

THE VILLAGE SPIRIT

VOLUME 20 • NUMBER 3

S U M M E R 2 0 0 8

SHOWTIME!

ANNUAL LUNCHEON, BOUTIQUES AND GARDEN PARTY

The ballroom at the Sheraton Universal was overflowing with 450 guests who enjoyed an afternoon of shopping, bidding, and entertainment at the Annual Luncheon on June 28. The festivities began with an elegant and grand Garden Party featuring champagne cocktails; The West 79th Street Funk Jazz Band; shopping at boutiques with unique jewelry, purses, clothing, candles, and other hand crafted items; opportunity drawings for beautiful gift baskets; and chatting with friends and other guests.

Rob Marinko was the Master of Ceremonies. He is the co-host, news man, and sidekick on KABC's *McIntyre in the Morning*. Rob's unique talent is his quick wit and remarkable ability to enhance

conversations about nearly any subject. Rob and show host Doug McIntyre make up one of the most listenable teams in morning radio today. Comedian

Sunda Croonquist delighted the audience with her upbringing as a Swedish, African American Jewish Princess. Her inspiration was her father's career as a musician and a stage/pageant mom who always had Sunda involved in the arts.



Above: Los Angeles City Councilman Dennis P. Zine (l), Valley Village client, Trina, and KABC's Rob Marinko. Right: Comedian Sunda Croonquist.



Then Los Angeles City Council Member Dennis P. Zine, an honorary Foundation Board member, joined Rob on stage for the live auction. Dennis has a special knack of whipping up the audience into a frenzy of excitement, especially

when he auctioned spending a day roaming the streets of Los Angeles with himself. Other live auction prizes were a week-long vacation at Punta Esmeralda in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, a private tour and tasting for eight at Clos Pegase in the Napa Valley, his or hers Cruiser Bicycles from NBC's *Deal or No Deal*,

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STATE BUDGET IMPASSE TAKES TOLL ON VALLEY VILLAGE

Co-Executive Director Debra Donovan along with staff and clients, attended a recent rally at Senator Sheila Kuehl's Los Angeles District Office. The rally was organized to bring attention to the state's budget impasse and how it is having an impact on Valley Village

and other homes that provide similar care for people with developmental disabilities.

Kuehl serves on the Senate Developmental Disabilities and Mental Health Committee, which has pending legislation (Assembly Bill 1434, presented by Assemblyman Mervyn M. Dy-

mally) that would permit the state to pay for the care of the developmentally disabled until the budget is passed. A hearing for the bill has not been scheduled and providers of services for the developmentally disabled want a date set, because when the bill is passed and signed, it will provide immediate fiscal relief.

(Continued on page six)

OUR MISSION: VALLEY VILLAGE IS COMMITTED TO ADVANCING THE INTERESTS AND WELL-BEING OF CITIZENS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

VALLEY VILLAGE

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Kitty Cooper



For Valley Village, it's anything but the "lazy days of summer." SHOWTIME! 2008 with the new Garden Party was a splendid success. I want to thank all those

who worked so hard to produce the fabulous event we all enjoyed. The planning committee of veterans and newcomers did their usual, amazing job. Some pounded the pavement and called friends to gather donated items for the baskets and live auction, others took charge of the decorations, while still others handled registration. Then there were those who stuffed envelopes, counted and bundled drawing tickets, sold tickets at the Luncheon, and organized and operated the boutiques.

I also want to acknowledge the wonderful job done by the Valley Village Development Department. As many of you may know, our super Development Director of the past eight years, Susan Basler, retired from Valley Village in July. However, in preparation for her departure, Jenny Daniels Freese, Susan's former assistant, came on board in the spring to transition into the Development Director position and take the lead on the Luncheon which she did extremely well. Perhaps the biggest challenge was Susan's. She relinquished control of something she had built from the ground up yet was there to be a resource to Jenny.

Thank you also to our loyal and growing group of sponsors: our Presenting Sponsor, Bank of the West, our Title Sponsors: Lee Hamer Memorial Charities, Marion Letsch, and the Winnetka Neighborhood Council, our gold, silver and patron sponsors, and all our other donors. Even in tight economic times they have shown their support for Valley Village.

