

Assistance League of Diablo Valley is a nonprofit, member volunteer organization dedicated to improving lives in our community through hands-on programs.

CHAPTER NEWSLETTER June, July, August 2010



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President's Message - Chris Noble

Dear Friends,

As this fiscal year ends, I am hoping that each of you celebrated what you have accomplished this past year. Each of you contributed to the success of our organization through your dedication, commitment, the hours you volunteered, the goods you donated to the thrift shop, the money you donated, and through your many talents. I cherished the hours you contributed, no matter what areas you chose for your volunteering - committees, programs, or our thrift shop. To be surrounded by such giving people who want to make a difference was such a joy for me. Assistance League of Diablo Valley and its members are a family working together for the betterment of our community. Applaud yourselves, ladies. You do an excellent job of improving lives in our community through hand-on programs!!!

I also want to thank the 2009-2010 Board of Directors who did an outstanding job. Their leadership, dedication, work ethic and commitment to our mission allowed us to excel once again. Each of them needs to be applauded for they also did an exceptional job. So now, I want to wish **Pat Jenkins** and the new Board much success in the coming year. Enjoy the ride!

In closing to all of our members, know that I think of all of you as the finest, the greatest and the best. You know how to get things done. You are Assistance League.

Chris Noble

VOLUNTEERS ARE SELDOM PAID, NOT BECAUSE THEY ARE WORTHLESS, BUT BECAUSE THEY ARE PRICELESS!

President-Elect's Message- Pat Jenkins

It's an honor to be elected President of Assistance League of Diablo Valley. I will do my very best. I am accountable for leading board members and making sure the mission statement of Assistance League of Diablo Valley is achieved. I will ensure

*members understand their jobs and can to fulfill those expectations. This is achieved by giving a thorough orientation to new members, offering board development and education to assure that members have the skills they need. I'll *preside over board meetings* making sure topics on the agenda are covered, that consensus is reached and everyone has opportunity to be heard. I won't micromanage members, but *work closely, acting as a sounding board*. I'll *ensure management tools are developed, improved and implemented*, including a five year strategic plan, annual action plans, and a budget. I'll *work with committee chairs*, serving as an ex-officio committee member to help the committee chair to identify potential problems or issues and to help the chair to resolve them. And last but not least, I'll help *link to the community*. That's my promise to you.*

We have an impressive organization with tremendous talent and energy. Let's make 2010-2011 a fantastic success.

We Need You!

Are you proud of our beautiful chapter house and property? You can help to keep our building standards high. We are looking for a new chairman for our chapter house and annex property. If you are interested please contact Betty Bushnell at bettybushnell01@comcast.net, or 925-937-6042.

Philanthropic Programs - Liz Haag

Thank you to all of you who have participated in our programs this year. Our chapter has made a commendable contribution to the community. Here are some facts and figures which can make us all proud.

Community Outreach donated **220 food boxes** for families on CalWorks, assembled **570 Baby Bags** for infants at risk, supplied **emergency clothing to 180** survivors of assault, provided **200 backpacks with emergency supplies** for teens in crisis, donated **first apartment supplies for 100** emancipating foster youth, donated **100 Teddy Bears to the Sheriff's Office** for comfort to children in critical situations, and provided **31 senior year sponsorships** to foster youth.

Foresight screened **1587 children** for vision and **1110 children** for hearing in 32 preschools. Sixty one children were rescreened, and **34 children** were referred.

Pictured from left: Jean Watts, Judy Karg, Chris Light, Natalie Davis, Arleen Takayama, Nancy Thummes, Dotty Denham - **Foresight** members at the **Prevent Blindness** luncheon in May.



The Kids on the Block presented programs to **4,814 children** in grades K-3rd, in 80 performances, in 29 schools.

Operation School Bell[®] provided new clothing for **3477 children** (2926 uniform and 551 non-uniform) in grades K-5, in 39 local schools, in four schools districts. There were 54 volunteer days, with two double-shift days: 11 Uniform Shopping, 15 Sizing, 18 Bagging, 10 Non-Uniform Shopping, one Retail Shopping, and one onsite clothing day at special needs school.

Programs Research researched community needs in Contra Costa County and Mt. Diablo School District. The committee also evaluated the R.E.A.D. program, Show on

the Road, and three projects under Community Outreach; Assault Survivor Kits, Baby Bags, and Food Boxes.

