

*San Luis Obispo County*  
**Assistance League**  
*January 2010 Chapter Chatter*



**From the President's Corner . . .**

Happy New Year to you all! I hope everyone enjoyed their holiday season as well as having a bit of a break from their Assistance League duties.

I want to extend a big Thank You to **Maureen** and **Stan Marquis** for hosting our Chapter's Holiday Party at their lovely home in Atascadero on December 6, as well as to **Paula Daman** and **Sharon Hurkmans** for coordinating the event. We had a very nice turnout with a wonderful spread of food and refreshments as you'll see later in the newsletter.

Be sure to read through the newsletter as our Viva La Fiesta event is being announced! It should prove to be a wonderful fundraiser. Our co-chairwomen, **Barbara Stevens** and **Sharon Hurkmans**, seem to already be well on their way to planning a great day for us and the community.

In early December, your Board held a workday in which we drafted a Donor Relations Practices and Procedures document which will be part of our Donor Privacy Policy that will go before the membership for its information at our January meeting, and then for a vote at our meeting in February. Also, the Board developed a procedures document for Developing Collaboration Projects. We felt this procedures document was necessary in that our Chapter had been approached by school districts and other service organizations with collaboration opportunities and we needed to formalize a set of procedures to follow when opportunities such as these present themselves.

At our January 26 membership meeting, we will also begin the process of electing a Nominating Committee to submit its slate of nominees for offices on the Board for the 2010-11 year. **Lorraine Ridgeway**, our Recording Secretary, will be leading us through this process.

As you can see, there's a lot going on already this new year! **At its meeting on January 12, the Board approved a motion to price the Fiesta tickets at \$65 (the price of last year's tickets were \$60). The ticket price will be presented to the membership for a vote at the upcoming meeting on January 26.** Remember too, this month our membership meetings will be held at the San Luis Obispo Country Club. Lunch will be served following the meeting for those of you who would like to stay. You will find details in this newsletter.

Finally, and most importantly, our dear friend and member, **Tina Bell**, is recovering nicely from surgery in December. She would love to hear from you through e-mail and cards. We miss you, Tina – get well soon!

Bonnie

**Mission Statement**  
 Assistance League® of San Luis Obispo County is a nonprofit volunteer organization serving families and children through its philanthropic programs: Operation School Bell®, Assistance League Totes® and Books for Packs

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**Newsletter Editor**  
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*Deadline for submission of items for the newsletter is the Thursday after the board meeting, which is held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month*

Calendar	
Jan. 26 Membership Meeting (SLO CC)	Feb. 23 Membership Meeting (SLO CC)
Feb. 9 Board and Advisory Council Meeting	Mar 9 Board Meeting
	Mar 23 Membership Meeting (SLO CC)



**January 26 Regular Meeting and Luncheon**  
**San Luis Obispo Country Club**  
 10:00 Social Hour  
 10:30 Regular Meeting  
 12:15 Lunch



**Chicken Salad Croissant Sandwich** with Potato Salad and Fruit

Vegetarian: **Asian Vegetable Wrap** with Potato Salad and Fruit

Rolls and Butter  
 Coffee and Hot Tea

**Your check is your reservation!** Please make it out to **ALSLOC** for **\$18** on or before **January 19** and send to: **Paula Daman**. Please be sure to get your check in by the deadline so we can let the Club know how many to prepare for in a timely fashion. If you find you have to cancel, call **Sharon** by January 16.

*Please use the memo portion of your check or attach a note to indicate your preference for the vegetarian meal. Otherwise you will be put down for the Chicken Salad.*

**Directions:** From Broad Street, turn at Los Ranchos Road (stoplight), go past the gatehouse into the estates, turn right on Country Club Drive, turn right into the Club.

- The use of cell phones in the club is not permitted nor are blue jeans allowed in the main dining room.
- If you are not staying for lunch, please sit at one of the tables without place settings during the meeting portion. Thanks.

Paula and Sharon

Sharon and Paula's hospitality ladies supplied some wonderful dishes at the October and November meetings. Thanks to **Carol Porter, Ann Holman, Marge Harris, Jan Hutchinson, Judi Hazuka, Shirley Powell, Karen Gould, Kathi McEwan, Gail Stoneburg, Tawnee Hosick** and **Helen Robertson** for their culinary (and purchasing) efforts.

**Treasurer's Report**

**Charlene Ables**

Thanks to the following for grants received:

\$1000 from Rotary of Arroyo Grande.

\$2000 for three Kohl's shopping days and Eberle Winery Halloween event.

\$2000 from Central Coast Funds for Children.

