

VALLEY VILLAGE

BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

June 28 • 6:30 p.m.
Valley Village
Board of Directors

July 19 • 6 p.m.
Valley Village Foundation
Board of Directors



CLIENTS HOLD A CAR WASH



VALLEY VILLAGE

20830 Sherman Way
Winnetka, CA 91306

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THE VILLAGE SPIRIT

VOLUME 2- • NUMBER 2

S P R I N G 2 0 0 7

SHOWTIME!

ANNUAL LUNCHEON • JUNE 23, 2007

Valley Village and the Leo Buscaglia Foundation have joined forces in their quest to help people. This year's Annual Luncheon at the Sheraton Universal in Universal City will provide support for both organizations. The festivities begins at 10 a.m. with shopping at boutiques where you will find unique clothing, jewelry, purses, ceramics, candles, and other hand crafted items. There will also be a drawing for beautiful gift baskets.

Bob Saget, known worldwide for his television roles, will again be the MC. He set a precedent by simultaneously starring in two top-ten primetime series—on the eight-year run of sitcom "Full House" and as the host of "America's Funniest Home Videos."

This year's Grand Prize is a 4-day getaway to a private estate at Lake Tahoe plus air transportation for

two and a rental car. Your hideaway is a contemporary tri-level \$4 million estate that offers stunning views of the pristine waters of Lake Tahoe and the towering mountains that frame it. The private secluded and serene mountain hideaway is near Incline Village. Relax and enjoy the scenery and indulge in the many pleasures of Lake Tahoe. The three-bedroom retreat accommodates six adults. There is a media center, library, fireplace, gourmet kitchen, and a stunning dining and living room

with panoramic views. *Lake Tahoe Estate and round-trip for two on Southwest Airlines courtesy of Joan Winchell. The rental Car is courtesy of Enterprise Car Rental.*

An exciting feature of this year's live auction is a week at the Golden Door Spa in northern San Diego County. This is courtesy of Ginny Mancini.

(Continued on page six)



The Grand Prize: The view from the living room at the \$4 million Lake Estate in Lake Tahoe.

"I'M LEAVING ON A JET PLANE": TRAVELS OF OUR CLIENTS

Residents of our group homes have the opportunity to take to the road and enjoy many of the sights around the country. Clients have visited the zoo and Sea World in San Diego, Las Vegas and Hoover Dam, Disney World and Orlando,



FL. "This is a wonderful experience for our clients and enhances their normal daily routine," says staff member Alex Krasnoshtein.

Clients at Disney World (l) and at the San Diego Zoo.



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

VALLEY VILLAGE

VALLEY VILLAGE
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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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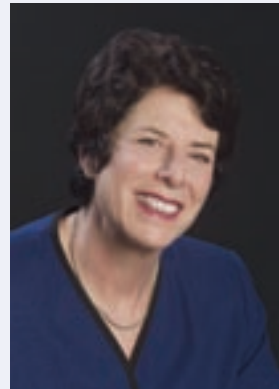
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www.valleyvillage.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Kitty Cooper



Springtime in Southern California – What a treat! For the members of the Valley Village Board of Directors it is a time of renewed commitment to our fine organization. Our goal is to ensure that

Valley Village continues to provide the high quality programs for which it is known. That includes strengthening, adapting and enhancing the programs to meet the changing needs of our participants.

Keeping our goal in mind, the Board's priorities are the same as I reported a year ago: 1) increasing family and community participation in the activities of Valley Village, 2) increasing the size and diversity of the Board of Directors, and 3) maximizing the fiscal resources of the organization.

We are making progress. It is my pleasure to welcome two new Board members: Marla Kort and Brian Blake. Marla, whose son is in our residential program, brings a parental perspective as well as community and business experience to the Board. Brian, as vice president for Human Resources at Telesis Community Credit Union, provides expertise regarding our role as the employer of the many people who make Valley Village function day to day. Both Marla and Brian are enthusiastic about their new positions, and are already active participants on the Board.

In our efforts to provide the best programs for the individuals we serve, in March we sent a questionnaire to the families of all Valley Village residential and day program participants. The initial response was strong and more forms continue to trickle in. If you haven't responded, you may still do so. (If you misplaced your form, call Susan Basler for a new one.)

The results so far are interesting and indicate a need for further planning and action. The largest single response was a concern about what will be available for our clients as they age. Specifically, as health issues become more significant, will Valley Village be able to continue to provide residential care? A joint committee of the Valley Village Board, the Valley Village Foundation Board, and the administration is currently exploring various options.