R.E.A.D. committee members read to **958 students** in 40 2nd grade classes, donated 14 books to each classroom and 10 school libraries, gave a gift chapter book to each student, and donated \$500 worth of books to each of the school libraries.



The **Scholarships** program awarded **\$92,950** in Scholarships and Teacher Grants. **Eighteen students** received scholarships: 8 High School scholarships for a total of \$37,800, 4 Community College scholarships for a total of \$15,750, 5 Foster Youth scholarships for a total of \$9400, and the Specially Funded scholarship of \$25,000. 11 Teacher Grants were awarded for a total of \$5000.

Thank you to all chapter members and particularly to the **Scholarships Committee** members for the warm welcome extended to the recipients and their guests at the May regular meeting. The students were thrilled with their awards and the reception they received from everyone at the brunch.

Share returned **\$2,655** to the community by donating to other non-profits items we were unable to sell in the Thrift Shop.

Show on the Road presented shows to over **800 residents** in 15 assisted living facilities.

TeleCare called 20 clients each day Monday through Friday. Sixteen committee members made **5200 calls**.

Please note that the **TeleCare** meeting will be Friday September 10, 2010 at 10:00am at the CRC, not Friday September 17, 2010 as previously reported. Telecare is also in need for more callers, this program really needs your support.

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Membership - Melinda Kavanagh

FEBRUARY 2010 MINI-MEETINGS: MEMBERSHIP ISSUES - There were many creative suggestions at our mini-meetings on how to promote more interaction and connection between new and current members. Here are some of those ideas.

What did you suggest that we are already doing or planning?

- Having "ice breakers" & small group discussions at regular meetings.
- Promoting varied social activities and groups with meeting and newsletter announcements and constant contact messages.
- Continuing popular annual mini-meetings.
- Using member talent to provide computer instruction.
- Encouraging all members to try new programs or committees each year.
- Recruiting new members for leadership positions.

What else did you suggest that we may try?

- Improve training of new members by having them shadow experienced members.
- Have new members serve as assistants to committee chairs both to educate and to promote leadership.
- Resume mentor program.
- Inform new members about current members in their geographic area to promote carpools, etc.
- Follow up after orientation to be sure new members have been contacted to work on one or more programs or committees

CONGRATULATIONS to **Judi Caruthers**, recipient of the Ada Edwards Laughlin award for her unstinting devotion to the success of the thrift shop as Vice Chairman of Merchandising.

Her many contributions include creative ideas for our popular special sales events, careful research into the value of unique donations, and the time and talent of her silver-polishing husband Herman.



PINS AND NEEDLES will continue to meet in June, July and August on the first and third Wednesday from 1:00-3:00 at the chapter house. It's a great way to keep in touch during the summer. Hope to see you there.

BOOK CLUB is also meeting during the summer on the first Tuesday of each month at 1:00 p.m. at the chapter house. Books for discussion are as follows: June 1 - *Cutting For Stone* by Abraham Verghese; July 6 - *Book Thief* by Markus Zusak; Aug. 3 - *Half The Sky: Turning Oppression Into Opportunity* by Nicolas Kristafand and Sheryl WuDunn; and Sept. 7 - *Outliers: The Story Of Success* by Malcolm Gladwell. Even if you haven't read the book, come anyway and listen to the discussion. Contact Jane Larsen for information.

SAVE THE DATE: This summer's Game Day is scheduled for Wednesday, July 14 at the chapter house. Sign-up sheets for Game Day and for 2010-2011 Marathon Bridge will be available at the June annual meeting and in the chapter house workroom. The fee for Marathon Bridge is \$5.00 per person, payable by check only, and made out to Assistance League of Diablo Valley.

ATTIRE ALERT: The annual meeting will be held at Round Hill Country Club on Wednesday, June 2. Please remember the dress code at Round Hill - no denim clothing, please.

MARATHON BRIDGE 2009-2010 WINNERS

NO TRUMP 1st - Mary McDonald and Julie Paulsen
 2nd - Teddy Murphy and Jill Reiner

NO BID 1st - Sandra English and Phyllis Klein
 2nd - Maryalice Nachtweih and Glenda Gunn

CLUBS 1st - Joan Siltanen and Janice Adragna
 2nd - Lydia Mulvihill and Joan Kaufmann

DIAMONDS 1st - Lesley Salo and Glo Johnson
 2nd - Duane Bell and Melinda Kavanagh

HEARTS 1st - Ruth Lyle and Honora Greytak
 2nd - Hazel James and Martha Preuss

SPADES 1st - Eddie Morrell and Linda Patton
 2nd - Debby Cohan and Linda Thaning

GRAND SLAM 1st - Dottie Denham and Yolande Smith
 2nd - Veena Jain and Jeanie Horton

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A wonderful day at Gamble Gardens!

