THE VILLAGE SPIR IT

VOLUME 21 • NUMBER 1

WINTER 2009

Workers Put Finishing Touches on Sunland Renovation

he Sunland Day Program building will reopen in February after a \$1.4 million renovation that will enhance services and activities for Valley Village's clients. "When the building opened in 2001, we did not realize fully the needs of the of the East Valley community. Over the years, we have added more clients in wheel-

chairs," said Debra Donovan, executive director. This created difficulties in navigating the narrow hallways, small activity rooms and restrooms. This also prevented us from meeting our licensed capacity of 80 clients. "With the reconstruction, we took the building down to the studs and

changed the layout to better accommodate the needs of our clients," said Debra. As part of the project, 1,200 square feet was added to the building.

Two new features are a large multipurpose room with movable partitions and a patio. "The partitions create greater flexibility so we configure the room to

meet the needs of our various activities and programs. "The patio will provide clients with the opportunity to do gardening. This has been a successful program at our Winnetka campus,"



The new look of the Sunland facility.

The first stage of reconstruction at the Sunland Day Program building.

Celebrating 2009 at a New Year's Party.

said Debra. In addition to providing room for more clients, the Sunland facility will allow Valley Village to upgrade its sensory stimulation program and computer lab.

The expansion will also give Valley Village the opportunity to make a further analysis of the community needs with the possibility of developing an after school program for children. The community will also benefit from the renovation because the multipurpose room will be available for use by children's groups on the weekend.

Kaltman Development Group designed the project and it was built by GTA Construction. Funding for the renovation was made possible by City of Los Angeles – Prop K; Ahmanson Foundation; California Community Foundation; Knistrom Foundation; Lincy Foundation; S. Mark Taper Foundation; Sketch Foundation; Stern Foundation; and Weingart Foundation as well as many private donations.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Kitty Cooper



s I write this message, I find myself musing over how much more quickly time seems to pass each year. As for Valley Village, 2008 was a busy and productive year. As we move into 2009, planning for the aging of the Valley Village participants continues to be a major focus. Under the

leadership of Executive Director Deb Donovan and a special future planning committee, we will further explore options to meet the needs of this population. This is not an issue

the Board members. We are blessed with dedicated Board members who bring a wide range of experience and talent to the table. As we go forward we intend to seek out individuals who will add to this active resource pool and keep Valley Village strong.

AND HERE'S MY PITCH AGAIN: One category of Board member that we would like to increase is parents or family members of the people we serve. The personal perspective families have on how the organization is working and what is needed to maintain the high quality of service for which Valley Village is known is critical. Currently, only three of the Board members are parents; more

BOARD HOLIDAY DINNER



Judi and Ron Prejean



Barbara and Larry Diamond



Debra and David Donovan

THE PERSONAL PERSPECTIVE FAMILIES HAVE ON HOW THE ORGANIZATION IS WORKING AND WHAT IS NEEDED TO MAINTAIN THE HIGH QUALITY OF SERVICE FOR WHICH VALLEY VILLAGE IS KNOWN IS CRITICAL.

for Valley Village to address alone, rather we must work with other organizations both locally and throughout the state, as well as with government agencies and political leaders to ensure that the needs of our clients are met. Deb and her staff are already actively engaged in this process.

Among the other items we are working on is Board Development. That includes both bringing new members onto the Board in a planned, structured way, and providing training for all would be welcome. Please note that if you want to help, but don't feel you are ready for "the Board" yet, there are other ways you can actively participate. There are various committees, one time events, and small, but regular activities (for example, sending out birthday cards to clients) that could use your talents. Please join us. If I've sparked your interest even a little, contact Jenny Freese, Development Director, (818) 587-9450, ext. 120 for more information.

