

LOS ANGELES Orphanage GUILD



FALL-WINTER 2019

PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2019-2020

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the
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MISSION Statement

The mission of the Los Angeles Orphanage Guild is to provide financial and other support for the Maryvale Residential Treatment Programs at the Rosemead campus. Our purpose is to provide the neglected, abused or abandoned children placed at Maryvale a safe, supportive, therapeutic and compassionate environment in which to grow and heal.

NEW Beginnings



*Nancy Lewis
Guild Co-President*

*Angela Siuta-Pechin
Guild Co-President*

2019/2020 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Congratulations to the new Executive Committee formally presented at the May General Meeting:

Co-Presidents
NANCY LEWIS
ANGELA SIUTA-PECHIN

1st Vice President
HOLLY LUNTZEL

2nd Vice President
MELINDA WOODRUFF

3rd Vice President
DIANA DOYLE

4th Vice Presidents
MARY ANNE ATKISSON
PHYLLIS CONKLE

Treasurer
STEPHANIE SILVERS

Recording Secretary
CINDY FAIRBANK

Asst. Recording Secretary
NANCY LAMB

Corresponding Secretary
KAREN KNOTT

Asst. Corresponding Secretary
SHELLY SCOTT

Dear LAOG Members and Friends,

As we begin our presidency, we hope you will join us in our unwavering enthusiasm to help improve the lives of the children in Maryvale's care.

We look forward to this transitional year and the future of the LAOG. What was once a separate group, "The Orphanage Guild Juniors," has joined us under one larger umbrella - the new and improved - Los Angeles Orphanage Guild! We are now a better, more cohesive group of women dedicated to not only raising money, but also actively participating and interacting with the children at Maryvale. We are inspired as more and more of our members become involved in the enrichment activities planned for the children.

We urge you to donate generously to our "Be a Friend Annual Campaign" as the funds raised will assist us in providing a variety of fun and therapeutic activities for the children. These activities provide them with a distraction from their trauma filled lives while teaching them coping skills to help them recover. Without your generous donations these activities would not be possible.

“ Working together, there is no limit to the power that we can have on improving the lives of the children at Maryvale. ”

Our "Be a Friend, Bring a Friend" fundraising luncheon was a huge success! Thank you to Phyllis Conkle and her committee for making our "Day in Provence" so much fun while we raised money for Maryvale.

The fun and fundraising will continue with our "Heart to Heart" Gala to be held on Saturday, April 25, 2020 at the Four Seasons Beverly Hills. Come join us for an extravagant Parisian evening as we turn the clock back 100 years to the heart of the Roaring Twenties in Vieux Paris! Join us in a champagne toast as we celebrate and honor Patti DiTullio for her hard work and support of the Guild.

We are humbled to be your new Co-Presidents. We are grateful to the hard-working members of the LAOG, especially our Board of Directors, for their never-ending support as we take on our new responsibilities.

Working together, there is no limit to the power that we can have improving the lives of the children at Maryvale.

It is all about the children!

Thank you for your support.

Nancy Lewis and Angela Siuta-Pechin,
Co-Presidents



LIFT HERE ^

highlights

of 2019

- o | The Annual Campaign has collected more than \$34,550 through December.
- o | LAOG's Sultry Spanish Soiree See pg. 5
- o | The Guild had another successful "Be a Friend Bring a Friend" Luncheon at the Four Seasons Beverly Hills. Once again KTLA's Wendy Burch was the emcee and the guest speaker was previous Maryvale resident, Patricia Almazan. The Guild has collected \$50,000 and still counting.
- o | LAOG participated, for the second time, in Giving Tuesday, a worldwide charitable movement.

