

Happy Talk

ALTM
assistance league®
Long Beach

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Legacy Society Spotlight on Norma and Burt Marter

By Annette Kashiwabara, Director of Development

“She’s a people person,” smiles Burt Marter as he describes Norma Marter’s success working with people and other volunteer organizations. “For all the years that I’ve known Norma, I don’t ever recall her saying ‘no’ to anyone.” Norma quickly interjects, “But I couldn’t do all the things I do without Burt’s support.” Married for nearly sixty-three years, this couple continues to be a successful team serving the Long Beach community.

Norma joined Assistance League of Long Beach forty-five years ago and is currently a Life member. She has served in many leadership positions and was President in 1977-1978. Additionally, she has been a volunteer with Nightingales at Long Beach Memorial Medical Center, a board member and past board president at Long Beach Day Nursery, and former board president and emeritus member of Miller’s Children Hospital.

Both Norma and Burt are members of the Bayshore



Norma and Burt Marter

Congregational Church, where he spends much of his time helping with church projects. Retired for almost seventeen years, Burt owned his own State Farm Insurance Company in Long Beach for forty-four years and participated with service organizations during that time.

When asked why they joined the Assistance League of Long Beach Legacy Society, Norma responded, “The work of Assistance League and the friendship of its members has been a central part of my life. Burt and I are proud that our commitment to the endowment – through our estate plan – will offer lasting financial support to this fine organization.”

If you are interested in learning more about Assistance League of Long Beach’s Endowment Program or Legacy Society membership, please contact Annette Kashiwabara, Director of Development, at (562) 627-5650.



Claudia Langner
National President

President Langner, Born to Lead

By JoAnn McDonald

One is not born a woman, one becomes one. Nowhere is this transition better illustrated than in the dynamic frame of Claudia Langner, newly installed National President. From childhood, in Duluth, Minnesota, her dark eyes were fixed on a reach beyond her grasp and a woman of substance emerged. She stands tall at 5’ 2” and has a closet full of shoes for the bottom two feet! Dressed in peppermint pink cowboy hat and

tapping her boots to country western, she was joyfully hazed by colleagues at Conference in Dallas, Texas.

When Claudia was elected Assistance League of Long Beach president in 1995, she powered into the job with a business orientation that changed the direction of the chapter. Mindful of all things financial, she insisted on adequate liability coverage to

protect the officers and real estate holdings. At one time, presidents virtually operated out of the trunk of their cars. Remodeling the office, securing a conference table and space for a president’s desk began that year. Because she sincerely believed that members were one of our greatest assets, she offered the first complimentary “Member Appreciation Luncheon” as a token of gratitude for their efforts. Recently, the substantial positions of chairing Bylaws revision and formulating Risk Management policies were added to her slate.

In the early nineties, she focused the power of her personality on the National Organization. Soon, she plans to address the necessity of fundraising at that level. Longtime friends cherish her friendship: Suzanne Nosworthy speaks warmly of her “candor and can do attitude” and Sandie McCarthy praises her “noble service to chapter.”

If President Langner had a signature song, it might well be, “I Am Woman, Hear Me Roar.” During her tenure, all chapters will benefit from the sound of this woman’s voice and hear more of her devotion.

Mission Statement: Assistance League of Long Beach is a nonprofit corporation whose purpose is to create a community of volunteers to identify and deliver philanthropic services.

President's Message



Happy New Year to you all! The last seven months have flown by with many exciting activities underway at Assistance League of Long Beach. As we look back on those months, we should be very proud of all that we have accomplished.

Three main components make our organization so effective: our **philanthropic programs, membership, and our fundraising efforts** to support our programs. All of our **philanthropic programs** are on track to meet or exceed our goals. Our new **member** classes are well integrated into the organization. Established members are busy in all aspects of our mission, and our 5th VP Membership Sharon Denham is working to find ways to keep nonvoting members involved. In **fundraising** efforts, we have launched the Endowment Program and had a successful fundraising event in *Destination...Unknown*. Thrift Shop sales are exceeding expectations, and Glitz was a huge success.

But we are now in 2010! The remainder of the year promises to bring equally exciting events.

On the **philanthropic programs** front, we are working hard to meet our year's goals and imagine new ways of operating programs to better meet the needs of the Long Beach community.

For **membership**, chapter and auxiliaries are recruiting people who might be interested in joining us. Remember, one size doesn't fit all. It's good to think of people who might be interested in one of our auxiliaries, if not chapter. We will be having informational meetings in upcoming months. Check the "Dates to Remember" in *Happy Talk* or on our website at www.allb.org.