Another thank you has to go to the many vendors who do business with Valley Village for their sup-

port through buying ads in the SHOWTIME! program. And a special thank you to Michael and Marlene Turner who personally contacted many of the vendors and gave them the opportunity to provide their much appreciated support.

As for the program itself, our MC, Rob Marinko from KABC radio was superb. I'm especially pleased that he took the time to "tour" Valley Village so that he truly understands who we are. Rob was a gracious host and worked to keep the program moving and on schedule - always a challenge. Our entertainer, Sunda Croonquist, was a kick. As she says, "Because when you are a bi-racial Jew, who grew up in the inner city looking like a Puerto Rican and your mother gives you a Hindu name and sends you to an Irish Catholic school...you are bound to be funny."

Of course, once again Councilman Dennis P. Zine was the ultimate auctioneer. His "Day with Councilman Zine" was the hot item. After much spirited bidding and components of the day being added along the way, that item alone raised \$2,500. What fun!

As we plan for the future of Valley Village and the changing needs of the people we serve, it is critical that we continue to raise funds beyond those provided by government sources. This is necessary to ensure that our programs are of the high quality that Valley Village was founded to provide. The Sunland Adult Day Health Center expansion which has been

the focus of fundraising in recent years is under construction and on target for completion by mid 2009. But,

that is only one project. We continue to explore ways to meet the needs of our clients as they age.

We need you to become part of the strategic and event planning, and governance of Valley Village. At the September 25 General Membership Meeting our Executive Directors and members of their staff will report on today's Valley Village and plans for the future. Members will also vote on appointments to the Board of Directors.

Please contact Jenny Daniels Freese at (818) 587-9450 ext. 120 for more information on how you can become an active participant.

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
SEPTEMBER 25, 2008 AT 6 P.M.**

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

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS' MESSAGE

By Fred Chapa and Debra Donovan

Recently we were reviewing a newsletter dated August 1990. The President of the Board, Ernst Letsch, who passed away a number of years ago, stated, "On July 1, Valley Village entered into the 1990/1991 fiscal year. The budget approved by the Board of Directors is based on certain assumptions as to the revenues to be received from the state. Much has been said and written lately about the fiscal woes of California and the outcome of the budget is still uncertain." This statement written eighteen years ago rings as true today as it was when it was written.

Funding for services for clients with developmental disabilities requires government subsidies. There are no self sufficient programs for clients with developmental disabilities. Funding availability continues to be a problem and grows at a slower rate than the demand for services. The major funding source is the state. The state is forced to prioritize funding for a number of programs such as: education, police needs, libraries, and highway expansion and repairs.

We are not at the bottom of priorities but we have to keep the state aware of the worthwhile services that are being provided

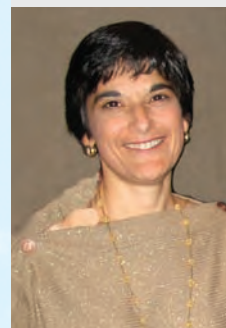
to clients with developmental disabilities or lose funding to other programs with a better public relations position. Finding other sources of funds with interlinking funding priorities is also a priority.

In our case, we have a number of contracts for low income housing grants with HUD along with city block grants addressing low income housing and property development for day programs. We have entered into agreements with the State Office of Aging for Adult Day Health Centers. We are working with the Los Angeles Homeless Services Agency for independent living condominiums. Recently, we followed in the steps of New Horizons to get grants from Cal-Trans for vans and buses to transport clients. We recently were able to find funding from the city to help renovate our day program in Sunland to better serve wheelchair clients and the disabled community. We have had some success with private foundations in getting needed funds for a Continuous Nursing Home and for renovations at Sunland.

Finding needed funding has kept us searching for new ways to meet the needs of the clients we serve and has helped us to better plan for future needs. During these challenges, we develop innovative programs that we

might have missed if funding was continually assured. We believe the exercise has been beneficial in keeping client needs for today on track and to plan for future services.

MEET BOARD MEMBER LEELA KAPUR



One of our newer members to the Valley Village Board is **Leela Kapur**. As the mother of a developmentally disabled daughter, Leela and her family became familiar

with the wonderful services which Valley Village provides and the extraordinary reputation that it has in the community.

