Week on the Garden Isle of Kauai

Pili Mai at Poi'pu is a resort condominium with 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, central air, full kitchen, wireless internet, big screen TVs, & a lanai with ocean views. The resort includes a pool, fitness center, barbecue grills, & complimentary parking. Enjoy sunny Poi'pu Beach, Old Koloa Town, dine at local restaurants with the freshest seafood. Hikes to waterfalls and remote beaches, sunset cruises, fishing, land & ocean adventures, all nearby. Holidays and Easter week are excluded.

Value: \$4000 Donated by Pamela & Ian Spizman



Decorated Bras

Bra #1 *Where's Jullia Child?*



**Bra Creator: Susan Hunt
Bra Sponsor: Susan Hunt**

Bra #2 *Pretty in Pink*



**Bra Creator: Catherine Yesayan
Bra Sponsor: Catherine Yesayan**

Bra #3 *The Golden Age of Remarkable Women*



**Bra Creator: Margo Bottcher
Bra Sponsor: Laurie Leask**

Bra #4 *Voices Between the Lines (Honoring Jane Austen)*



**Bra Creator: Caitlyn Brown
Bra Sponsor: Adrienne Van Houten**

Bra #5 *Redefining Royalty (Honoring Princess Diana)*



**Bra Creator: Phin Carpenter
Bra Sponsor: Adrienne Van Houten**

Bra #6 *Lei It On Me*



**Bra Creator: Margo Bottcher
Bra Sponsor: Susan Riechel**

Decorated Bras

Bra #7 *Spelling Bee Queen for a Day*



**Bra Creator: Susan Wolfson
Bra Sponsor: Edith Fuentes**

Bra #8 *Cancer Sucks*



**Bra Creator: Denise Michele
Bra Sponsor: Jane Karageorge**

Bra #9 *Dove of Peace*



**Bra Creator: Karen Bagnard (Pasadena Village Member)
Bra Sponsor: Pasadena Village**

Bra #10 *This Is Us, Soroptimist International of Glendale*



**Bra Creator: Kris Reinke
Bra Sponsor: Kris Reinke, Kathy Lefkovits**

Bra #11 *Gems of Creation*



**Bra Creator: Adventist Art Class
Bra Sponsor: Adventist Glendale (Cancer Center) Foundation**

Bra #12 *"And Justice For All"*



**Bra Creator: Michele Wakeland
Bra Sponsor: Carol Ann Burton**

Decorated Bras

Bra #13 Bra for Your Neck



**Bra Creator: Nancy Scott
Bra Sponsor: Carol Ann Burton**

Bra #14 Evening Star



**Bra Creator: Kathy Lefkovits
Bra Sponsor: Pam & Ian Spizman**

Bra #15 Strawberry Fields Forever



**Bra Creator Veronica Corona
Bra Sponsor: Jean Kagan**

**Bra #16 Remarkable Mothers
of SIG Members**



**Bra Creator: Kathy Lefkovits
& Jane Karageorge
Bra Sponsor: The Chevy Chase
Estates Garden Club**

Bra #17 Under the C



**Bra Creator: Denise Michele
& Joan Allan
Bra Sponsor: Joan Allan
In honor of: Dolores (Deo) Horton**

Bra #18 Hearts & Flowers



**Bra Creator: Kathy Lefkovits
Bra Sponsor: Seda Khojayan**

Bra #19 As the Garden Grows



**Bra Creator: Laurie Leask
Bra Sponsor: Mary Lotz**

*Thank you to all our Bra Creators
for all of their amazing work*

**Most Beautiful Bra
*Under the C***

**Most Humorous
*Cancer Sucks***

**Most Unique Bra
*As the Garden Grows***

**Best of Theme Bra
*Remarkable Mothers of SIG Members***

Thank you to our 2026 Bra Judges

**Lola Abrahamian
Past Governor Camino Real Region**

**Dan Brotman
Glendale City Councilmember**

**Cynthia Jarvis
Governor Camino Real Region**



More opportunities
and empowerment
start with you



Adventist Health Glendale is honored to support Soroptimist International of Glendale in providing opportunities for girls and women to achieve their dreams. We applaud this year's honorees for enriching and uplifting our community.