The responses to a question about parents' planning for the future when they are no longer able to care for or make decisions for their disabled children were disturbing. Out of 69 responses to the question, 25% said they had no plans. What became clear is that families need information and assistance regarding this important area. Even those parents who indicated that they have made arrangements, may have only very general agreements with other family members. To ensure continuing care at the level the parents wish, their planning must be more specific. Given that the vast majority (85%) also responded that they expected their disabled relatives to participate in Valley Village programs for their entire lifetimes, we must address these issues. Preliminary discussion on how best to disseminate the needed information has begun.

Parent/family participation in the planning process is crucial. To facilitate this, the Board of Directors has re-established the Client Services Committee comprised of parents and other responsible family members from both the residential and programs. This group, chaired by a Board member, will provide information to the Valley Village Board and administration regarding current and future operations and needs. A good starting place for the Committee is an analysis of the questionnaire responses, and suggestions for addressing any issues identified.

It is critical for parents to have a voice in Valley Village. The parents who founded Valley Village 30 years ago have continued to be the backbone of the organization. They are the folks who have

(Continued on page Three)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Guenther W. Engel

Our second Legacy Brunch was held on March 4, at the Porter Valley Country Club (see pictures below). New members to the Legacy Group were recognized for their commitment and were individually introduced to the Board of Directors for both Valley Village and the Foundation. Other guests included administrators and staff.

These guests were invited, not only to help recognize and honor the members of the Legacy Group, but also to hear our guest speaker, John Danner, a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. He has over 30 years of experience in aging, disability and dementia, including Alzheimer's, and has worked on a special project with the Harbor Regional Center to develop and direct evaluation services for the elderly developmentally disabled.

His speech was informative and covered various aspects of aging both for the developmentally disabled and the general population. Everyone came away with a better understanding of not only what we may face in our own lives but what our Valley Village clients will be facing in the years to come. After brunch, Valley Village's nurses said that they are already beginning to see age related problems in our clients and are addressing them.

In the past three months both the Valley and Foundation Boards have had a couple of combined meetings to plan for the aging of our clients. I am sure that most, if not every family in the Legacy Group, has made financial and personal plans for the future well being of their developmentally disabled children who are now approaching "old age." By John's definition, "old age" for the developmentally disabled is what he called the 40-60 connection. When a developmentally disabled person reaches the age of 40, he or she starts to exhibit the same aging

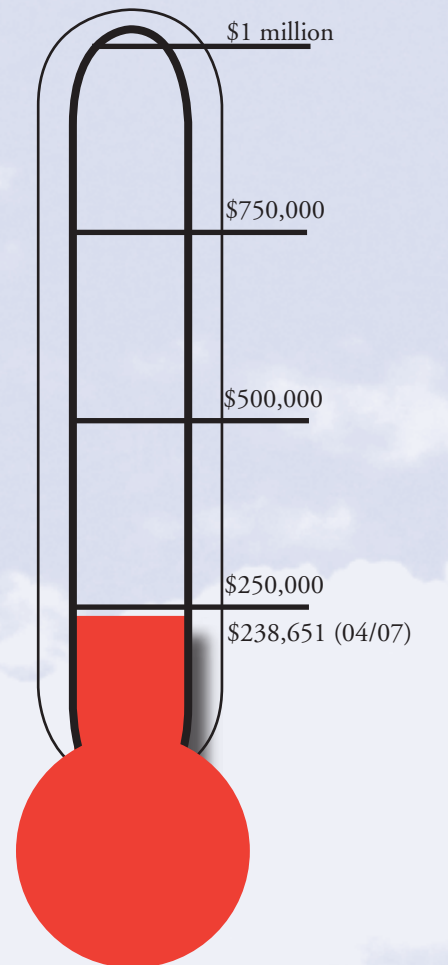
problems that most people encounter beginning at age 60.

Recently, Valley Village mailed out a questionnaire to the parents of our clients. The purpose was to encourage parents to think about what they want for their sons and daughter's future. Members of both Boards were very pleased with the number of families responding. Of the total responses, over 70 percent answered yes to the question "If they made arrangements for their child's care when they are no longer able to provide care." Of the remaining replies over 20 percent stated that they have not made any arrangements at all.

If the statistics hold true to include all parents that did not reply to the letter, then approximately 90 to 100 families have not made any arrangements for their child's future.