She hopes to be able to assist and support Valley Village in its mission through service on the Board. Leela is the chief deputy in the Los Angeles County Counsel's Office. In her many years of service in that office, she has had the opportunity to represent and work with many of the county's social service programs and hopes that experience will be of benefit to Valley Village. She is a strong believer in "it takes a village" and is very pleased to be part of this Village.

THOSE WHO HAVE HELPED VALLEY VILLAGE

GENERAL DONATIONS

Jeanette Campbell
Ruth Deel & Mary Banner (Altano)
Mr. & Mrs. Israel Fatoorechi
Sherman & Sheila Gallas
Sue Gunther

Mr. & Mrs. John Kendryna (Sunland)
Mr. & Mrs. Kenso Nomura
Mr. & Mrs. Ignazio Sammaritano
Mary Sandorf
Marion Schwanbeck
Martha Waugh

MEMORIALS

GIVEN BY:
Mrs. Elaine Abraham
Joyce Brady
Betsy Burke
Leyton & Ellen Crouch
Faye Deane
Janet Greer
Charlotte & Doug Hathaway
Mr. & Mrs. John Kendryna
Lorraine Kroetch
Aaron Lazaroff
Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Zeitlin
Mr. & Mrs. Ed Zimmermann

IN MEMORY OF:

Robbie Hawthorne
Elaine Bronet
Judy Chamberlain
Ruth Van Deest
Robert Hawthorne
William J. Harney & Margaret Maguire
Hal & Cindy Hathaway
Judy Chamberlain
Judy Chamberlain
Maxine Kort
James Smith
Mel Ashcraft & Robbie Hawthorne
Judy Chamberlain

TRIBUTE BY:

Jenny & Allen Freese

Sylvia Dorfman
Aaron Lazaroff
Dolly Saget
Mary Sandorf

IN HONOR OF:

Susan Basler, Marketing & Development Diva!
Dr. Joseph R. Dorfman's Birthday
David Lazaroff
Eddie Freeman
Charlie's 42nd Birthday

FOUNDATION DONATIONS

Mr. & Mrs. Guenther Engel In memory of Helen Werth
In memory of Robbie
Elmo Maiden Tribute to the Dwight Wheeler Family

Donor names comprise those who provided support to Valley Village from May 1 to July 31, 2008.

The clients prepare to plant shrubs at the Mayor's Day of Service in May.



SHOWTIME! A N



ANNUAL LUNCHEON



2008 S H O W T I M E ! LUNCHEON SPONSORS

Presenting: Bank of the West • **Title:** Lee Hamer Memorial Charities • Marion Letsch • Winnetka Neighborhood Council
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(Continued from page one)



VIP Dodgers experience, an appearance on McIntyre in the Morning, and a barbecue. One of the best parts of the Live Auction was when the entire audience participated in an opportunity to donate directly towards sending clients for an Adventures at Sea Hornblower Cruise at Marina del Rey.



Councilman Dennis P. Zine takes a spin on a Deal or No Deal Cruiser Bicycle.

The Luncheon exhibitors were Blix, Bonnie Tobin; D-Lux 57; Cynthia Berman; The Malibu Company, Dan Levy; Pearls Plus, Susie Warmbrand; Pegboard Highway, Pauline Goldstein; Posh Sox, Anne Cohen; Susie O's, Susan Overman; Vouva, Prithi Meganathan; and Wick'd Bean Candles, Sandra Encinas.

AND, THE WINNERS ARE...

- Grand Prize - Holiday for Two to Paris
Warren Cook
- Seven Day Holland American Cruise
George Morrera
- A Weekend at the Intercontinental Hotel
Los Angeles/Century City
Elayne Landy
- Seven Day Maui Vacation
Linda Grant

LUNCHEON COMMITTEE

Kitty Cooper & Carson Schreiber
Co-Chairs

Caitlind Alexander
Florine Goodman
Cheryl Kobashigawa
Marla Kort
Mariana Krasnoshtein
Patty Sztapka
Marlene Turner
Michael Turner
Jackie Wardle
Susie Warmbrand
Dolores Zimmermann