Congratulations to

Miryam Orellana Finkelberg and Laura Duncan

AdventistHealthGlendale.org



CONGRATULATIONS!

Miryam E. Orellana Finkelberg

Our Remarkable Woman

We are endlessly proud of you and
everything you do.



You are the heart of our family!

With all our love,

Your husband Lou

Your sons Kyle, Sean & Matt

and to

Soroptimist International of Glendale

on your 23rd Annual Bras for a Cause
for your commitment to empowering
women and girls ✨

LOUIS I. FINKELBERG
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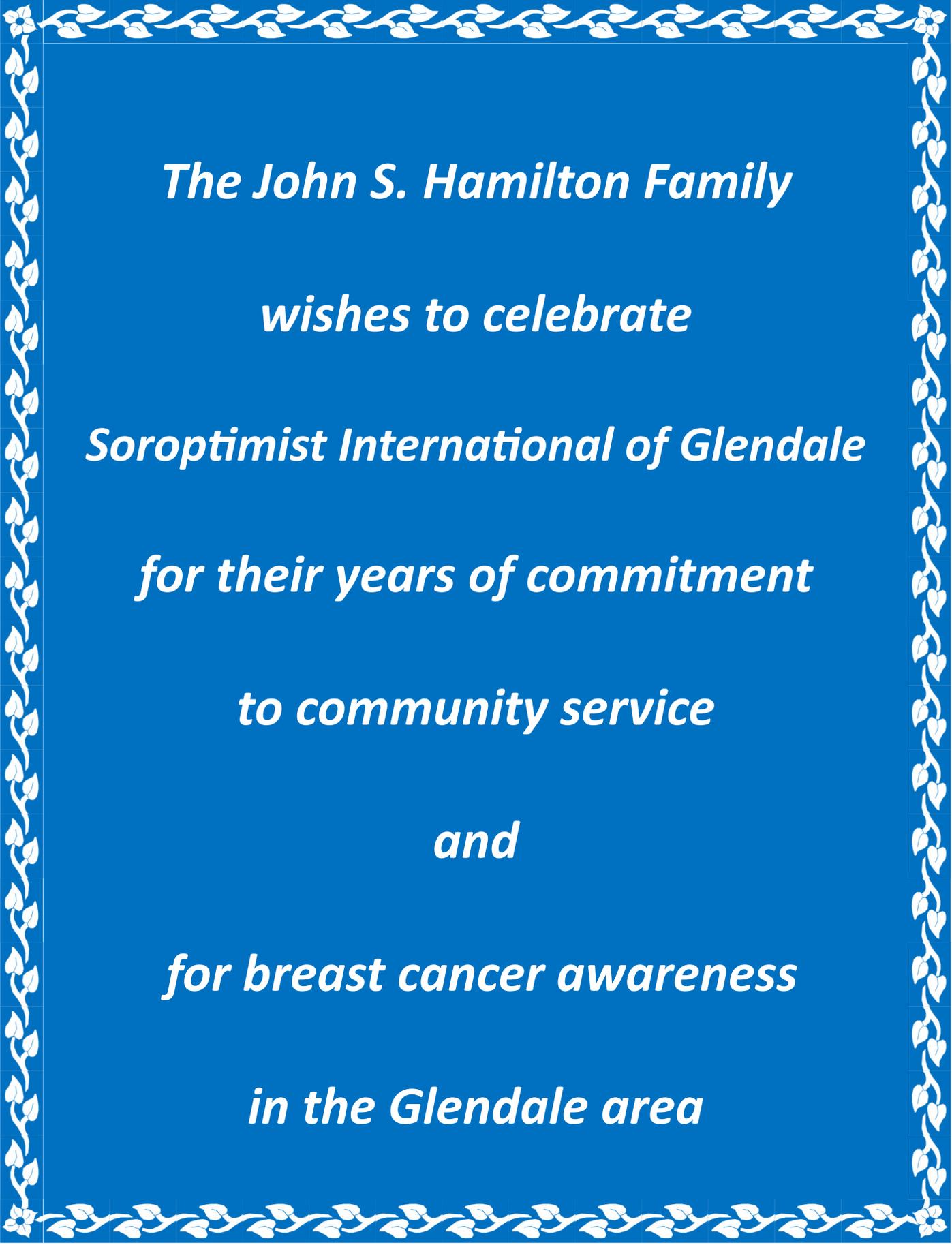
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**Congratulations on your
23rd Annual
Bras For a Cause,
and for your
ongoing commitment to
helping women and girls
in our community and
around the world
to live their dreams**

Doug & Sandy Schultz



The John S. Hamilton Family

wishes to celebrate

Soroptimist International of Glendale

for their years of commitment

to community service

and

for breast cancer awareness

in the Glendale area

Thank you to
Soroptimist Glendale
for uplifting women
in our community!