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Members enjoyed  
a beautiful day,  
wonderful flowers,  
and great friendships  
at Gamble Gardens.  
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Resource Development - Chris Light



Grants - I would like to sincerely thank the following members who wrote grants for us this year that brought in a total of \$52,800 to benefit our chapter programs.

Thank you **Jackie Schmid, Duane Bell, Arlita Smith, Chris Noble** and a special thanks to grant writer extraordinaire and Grants Chairman, **Linda Mercer**.

Thrift Shop - Remember that our thrift shop will be open on Thursday evenings from 4:00 to 7:00 PM through the end of September during the Lafayette Farmers' Market. Thank you to all who have volunteered to staff during these extra hours. There are still openings, so please contact Gretchen deGolia if you can take a shift.

Reminder about special sales-please tell your friends and neighbors and stop in to shop during the summer! Customers get treated to the fantastic job that our merchandising team does for these events. The team including **Luise Jones, Ilarene Jones, Sheila Bethel, and Judi Caruthers** really made the shop look wonderful in preparing for our Aloha event on May 10. **CLICK HERE FOR PICTURES**

Our upcoming events:

June 15 4th of July Merchandise
 June 22 Disneymania
 July 20-31 Christmas in July

Specialist Spotlight - Kathy Hillman and **Dorothy Rodola** are the thrift shop's official Bag Ladies. They inspect, clean, tag and price all the donated handbags, purses and tote bags. It is good luck to leave a penny in a handbag, but they often find bigger treasures of coin and currency adding to the suspense of opening each donation. **Kathy Hillman, Maggie Romero, Lee Gallagher, Mary Quinn and Christy Casassa** are the team that keep up with the boxes of children's books that are donated. They relive childhood memories and times shared with their children and grandchildren as they tag and price the classic children's books as well as keep current with the new books such as "Everyone Poops." Grown-up books (we avoid the term adult books) are sorted and priced by **Alice Grottola, Cec Wood, Joan Hughey** and **Glenda Gunn**. Every Wednesday the team is there to organize and price the stacks of books that have accumulated. Alice takes some more suitable for resale at a used book store to maximize our income. Collectible books are saved for **Jackie Schmid** to review and research online. She has discovered many early treasures including a recent early 1900's American Football book that we sold for \$200. **Jan Milstead** and **Betty Bushnell** are the Shoe Queens who process and even polish shoes to put the very best on the shelves. **Wendy Schmitz** takes home bags and balls of yarn to untangle and rewrap to give a new future to forgotten knitting projects. Customers look forward to the huge baskets of yarn to search for just the right color or specialty yarn for their next activity.

Thank you to these and all the Thrift Shop Specialists. Many hands make light work!

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Public Relations - Linda Thaning

Congratulations again, to **Herman Caruthers** for receiving our Making a Difference Award He joins his wife **Judi**, who was just named our winner of the Ada Edwards Laughlin award. They are truly a dynamic duo.



Our Chapter is being represented on June 1st answering phones for KQED. (Thanks to **Terry Magnin** who spent two years making this a reality)

Many members have signed up as volunteers at the grand opening of the Walnut Creek Library on July 17th. They will, of course, be wearing their Assistance League name badges. We'll receive recognition in the program as well as in the flyers that will be mailed to the community.

Drop by Mechanics Bank on June 15th during the wine walk. Our chapter, along with the Buena Vista Auxiliary will be featured in the bank.

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Corresponding Secretary - Margie Basile

We are beginning to prepare for the 2010 - 2011 Chapter Handbook. If you would like to make address, phone or cell phone changes to your information in the Chapter Handbook please update your information now. This would also be a good time to add your cell phone number, if you have not previously done so. Please provide those changes to the Chapter Office Manager, Carolyn Rossi. Thank you!

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Buena Vista Auxilliary - Louise Ferdun

The 70 members of Buena Vista Auxiliary truly deserve a champagne toast for their accomplishments this year. Through the Buena Vista Tutorial Program, they funded 2,304 hours of tutoring for 288 students, and donated \$10,000 in books and supplies to the schools.