Plan for your developmentally disabled child's future, today!!! Valley Village is doing it, the Foundation is doing it and many families are doing it. Are you? If you have not made a plan, either financial or personal, please let us help. Our planning coordinator is Dick Bartus and he can be reached at his Valley Village office: (818) 587-9450, ext. 139 or at home: (661) 254-2900. Dick is available for discussions either on the phone or a personal visit to your home. He can help prepare you for a visit with your lawyer or he can help you find a lawyer that is experienced with special needs for developmentally disabled persons and one that would fit your budget.

Our Endowment Grows



Kitty and Don Cooper.



Councilman Dennis P. Zine with Judy and Russ Hawthorne.

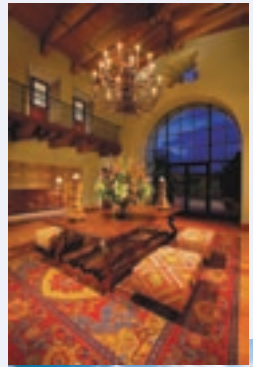


Councilman Dennis P. Zine with Ruth Deel.

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

ANNUAL LUNCHEON

(Continued from page one)



Someone will win a holiday at Ojai Valley Inn (top) and a cruise on Carnival Cruise Line.

Mike's Roofing; MMP Printing & Digital Graphics; Northridge Insurance Agency, LLC; Carson Schreiber; and Barbara & Dwight Wheeler.

Valley Village assists people with developmental disabilities by providing day and residential programs that are warm and nurturing. More than 30 since its founding, Valley Village has grown to offer quality services for over 300 clients. It also serves as a role model for other organizations for the developmentally disabled. For more information visit: www.valleyvillage.org.

Los Angeles City Councilmember Dennis Zine is an honorary Foundation Board member and has worked with Valley Village for several years. "I am proud to actively champion the efforts of Valley Village, where each client is recognized as a valuable member of our community," says Zine. "I remain thoroughly convinced of the premium services that Valley Village provides to developmentally disabled adults, and am committed to helping the organization in furthering its mission."



Los Angeles Councilman Dennis P. Zine (l-r), comedian Bob Saget, and Valley Village Board President Kitty Cooper.

The Leo Buscaglia Foundation fosters the spirit of giving to organizations whose goal is to enhance the spirit of caring and love within their respective communities. Leo Buscaglia was a cheerleader for life and most closely associated with the topic of love and human relationships, emphasizing the value of positive human touch, especially hugs. The foundation has supported Pediatric Therapy Network, Child S.H.A.R.E., Center for Nonviolent Education & Parenting, and The Painted Turtle. For more information visit: www.leobuscaglia.org.

Tickets are \$75 per person. To purchase tickets for the Annual Showtime Luncheon or to become an event sponsor, call Susan Basler at (818) 587-9450, ext. 120.

LEO BUSCAGLIA FOUNDATION

Dr. Leo Buscaglia envisioned the Leo Buscaglia Foundation years before it came to be. His greatest hope was to set in motion an organization that would dedicate itself to giving to givers. For over twenty years the foundation has contributed to hundreds of worthy causes with an emphasis in the arts, humanities and education. The one requirement is that the recipient fosters the spirit of giving by teaching and inspiring others to do the same. Leo believed that only when we give joyfully, without hesitation or thought of gain, can we truly know what love means.



Leo was an incurable, hopeless romantic and believed, truly believed, in the goodness of people. He noted often in his books and in his lectures that there is no shortage in this world of selfless individuals who contribute their time, money and effort to help others in need. The many millions of hours of volunteering and mentoring that take place each and every day sent Leo into rapture, believing as he did that this was just one more way that we manifest love for each other. And now his foundation, that he fervently hoped would continue on its course even when he wasn't around to direct things, has joined with organization, Valley Village, and it is a perfect match.

The Leo Buscaglia Foundation is dedicated to continuing Leo's legacy of giving and loving. Over the years it has awarded organizations and individuals that will benefit by a helping hand and will in turn offer a helping hand to others. For Leo this was a labor of love because he believed that people helping people was what it's all about. Helping others overcome their limitations, not just to survive, but to thrive in ways they didn't think possible; bringing music and art and a love of learning into the lives of people of all ages who, for whatever reason, were missing those things; and always helping with an emphasis on spreading the word that great things are made possible with each and every act of love and kindness, whenever and wherever they happen.

In joining hands with Valley Village, the Foundation has discovered a natural ally and another hand to join with its own in meeting the needs of people who require a little extra help. We have common goals and a common desire to foster the spirit of giving. This could be the beginning of a great friendship as well as a life-long association. Looking forward to "Showtime" this year and hopefully, many more to come.