#GIVINGTUESDAY

Sultry Spanish Soiree: Lisa Sheedy, Wilma Tyson, Angela Siuta-Pechin

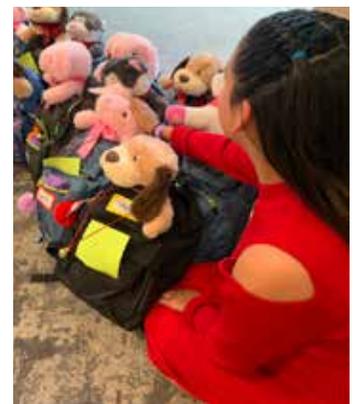


Former Maryvale resident Patricia Almazan shares her story. See pg. 9



2019-2020 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OFFICERS

Left to right: Stephanie Silvers, Holly Luntzel, Karen Knott, Shelly Scott, Nancy Lewis, Cindy Fairbank, Angela Siuta-Pechin, Phyllis Conkle, Diana Doyle, Nancy Lamb, Mary Anne Atkisson, Melinda Woodruff.



On the cover: A Christmas Story for Maryvale

This has been a year of "firsts" for Maryvale Activities. Activities Chairs, Melinda Woodruff and Diana Doyle, have taken on the responsibility of creating interesting and meaningful activities for the children at Maryvale, a first for them. The activities this past year have included bowling at Bowlero Lanes in Montrose, pumpkin decorating and Halloween crafts at Maryvale's gym, and the highly anticipated Christmas Party, held this year at Brookside Country Club in Pasadena. A party that includes Santa, a DJ, catered lunch and a present for every child.

Some activities are already on next year's calendar. Art Day is scheduled at Maryvale's gym on Saturday, February 29th. Leap Year Day! Signups for this activity will be taken at the January General Meeting.

Another first is the inclusion of the training that is necessary for all Guild members that want to participate in any of the activities that include the children. This training, organized by both Maryvale and the Activities Chairs, is conducted by Jason Ricker, the Training Manager at Maryvale. To fully comprehend and appreciate the trauma issues of the children, training is a must in trying to understand how we can help be part of the healing process. Working with and supporting Maryvale's children is what the Guild is about.

The next Training Session is Saturday, February 22nd. To signup contact either of the Chairs.



MARYVALE

activities

WITH MELINDA WOODRUFF & DIANA DOYLE



Melinda Woodruff and Diana Doyle
Co-Chairs for Maryvale Activities



Maryvale Training Manager Jason Ricker stresses the importance of comprehending the traumatic history of the children and how to interact with them in a positive manner, understand their sensitivities and how to help them heal from their painful past.





A CHRISTMAS STORY for Maryvale Girls



September Soiree

On a clear autumn evening, Wilma and Ian Tyson created an extraordinary Spanish dining experience - the perfect setting for LAOG's sultry soiree.



Guests enjoy lunch in Provence

Be a Friend, &

As guests entered the grand ballroom of the Four Season's Hotel, Beverly Hills, they were greeted with a lovely scene from "A Luncheon in Provence." With long trestle tables and vintage chairs, the table settings included a handmade lavender sachet and French truffles for every guest!

The Luncheon included a variety of vendors from jewelry to table decorations, clothing to purses; it was a wonderful opportunity to do holiday shopping, there was something for



*Phyllis Conkle,
event chair*

everyone! Plus there were Raffle Baskets and a Grand Raffle featuring a night at the Four Seasons. Continuing the French theme chicken cordon bleu was served as the entrée with French desserts.

Wendy Burch, KTLA News commentator and Guild supporter was, once again, Mistress of Ceremonies. The Guild is eternally grateful to Wendy for bringing her star power to this day. The fashion house of Trina Turk held a fashion show with the Guild's own members as models.

A highlight of the program was the guest speaker, Guild member, Patricia Ann Almazan. Patricia was a Maryvale resident from 1956-1962. She told of the incredible love and support she received from the staff at Maryvale and read her poem, "Maryvale, My Fostering Mother." The room was silent as she spoke of her life at Maryvale and the wonderful activities the Guild created and how much they meant to her. She credits her years at Maryvale with much of her success as an adult.