Regarding **fundraising**, we are planning for the launch of the Annual Giving Program led by Kathy Lingle, our 2nd VP Fund Development, and Arline Walter as Annual Giving Chairman. One of the objectives of this program is to encourage members and community supporters to give as much as they can to directly support our philanthropic programs and organization. As we have grown - to help keep pace with growing needs in Long Beach - we have to transition to an even greater culture of giving.

We are also planning for year two of our Endowment Program. Suzanne Poulsen has led a sub-committee to select an artist to do another set of illustrative paintings about our philanthropic programs. These will be unveiled at the 2nd Legacy Society Reception on June 13, 2010. A workshop in February will educate and inform members about the benefits and options of planned giving.

As I close, I just want to say how much I am enjoying serving as your President. I welcome any suggestions or feedback you have. I hope you are enjoying the monthly *Beachside Chats* sent by e-mail. If you want a hard copy or want to be added to the e-mail distribution, please contact Melinda at melinda@allb.org.

You all do so much to make Assistance League of Long Beach the amazing organization it is, and I thank you from the bottom of my heart!

Pat Reep, President

Operation School Bell® Corporate Partners Program First Semester Grade Posted: An A+!!

By Sue Foat, Corporate Partners Committee Chairman

The Operation School Bell Corporate Partners Program continues to grow and partner with the Long Beach business community in providing free, new school uniforms to Long Beach Unified School District students. Assistance League of Long Beach has recently recruited six new partners to add to its family of fifteen: Superstat Corporation, Corridor Recycling, Long Beach Convention & Visitors Bureau, HDR Engineering, Inc., Gallagher's Pub and Friends, and Matson Navigation Company (Alexander & Baldwin Foundation). 100% of the sponsorship goes towards purchasing new school uniforms for students.

Rocky Soares, the Corporate Council Chairman, stated at the first Corporate Council meeting in November, "I'm so excited about chairing this special committee. Operation School Bell plays such an important role in our neighborhood schools and community in providing for children and families in need. The impact is tremendous and we are helping to provide for a better future for them."



Rocky Soares
Corporate Council Chairman

Pat Reep, President of Assistance League of Long Beach, commented, "With the Corporate Partnership program we are expanding our ability to raise additional funds to help us reach our future goal of providing 10,000 children with free, new school uniforms."

Please contact Annette Kashiwabara, Director of Development, at 562-627-5650 for more information about the Corporate Partnership program, or to recommend a corporation that may be interested in participating.

Ways to Give to Assistance League of Long Beach

- Give to the Endowment Fund
- Donate to and shop at the Thrift Shop
- Use eScrip when you shop
- Consider Cars 4 Causes
- Support our major fundraiser
- Donate online (www.allb.org)
- Give directly to a philanthropic program

An Interview with Dr. Howard Lee

By Greta Rosenow

November 8, 2009 marks the second year that Dr. Howard Lee has maintained a practice at the Earl B. and Loraine H. Miller Orthodontic Center. Through Dr. Nelson Gatov, his instructor and mentor at Loma Linda University School of Dentistry, he was introduced to Assistance League of Long Beach and our Orthodontic Center, where he is currently treating over three hundred young students with orthodontic appliances.



Dr. Howard Lee

Born in Chicago, Dr. Lee is the first in his family to pursue a career in dentistry. He attended Southern Illinois University School of Dental Medicine, graduating with a degree of Doctor of Medical Dentistry. A Master of Science degree from Loma Linda University prepared him to practice orthodontia.

In April 2009, Dr. Lee purchased Dr. Nelson Gatov's private practice on Spring Street, just two buildings to the east of the Philanthropic Center. He is married to Shirley Chi, M.D., a dermatologist practicing in Arcadia. He and his wife have lived in California for almost five years. He speaks Cantonese, enjoys Earl Gray tea and has a taste for the music of U 2. In their leisure time, he and his wife are eagerly exploring California and its many treasures by biking, hiking, and kayaking. Monterey and its environs are at the top of their list at the moment.

Dr. Lee has a gentle rapport with all of his patients, handling any concerns or worries that they or their parents may have, with professional wisdom and a caring attitude. He is well thought of by his patients, their parents, and fellow staff members. Our organization is fortunate to have him and his professional expertise. Come by the Orthodontic Center any Monday or Tuesday and meet him. Please let him know how much he is appreciated.