Susan Basler
Jenny Daniels Freese
Anush Orudzhyan
Co-Coordinators

SPECIAL THANKS TO... 790 KABC'S MCINTYRE IN THE MORNING* || ADVENTURES AT SEA || AQUARIUM OF THE PACIFIC || BERC'S GOURMET CATERING || BEST BUY - PORTER RANCH || BOB HAY || BRENT'S DELI || CA' DEL SOLE RISTORANTE || CALISTOGA INN RESTAURANT AND BREWERY* || CLOS PEGASE WINERY* || COUNCILMAN DENNIS P. ZINE* || COUNCILWOMAN WENDY GREUEL* || COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT-LOS ANGELES/SHERMAN OAKS || CURVE'S WEST HILLS/CANOGA PARK/WARNER CENTER || DAVID AND CATHY KORT* || DISNEY WORLD-WIDE || FANTASTIK FAKES || FINS CREEKSIDE || FLEMING'S || GENERAL HOSPITAL, ABC DAYTIME TELEVISION || GYMBOREE || HAIR IN L.A. || HARRAH'S - LAUGHLIN || HOLLAND AMERICA LINE* || HOMETOWN BUFFET || INTERCONTINENTAL, LOS ANGELES/CENTURY CITY || JACKEEZ AND NICHOLZ || LAUGH FACTORY || LEGOLAND CALIFORNIA INC. || LIQUID WINE AND SPIRITS || LOS ANGELES DODGERS || LOUISE'S TRATTORIA || MADTV || MARRIOTT HOTEL AND RESORT || MDS MANAGEMENT || MELLANIE PARTY DESIGN || MELODEE GARDEN CENTER || MEXICALI COCINA CANTINA || MIMI'S CAFÉ || MONEY MAILER || MONTY'S || MOZ BUDDHA LOUNGE || MR. B'S FLOWERS || MY FAIR LADY || NANCY CHANEY || NBC'S DEAL OR NO DEAL* || NEVERSOFIT ENTERTAINMENT || P.I.N.K. VODKA || PAM AND KEVIN BERG* || PARKER BROWN || PERSONAL CARE OPTOMETRY || RALPH'S || RAYNE OF THE VALLEY || RED'S BBQ || RICK AND CARRIE JONES* || RIVIERA HOTEL || ROB MARINKO* || RONALD REAGAN LIBRARY AND MUSEUM || ROY'S HAWAIIAN FUSION || RUSTIC CANYON GOLF CLUB || RUTH'S CHRIS STEAK HOUSE || SAM'S TOWN || SAMY'S CAMERA || SANTA ANITA PARK || SHERATON UNIVERSAL HOTEL || SIMBIOTICA SALON || SIX FLAGS MAGIC MOUNTAIN || SPARKS WOODFIRE GRILL || SULMA'S HANDBAGS & ACCESSORIES || TARGET WOODLAND HILLS || TIME WARNER* || U-FRAME-IT || VALLEY VILLAGE BOARD OF DIRECTORS || VALLEY VILLAGE FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS || WARNER CENTER MARRIOTT HOTEL || WOOD RANCH BBQ & GRILL || Z GALLERIE || ZIN BISTRO AMERICANA || OUR SPONSORS, DONORS, ADVERTISERS, GUESTS, AND VOLUNTEERS...

*DENOTES LIVE AUCTION DONORS

STATE BUDGET IMPASSE TAKES A TOLL

(Continued from page one)

Compounding the situation, is that in February of this year, the state legislature approved, and Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed into law an emergency "budget-balancing reductions" bill, which in part, defers Medi-Cal payments for August for organizations that will receive this disbursement from the state. A typical home at Valley Village, which serves six of our clients, costs on average \$32,000 per month to operate. We have 17 of them.

Our clients are not in jeopardy of losing the roof over their heads; however, the delay in state funding has forced Valley Village to dip into its reserves as well as to secure a bank line of credit to make-up for the stalled state revenue. We are concerned, not only because of the legislature and governor's past actions, but because the state has not passed a budget for this fiscal year. Not knowing what the state reimbursement will be creates difficulties in

preparing a budget and funding strategies for our fiscal year. Senator Kuehl has been a friend to the developmentally disabled community in the past and we hope she will again support us by sending AB 1434 (Dymally) to hearing.

Valley Village would like our clients' families and their friends and the friends of Valley Village to take immediate action and send emails or faxes to Senator Sheila Kuehl, your own state senator and assembly member, and the governor urging them to pass the budget and to preserve critical funding for California's developmentally disabled population.