LEO BUSCAGLIA BOARD OF DIRECTOR

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Marilyn Simcox
Susan Sullivan

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Jeff Jordan

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

By Fred Chapa



Statements of Account have recently been mailed to parents or conservators from the Pro-

bate Investigator's Office of the Los Angeles Superior Court. Recipients of these statements have inquired as to their liability for the costs.

In Conservatorships cases, the California Probate Code provides for reimbursement of such costs from the Estate of a Conservatee. However, if there is no Estate (and most Conservatorships cases of developmentally disabled persons are only of the Person and not of the Estate) then neither a parent nor a conservator has any personal responsibility to pay such costs. If a person receives such a Statement of Account and there is no Conservatorships Estate, it is suggested that a response be sent to the Office of Probate Investigations so indicating.

If the conservatee is a minor or ward, the Guardian may be responsible. In all instances of persons who have requested information in this matter, the conservatee is an adult and the parent or conservator is not responsible for the investigator fees.

In 1992, the court made a similar attempt to collect the investigator's fee. At the time the fee was \$210 a year. Dolores Zimmermann, a parent, helped many of the other parents find legal advice to set-up Conservatorships for their children. When the courts tried to collect the court investigator's assessment, Dolores sought advice from Janice Salter, a practicing attorney at the time. She responded that: All of conserverships were Limited Conservatorships of the person only and most of the conservatee's did not have an estate. All court fees and costs were waived pursuant to court order.

While the court did not persevere in collecting payment, neither did it waive or remove the fees. The current round of collection in most instances covers current and previous investigator costs and in some instance the amount is well over \$2,000. The conservators or parents are not liable for the expenses of their adult children.

It is unfortunate that the current court correspondence to the parents is often going to retirees who in many instances have health problems which are being exacerbated by the undue pressure of the courts trying to collect on old charges.

In regard to the above article, I acknowledge the help and guidance of a successful attorney with years of experience working with setting-up Conservatorships and the related legal services required in these matters.

FRED CHAPA HONORED FOR 25- YEARS OF SERVICE TO VALLEY VILLAGE



Fred Chapa receives a City Certificate of Appreciation from his staff. Deb Donovan, Susan Basler and Philip Motherspaw.

Yolanda and Fred Chapa (l-r), Valley Village Board President Kitty Cooper and Councilman Dennis P. Zine.

A NOTE OF THANKS

Yolanda and I thank the board, the parents, clients, and others who joined in the celebration of my 25th anniversary at Valley Village. We will remember everyone when we take our vacation.

Fred & Yolanda



HERE'S WHO'S HELPING VALLEY VILLAGE

Donor names comprise those who provided support to Valley Village from January 1 to April 30, 2007

2007 ANNUAL APPEAL

ON GOING OPERATIONS

Joan Campbell (matching gift)
 Mary & Thomas Emerson
 Mr. & Mrs. Light
 Mr. & Mrs. Mantor
 Judi & Ron Prejean (matching Bank of the West)
 Carson Schreiber
 Joan Schugel

SUNLAND PROGRAM

Carson Schreiber

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IN MEMORY OF:

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 Harriet Kuramoto
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 (Jim Murray's Mother)
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 (Faye Deane's Sister)
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 (Faye Deane's Sister)
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 Ben Saget
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TRIBUTES

DONORS WHO HONOR:

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 Mr. & Mrs. LeRoy Bushong, Judy & Russ Hawthorne & Mr. & Mrs. Ed Zimmerman

Dorothy & Leroy Bushong 50th Anniversary
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Frieda & Oscar Fetter 60th Anniversary
 Janet Rosmarin

Aaron Lazaroff's Birthday
 Edith Tannenbaum

Mary & Mary Rue 50th Anniversary
 Ann Hill

Bob Sharples Birthday
 Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Smith

Tom's Birthday
 Martha Waugh



Special Olympics



GRANTS FOR THE SUNLAND EXPANSION

SKETCH Foundation
 Sidney Stern Memorial Trust

IN-KIND DONATIONS

Thank you to our computer "guru," Guenther Engel, for the donation of equipment for our clients.

We apologize if your name was omitted. Please call Susan or Melanie at (818) 587-9450, ext. 120 so we may include your name in the next issue of the Village Spirit.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY AT VALLEY VILLAGE



THANKS TO CANOGA PARK KIWANIS CLUB FOR HOSTING THIS EVENT.