Charlene



**Patti Hempenius** of Central Coast Funds for Children wrote thanking us for our support. She went on to say, "Our 'Christmas in November' was a huge success. We had a sellout at the maximum of 144 luncheon tickets sold and I don't know the final on our raffle of the Christmas trees made by our members for the table decorations, plus the raffle for the designer trees from local merchants. The children's fashion from six local merchants was also a big success." CCFC's success, especially in this bleak financial time, is a tribute to the work they have done and continue to do for the children of the Central Coast and, by extension, for ALSLOC.

**Our February 9 Advisory Council meeting . . .** will begin at 9:00 AM followed by our regular board meeting at 10:00. **Maureen Marquis** has once again graciously volunteered her home for both meetings.

**Membership Nook**  
**Helen Robertson**

We don't yet have photos of two of our new members but want to go ahead with their bio information so you can better greet them at the meeting.

**Mimi Drew** has been living on the Central Coast for about three years now. Her father is a retired industrial engineer, her brother is a professor in Greek philosophy, and her sister is a musician and does accounting for a nonprofit organization in West Virginia. Her education is in liberal arts. She coaches cross country, track, and swimming (no wonder she's in such great shape). She loves any sport, photography, hiking, horses, including horse husbandry.

We are thrilled that she is learning grant writing and wants to work with children of any age.

**Criswell Freeman** arrived on the Central Coast in 1984 from Oregon which is the year she and Frank married. They have one daughter, Laura, who lives in Portland.

Criswell retired from teaching elementary education for San Luis Coastal Unified School District. She taught for over 20 years. She completed her master's degree at the University of Oregon. Now, you would think that made it easy for her to cheer for the Ducks in the Rose Bowl game last week, but she was torn because she grew up in Ohio and it's not often that Ohio State makes it to the Rose Bowl. She and Jill Holmes will have to talk about their common background in Ohio.

Criswell likes to play bridge. She and her husband love to travel and spend a lot of time at their condo in Lake Oswego near Portland Oregon. She also volunteers in the schools for friends of hers.

She loves Operation School Bell. She finds the children and working with our members a very positive experience. It's the reason she joined Assistance League!

**Mentor Doings** . . . thanks to **Roxanne Camron** for organizing our luncheons after the monthly meetings in October and November. We will continue these in January, February and March at the scheduled luncheons at the Country Club. New members and their mentors can still sit together, so mentors and new members be sure and sign up for lunch so we can continue to get to know each other.

We will have at least one prospective new member at the January meeting, again thanks to Roxanne, so look for a new face and say hi. **Carol Porter** has referred two other names to me and I am hoping to have them there also. What great women you all are! See you at the meeting.

Helen

**Resource Development Corner**  
**Claire FitzGerald**

Now that the holidays are over (and I hope you all had a good one), we are in the homestretch of our 2009-2010 year. We have four months to make our budget for the 2010-2011 season. We anticipate even larger numbers of children to clothe next year so finances are a definite concern. We would like to dress **all** deserving children, but we can only dress those for whom we have money! Our grants have been down and our fund-raising mailers have also been down so that's a concern. However, our Charitable Chic Fashion Show was a huge success and we know FIESTA will be too!

Exciting News! Speaking of Fiesta, **Barbara Stevens** and **Sharon Hurkmans**, this year's Fiesta chairmen, have been very busy. Among other innovations, Fiesta has a new name, **Fiesta by the Sea**, a new location at the **Avila Bay Beach Resort**, a dinner catered by **Ian McPhee**, and much more!

Sharon and Barbara will have a sign-up sheet for their committee(s) and they will be sharing Fiesta plans at our Membership Meeting. But for now, mark your calendars!

Claire

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Sunday, April 25**

**FIESTA BY THE SEA**

**Avila Bay Beach  
Resort**



## Philanthropic News

Lee Mackey

### OPERATION SCHOOL BELL:

It's official...we clothed 1,354 kids in 2009!! And here's the breakdown: 650 at OSBN, 615 at OSBS, 50 of Sue's Stars and 29 from the Atascadero Unified School District collaboration. Congratulations, ladies! A job well done!

And it's that time of year again...inventory! We need to sort through the clothes we have on hand, separate out those that just aren't "selling" to give to another charity and count what we have left. It's really important that we know what quantities and sizes we have on hand so that when our buyers go to Las Vegas to purchase the bulk of the clothes for 2010, they know what to buy. If you can help out in this process, call **Maureen Marquis** or **Lou Harsch** to volunteer!

The Philanthropic Review Committee met December 15 at OSBN. Many thanks to **Charlene Ables, Maureen Marquis, Lou Harsch, Donna Cummings, Sally Junge, Barbara Stevens, Sandee Menge, Cheryl Koalska, Carol Porter** and **Linda Falkenstien** for their valuable input. We worked on revising our referral form as well as the K-Mart vouchers to make them easier to understand.

