



63 Years of
Dedicated Service to L.A.
County Retirees

RELAC newsletter

Your Pension and Health Care Watchdog

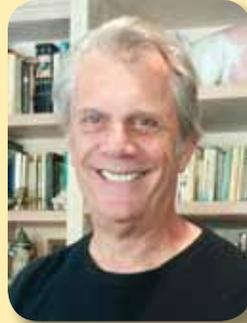
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President's Message

by Brian Berger

As a new face for this space, maybe I should start with a simple "Hello."

You have been seeing Dave Muir's picture and his informative messages for seven years. He decided it was time to take a step back...a tiny bit. No one gets a break on the Board. Yes, Dave is still a member of the RELAC Board, a member of its Executive Committee and continuing to direct major responsibilities where he will be a guiding voice and a conscience to all of us on this Board. Thank goodness I have his phone number.



As a reminder, RELAC was started in February 1958. Its purpose was to preserve and promote the general welfare of its members. It has done so ever since. Our most important mission today is defending our pensions and health benefits against the relentless attacks of their critics. Three of our directors serve on the LACERA Boards of Retirement and Investments, helping to ensure retirees' interests are secure. RELAC also works with the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and the California Retired County Employees Association. Our commitment is exclusively interested in protecting and improving retiree benefits. I will save mention of the many programs, including the charitable programs we support, for subsequent articles. Information about our various activities regularly appears in our bi-monthly newsletter, available online at www.relac.org, which is gaining a growing following.

The COVID crisis has changed all our lives and for the Board I can only say that we feel and share whatever challenges or sometimes heartbreaking consequences you may have suffered. Just getting tested or getting the vaccine has been challenging, no matter where you live. Life without the easy physical sharing of space with family and friends who are not part of your immediate home is simply hard. For those of you/us who have family scattered across the country, the telephone or computer becomes all we have.

The RELAC office and staff have also had to make significant adjustments. The office itself gets a thorough regular cleaning and masks are mandatory for staff and any visitors. What used to be three staff plus a supervisor in the office every day is now one per day with three working at home. Since the office gets a large amount of mail and calls every day, that has been a challenge. Provision of preprogrammed laptops for home use by staff has helped. If you have not noticed a significant difference, it is because of the hard work, often stretched out over seven days, by the office manager, Sheila Simpson, and the staff, Norma Nieto, Selina Johnny and Brenda Stephens, as well as the various Board members who run committees which depend on office staff for support.

Repeal of the Windfall Elimination Provision and Government Pension Offset Gaining Ground in Congress

by Dave Muir, Past President

There have been encouraging new developments in efforts to repeal the unfair Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO). A recent Forbes magazine article reported that President Biden has promised to repeal both the WEP and the GPO.

Go to <https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.forbes.com/sites/ebauer/2020/12/07/why-joe-biden-should-reform-not-repeal-the-windfall-elimination-provision/amp/> to read the article.

The "Biden-Sanders Unity Task Force Recommendations" includes a section entitled "Guaranteeing a Secure and Dignified Retirement." Therein, it is stated: "We will eliminate penalties for retirement benefits that unfairly punish educators and other public sector workers."

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Former RELAC Director Simon Russin, 76, Dies of Natural Causes

by Judy Hammond, Newsletter Editor



Former RELAC Director Simon Russin III, who served on the LACERA Board of Retirement for 30 years and the LACERA Board of Investments for 21 years, has died at age 76.

The cause of death was not announced, but the family said he died peacefully at his Arcadia home on Jan. 5, surrounded by family and longtime companion Lupe De La Rosa.

Russin began working for the County in 1970 and was chief environmental health specialist with the Department of Public Health when he retired in January 2013. Five months after retirement, he was appointed to the RELAC Board of Directors to fill a vacancy created by the resignation of Ray Guyovich.