Luncheon Chair, Phyllis Conkle, and the entire Luncheon Committee, would like to thank all those that attended and supported the Guild's efforts to raise funds for the children of Maryvale.

As always, the Luncheon was a tremendous success because of your support.

Bring a Friend

LUNCHEON

Valerie
Kiley

Camille
Torres

Stephanie
Silvers

Eve-Marie
Bhandari

Karen
Knott

Patti
Summers

Linda
Fischer

Janet
Feeley

GUILD SUPERMODELS

the pleasure of their company

KTLA's Wendy Burch, LAOG faithful devoted to the care of Maryvale's girls



Wendy Burch



The "Valley Girls": Barbara Frear, Mary Beth Legg, Krystyna McNicoll, Wilma Tyson, Angela Siuta-Pechin, Emily Russo, Holly Luntzel.



Clockwise from left: Nancy Lewis, Angela Siuta-Pechin; Diana Doyle, Francesa Perazzelli; Jill Plumb, Holly Culhane, Melinda Tamkin; Lisa Sheedy; Maureen Schultz; Maggy DiTullio, Patti DiTullio, Shelby Cummings; Johanna Dawson, Mary Kay Lalli; Susan Poon.

The blessings of angels

When Patricia Almazan counts her blessings, she usually begins with Maryvale.

"Everything I enjoy today - my beautiful family, my lovely home life, everything about my life thus far -- I attribute to my humble start at Maryvale."

Speaking at a recent Los Angeles Orphanage Guild gathering, Almazan explained how she entered Maryvale during the 1950s, coming under the care and tutelage of the many dedicated Sisters of the Daughters of Charity.

"Sister Maria, Sister Frances, Sister Mary Vincent, Sister Elizabeth and Sister Esther were among those who would play an integral role in her life, she said.

"But I often tested the patience of these wonderful, glorious Sisters of Charity with my innocent mischief, similar to the Haley Mills character in 'The Trouble with Angels.'"

Almazan recalls the time when she orchestrated a midnight swim in the pool with some fellow co-conspirators, later congratulating herself for her ingenuity in masterminding the clandestine caper.

But the sisters were not fooled. "The nuns knew," she said. "They always knew."

The midnight dip was not the only time Almazan tried the patience of the good sisters. But while she continued to engage in the occasional battle of wills, the sisters responded with something she had often found missing outside Maryvale's walls - understanding and compassion.

"The wonderful nuns always gave their love, time and energy, and left an everlasting value system with the children of Maryvale," Almazan said. Another thing that stood out during her time at Maryvale was the support and enrichment supplied by the Los Angeles Orphanage Guild, which continues to be a prime benefactor to Maryvale's girls.

The LAOG provided the girls with a range of activities and experiences that were well beyond anything they could have anticipated, Almazan said. The girls were introduced to archery, fencing, horseback riding, modeling and beach parties, not to mention barbecues at the Hilton estate.

"These experiences were unheard of for most young girls at that time," Almazan noted. "I vividly recall one LAOG-sponsored party where I was seated next to then-teenage heartthrob Fabian!"

Of particular significance were the exceptional educational opportunities Maryvale's girls were offered, as the girls attended high schools in cities from Montebello to Pasadena, and some were able to enroll in Mount St. Mary's College.

In all, the Maryvale experience has provided generations of young girls an opportunity to find continuity and structure in what frequently had been a tumultuous existence. Almazan points to the upscale college-type campus, the comfortable dining halls, the Olympic-size pool and other amenities as evidence of "how beautiful and extraordinary Maryvale was then and continues to be today."



From left: Cindy Baker, Patricia Almazan, Joe Almazan, and son-in-law Nick Baker.