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Valley Village 20830 Sherman Way

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VALLEY VILLAGE

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Kitty Cooper President

Steve Beilinson Vice President

Judi Prejean Treasurer

Brian Blake Secretary

BOARD MEMBERS

Margarita Clement Larry Diamond Ramesh Jayakumar Leela Kapur Marla Kort Carson Schreiber Ron Smith

Executive DirectorDebra Donovan

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR EMERITUS
Fred Chapa

If you would like to have friends or relatives added to our mailing list to receive The Village Spirit and our e-newsletter, please contact the Development Department at (818) 587-9450, ext. 120.

SMALL CHANGE CAN GIVE A BOOST TO VALLEY VILLAGE

Whole Foods Market is proud to offer this program for our local



charities. We believe that every single person can make a difference

no matter how small or big. Now through April 13, our shoppers have a chance to donate their 5 cent bag refund to Valley Village! We hope that you'll take advantage of this simple way to help out your favorite nonprofit.

Come visit us at our Woodland Hills location: Whole Foods Market 21347 Ventura Blvd. (at Canoga) Woodland Hills, CA 91364

If you use GoodSearch.com as your search engine, GoodSearch

donates every time you search! It adds up quicker than you



think. And, when shopping online, if you go through **iGive.com** or **GoodShop.com**, retailers will donate between 1% and 37% of your purchase to Valley Village.

Do you have one of our **Albertson's Community Partners cards**? If so, there is an update that you should be aware of. Albertson's is now linking the Community Partners Card with their Preferred Card - so you only have to carry one card now!

Please visit www.albertsonscp.com and follow these three simple steps; 1) log on to the site, 2) enter your Preferred Card, and 3) enter our Community Partner ID #49000115174. Or, if you would like assistance, please call us at (818) 587-9450, ext. 120 to update your card.

We have raised hundreds of dollars through the program. Who knew grocery shopping could be so rewarding. Please link your Albertsons Preferred Card before February 28, 2009.

Valley Village is proud to be a member of the **Local Independent Charities** which means that we now participate in the **Combined Federal Campaign** and the **California State Campaign**. The purpose of these campaigns is to promote and sup-



port philanthropy through a program that is employee focused, cost-efficient, and effective in providing all federal and state employees the opportunity to improve the quality of life for all. These campaigns allow employees to contribute to charities, like Valley Village, directly through workplace giving. To sign

up, check with your federal or state payroll office for information.



Do you receive our e-newsletter? Call (818) 587-9450 or email info@valleyvillage.org to sign up.

A WINNING TRIP TO PARIS



Mada Leach and Warren Cook enjoy the Jardin du Luxembourg during their trip to Paris.

e want to extend our sincere appreciation to all at Valley Village who made possible the wonderful vacation that we were able to have in France this past September as a result of winning the grand prize at the 2008 fundraiser. Particular thanks goes to the generous donor who made this incredible gift possible in the first place.

The experience touched our lives profoundly, and, in a small way, reminds us of the many ways Valley Village touches those it has served so steadfastly for decades. We all win when our horizons are broadened, our understanding is deepened, and our thinking is stimulated. All those things happened

to us on this trip, and we will remember always the magic that happened both in the discovery of winning this trip and the event itself.

It is our further hope that those same attributes may continue to impact those who work and support your wonderful organization for many years to come. We are living proof that charity pays!

Cordially,

Warren Cook & Mada Leach



2008 ANNUAL APPEAL

PROGRAM & SERVICES

Karen Abbott Mr. & Mrs. Akana

Mr. & Mrs. Donald Anderson

Anonymous

Christina Anthony

Ash Family

ATK Matching Gift from

Mr. & Mrs. Beuerman

Awnings of Distinction

Mr. & Mrs. Ayers

Bank of the West Matching Gift

from Mr. & Mrs. Ron Prejean

Mary Banner

Mr. & Mrs. Paul Barkley

Bearsworth Communications, Inc.