In Memoriam

Ruby Kean

Past President 1971-1972

Harriet Britton

Janet Fox

Sandi Shadden

Community Tours Debut

The first tour of the Philanthropic Center debuted on October 28, 2009. The purpose of a community tour is to educate and build awareness in the community of our philanthropic activities, to establish greater community relationships, and to attract future members and financial supporters. In June 2009 the Community Tours Committee, under the leadership of Peggy Strople, began the process of developing a script for the tours so that they can be conducted by any member. For information on the committee or to schedule a tour, please contact Peggy Strople at pstrople@aol.com.

A Kid Happy to Talk

By JoAnn McDonald



Eddy and his best friend Clare solve Kid problems.

I suppose I should start at the beginning. Otherwise, how could you possibly know how I ended up hanging out at 6220 E. Spring Street in Long Beach, California?

My name is Eddy and I'm almost a real Kid even if my full growth potential stopped at 3' 5". I was conceived in

1977 as a response to the newly passed "mainstream law." Since birth, I've known that my purpose in life is to promote an attitude of understanding, warmth and sensitivity toward children with disabilities. Honey, I was born to be good!

But it wasn't until 1982 that I reached my permanent home. Man, it was a bumpy ride getting here, but when the lid was pried off my crate, I was in puppet heaven, because kind loving hands lifted me out gently and those humans cooed and oaed. It was so cool; I was to live and be loved by not just one, but dozens of "Moms" in a city near snow capped mountains and sparkling ocean water.

My best friend now is Clare. She is dark skinned and dark haired, wears glasses and dang, she's a little taller than I am. When night falls, the lights dim, and the last member punches in the alarm code, that's when we really rock! Oh, the stories we tell and the secrets we keep! I confided in Clare that one time I stood by and watched a bully pick on my friend and I didn't do anything. That really made me feel crummy. Now, I'm the one being bullied, but Clare has helped me to understand that bullying is everybody's problem and that no puppet needs to put up with it by himself.

We Kids have gone around the Block many times performing at over twenty schools for 5,500 children last year. In all modesty, I've got the moves. During the "Bullies" show, they crank up the music and I dance, shake, shimmy and do the splits. We call it "Dancing with the Puppets."

Gotta go. Here come Marcha and Pat with their hugs and hooks routine. First, a warm hug and then up onto the round hooks. But hanging up is okay by me, because everyone knows, you can't keep a good puppet down!

Introducing CAMEO's New Mentees

By Stephanie Bilvado, CAMEO
Philanthropy Chair

Four Long Beach City College students and ten students from Cabrillo and Jordan High Schools have been selected to participate in CAMEO's 2009-2010 mentoring program, which guides promising high school and college students to higher levels of achievement. We would like to introduce three of our new students to show the high caliber of our mentees.

CAMEO welcomes Nicole Valencia from Long Beach City College. Nicole is a single mom who is returning to school after being laid off for several years from the field of radio broadcasting. Her goal is to pursue a career as a high school teacher and tutor students during the summer who are interested in acting or public speaking. Nicole knows that her many years of experience in radio could benefit others in their future careers as actors or public speakers.

From Cabrillo High School we selected Melodie Delgado. Melodie has personality plus! She is involved in activities from Tae Kwan Do to singing and playing the guitar. She enjoys art, music, writing, and reading. Her current goal is to graduate from high school, attend a four year university and pursue a career in journalism or business. Whatever Melodie decides, her personality alone will take her a long way!

CAMEO welcomes Cain Hall, a student at Jordan High School. For being a freshman, Cain is a goal-oriented young man with a most impressive level of maturity. We could compare him to Colin Powell. He presently is involved in the Young Marines Program, which helps inner-city school youth stay on track in school while also supporting them in health and exercise. His goal is to graduate from high school and attend a four year university, preferably CSULB. Then, if he decides on a career in the Marines, his college degree will allow him to be an officer.

Although these three young people appear to be focused and goal-oriented, their participation in the Mentor Program will provide additional support, helping them to achieve their dreams.

Save the date!

Saturday, March 27, 2010

CAMEO Fashion Show & Luncheon

Former CAMEO Mentee Becomes Member

By Bobbi Villalobos

CAMEO is proud to welcome Candace Meehan as a new active member. She was first introduced to CAMEO as a mentee of Blanche Brewster Cannady when she was a student at Long Beach City College. Her affiliation with CAMEO has given her needed support during some very difficult times in her life.