We will be raising the value of a pair of jeans from \$12 to \$15 to more accurately reflect the cost. Another change that you'll see is that both North and South will be scheduling a "greeter" to help facilitate the gathering of information and keep the sign-ins going smoothly, all changes which we hope will make it easier to clothe more and more kids!

As always thank you for your support. All the families clothed are very appreciative.

### Judy Jiménez writes re the **Santa Maria Program:**

Our Chapter is scheduling another Outreach with members of Assistance League of Santa Barbara to bring Operation School Bell® to some of the neediest children living in Northern Santa Barbara County. We would like to repeat the program again on Saturday, March 13, 2010.

The program is funded by Assistance League of Santa Barbara. Their chapter also coordinates the selection of students from the Santa Maria-Bonita School District Healthy Start Program. Our Chapter provides the volunteers to help the children shop

Each child will receive \$100 in clothing and school supplies at Target of Santa Maria.

If you would like to accompany me to Santa Maria March 13, please contact me at [aljudyj@pacbell.net](mailto:aljudyj@pacbell.net).

Lee



Sandee Menge and friend at OSBS

## Public Relations Highlights

Gail Stoneburg

Hope all enjoyed the holidays as much as I did. It was fun seeing family and friends.

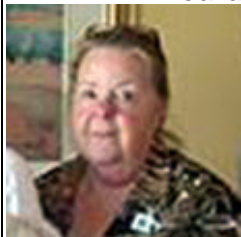
We've been working on designing an attractive postcard-size handout summarizing who we are and what we do. We'll have it at the meeting and supplies will be available at OSBN and South. It will be a great tool for all of us to use when we have the opportunity.

Our Speakers Bureau has two presentations scheduled for the upcoming months. I will have spoken at the Atascadero Chamber Business Women's Luncheon on January 8 by the time you read this, thanks to **Vivi an Borden**, and I am scheduled to speak at the Morro Bay Rotary on March 30. Please continue to send me your service club and community contacts for future presentations. Watch for our upcoming press releases in the **Tribune**, **SLO City News**, **Bay News**, and **Coast News**.

Gail

## Chapter Chatter Betty Bretting

### Board Bits and Bytes . . . Claire FitzGerald, Vice President, Resource Development



I'm a California native, raised in the Santa Ynez Valley. After college my career took this country girl to the big cities . . . first to San Diego then the San Fernando Valley. I was in the floral business for 30 years, a member of the American Institute of Floral Designers, and as a show designer it took me to 30 States, Canada, Mexico and Japan to do a wedding, all while working as a floral designer. In 1997 my Mother and I moved from Santa Ynez to Los Osos and we love it. I joined Assistance League in 2004 and have enjoyed ever minute!

#### Oyster Crackers

One Box Oyster Crackers  
1 Cup Wesson Oil  
1 pkg Hidden Valley Ranch Dressing  
1/2 tsp Lemon Pepper  
1/2 tsp Garlic Salt  
1/2 tsp Dill

Mix oil, ranch dressing, lemon pepper, garlic salt & dill. Empty oyster crackers into air tight container; pour oil mixture over crackers and mix thoroughly. Every two hours or so, gently stir crackers and turn

container over to make sure they get evenly coated. When oyster crackers have absorbed the oil, about 24 hours, they are ready to enjoy. Store in air tight container.

### Our annual holiday party was simply terrific!

The **Marquis'** beautiful home easily held the fifty or so members and guests and could have accommodated even more.

You can see from the photo of their tree that our children will be getting some stylish new shoes as Christmas gifts from the party attendees. Thanks to them and also to business member, **Vickie Vontz** of **Shift Hair**, for adding her donation to the pile!

I don't know what to say about the food except, "more, please. . . lots more!" **Paula Daman** and **Sharon Hurkmans** performed their usual wizardry in making arrangements for the food and whatever else needed to be done. The clean-up crew, **Sandy Silveira**, **Diane Schneider**, **Carol Porter** and **Helen Robertson** made it all go away in no time at all. Thanks to all of you and to **Stan** and **Maureen Marquis** for allowing it to happen in their home.

Betty



Paula,  
Maureen,  
Sharon  
and Stan  
enjoying  
the fruits of  
their  
labors!



Ann Holman 1/29  
Nancy McAllister 1/29  
Barbie Butz 2/1

### Birthdays!

Tina Bell 2/11  
Alleen Hattem 2/14  
Katy Davis 2/20



Helen Robertson 2/21  
Joan Drake 2/24  
Lorraine Farahmandi 2/26