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Investment Board

by Joseph Kelly
RELAC Director, LACERA Board of Investments Trustee



At the end of January, there was much press coverage on groups of investors who were driving up the market price of GameStop, a video game retailer. Last year Wall Street hedge funds noted retail companies were struggling, as lockdowns prevented people from going into stores. The hedge funds determined that GameStop was in financial trouble and they bet that it, and other companies similarly situated, would likely go out of business. So, they sold the stock short. (A short sale is a transaction in which the seller does not actually own the stock that is being sold but borrows it from the brokerage firm through which he or she places the sell order. The seller then has the obligation to buy back the stock at some point in the future.) However, in January investors bought GameStop's stock, sending its price through the roof – from around \$30 per share to more than \$340 per share in a week. This didn't bode well for the hedge funds that thought the stock price would decline. When time came for them to buy the stock to cover their short sales, they had to buy the stock at very high prices, and they lost a lot of money.

Did this impact the retirement trust's investments at all? No, it did not. Here's why. LACERA's Board of Investments (the "Board") is responsible for establishing LACERA's Investment Policy Statement (IPS). The IPS defines the framework by which LACERA manages the assets of the trust to fulfill its mission: to produce, protect and provide the promised benefit. The document provides the primary guidance for LACERA's investment activities by outlining the philosophy and structure of LACERA's investment program, describing the general process by which assets are managed, and defining the key roles and responsibilities in LACERA's investment program. Imbedded in the IPS are the Board's Investment Beliefs. The Investment Beliefs articulate assumptions about how capital markets operate and investment styles. Two Investment Beliefs are 1) that LACERA is forward looking as its investment horizon spans decades, and 2) diversification across different risk factors is necessary for risk reduction. LACERA does invest in hedge funds to diversity risk, but all hedge fund managers are on the more conservative end of the spectrum. None of the managers had adopted the strategies that resulted in large losses at some hedge funds. LACERA's selection of conservative managers aligns with its long-term investment horizon.

I was reminded in the January Board of Investments meeting that the investments professionals who constitute the LACERA Investment Office are a stellar group. They are led by Jonathan Grabel, chief investment officer.

Investment returns for the retirement trust through November 2020 follow.

LACERA Pension Fund		11/30/2020	Total Assets \$63.8 Billion		
Returns:	FYTD	3 year:	5 year:	10 year:	
	+10.8%	+7.3%	+8.4%	+8.2%	

News from LACERA

by JJ Popowich
Assistant Executive Officer, LACERA



I hope everyone is staying healthy and enjoying their retirement.

The last few years I've kept you all up to date on how our March Madness season is going. January is in the middle of the annual March Madness retirement season. That's the time of year when most people call and visit LACERA to retire. Members like to retire on or before March 31 so they can qualify for any cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) that become available on April 1. So far this year, we have had 1,169 members submit retirement applications. Last year at this time, we had about 1,305 members retire.

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact our way of life, including how we provide service to our members. As I write this article, we have just emerged from the most recent stay-at-home orders issued by Governor Newsom. While stringent, these steps were necessary to help address the spikes in cases and hospitalizations. We are also just beginning to see the ramp-up in getting people vaccinated. Earlier this week on lacera.com, we posted links to all of our healthcare insurance partners' websites with information on how members can get vaccinated. Personally, I am planning to get my vaccination as soon as I can, to do my part in getting us all past this tragic time and to brighter days.

While we go through this hopeful transition period, much of our staff continues to work from home and provide services remotely. We have been working hard to develop plans and make physical modifications to our offices to allow us to safely open for business again. Although I can't say specifically when that will be, I can assure you that we are ready to restart service in the Member Services Center as soon as we get the greenlight.

One of the projects we have been working on is our paperless initiative -- a goal to add convenience and options for members who wish to receive LACERA communications via e-mail and who prefer to conduct business electronically.

Last June we provided you a new option to *submit* documents by uploading them through your My LACERA account. (This is the quickest and most secure way to submit documents to LACERA.)

