

San Luis Obispo County
Assistance League
November-December 2009
Chapter Chatter



From the President's Corner . . .

The holiday season is upon us all, and our Chapter members have had some wonderful news this past month to help us start celebrating! It appears that our efforts in getting the word out in our community about Assistance League have been very worthwhile. We have had a number of potential collaboration efforts become a reality, our fundraising events have been successful, and we even have local organizations naming our Chapter as its benefactors for their holiday charity drives. You will hear about these in the reports from the various Board members as you review the newsletter.

I had the pleasure of joining several of our members in clothing children from the Santa Maria Bonita School District on Saturday, November 7. As you've heard, we collaborate with the Santa Barbara Chapter of Assistance League in providing volunteers to clothe about 50 children at the Santa Maria Target Store. The ladies from Santa Barbara are very grateful for our assistance, and the children who received clothing were delighted.

Over the next month or so, your Board will be working on establishing procedures for the various collaboration projects that have come our way this year, such as the Atascadero Unified School District project of assisting them in clothing homeless children in that District. Also, the Board is in the process of developing a Donor Relations and Privacy Policy and Procedures as well as a donor database system where we can more accurately maintain records of the funds we receive from individuals, corporations, municipalities, and grants.

I hope to see you all at our Chapter's Holiday Party on Sunday, December 6, at **Maureen and Stan Marquis'** home in Atascadero.

In closing, I extend to each of you my best wishes for a wonderful Thanksgiving feast with your family and friends, and a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and a most joyous season of goodwill. Let us all remember how truly blessed we are in so many ways. Oh yes, and a HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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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Deadline for submission of items for the newsletter is the Thursday after the board meeting, which is held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month

Calendar

Dec. 6 Holiday Party	Feb. 23 Membership Meeting (SLO CC)
Dec. 8 Board Holiday Lunch	Mar 9 Board Meeting
Jan. 12 Board Meeting	Mar 23 Membership Meeting (SLO CC)
Jan. 26 Membership Meeting (SLO CC)	
Feb. 9 Board Meeting	

December 8 Board Holiday Lunch

This year we're meeting at the Gardens of Avila at noon. Directions from Hwy 101: Gardens of Avila Restaurant is part of the Sycamore Mineral Springs Resort south of San Luis Obispo. Exit at Avila Beach Drive. Travel west on Avila Beach Drive about 1 mile. The Resort is on the left side.

January 26 Membership Meeting

We'll be at the SLO Country Club for this meeting (the February and March ones too). The newsletter will go out early in January with meeting information so you can make your luncheon choices and get your checks mailed if you want to stay for lunch.

Sharon Hurkmans' and **Paula Daman'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 shopping) efforts.

Treasurer's Report

Charlene Ables

Our collaboration with the Atascadero Unified School District has gone very well. The Assistant Superintendent, **Kathy Hannemann**, said she was recently at a State Board of Education meeting in Sacramento. She shared the details of our collaboration and it was used as the model for collaboration at the meeting. Thank you for accepting this collaboration. We have helped make a positive difference in the lives of these children whose families are in crisis.

The Board's decision to reallocate funds in the OSB

Budget was the correct move. The original \$57,000 inventory budget has been spent. We have currently used \$1,000 of the reallocated funds. Our inventory has been replenished with purchases from local retailers. A special thank you to our local shoppers: **Barbara Stevens, Cheryl Koalska, Maureen Marquis** and **Sally Junge**. We have all worked hard to provide school clothing for the children to whom we made a commitment.

Charlene

Public Relations Highlights

Gail Stoneburg

We have SLO Newcomers to thank for very generous donations from their membership totaling \$868. They will honor us again at their December Holiday luncheon, thanks to our wonderful AL member, **Alleen Hattem**. Again, I thank all of you for continuing to do your part in creating awareness for AL and OSB.

Happy Holiday to you all,

Gail

Hospitality Committee

Paula Daman and **Sharon Hurkmans** have been doing a great job making the social aspect of ALSLOC membership something we can all enjoy and look forward to. They'll be handling the upcoming Membership meetings at the Country Club (as one who has done it, I can tell you it's not a small job) and are arranging our holiday party on December 6

We'll re-send their holiday flyer with all pertinent information at the end of this newsletter. The flyer suggests that, in addition to bringing either an appetizer or dessert, we bring a pair of children's sneakers. It was mentioned at the recent Membership meeting that shoes between sizes 2-1/2 to 6 were needed.