Matching gift from

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Turner

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Behringer

Mr. & Mrs. Rod Bernsen

In honor of Kim Deel

Howard Berry

Mr. & Mrs. John Beuerman

Josephine Bird

Eugenie Ruth Boruski

Sadie Angelo Botoglou

Henry Bronet

Mr. & Mrs. LeRoy Bushong

In memory of Bettie Lopez

Mr. & Mrs. LeRoy Bushong

In memory of Marian Eckert's Son

Mr. & Mrs. LeRoy Bushong

In memory of Steve Lovell

Jeanette Campbell

Jeannette Cayen

Margarita Clement

Mr. & Mrs. Edward Coglianese

Mr. & Mrs. Donald Cooper

Adrienne Cooper

Ruth Deel

Dickter Family

Dr. & Mrs. Andrew Dixon

Mr. & Mrs. David Donovan

Glen and Jane Drake

In honor of the Dixon Family

Mr. & Mrs. Steven Einhorn

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Emerson

Lee Farber

Mr. & Mrs. Israel Fatoorechi

Mr. & Mrs. Clifford Fine

In memory of Joseph Rosenbloom

Mr. & Mrs. Derrick Fisher

Norm & Nan Flette

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Freeman

Mr. & Mrs. Sherman Gallas

Mr. & Mrs. Galperen

In honor of Debbie Broudy

Rickey Gelb

Darl Gibson

Henry & Jane Goichman

Mr. & Mrs. Ross Goldware

Mr. & Mrs. Salvador Gomez

Connie Gonzales

Carol Goodman

Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Gorny

Karel Guefen

Robert Gustafson

Mr. & Mrs. Henry Harris

Lee Hamer Memorial Charities

Wendy Heller

In memory of Joseph Rosenbloom

Ann Hill

Linda Johnson

Hannan Josephson

Karl Kantarjian

Kapur Family

Mr. & Mrs. John Kelleher

Priscilla Klain

Joyanne Kline

Mr. & Mrs. David Kort

Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Labins

Marsha Rood

Aaron Lazaroff In honor of David Lazaroff Mr. & Mrs. Lerner Bebel Lopez Glenna Lotspeich Meyer Family Korinne Miller Robert Murashige & Marsha Richards Mr. & Mrs. Ed Niebergall Mrs. Mary Oliver In memory of Jim Fanalora & Connie Spinello Joy Picus Mr. & Mrs. Stan Plucinik Mark Pracher Mr. & Mrs. Ron Prejean Mike Quiroga Dorri Raskin & Florence Margaret Richichi Dororthy Rossillo-Trusty Mr. & Mrs. Larry Sack Mary Sandorf Mark Schoenberg Joan Schugel Joan Schulman Marion Schwanbeck Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Sears

In honor of Lauren Rubin Mr. & Mrs. Cornell Smith Mr. & Mrs. George Stanley June Stanton Michael Stoner April Swaine Evelyn Swanson Mindy Sweat In honor of Drewe and Mary Shirley Sydow Mr. & Mrs. Orland Tamburri Mr. & Mrs. Bob Tannenbaum In memory of Ida Fisher Lane Mr. & Mrs. William Trebasky Mr. & Mrs. Michael Turner Robert Umhoefer Value Care Pharmacy Mr. & Mrs. Ron Van Deest Alfredo & Douglas Vasquez In Honor of Douglas Vasquez Helen Vestuto Mr. & Mrs. Wald

Martha Waugh

Patricia Werth

Aida A. Wittman Elsie Wolfe

Fred Weiner, D.D.S.

Bert & Sam Weiner

Charles Weinstein, Ph.D.

Mr. & Mrs. Dwight Wheeler

Mr. & Mrs. Jack Sega

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Sharples

Shomrei Torah Synagogue

Donor names comprise tho provided support to Valley Vil August 1, 2008 – January 3

We apologize if your name w Please call us at (818) 587-94 so we may include your na

next issue of the Village



Soaking in the sun on Valley Village's Adventure at Sea in Marina del Rey.