Now we are giving members new options to *receive* certain communications and documents. In December and January, we began notifying all members with a valid e-mail address that certain documents were available for viewing online in the My LACERA Document Center. (If you didn't receive an e-mail from us, you may want to check and update your My LACERA profile.) You can now opt in to access your annual benefit statement and automatic deposit receipts through the My LACERA Document Center and discontinue receiving the physical document via mail. You will receive an e-mail notification when your documents are ready for your review. You can also opt in to receive our "Spotlight" newsletter online. When we publish a new newsletter, you will receive an e-mail with a link to the newsletter on lacera.com.

In February we will be sharing plans with the Operations Oversight Committee on expanding our paperless initiative to allow members to opt in to receiving *most* communications through My LACERA. We'll share more information with you as we roll out our plans.

While we are making these new options available, I want to reassure everyone that we will continue to offer communications via regular mail. And, of course, we will continue to be available through our call center and Member Service Center (when we reopen). Our goal is simply to allow you to choose the way(s) in which we interact with you as best fits your needs.

I'd like to close this month's article by talking about some security enhancements we've made to provide you fast, safe, and secure access to your data while protecting your privacy. I may have mentioned these before, but I think they are important enough to share again.

We have always sent confirmations to you, typically via regular mail, when a change has been made to your account. We have now upgraded our system to send e-mail confirmations, provided we have a valid e-mail address for you (even if you are not registered on My LACERA). We are also beginning to send text message notifications when we have a valid cell phone number.

These notifications are designed to let you know quickly if something has happened regarding your account and give you the opportunity to take action if you didn't make

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Joseph Kelly Elected Vice Chair of LACERA's Board of Investments

RELAC Director Joseph Kelly has been elected vice chair of the LACERA Board of Investments.

This is the first time in many years that the retiree trustee was elected as chair or vice chair.

Kelly was the County treasurer-tax collector at the time of his 2019 retirement. In that position, he was the ex-officio member on both the LACERA Board of Investments and Board of Retirement.

Keith Knox, the current County treasurer-tax collector, was elected chair of the Board of Investments, and Allen Bernstein, appointee of Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, was elected secretary.

The election was historic for several reasons: two of the three officers – Kelly and Bernstein – are openly gay, the chair is the current ex-officio trustee and the vice chair was the ex-officio trustee prior to him, and it is the first time a retired department head has been elected vice chair.

Kelly, the only certified internal auditor on the Board of Investments, was also elected to serve on the Audit Committee, a joint committee of both LACERA boards.

April 15 is Deadline to Apply for Seats on RELAC Board of Directors

RELAC members interested in serving on the Board of Directors in 2022 have until April 15 to file a letter of interest.

Applicants' letters should briefly explain their interest and describe the experience and education that enhance their qualifications. The Directors Nominations Committee will interview all applicants before adding their names to the list of candidates.

The current Board of Directors will review the list of candidates at its May 11 meeting and select a slate of nominees to endorse for election. If there are more qualified candidates than open seats, an election will be held in September.

The new directors will serve three-year terms beginning in January 2022. Directors whose terms expire this year are Don Fandry, Linda C. Hopkins, Alice Prouty, and Diane Sandoval.

Pursuant to RELAC's bylaws, a person who holds, or within the past 24 months held, a leadership position with an organization that represents County retirees that has a goal or policy that may be incompatible or in conflict with a goal or policy of RELAC is ineligible to serve as a director of RELAC.

Directors are expected to attend monthly Board business meetings, quarterly general membership meetings, committee meetings scheduled on an as-needed basis, and to participate in RELAC activities and events.



Brian Berger



Linda C. Hopkins



Dyanne Nelson



Evelyn Gutierrez



Dave Muir

RELAC Officers Elected for 2021; Berger Will Serve as President

Brian Berger, who has served as RELAC vice president for three years, is the new president, replacing Dave Muir. Berger was unanimously elected by the Board of Directors in January.

Muir, who served an unprecedented seven terms as president, chose not to seek re-election. He will remain on the Executive Committee as immediate past president.

The Board selected Linda C. Hopkins as vice president, Evelyn Gutierrez as secretary, and returned Dyanne Nelson to a second term as treasurer.