When she was fourteen, she was diagnosed with a rare eye disease and had to undergo painful laser surgeries and treatments. She missed many school days and eventually dropped out. When doctors told her she would eventually be blind, she decided at age sixteen to have a child, reasoning, "If I just at least had his image in my head that would be enough." During the same time period, Candace's parents divorced, and a year later, her father died. She recalls him telling her, "You're smart, you are going to be something someday, and one day you will go back to school." She then decided to enroll at Long Beach City College, where in her first semester she earned a 3.7 GPA. However, just when Candace was becoming involved in student government and the community, another challenge hit her - her son was diagnosed with cystic fibrosis.

Candace didn't give up. She became involved with CAMEO and received support from CAMEO and Long Beach City College. She said, "Seeing successful women motivated me to achieve and to accomplish my dreams. I had to believe and know that I am the only one in this world who is going to take care of me and my child and that it's only up to me to make a difference in the lives of others." Candace went on to earn her associate's degree in human services from LBCC. Her eye disease began to improve, and due to many surgeries that corrected the vision she had left, she was able to regain enough vision to receive her driver's license.

Candace worked five years for Long Beach City College, facilitating case and grants management before entering the after school program field. She is currently working with the Long Beach Unified School District as Program Director for Long Beach Jordan High School and has been deeply involved in the community through the City of Long Beach Youth Council. She sits on the board for California Families in Focus Teen Pregnancy Program and is currently an Afterschool Network Peer-to-Peer Mentor for after school programs. She now has a bachelor's degree in sociology and is working on completing an MSW degree in counseling. Candace is indeed a special person who has achieved much despite numerous struggles.



Estate Planning Seminar

conducted by
Susan Redfield, Director of
Development Major Gifts
University of Southern California
at the
Philanthropic Center

February 6, 2010
9:30 a.m. -11:30 a.m.

A Fabulous Fall for Rick Rackers

By Dia Kaesman



Melissa Murchison and Councilperson Suja Lowenthal take a break from helping students at Mann Elementary School.

What a busy fall it has been for the Rick Rackers of Long Beach! In October we held our annual Woman of the Year Luncheon. This year more than 200 guests gathered in the Beacon Ballroom of the Hyatt Regency. Trumpets sounded as the members of Rick Rackers escorted the past

Women of the Year to their seats. Then, to a standing ovation, Candice Stacy was presented as the 55th Woman of the Year honoree. Candice Stacy has dedicated most of her time and energy to volunteerism in our community.

We continue our efforts in clothing elementary age school children in the Long Beach Unified School District. Led by Operation School Bell chairman Melissa Murchison, we continue to move closer to our goal of clothing 4,000 students by this school year's end. In October, we took part in the nation's "Make a Difference Day" at Mann Elementary School, where members of Rick Rackers as well as our very own Assisteens® clothed approximately 300 students. In addition, we were very excited to have the help of six employees from the Long Beach office of UBS® as part of our Corporate Partnership Program. "Make a Difference Day" is one of the most encompassing national days of helping others – a celebration of neighbors helping neighbors, and on that day, Rick Rackers truly did that.

Our Clothe-A-Child campaign led by Rick Rackers member, Beth Ciceri, has been quite successful this year in that we have received approximately \$19,000 in donations, all of which go to Operation School Bell. While the school district continues to face budget cuts that have been challenging for us relative to clothing the children, we keep in mind that the rewards outweigh the challenges any day. We are so grateful to our members, as well as the community and Corporate Partnerships, that we are still able to accomplish our goals in spite of economic hard times.

Fun, Fun, Fun was had by all who attended our Holiday "Fun-Raiser" in November at Designing Whims in Los Alamitos. Planned by event chairman Nancy Smith, the evening was filled with fun, laughter, shopping, food and the best holiday martinis ever. The White Chocolate-Peppermint Martini seemed to be the favorite among all who attended. Who doesn't love to eat, drink and shop? Best of all, Designing Whims donated a portion of the total sales of the evening to Rick Rackers.

In December our membership met at the home of Carolyn Wesling for our holiday meeting and luncheon. It was a beautiful sunny day filled with holiday glitz, a gift exchange, laughter and friendship. As we close out 2009, we reflect on what a great year we have had and look forward to an even more fun, fabulous and successful 2010.