ING OUR CLIENTS

FOUNDATION GIFTS

ENDOWMENT • ANNUAL APPEAL

Mr. & Mrs. Donald Anderson Mr. & Mrs. Paul Barkley Mr. & Mrs. Dick Bartus Susan Basler Jeanette Campbell Mr. & Mrs. Edward Coglianese Mr. & Mrs. Donald Cooper Adrienne Cooper Faye Deane Ruth Deel Mr. & Mrs. Larry Diamond Dr. & Mrs. Andrew Dixon Mr. & Mrs. David Donovan Svlvia Dorfman Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Dun Mr. & Mrs. Steven Einhorn Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Emerson Mr. & Mrs. Tom Engel Mr. & Mrs. Guenther Engel Mr. & Mrs. Guenther Engel In loving memory of Rob Mr. & Mrs. Derrick Fisher Mr. & Mrs. Ross Goldware

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Hay Mr. & Mrs. John Kendryna Mr. & Mrs. David Kort Mr. & Mrs. Larry Light Mr. & Mrs. Dennis McMahon Meyer Family Robert Murashige & Marsha Richards Mr. & Mrs. Kenso Nomura Mr. & Mrs. Ron Prejean Trinh Quyen Mary Sandorf Mr. & Mrs. Robert Sharples Myung Soon Han June Stanton **Judith Steimer** Mr. & Mrs. Richard Stewart Helen Vestuto Mr. & Mrs. Wald Ann Walker Martha Waugh Mr. & Mrs. Dwight Wheeler Mr. & Mrs. Ed Zimmermann Councilman Dennis P. Zine

GENERAL DONATIONS

Mr. & Mrs. Steven Kort Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Dun

Mr. & Mrs. Russell Hawthorne

TRIBUTES

Mr. & Mrs. Guenther Engel
Get Well to Ron Smith

Mr. & Mrs. Guenther Engel
In loving memory of Dede Wheeler

Mr. & Mrs. Guenther Engel
In loving memory of Kathy Maier

Mr. & Mrs. Russell Hawthorne
In memory of DeDe Wheeler & Robbie Hawthorne

INKIND DONATIONS

Bank of the West Adell Campbell Diana Carroll Deal or No Deal Jana & Hannah Eshaghian Mr. & Mrs. Hinman Kiwanis Club of Northridge Phillip Reina Telesis Community Credit Union

GENERAL DONATIONS

Mr. & Mrs. Tim Bailey Mr. & Mrs. Dwight Call Margarita Clement 2008 Holiday Dinner Mr. & Mrs. Donald Cooper 2008 Holiday Dinner Ruth Deel For Altano House Mr. & Mrs. Larry Diamond 2008 Holiday Dinner James Domit Mr. & Mrs. Guenther Engel 2008 Holiday Dinner Mr. & Mrs. Robert Hay 2008 Holiday Dinner Mr. & Mrs. Pat Joyce 2008 Holiday Dinner Mr. & Mrs. John Kendryna Building Fund Mr. & Mrs. Steven Kort 2008 Holiday Dinner

In honor of Barbara & Marsh Zolla's 40th Anniversary Aaron Lazaroff Mr. & Mrs. Lerner Manouchehr Mostafiz Mr. & Mrs. Ron Prejean 2008 Holiday Dinner Mary Sandorf Marion Schwanbeck Mr. & Mrs. Rex Skinner Mr. & Mrs. George Stanley June Stanton 2008 Holiday Dinner Ted Theodore Mr. & Mrs. William Trebasky United Way, Inc. From Kaiser Permanente Martha Waugh Marc Weisel & Sharon Sackin Mr. & Mrs. Ed Zimmermann 2008 Holiday Dinner

TRIBUTES

Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Dalbec
In loving memory of
Robert Hawthorne
Sylvia Dorfman
In memory of her late husband
Dr. Eugene Dorfman

Sheba Levine
In memory of Norman Levine
June Stanton

In memory of Cathy Maier

In memory of Eugene Sydow Tossetti Family In memory of Elaine Bronet Aaron Lazaroff In honor of David Lazaroff Shomrei Torah Synagogue In honor of Lauren Ruben

Shirley Sydow

2008 EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

The Client Services Committee developed the Employee Recognition Program, which recently honored the dedication of Valley Village employees who have given five or more years of service.