Berger, director of special services with the Department of Children and Family Services when he retired in 1999, has been on the RELAC Board since June 2017. First appointed to fill a vacancy, he was elected to a new three-year term later that year and re-elected in 2020. He most recently chaired the Office Management Committee.

During his County career, which began in June 1967, Berger worked for six departments, including as head of the Animal Care and Control Department and acting chief deputy to Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich. "This gave me a wide understanding of how the County operates and its giant responsibilities at so many levels. It also gave me a chance to get to know and respect so many people with whom I interacted in numerous venues."

"I joined RELAC as soon as I was eligible," he said, "because I recognized that it was important that what we each had earned was being protected and, as a bonus, so that I could continue to share time and information with the many people who had been a part of my life. The members of the RELAC Board reinforce all these same feelings and their commitment is intense. I am pleased to have a chance to be your president and hope that I can continue to support all of us as past president Dave Muir has done before me."

Hopkins was appointed to the RELAC Board in 2016 to fill a vacancy and in 2018 won election. A 37-year County employee, she was a manager in the Department of Human Resources when she retired in 2011. She chairs the Benefits and Scholarship Committees.

Nelson was the County's payroll operations manager when she retired in 2011 from the Auditor-Controller's Office after more than 38 years of service. She was appointed to the RELAC Board in April 2017 to fill a vacancy and won election later that year and re-elected in 2020. She chairs the Budget Committee.

Gutierrez, a 35-year County employee, was director of workplace programs and marketing in the Chief Administrative Office at the time of her 2003 retirement, a position she had held for 15 years. She was appointed to the Board to fill a vacancy in April 2016, was elected later that year to a new term that began in 2017, and re-elected in 2019. She has chaired the Special Events and Community Support Committees.

Muir, who was chief counsel for LACERA when he retired in 2009, has been a RELAC director since 2011. He also served as retirees' representative on the LACERA Board of Investments, but did not seek re-election in 2020.

Celebrating Black History

Since 1976 every American president has designated February as Black History Month to celebrate the achievements by African-Americans and recognize their central role in U.S. history. The 2021 theme "Black Family: Representation, Identity and Diversity" explored the African diaspora, and the spread of black families across the United States.

RELAC's own Ted Lumpkin, Jr., who passed away on Dec. 26, 2020, played an important role in the history of African-Americans as a member of the Tuskegee Airmen, an all-black fighter squadron that helped desegregate the U.S. military during World War II and shattered racist stereotypes.

Read his story on page 13.

Windfall Provision continued from p. 1

The WEP reduces the Social Security benefits of people who spent part of their working career in a job covered by Social Security and another part of their career in a job not covered by Social Security. The GPO reduces the Social Security spousal or survivor benefits of people not covered by Social Security themselves.

A public retiree organization in Massachusetts called "Mass Retirees" is working with retiree organizations in other states (including California) to continually put pressure on members of Congress to get rid of these unfair penalties. RELAC is taking steps to join with Mass Retirees in this effort. Go to <http://www.massretirees.com/article/issues/social-security/passing-social-security-wep-reform-2020> to read an article from the Mass Retirees website that provides an outstanding explanation of current efforts.

Stay tuned for further developments. Another write-in campaign may be necessary.

LACERA continued from p. 2

the request. For example, you will receive notification when you update your account information, or if there has been an unsuccessful attempt to log in to your My LACERA account or an attempt from an unrecognized computer.

Happy Birthday, RELAC Centenarians

Happy birthday to our members who will be 100 or older in March and April.

March (None)

April

Ruth A. Keys, 100, LAC+USC Medical Center
April 1, 1921

Alexander G. Espalin, 102, Flood Control District
April 4, 1919

Gerald W. Miller, 101, Assessor
April 4, 1920

Harriett W. Canister, 102, Health Services
April 13, 1919

Gascón Names Executive Management Team

Robert Arcos, former assistant chief of the Los Angeles Police Department and most recently the director of LAPD's Office of Operations, is the newest member of newly elected District Attorney George Gascón's executive management team.