— ♦ —
Congratulations to
Miryam Orellana Finkelberg
and Laura Duncan for your
well-deserved recognition.



Kathryn
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LAURA DUNCAN AND MIRYAM FINKELBERG.





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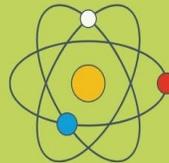
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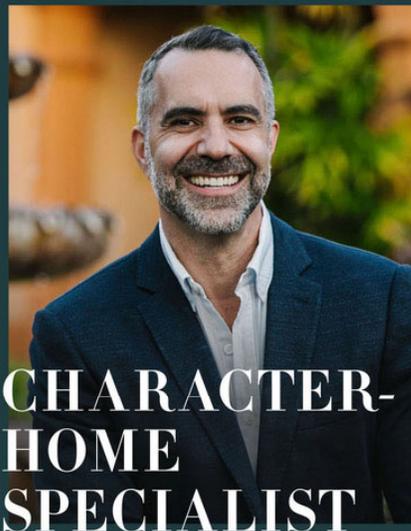
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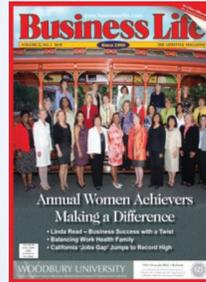
Business Life

Celebrates

REMARKABLE WOMEN

Miryam Orellana Finkelberg & Laura Duncan
Soroptimist International of Glendale

23RD ANNUAL "BRAS FOR A CAUSE"



Business Life and the Krikorian Family are proud to celebrate the Women Achievers of Soroptimist International of Glendale, whose dedication and leadership have made a meaningful impact across our region for more than 36 years.

Our readership spans the Twin Valleys of the San Gabriel and San Fernando in Los Angeles County, linked by the dynamic and diverse cities of Pasadena, Glendale, and Burbank.

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Glendale Management Association
Congratulates Honorees Miryam Finkelberg and Dr. Laura Duncan

Soroptimist International

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and supporters,
thank you for your
continued support of
Bras for a Cause!
Kathy Lefkovits





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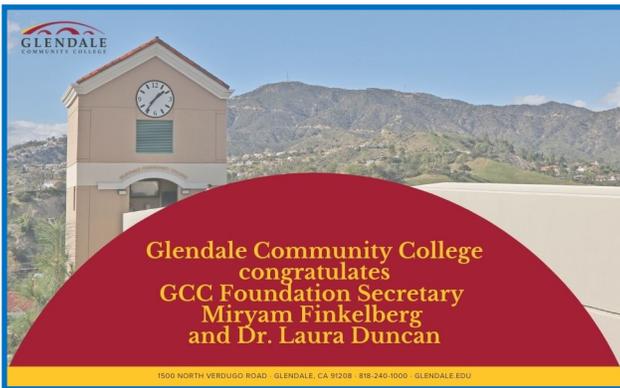
Miryam

You are a

Remarkable

Woman

Susan Hunt



Glendale Community College
congratulates
GCC Foundation Secretary
Miryam Finkelberg
and Dr. Laura Duncan

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Kiwanis Club of the Verdugos
Join in the celebration of SIG's 23rd BFAC
Congratulations to honoree
Miryam E. Orellana Finkelberg
KCOTV Charter President 2022 - 2024

The Kiwanis Club of the Verdugos (KCOTV) blends service with social connection. Our monthly rhythm is simple: one meeting (3rd Thursday), one service project, and one social event. Come to a meeting or service project - we'd love to meet you! Join us for our first **VERDUGOS WINE FEST!** - Saturday, April 18, 2026
Learn more: kiwanisverdugos.org - Connect: kiwanisverdugos@gmail.com

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to improve the lives of women and girls***