Jhovany Arqueta
Hooria Bassam
Martha Carrillo
William M. Coreas
Anton De La Vega
Gary James
James Macawalang
Sara Orozco
Parshant Rai
Adriana Rivas

Olga Rincon Salas Dagoberto Salazar Yolanda Salazar Lynne Shimamoto

Jose Vasquez Ernesto Zaragoza

10 Years

Anna L. De Vera Jose Franco Amelia Gutierrez Jose Gutierrez Phillip Motherspaw Susan Schepps Valerie Varnado

20 Years

Manuela Hernandez

25 Years John C. Sztapka Patricia Sztapka

5

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Dixon

as omitted. 50, ext. 120 ne in the Spirit.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Guenther Engel

n our last newsletter we were proud to report that we added two member families to the Legacy Group. Well that's not quite correct. In compiling the list we missed one family, Russ and Judy Hawthorne, long time supporters of Valley Village. Russ was instrumental during Valley Village's early days by being a strong leader and advocate for the Valley Village Thrift Shop, the earnings of which, were very often used to pay our employees' salaries. Judy, besides being a Thrift Shop volunteer was instrumental in obtaining grants for Valley Village from the Prudential Insurance Company. The grants were based on the volunteer work Judy did on behalf of Valley Village. We would also like to welcome George J. Morrera and Lauren Huber to the Legacy Group.

Just as we are starting the new year, this message will have a new

PLAN FOR YOUR-SELVES, PLAN FOR YOUR FAMILY AND ESPECIALLY PLAN FOR YOUR SPECIAL NEEDS CHILD. focus. In the past, we have stated many times that you should make a plan. Plan for yourselves, plan for your family and especially plan for your special needs child. We have offered the help of Dick Bartus, our planning coordinator, who will work with you to help you get started. The services he can

provide include helping prepare for your visit to a lawyer; provide you with the names of lawyers who will satisfy your planning and financial needs, and if required, lawyers that are also knowledgeable in the legalities for the disabled.

For those that are still wavering, I hope that in the next few newsletters we will be able to begin an educational process that will make the planning for your family's future an easier path to follow, and for those that have their documents already, I hope these articles will be a refresher course and will clarify some things you may have overlooked or did not understand.

In the following article the focus will be on the basic understanding of various terms used in estate planning whether it be a will or a trust.

Betty Berry a senior concerns advocate, wrote the following definition of terms, which appeared in the *Ventura County Star* on July 28, 2008, and she has given me permission to reprint this article.

"Terms that are part of everyday conversation for those working in a particular field are often used with very little thought about how confusing they may be to those of us who encounter such terms only occasionally.

I'll try to define some of the most common terms you'll likely encounter. Some may be very familiar to you, while others may be new, and some may have a



Having fun during their Marina del Rey cruise, Valley Village's Adventure at Sea, made possible by donations during the live auction at the 2008 Annual Luncheon.

slightly different meaning than you are using.

If preparing a will is part of your plan, you should know the meaning of testator, executor, heir, issue, minor, codicil and probate.

A testator is the person, you, who makes a will. An executor is the person named, by you, in the will to carry out the provisions and directions of your will after your death. An heir is a person who inherits or is legally entitled to inherit under state law.

The term issue refers to your descendants and generally means your children and grandchildren and includes any adopted children. A minor is any person under the age of legal competence, which is 18 in California.

You should also understand the words codicil and probate. A codicil is an addition to a will that may modify, add to, subtract from or revoke specific provisions in the will itself. It is a separate document and must be executed in the same manner as the will it addresses.