The annual fundraiser, A Toast To Tutoring, was attended by more than 275 supporters at Round Hill Country Club on April 30. The event raised \$60,000 through auctions, donations, and Bid for Kids. This was the first time the event included dinner, and it was a huge success. Three corporations purchased Sponsor tables, and many "first timers" left saying "we're coming again next year" including chapter advisor, Susan Bonilla. **[CLICK HERE FOR PICTURES](#)**

The women who volunteer for the Buena Vista Auxiliary are a real testimony to today's volunteer. Their lives are busy with small children, schools, their professional careers, and their homes. Yet they make time to care for less fortunate in the community by funding and implementing the tutorial program. They are so motivated by the outcome of this important program in the schools, and share the joy with parents when they see and listen to the success of the students and they stand up and read. They firmly believe that teaching a child to read will change the life of someone they will probably never know.

Many of you support these ladies each year by your advice and counseling, your friendliness, your donations to Make Your Mark and by attending, or donating, to A Toast To Tutoring. They value your friendship, appreciate your support and embrace Assistance League.

If any of you know someone - relative, neighbor, co-worker - who would like to join this outstanding group of women, please contact Jill Milnes at jmilnes@yahoo.com, or Mary McDonald.

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Assisteens® Auxilliary - Gail MacLeish

The Assisteens had a lovely banquet on Sunday, May23rd to recognize their departing seniors and induct the new Governing Body for 2010 - 2011.



The seniors are all on their way to college with heartfelt thanks for the many hours they have contributed to helping to bring joy to the lives of low-income elementary school children, youths going into the Foster Care program and housebound TeleCare clients. You may also have met them working in the Thrift Shop. Pictured from left: Joanna Wang, Chaitali Wagh, Jenny Park, Srinu

Tapa, Abi Rajasegaran, Harrison Quinlan, Derek Jung, Allie Boyer and Marie Anderson with Assisteens Coordinator Jan Bruce and Assisteens Liaison Gail MacLeish.



As one of her last official duties as Assistance League of Diablo Valley President, **Chris Noble** inducted the incoming Governing Body, the Coordinator & the Liaison. Many thanks to **Jean Fox** who acted as hostess and handled all the

catering details. Pictured from left: Assisteens Liaison Gail MacLeish, Colleen Shepherd, Stephanie Palmer, Chair Patricia Shepherd, Vice-Chair Katie Pine, Allison Bettis Jenny Ma Wang, Lauren Giammona, Josh Slivinsky, and Assisteens Coordinator Jan Bruce.

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Kudos!

Thank You!

Nora Davidson for making a contact with Diablo Valley Foundation for the Aging to acquire donations for the thrift shop when seniors downsize.

Karen Douglas for acquiring two dozen plus fanciful fat lady metal candlestick holders from Clocks, Etc of Lafayette as a result of representing the chapter at the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce. Karen says "More to come!".

Robert Fiallos of Fast Signs in Pleasant Hill who graciously declined payment when he fixed the logo sign in our chapter house.

We wouldn't be Assistance League without you!



Star of the Month

JUNE 2010



Our star this month is **Julie Paulsen**. Julie worked tirelessly behind the scenes on inventory for Operation School Bell[®]. She filled in for Inventory Vice Chairman Joni Broderon when Joni was away, and could frequently be spotted in the annex, climbing to the top of a precarious mountain of clothing boxes in search of

certain sizes of pants or sweatshirts. In addition, as Community Outreach Vice Chairman in charge of the Foster Youth duffel project, Julie initiated a request to the State Board of Equalization for a sales tax exemption for goods purchased for that project. Operation School Bell already had such an exemption, but our other programs did not. Thanks to Julie's persistence in pursuing this matter, the State Board of Equalization eventually granted Assistance League of Diablo Valley a broad exemption from payment of state, local, and district taxes when purchasing property for donation to individuals in distressed financial condition. Because the sales tax today is almost 10 %, Julie's efforts have resulted in substantially more money available to purchase donated goods for those we serve.

Thank you, and congratulations!

Summer 2010 Birthdays - Happy Birthday to You!

CLICK HERE TO SEE WHO'S HAVING A BIRTHDAY THIS SUMMER

June 2010 Calendar

For the most up-to-date information, please check the online calendar!

Click the link below for a print version or our chapter calendar.

CLICK HERE FOR THE SUMMER CALENDAR

BOARD ACTION

Click the link below to view the motions that voting members will be voting on at the June regular meeting!

CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE MOTIONS

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES MAY 2010

Click on the link below for a print version of the May Regular Meeting minutes

CLICK HERE FOR MAY REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

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