The Spirit of Giving Continues

By Judi McCall



Pat Reep and Meredith Medanich

Although "retired" from active membership, Life members proudly continue their legendary service to Assistance League philanthropic programs. At their September 21 meeting, Life Members, under the leadership of Chairman Meredith Medanich, voted to donate \$3,000 to chapter and Rick Rackers philanthropic programs for the year 2009 – 2010. This money was designated as follows: \$1,000 to Operation School Bell, Middle School; \$1,000 to Orthodontic Center; and \$1,000 to Operation School Bell, Elementary School.

Checks were presented to Pat Reep, President; Roberta Keester, 1st Vice President Philanthropic Programs; and Cindy Gillis, Rick Racker Chairman at the December 14 meeting as Life members and guests were joined for lunch by chapter's Board of Directors. John Harvey and the Millikan Concert Choir entertained members with both traditional and very non-traditional songs of the holidays. Mr. Harvey expressed his gratitude for all that Assistance League has done for students in Long Beach.

Stacy Shines

By JoAnn McDonald



Candice Stacy
Woman of the Year

There is a woman of sincere demeanor, conservative manner and quiet leadership who first appeared in the Assistance League of Long Beach membership roster fifteen years ago. Her name is Candice Stacy and she soon quietly hitched her wagon to the star of volunteerism and not only contributed to our chapter but also to many other service organizations in the community. An ancient Chinese maxim observes that the light of a single star tinges the mountains of many regions. Over the years, col-

leagues and community leaders applauded the extent of her charitable generosity, the widespread range of interest and noticed that her talent and effort had "tinged" more than a dozen other organizations. Consequently, in the fall of 2009, it was a shining moment when Rick Rackers, with great pride, awarded Candice its highest honor by naming her 2009 Woman of the Year. On Friday, October 2, 2009, during a celebratory luncheon at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, she was recognized by family, business associates and a host of friends as one whose lifetime of good deeds truly earned this distinction.

ALa Carte – A Very Special Program

By Barbara Zunich

“Hey, lady, you forgot me. You forgot me,” called the young boy standing in the door of his hospital room. “No,” said the ALa Carte volunteer, “I would never miss one of my favorite people.”

Thus starts the day for Joan Smock as she enters the oncology ward at Miller Children’s Hospital, where Assistance League members go on a regular basis to bring a little normal daily life to children who are too ill to go with other children to the play rooms or special programs.

From their cart (hence the name, ALa Carte), volunteers take a prepared bag of age-appropriate crafts into the children assigned to them by the Child Life Department. Entering the room saying, “Hi, I’m coming to have fun with you,” committee members plan to do just that. Sometimes they are visiting children whose parents come every day; these visits give parents a much-needed break. Sometimes they visit a child who will have no visitors that day, and having a few minutes of fun is the only “break” in hospital routine that the child gets. Because play is such an important part of a child’s life, ALa Carte visits help to make the hospital stay as “home-like” as possible.

Each of the craft bags used by ALa Carte members has been lovingly and carefully prepared so that it is easy for the child to



Joan and her special friend

make a craft – even while lying in bed. The bags are assembled by ALa Carte committee members during their quarterly workshop and planning sessions. The kits, planned by artistic Marcia Fitzgerald, are easy, fast to do, and bring immediate gratification to the children.

Assistance League of Long Beach members are always welcome to join the ALa Carte team whose members declare visiting these ill children is up-lifting to their spirits. Furthermore, it makes the members more appreciative of the good health of their own children and grandchildren.

With Midgie Cahan as their scheduler, ALa Carte members can choose a flexible schedule that suits their busy lives. Recently, husbands have become part of the visiting teams, too. This is a

committee that allows you to miss your scheduled time if necessary. Each member calls ahead to get her assigned children for the day; so if she misses a day, the children do not know and are not disappointed.

If you would like to know more about becoming part of ALa Carte, call Harriett Golding. She would love to tell you all about the work, how it is handled at the hospital, and what you need to do to be approved to work in a children’s hospital.

Las Hermanas Celebrates

By Pat Blaber

The Philanthropic Center was the scene of fun-filled festivities December 8 when 100 Las Hermanas members and their guests celebrated the holidays early with friendly conversation, good food and Christmas music.

The setting was festive and beautiful, thanks to the efforts of Bette Brightman, Pat Blaber, Linda Reabe, and Jan Carlson. Poinsettias galore and antique silver deer amidst winter greenery graced the tables. A sparkling crystal punch bowl held delicious wassail, courtesy of Pam and LeRoy Kehret. The menu, arranged by Debra Barrad and her committee, included petite sandwiches and pecan-encrusted pumpkin cake.