Probate is a court proceeding that has the purpose of protecting the heirs from fraud and embezzlement, ensures creditors of the deceased are paid outstanding debts and sees that all federal, state and local taxes, if any, are paid by the estate. Probate starts when the will is admitted to the probate court and ends after all debts are paid and assets accounted for and distributed. The length of probate depends on the complexity of the estate.

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Continued from page 6

If your plans include setting up a trust, then you must be familiar with the terms settlor, trustor, grantor, grantee, trustee, inter vivo trust, revocable trust and testamentary trust.

The terms settlor, trustor and grantor are interchangeable and refer to the person who is creating the trust that grants the contents of the trust to another, who is known as the grantee.

A trustee is the named individual or corporation having the powers spelled out in the trust to carry out the wishes of the creator. A trustee is subject to strict regulation and must act with the highest standards of prudence and diligence in handling the property of another.

An inter vivo trust is a trust created between living people (also known as a living trust) and is usually revocable, which



The residents at Corbin House celebrate Christmas with the help of the Northridge Kiwanis.

ing any changes it is wise to look over your important papers at least every five years."

The article in our next newsletter will cover the legal forms that take precedence

over others. If you have any questions, please call Dick Bartus at (661) 254-2900. There are no

charges for his services, whether you need an answer to a question over the phone or a meeting with him to prepare you for meeting a lawyer.

In closing, I would like to wish you all a belated Holiday Greetings and a thank you to those who gave so generously to our year-end appeal.

VALLEY VILLAGE

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S. Dwight Wheeler Vice President

Judi Prejean Treasurer

June Stanton Secretary

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Dick Bartus Bob Hay Dolores Zimmermann

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Councilman Dennis P. Zine Los Angeles City 3rd District

REMEMBER THAT ESTATE PLANNING COVERS MORE THAN JUST HAVING A WILL OR TRUST.

means it can be changed or revoked by the person who created it. A revocable trust is popular as a means of avoiding probate and as a substitute for a will.

A testamentary trust is one that comes into being only as a result of the death of a person whose will provides for the creation of the trust after his or her death.

I hope these definitions have been of some help. Remember that estate planning covers more than just having a will or trust. Please make sure to check into other areas of concern while completing your estate planning, and never hesitate to seek professional assistance.

After you have completed your plans, do not forget to review them periodically to determine if the plans continue to do what you want them to. Whenever there is a change in family structure such as a marriage, death, birth or divorce it is a signal that you should review your plans. Bar-

LEGACY GROUP

Mrs. Christina Anthony

Ms. Ruth Deel & Ms. Mary Banner

Mr. & Mrs. Dick & Alaine Bartus

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Campbell

Mr. & Mrs. Donald Cooper

Mr. Richard Cooper

Mr. & Mrs. Dick Crouch

Dr. & Mrs. Andrew Dixon

Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Dun

Mr. & Mrs. Guenther Engel

Mr. & Mrs. Henry Goichman

Mr. & Mrs. William Harney

Mr. & Mrs. Russ Hawthorne

Mr. & Mrs. Aaron Lazaroff

Mr. & Mrs. Ernie Letsch

Mrs. Glenna Lotspeich

Mr. George J. Morrera & Ms. Lauren Huber

Mr. & Mrs. Larry Trusty

Mrs. Mary Catherine Sandorf

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Sharples

Mr. & Mrs. George Stanton

Mr. Marc Weisel & Ms. Sharon Sackin

Mr. & Mrs. Dwight Wheeler

Mr. & Mrs. Ed Zimmermann



BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

February 26 • 6:30 p.m.Valley Village Board of Directors

March 26 • 6:30 p.m.
Valley Village Board of Directors

June 27, 2009 § H O W T I M E!

All meetings held in Valley Village's conference room at 20830 Sherman Way. Winnetka, unless otherwise noted.



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