The Bureau of Investigations is composed of 300 sworn peace officers who support the investigative work of the approximately 1,000 deputy district attorneys.

Arcos joins Gascón's executive management team members: Interim Chief Deputy District Attorney Joseph Iniguez, Chief of Staff Victoria Adams, Chief Administrative Officer Dorinne Jordan, Assistant District Attorney for Line Operations James Garrison, Special Advisors to the District Attorney Diana Teran, Alisa Blair and Alex Bastian; and Community and Government Affairs Liaison Mario Trujillo.

Iniguez serves as second-in-command and assists in directing and managing the daily activities and operations of the office. Adams directs and plans all operational and strategic aspects of the office and organizes and prioritizes critical issues and information to facilitate decision-making processes by the district attorney.

Jordan oversees administrative functions, including budget, human resources, systems, property management and employee relations. Garrison leads the deputy district attorneys and staff assigned to branch and area offices.

Teran advises the district attorney on post-conviction review, Brady compliance and justice system integrity; Blair advises on juvenile, diversion, collaborative courts and all related matters; and Bastian is responsible for providing guidance and direction in the development of internal and external messages and media strategies and handling additional routine and complex responsibilities as delegated by the district attorney.

Trujillo represents the district attorney in both routine and complex matters with municipalities and community-based organizations.

Simon Russin continued from p. 1

While working, Russin was elected by general members to multiple terms from 1983 to 2012 on the Board of Retirement and 1985 to 2011 on the Board of Investments. He served as chair and vice chair for the Board of Retirement, secretary on the Board of Investments, and chair of the Operations Oversight Committee.

LACERA Chief Executive Officer Santos Kreimann said some of Russin's notable accomplishments as a LACERA trustee included helping to negotiate settlement of Assembly Bill 399 to provide \$1 billion for L.A. County workers and retirees, and engineering the adoption of pension obligation bonds that fully funded the system and created surpluses for employee benefits and health care.

"We honor and will remember Mr. Russin for his decades of contributions to the County and, especially, his work on behalf of LACERA members -- helping to make LACERA the respected institution it is today," said Kreimann.

Russin never lost his passion for serving as a LACERA trustee and made several unsuccessful attempts after his retirement to win election to one of the retiree positions. He resigned from the RELAC Board of Directors in 2017 after the Board endorsed three of its other members over Russin to fill open LACERA seats.

During his career, Russin served 15 years as a board member for SEIU Local 660 and was a member of the Chicano Employees Association. His educational background included an undergraduate degree in biology from Wilkes University in Pennsylvania, graduate work in marine science at Long Island University and public administration at Cal State L.A., and continuing trustee education in fiduciary law and money management.

Born in Plains, Pennsylvania, Russin worked briefly as a health inspector for the New York Health Department after graduating from Wilkes, then three years with the Philadelphia Health Department before moving to California in 1969. As a public health officer and chief environmental health officer of the County's Lead Abatement Program, he maintained public safety standards in restaurants, markets, nursing homes, and other public places.

His family said he loved many things: family, friends, justice, equality, nature, singing, opera and his dog. He was a member of the Apollo Men's Choir, Los Angeles Athletic Club; and Holy Virgin Mary Russian Orthodox Cathedral in Los Angeles.

Russin is survived by his daughter, Dr. Tanya Stevens; grandsons, Max and Cooper; sisters, Julianne Vaughan and Dr. Mary Russin; six nieces and nephews, and 15 grand-nieces and grand-nephews. Funeral arrangements were handled by Edwards and Russin Funeral Home in Edwardsville, Pennsylvania, with a celebration of life being planned in both California and Pennsylvania.

What's Happening Virtually?

by Evelyn Gutierrez, Chair
Special Events Committee



Social distancing keeps you safe.

The RELAC Board of Directors thanks you for wearing facial coverings, social distancing, sanitizing your hands and staying safe at home, when possible. If you have received the vaccine, please continue to follow all COVID19 "stay safe" procedures. Together we can help reduce the health risk related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

For your consideration, a number of County departments are providing safe, "virtual" services and links to "safer at home" opportunities to learn, read, watch and participate in various activities.