Senator Sheila Kuehl: senator.kuehl@sen.ca.gov and (916) 651-4023 (Sacramento office); (310) 441-0724 (Los Angeles Office).
 Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger: http://www.govmail.ca.gov. and (916) 445-4633.



Valley Village Foundation

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Guenther Engel

As this newsletter goes to press and summer is nearing an end, I hope that all of you had a safe and enjoyable vacation.

Donations and milestones are the headlines for this article, along with congratulations to Valley Village for another successful luncheon fundraiser.

The Valley Village Foundation has been selected for a \$12,500 grant from St. John's United Methodist Church in Winnetka. Dwight and Barbara Wheeler are members of the congregation and were instrumental in recommending the Foundation for this grant.

Due to declining membership, the St. John's United Methodist Church decided to cease services at the end of June and join another nearby United Methodist congregation. Prior to closing and in recognition of the outstanding services provided by Valley Village for persons with disabilities, the congregants recently voted to grant this donation from final funds. A similar grant was made to a local organization that provides day respite for persons suffering from dementia. In addition, the Methodist Men, an affiliate of St. John's, also donated \$400 to the Foundation.

The Valley Village Foundation is grateful for the recognition by St. John's.

The Legacy Group achieved a new milestone by adding its 21st and 22nd member families, the family of Sam and Lily Dun and the family of Henry and Jane Goichman.

Sam and Lily have been supporters of Valley Village from the beginning with Sam getting many complimentary rooms and show passes from Las Vegas that were used to support our early fundraisers. Their daughter is in the Valley Village residential program and attends New Horizons workshop.

Henry and Jane Goichman are also new members of the Legacy Group. The Goichman's are long time friends of Kitty and Don Cooper and supporters of Valley Village. The family's thoughts about joining the Legacy Group are expressed below along with a current list of the members of the Legacy Group. It has been published before but what is of interest is not only the addition of the its 21st and 22nd family members to the group, but that the group actually represents thirty-nine individuals.

If you have included Valley Village or Valley Village Foundation as a beneficiary in your will or trust, please let us know by contacting Jenny in the Valley Village Development Department.

In the newsletter you see evidence of Valley Village's successful Annual Luncheon fundraiser. As founding Legacy Group member Marion Letsch puts it "You've come a long way baby"—from steak fries where you had to park on a dirt lot, to steak fries at a church hall, to potluck fashion shows in backyards, to luncheon fashion shows in hotels and finally celebrity-hosted luncheons with programs featuring noted entertainers.

Congratulations Valley Village!

VALLEY VILLAGE LEGACY GROUP

Christina Anthony
 Ruth Deel & Mary Banner
 Mr. & Mrs. Dick & Elaine Bartus
 Jeannette & Robert Campbell
 Kitty & Don Cooper
 Richard Cooper
 Dick & Virginia Crouch
 Dr. & Mrs. Andrew Dixon
 Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Dun
 Mr. & Mrs. Guenther Engel
 Jane & Henry Goichman

William & Donna Harney
 Aaron & Nora Lazaroff
 Marion & Ernie Letsch
 Glenna Lotspeich
 Dorothy & Larry Trusty
 Mary Catherine Sandorf
 Robert & Madeline Sharples
 June & George Stanton
 Marc Weisel & Sharon Sackin
 Mr. & Mrs. Dwight Wheeler
 Ed & Dolores Zimmermann

Sam & Lily Dun:

I was very involved with Valley Village for many years in the early 1970s. As I've gotten older I've stopped being as active but my heart is still with Valley Village and that is why my wife and I have decided to give back by being part of the Legacy Group.

Jane & Henry Goichman:

We are delighted that our close friends' daughter has lived happily at Valley Village for many years; so we decided that in addition to our annual support to Valley Village, we would name Valley Village as a beneficiary in our trust.

VALLEY VILLAGE

BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

September 25 • 6 p.m.
General Membership Meeting
Winnetka Adult Day Center

September 25
Valley Village Board of Directors

June 27, 2009
SHOWTIME!
Sheraton Universal Hotel

CLIENTS & VOLUNTEERS SUPPORT THE LOS ANGELES MAYOR'S DAY OF SERVICE



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