Two highlights of the day were both musical. The first was a presentation of longtime favorite songs brilliantly sung by Poly High School jazz singers under the direction of teacher Bryan



Melinda Martin and guest Delores Thombar

Dooko. The second musical highlight was a vocal selection of holiday songs sung by LeRoy Kehret accompanied by his wife, Pam. Although quite content to lean back and enjoy his beautiful, rich tenor voice, Las Hermanas members happily joined in when asked to sing along with him.

Another highlight was a lively theatrical presentation by Las Hermanas thespians Pam Kehret, Miriam Garland, Gloria Sirotnak and Georgia Klinkers. Next year, Broadway!

The festivities ended after chaiman Melinda Martin thanked everyone for coming and adding to our celebration, among them Assistance League President Pat Reep and the three newest Las Hermanas members: Linda Sinclair, Marge Cammack and Annie Russon. In all, the Las Hermanas Wassail was a great start to the holiday season!

Debutantes Celebrated at Medallion Tea

By Shelly Barbre

In early December sixteen Assistance League of Long Beach debutantes were feted at the Medallion Tea in a room decorated like a winter wonderland with diamond sparkles on the tables and wintery floral decorations. Cynthia Brooks Distinctive Catering prepared the delicious luncheon. The Honorable Beverly O'Neill, who will be the 43rd Presenter at this year's ball, joined us. Others present included Clara Andrews, who will be honored at the ball; Pat Reep, President; Faye Alperin, President-Elect; Kathy Lingle, Medallion Tea Chairman, and committee members Kathy Wade, Cindy Summers, Beth Ceceri, Michelle Abdelnour, Karen Sprague and Chairman Shelly Barbre.

There was not a dry eye in the Chapter Room as Shelly and Michelle read the scripts and the debutantes' mothers presented them with the traditional medallions. Escorting the mothers and debutantes were Andy Abdelnour, who will also be a page at the Presentation Ball, and Harrison, the handsome son of Cindy and



Top row left to right: Allison Gallagher, Shannon Hayes, Delaney Zieg, Monica Malloy, Nicole Stanton, Madison Hogue, Toni-Marie Koulos, Taylor Rutledge, Alicia Keyworth, Kelly DeCollibus; 2nd row : Madison Beall, Elizabeth Blumberg, Samantha DeMeyer, Amanda Westerfield, Jessica Martinez, Tessa Rutter

Hal Gillis.

The committee extends a special thank you to all the volunteers who helped serve this special luncheon during such a busy season. We sincerely appreciate your help. The committee also thanks Bill Wade, who photographed the debutantes.

Assisteens Make a Difference

By Allison Gallagher

This year for the Assisteens' "Make a Difference Day" Project we partnered with Rick Rackers and Operation School Bell in helping pass out backpacks and school supplies at Horace Mann Elementary School. We also helped direct family members, checked in children and helped them select a special book of their very own.



Left to right: Justine Cocchi, Annalee Magrann; Megan Wilford, Brianna Nieves, Catherine Blumberg

All of the children were so excited to receive their new school supplies! Their beautiful backpacks were filled to the top with all sorts of goodies: notebooks, uniforms and sweatshirts, pencils, books and more. It warmed our hearts to see the children so excited about their supplies and it was especially humbling for us to see the parents' appreciation. Some of us were even moved to tears.

Assisteens went to great lengths to ensure that every child was happy with his new backpack. In one case, a cute little seven year old girl wearing pink from head to toe, received a navy blue backpack. Immediately, the Assisteens offered to switch the blue one with a pretty pink one! Such a simple change made all the difference in the world for that little girl. The change was a source of true happiness for the child, her parents and for the Assisteens involved.

Spending the day at Horace Mann and helping with Operation School Bell was positively one of the our best projects. Not only did we directly help families, but the children and their parents touched our hearts as well. All the way around, this was a wonderful experience and we look forward to continued participation with Operation School Bell.

*Assistance League® of Long Beach
Requests the pleasure of your company at the
Forty-third Presentation Ball*

*Saturday, March thirteenth
Two thousand ten*

*Cocktails at Six in the evening
presentation at Seven o'clock*

*We take great pride in announcing
our 2010 Honorees
Clara Andrews & Jo Mary Thomason*

*Hyatt Regency Long Beach
200 South Pine Avenue
Long Beach, California*

*Dinner and dancing immediately following
Black Tie Preferred*

Destination ...Unknown a Great Success

By Pauline Stenberg and Suzanne Powell

Destination . . . Unknown had some new twists this year that resulted in a very successful event. Net proceeds from the Boutique, Silent Auction and ticket sales were \$79,521.92, which was \$9,000 more than our projected goal. Under the leadership of Pauline Stenberg and Suzanne Powell and their committee, the two day event was a shoppers' paradise culminating in a festive evening reception enjoyed by over 300 guests.