Please RSVP by December 1 to Sharon Hurkmans, queeninag@hotmail.com.

Thanks Paula and Sharon!

Operation Totes

Karen Gould

Thank you **Anna Aven, Vivian Borden, Betty Bretting, Bonnie Long** and **Georgann Stafford** for helping to liquidate the OSB supply of tote bags and supplies. We were able to add quite a few toothbrushes and some toothpaste to our inventory. The rest of the items went to several nursing facilities, the CALL program for developmentally impaired persons in North County, Prado Day Care and the Maxine Lewis Homeless Shelter. All in all, the items were gratefully received and nothing went to waste.

Karen

Fact Sheets . . . The updated version of the Spanish Fact sheet is on the desktop of the OSBS PC. Thanks to **Roxanne Camron** for arranging the original Cal Poly Spanish class translation and to **Barbara Cormeny**, friend of ALSLOC, for the considerable updating recently incorporated.

Philanthropic News
Lee Mackey

OPERATION SCHOOL BELL



Both North and South County's last day for scheduled clothing was November 10. Pat yourselves on the back . . . we clothed 1,288 children!! Wow, what a year! Many thanks to all of you who were so generous in working one or two times a week and to all the behind-the-scenes workers who struggled to keep our inventory current. (**Sally Junge**, you are a trooper shopping for all those shoes!) We couldn't have done it without the help of each of our members and for that all the kids who were clothed and I thank you!

OUTREACH

Judy Jimenez, Bonnie Long, Anna Aven, Joyce Mauyama, Gail Stoneburg and **Lorraine Farahmandi** journeyed to Target in Santa Maria to clothe kids on November 7; we supply the volunteers and the Santa Barbara league supplies the money . . . what a great deal! They clothed over 50 kids, were finished by noon and enjoyed a lively lunch at Panera's. They even made the evening news. You might want to think about joining them next year! Following is Judy's take on the event.

SANTA MARIA PROGRAM

Judy Jiménez writes: "Well, we did it again. 50 students from the Santa Maria/Bonita School District received clothing thanks to the collaborative effort of the Assistance League of Santa Barbara, the Santa Maria School District and a special team from our Chapter. **Bonnie Long, Anna Aven, Gail Stoneburg, Lorraine Farahmandi** and **Joyce Maruyama** joined me for the very rewarding experience.

"Assistance League of Santa Barbara funds the entire program - we just show up and do what we do so well: we clothe kids!! We clothe kids to make them feel good about themselves - kids who feel good about themselves will do better in school - kids who do well in school hopefully become solid and productive citizens in our society. I'll be going back in March. Join me if you can."



That's **Anna Aven** on the left in the midst of the Santa Barbara ladies; center, the very tall store manager; right, **Bonnie Long, Gail Stoneburg, Lorraine Farahmandi** and **Judy Jiménez**.

SUE'S STARS

An interesting thing is starting to happen now that we have branched out into clothing junior high kids... we're being approached by various organizations to participate in collaborative efforts to reach out to this age group. As you know we're currently working with the Atascadero Unified School District clothing kids at Kohl's. The school district is providing the funds and we are providing the volunteers. We're hoping to be able to do the same thing with the Paso Robles School District. And because of **Sandee Menge's** association with Old Navy in clothing the kids for Sue's Stars, they approached her with a similar concept. Only this time the employees of Old Navy acted as the personal shoppers for the kids and the store provided the funding; we provided the names of the kids and Sandee and **Donna Cummings** were there to supervise. And we did the same thing in collaboration with the SLO Rotary Wednesday Club on November 20 and 21. Whether it's due to the wonderful publicity **Gail Stoneburg** is bringing to our league or because we've hit upon a real need in the community, Sue's Stars has definitely sparked a lot of interest and participation...Sue would be pleased!!

I wish you and your family a very happy and joyous holiday season with best wishes for 2010! Lee

Membership Nook
Helen Robertson

Following are photos and profiles of some of our newest members. We need a photo of **Mimi Drew** and bio information and a photo from **Criswell Freeman**. Criswell is our very newest recruit and is in Oregon enjoying her second home. Hopefully, we'll catch up with them in the January issue.