LOS ANGELES ORPHANAGE GUILD

HOW TO donate

- Go to the Guild's website: laorphanageguild.com and click on any of the "donate" buttons
 - Attend one of the LAOG events: "Be A Friend, Bring A Friend" Luncheon or The Spring Gala
 - Contact us through the website to donate wine, raffle prizes, or gifts for the children
 - Cash donations
- OR
- Donate your time! Contact us through the website or any Guild Member

Maryvale, My Fostering Mother

By
Patricia Ann
Almazan

Maryvale
Resident
'58-'64

LAOG Member
since 1989

*You took me in when I was out,
Downhearted, lonely and blue
You showed me the way, the path to follow,
And who I must look up to.*

*For years you cradled me in your loving arms;
My precious soul and being;
Guiding them so carefully through
Life's toils and in-betweens.*

*You taught me love for God and man
You made me see the light;
You gave me so much happiness,
You made my future bright.*

*Many years have passed since I left my home, Maryvale;
I want you to know if I left you with doubts
Don't fear for you did not fail...*

*From the depths of my heart, I thank you
For it's plain to see
All my wonderful life thus far is beholden
To God and to thee.*



It happens in our buildings, in our gym, on the grass and, even in our parking lot. It's everywhere - Wellness activities on the Maryvale campus. They range from a small group of teens to a gathering so large, laughter and cheers can be heard well beyond Maryvale's gates.

Our Wellness activities serve as building blocks for self-empowerment, skill building, healthy living and education. Anchored by Associates committed to the success of our youth, and the support of volunteers such as the Los Angeles Orphanage Guild, our Wellness activities include Kids in the Spotlight, a film

program in which our residents script and star in their own movie, the running/hiking club Maryvale Milers, expressive art, a photography workshop, independent living skills training, music lessons, field trips to performances and cultural celebrations such as Dia De Los Muertos and Black History Month.

In conjunction with Girls Recovery and Sober Support (GRASS), a sober living program that focuses on substance education and building healthy connections, our holistic, innovative programs prepare our youth for a return to the community and a family setting.

It Begins with Trust

"I just saw a kid who was trying," says Randi, a Maryvale staff member as she describes Kathy, a 17-year-old who relished the opportunity to participate in our Wellness and GRASS programs. But, it wasn't always that way.

Arriving in 2016, Kathy was a Maryvale resident for almost 3.5 years. A teen who displayed many challenges such as running away, refusing to attend school, substance abuse and avoidance of new people, she often struggled to follow directions.

Eventually, a budding relationship with staff and participation in Wellness activities helped turn things around. She engaged in therapy and began to flourish at school, even taking on a job to plant trees on campus (something she enjoyed).

As trust with staff grew, Kathy learned it was okay to meet new people. She was given more freedom and incentives - such as rewards for an A at school.

We are proud to share Kathy recently left Maryvale and is now in a foster home. Through Maryvale's dedication to her success, she had become an advocate for herself and her peers.



ANTICIPATING TOMORROWS

We have seen first hand the impact our Wellness and GRASS programs have had on our residents' ability to prepare for a return to the community. The Los Angeles Orphanage Guild has supported them as they learn valuable tools to take into the next chapter of their lives.

We are so grateful for another year of the Guild's support. And like our children and families, we look forward to a future filled with success with the Guild alongside us.

*Steve Gunther, MSW
President and CEO*



*LAOG would like to recognize and thank the following donors
for their generous contributions to*

2 0 1 9

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Los Angeles
Orphanage Guild

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DEC

14

Saturday

Christmas Party
for the Children
of Maryvale at
Brookside Golf &
Country Club



JAN

07

Tuesday

Board of Directors
Meeting
Hostess: Mary
Anne Atkisson

28

Tuesday

General Meeting
Caffe Roma



MAR

03

Tuesday

Board of Directors
Meeting
Hostess: Eve-Marie
Bhandari

24

Tuesday

General Meeting
Bistro Gardens



APR

25

Saturday

Los Angeles
Orphanage Guild
presents the
Heart to Heart
"Roaring Twenties
Gala"
Four Seasons
Hotel
Beverly Hills



MAY

05

Tuesday

Board of Directors
Meeting
Hostess: Shelly Scott

19

Tuesday

General Meeting
Wilshire Country
Club