The major change this year was to bring in outside vendors. On Saturday and Sunday the Chapter Room was an exotic bazaar where people shopped for beautiful scarves, ethnic jewelry, Afghan handbags, delicious toffee, and flavored olive oils. In addition, other tables featured holiday items, Howard Collection note cards and calendars, handbags, and the beautiful planters designed and potted by Carol Bellmaine and her committee. In spite of sharing profits with the vendors, the boutique was profitable.

On Sunday evening, *Destination* ticket purchasers and their guests attended a wine and hors d'oeuvres reception that included a silent auction with baskets donated by members and Assistance League of Long Beach classes. The winner of the trip was chapter member Tommye Lovett's daughter, who lives in San Francisco. Don't miss the great pictures from a thoroughly enjoyable evening in the online version of *Happy Talk*.

Success was due to lots of new ideas and hard work by the outstanding committee members. Thanks also to members for purchasing or selling "Just One More" ticket. In addition, Enterprise Car Rental, Franzia Wine, Norm Wilson Contractors, Cynthia Brooks Distinctive Catering, and F&M Bank made significant contributions toward the success of the event.



Julie Wilson and family



Pauline Stenberg and Liz Breslauer



Suzanne Powell, Pauline Stenberg,
Pat Reep, Kathy Wade



Judy Brown, Sandy Wells, JoAnn McDonald



Melanie and Dave Werts



Suzanne Nosworthy and Jane Jackson



Paul Merrill, Blanche Cannady,
Lorie Merrill



Georgia Klinkers and Melinda Martin



Trish Atkinson and Rita Valentine



The Membership Committee awarded Anne Blayden with the Superstar Performer Award at the November regular meeting. In addition to working at the Thrift Shop once a week, Anne is Philanthropic Center Chairman this year.

New Member Tea

The annual New Member Tea will be April 14, 2010. Please give your new member information to the New Member Tea Committee as soon as possible. Invitations will be mailed April 1. Responses are due by April 7.



Horseplay At The Finish Line Members Only Party

A night of food, fun, and education
Los Alamitos Racetrack
Sunday, February 28, 2010 4:30 p.m.
\$50 per person, including dinner & parking

Glitz

By Rita Valentine

Sleigh bells were ringing and the cash register was singing at the Thrift & Vintage Shop's annual Christmas extravaganza which began on December 3. The grand total for the four-day sale was \$16,565.75, which will be used to support Assistance League's philanthropic programs

Customers began lining up early in anticipation of the 10:00 a.m. opening, signaling the start of the four day sale of holiday apparel, decorations, and gifts. Dot Stinnett and Joyce Ricci chaired the event, assisted by the WHO class and numerous other volunteers. Trisha Atkinson and Melanie Werts also provided invaluable assistance in making the event a great success. Three jolly Santas - Bill Davis, Dave Werts, and Jim Breslauer - passed out candy canes to all the good little boys and girls - and everyone else, too.



Trish Atkinson and Judy Muehlebach



Thanks to all the enthusiastic volunteers who contributed to Glitz's success!



Linda Schultz, Donna Lenihan, Faye Alperin

Thinking of You ...

Convalescence Wishes...

- ❖ **To Gwen Denton** **From Barbara Zunich**
Sending Best Wishes for your recovery and return to good health.
- ❖ **To Penny O'Toole** **From Barbara Zunich**
Wishing you a successful recovery from your November knee replacement surgery.
- ❖ **To Grace Alexander** **From Pat Reep**
Wishing you a speedy recovery from your shoulder injury because nothing will keep you down!

Condolences and Caring Thoughts...

- ❖ **To Cindy Summers** **From all your Friends in chapter**
Expressing our deepest sympathy to you and your family on the recent loss of your mother.
- ❖ **To Cindy Summers** **From Pat Reep**
May the memories you have within your heart help soothe your spirit in this difficult time. Hugs.
- ❖ **To Nancy Higginson** **From all your Assistance League Friends**
Our deepest sympathy to you and your family on the loss of your husband, John.

Congratulations...

- ❖ **To Hashmat Saeed**
To our wonderful member and Recording Secretary, who celebrated the marriage of her daughter Sena to Dr. Sulman on Jan. 2, 2010.