Anita Abshire. Anita arrived on the Central Coast in 1977 with her husband, who taught at Cal Poly. She has her bachelor's degree in Hispanic studies and her master's in Spanish. She also has a teaching credential in Special Education.

Anita is a widow. She has two children, Anne and Andrew . . . it appears that "A"s run in her family! She also has two grandchildren, Addison who is 5 and Evan who is 7.

She enjoys reading, dancing, knitting, conversing (that's why she likes ALSLOC), cooking, loves to travel and wine taste.

She brings her background of Spanish fluency and working with children for 18 years to our organization.

Pam White. Pam and husband Jerry came to the Central Coast in December of 1996.

Their family consists of daughter Kristie and son-in-law John Cleveland who live in Fresno with their children Hannah 10 and Malachi 8 years old.

Pam is learning to play golf and likes to garden, cook, and travel.

She brings willing hands and organizational skills to ALSLOC. Her goals with our organization are to help on committees, work behind the scenes and do outreach. Welcome, Pam!



BTS award for October . . . Anne Boyd and Lynda Nath. The award was presented to our great Charitable Chic coordinators. These women, together with their group, put on a most successful fashion show. We had net earnings of well over \$9,000. They were chosen for the October award because not only was it a most successful fashion show, but it was done while we were very busy clothing our clients and they took on the challenge of moving it to a time of year that will work well for our organization enabling us to all focus our energy on the Fiesta as the fund raiser for the Spring. Congratulations ladies!!

BTS award for November . . . Sandy Silveira. Sandy has been a long time supporter of ALSLOC. For several years before she joined she donated to and attended our fundraisers. She has taken on the daunting task of keeping up our web site. In order to do the best job she can for us she has purchased Dreamweaver software and is taking classes in web site development and upkeep. She also loves to clothe kids. Thank you Sandy!!



Also welcome to our newest nonvoting business member: **Tony Faretta Landscape.**

This makes three nonvoting business members **Judy Jiménez** has brought to us. Judy is a great member of the Membership Committee in so many ways.

For all of ALSLOC members, if you can think of any ways we can do things differently over the next few years we would love to hear from you. We will be redoing the strategic plan, not just updating it this Spring. The membership committee will need to look at how we attract and retain members, so if you have any thoughts, please contact any member of the committee and give us your input — we need it to keep our organization thriving.



Helen

Roster Changes and Updates . . . Mimi Drew's email is sonomavineyards@yahoo.com; Charlene Ables zip code is 93422; **Lorraine Farahmandi's** email is lorrainefarahmandi@att.net

Resource Development Corner
Claire FitzGerald

Our two mailers, Back to School and Sock-it-to-'Em are in the mail. It is not too late to send one to anyone you may have just remembered. Just get me their names and addresses and I will send it out for you.

Our Haunted Cave Event was wonderful! Thank you **Paula Daman** for getting us this fundraiser. These ladies volunteered and deserve our kudos for a job well done . . . **Anna Aven, Betty Bretting, Roxanne Camron, Mary Chapman, Paula Daman, Lorriaine Farahmandi, Carol Porter, Helen Robertson, Gail Stoneburg** and **Sandy Silveira**. A special thank you to Kohl's for their valuable help. They sent **Barbara Hart** and her crew, **Janen, Elizabeth, Ruby, Yaselin, Brittany, Greg** and **Kayla** to frighten nervous wanderers through the caves and to help run the popcorn machine. We couldn't have done it without three of the men in our lives . . . **Paul Porter**, "Scary Cave Monster"; **Luis Silveira**, "Popcorn Man" (that's Luis with **Anna Aven** on the right); **Chris Daman**, "Anything You Need Done/Fix It Man." But, the best part . . . we received \$4,078 plus some donations and Kohl's' not only sent volunteers, they gave us \$500 for Friday and \$500 Saturday!.



Rita's Rainbow was most generous and gave Sue's Stars \$1,000. They heard about us at a meeting attended by our members, **Barbara Wright** and **Sandee Menge** and decided we were a perfect fit for their Foundation. We look forward to a lasting partnership and I look forward to introducing you to **Cassy Goehner**, President of Rita's Rainbow.