- ❖ **To Bill and Kathy Wade** **From all your Thrift Shop Friends and Fellow Workers**

On the birth of their granddaughter, Brenna.

- ❖ **To Doug and Linda Drummond** **From Pat Reep**
On the birth of their first grandchild, Andrew.

Compliments...

- ❖ **To 2009-2010 Board** **From Pat Reep**
For making the last seven months so productive and so much fun! I am so lucky to be working with you all.

- ❖ **To Rita Valentine and her wonderful crew** **From Pat Reep**

For a fabulous GLITZ!

- ❖ **To Suzanne Powell, Pauline Stenberg, & Kathy Wade** **From Pat Reep**

For a record-breaking and innovative *Destination ... Unknown*. Your committee and volunteers made it a memorable and fun event.

- ❖ **Sharon Denham and her committee** **From Pat Reep**

Hooray and a huge thank you to Sharon and her Game Day committee led by **Margaret Dineen-Kern** for a fun day with old and new friends.

- ❖ **Shelly Barbre & her Presentation Ball Committee** **From Pat Reep**

Kudos for all the work on the successful activities leading up to the Ball. You are making this a very special year for the debutantes and their families.

Game Day



Our hard-working Game Day committee



The 007 Bond class at Game Day



6220 E. Spring Street, Long Beach CA 90815

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 or melinda@ALLB.org

Assistance League of Long Beach

Great New Year Gifts

By Pam Mundy, Howard Committee Chairman



Don't forget to buy your Perpetual Calendar or our beautiful note cards for that special friend, family member, or hostess. Fill out a Perpetual Calendar with those special birthdays and anniversaries, and give it to that someone who wants to get organized for the new year. Share our Howard Collection with a friend by giving her note cards, showing our beautiful wood block prints. Both the cards and the calendars can be purchased at the office or call Pam Mundy.

All proceeds will be used to cover costs for storing and restoration of the Howard Collection.

Assistance League of Long Beach 2009-2010 Board of Directors

- President**
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- 1st Vice President Philanthropic Programs**
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- 2nd Vice President Fund Development**
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So, You Think You Can Dance?

By Shelly Barbre

If you have two left feet or would like to brush up on your dancing skills, join the parents and friends of our debs at Elevation Studios in Signal Hill. Most of the dance instructors are dancers who have either participated in the TV shows "So You Think You Can Dance" and/or "Dancing with the Stars." Alex Arnold, owner of the studio, is a world renowned dance instructor who will dance our legs off and has promised to show us a good time.

Lessons have been discounted to \$25.00 per lesson per person or \$45.00 per couple on Saturday evenings from 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. on January 23, 30 and February 6. If you are interested, call Shelly Barbre for details (562-439-6967 or cell 716-0568).

Space is limited, so call today. The waltz lesson fees for the Debutantes have been discounted based on our participation, so we hope you will help us in keeping our costs down to a minimum. In turn you will have a good time and fulfill your New Year's resolutions to exercise and diet!



Dates to Remember

FEBRUARY

- 2 Rick Rackers Regular Meeting
- 6 Estate Planning Seminar
- 9 Las Hermanas Regular Meeting
- 10 1st New Member Informational Meeting
- 15 Presidents' Day - Philanthropic Center closed
- 18 Reception for Claudia Langner
- 22 Chapter Regular Meeting
- 23 CAMEO Regular Meeting
- 24 Waltz Night

MARCH

- 2 Rick Rackers Regular Meeting
- 9 Las Hermanas Regular Meeting
- 10 2nd New Member Informational Meeting
- 13 Presentation Ball - Hyatt
- 15 Life Members Regular Meeting
- 20 CAMEO Regular Meeting
- 22 Chapter Regular Meeting
- 27 CAMEO Fashion Show

APRIL

- 13 Las Hermanas Regular Meeting
- 13 Rick Rackers Regular Meeting
- 14 New Member Tea
- 17 CAMEO Regular Meeting
- 26 Chapter Regular Meeting

MAY

- 4 Rick Rackers Regular Meeting
- 11 Las Hermanas Annual Meeting
- 15 CAMEO Annual Meeting
- 24 Thrift Shop closed
- 24 Chapter Annual Meeting
- 31 Memorial Day - Philanthropic Center and Thrift Shop closed

Happy Talk Editor: Linda Drummond, l.l.pdrummond@verizon.net
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Happy Talk Production: Carolyn Yamaoka
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