Our year is half over and we will be starting 2010 . . . can you believe it? Your unwavering support, your willingness to volunteer and really work, has made 2009 fundraising very successful. Thank You!

Have a Wonderful Thanksgiving, a Happy Holiday and a Joyous New Year. I'm very proud to be part such wonderful and loving group of LADIES!

Claire

Education
Judy Jiménez

There are five informational Assistance League websites:

www.assistanceleague.org - general information of our national organization-contact: Anna Aven.

www.alslocounty.org – our local website with general information of our Chapter – contact: Sandy Silveira.

www.websiteshare.com/OSBN - **North** County Operation School Bell calendar

- lists children scheduled for clothing appointments, as well as volunteers scheduled

www.websiteshare.com/OSB - **South** County Operation School Bell calendar

- lists children scheduled for clothing appointments, as well as volunteers scheduled.

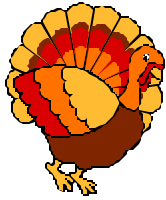
www.websiteshare.com/OSBDB_ This is a new database that was created to offer an 'at a glance' report page for all Operation School Bell activity. It includes this year, as well as the last two years of OSB activity)- contact: **Judy Jiménez**.

Judy

We're going to repeat Judy's website information in each newsletter for your handy reference.

Vivian Borden related this story of a gallant father and son. "We clothed an 11-year-old boy. He came in with his Dad. His Dad soon pointed out the prosthesis on one of his legs and I could see that the other leg was also in poor shape. The father had lost his leg 11 months ago. He said that at the time he was in the hospital, his wife left with his best friend. He is now the sole support of his son and he's on disability. He referred to his son as "his pride and joy." There was much love evidenced between the two of them. The boy is in the GATE program and has been selected for a European tour next year. The father was going to be attending a meeting at the school to learn what the son needed to do to raise the money for the travel. (I am sure that the boy, Nathan, will be working hard to raise funds for his travel - he was so excited about the opportunity!) The boy talked highly of his Dad and told him how much he appreciated everything his Dad was doing for him."

Chapter Chatter
Betty Bretting



May your holiday season
be truly blessed! We've clothed
over 1200 children this year so we,
the children and their families have
a lot for which to be grateful.



Board Bits and Bytes . . . Gail Stoneburg, Public Relations

I was born, raised and educated in Fresno, married my high-school sweetheart, gave birth to my wonderful son **Bret Colhouer** and shortly after divorced that sweetheart. I spent 20 years as an executive in community banking. . After graduation from Cal Poly my son remained in SLO to marry and start his family. In 1990 my husband Chuck and I moved down south to further his career in banking and I continued to do consulting in the banking industry. In 1994 we purchased our vacation home in Shell Beach and, finally, in 2006 we were able to retire full time and make Shell Beach our permanent home. My son has blessed me with three beautiful granddaughters, Cheyanne, 15, Lily Grace, 12 and Makena Hope, 14 months. Oh, yes, my daughter-in-law had something to do with that blessing as well. I am now widowed and when I am not doing my work with Assistance League (which I love), I am helping to care for little Makena, homework with Lily, soccer tournaments with Cheyanne. They are my sunshine and it would be hard to describe my life without talking about them. I enjoy reading, gardening, decorating, but nothing brings me as much joy as my family.

Gail's Lemon Cake

- 1 pkg yellow cake mix
- 4 eggs
- 3/4 cup salad oil
- 3/4 cup water
- 1 large pkg lemon jello

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Combine all ingredients and beat for 4 minutes. Pour into greased 9x13 cake pan. Bake for 35-40 minutes. Remove from oven and punch holes in cake with a fork. Pour lemon icing over the top.

Lemon Icing - Combine 2 cups sifted powdered sugar, juice and grated rind of 2 lemons.



Tawnee Hosick 12/1
Katy Davis 12/20
Gail Stoneburg 12/20
Terry Bothwell 12/21
Maureen Marquis 1/5

Carolyn Jones 1/6
Bonnie Long 1/9
Sally Junge 1/14
Charlene Ables 1/19
Sandy Silveira 1/24

Birthdays! Birthdays!