L.A. County Arboretum – "What's Blooming"

301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia

Visit the County Arboretum in Arcadia FREE on the third Tuesday of each month. Advance tickets required. Admission limited due to social distancing procedures.

Arboretum FREE entrance times – 9 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m., and 3 p.m. Wear a facial mask and bring your own water. Peacock Café can provide "grab & go" service - no outside food allowed.

FREE tickets limited to five per household. For additional information, call (626) 821-3222 or visit www.arboretum.org.

County Library and Museum of Art

The County Library and the L.A. County Museum of Art have partnered to bring virtual arts programs to county residents. This new partnership features LACMA teaching artists and staff to present creative storytelling workshops. The programs are on Fridays at 4 p.m.:

- March 5 – "Pocket Full of Colors"
- April 2 – "Building Our House"
- April 16 – "Ocean Meets Sky"
- May 7 – "The Night Gardener"
- May 21 – "Simon at the Art Museum"

To register for a workshop, visit LACountyLibrary.org/LACMAprograms or watch recordings of past workshops at LA County Library YouTube page.

We care about your health and wellness. **Stay Safe, Healthy and Connected.**

Update on RELAC Scholarship Program

by Linda Hopkins, Chair
Scholarship Committee

The RELAC Board of Directors is pleased to report that 26 requests for applications for RELAC's 2021 scholarship program had been received as of Feb. 3. The deadline to file applications is March 1.

RELAC members residing in Los Angeles County, Apple Valley, Las Vegas, Simi Valley, Santa Rosa and Spokane, Washington, expressed their interest and appreciation for the scholarship program.

Last year this exclusive benefit for our members and their families recognized five outstanding students dedicated to furthering their education and achieving their personal employment goals.

The Scholarship Committee will review the applications following the March 1 submission deadline, with the goal of announcing up to five \$1,000 scholarship awardees by mid-May.

During these challenging educational times and distanced learning requirements, RELAC is pleased to support and invest in the future of our next generation and hopefully our next generation of public service employees.

Visit the RELAC website at relac.org for additional information, updates and profiles of the five students who received scholarships in 2020, the first year that scholarships were awarded.

Join the April 24 Walk for Babies

by Evelyn Gutierrez, Chair
Community Support Committee



The 2021 L.A. County March for Babies "Virtual" Walk is scheduled for Saturday, April 24. This year's March for Babies will help make L.A. County a more equitable community, and help fund medical research and services for families at risk for premature births.

Each month of this year's campaign, March of Dimes will shine a spotlight on a particular mission topic and provide dynamic engagements and learning opportunities through a combination of live virtual events, pre-recorded webinars and access to content from its digital library.

With your support, during COVID-19 medical challenges and affected health care services, RELAC hopes to continue funding medical research needed to safeguard our children, grandchildren and friends. With your generous donation, RELAC will reach this year's fundraising goal of \$5,000.



RELAC Director Brian Berger, on right, at 2020 March for Babies

If you wish to donate online, visit www.marchforbabies.org/team/RELAC. If you prefer writing a check, make it payable to "March of Dimes" and mail it to the RELAC office in Alhambra.

Thank you for your continued support.

SPRING DRAWING

It has been said that April showers bring spring flowers. In a gesture of appreciation for your continued support, we want to shower you with dollars this April! All members are eligible for a special Spring Drawing of 20 prizes – \$25 each. To participate, complete the coupon below and mail to the RELAC office:

1000 S. Fremont Ave., Unit 15
Alhambra, CA 91803-8802.

Coupons must be received no later than April 8, 2021.

Spring Drawing (Please Print Clearly)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____



Letters To The Editor

Write On!

I was thinking of Nick Chico, and what a wonderful surprise to find him in "Keeping Up With Retirees." Glad to hear he and Tina are doing really well! Also, glad to read up on Cynthia Banks. I admired her at the Court and learned from her. She is absolutely an "amazing woman!"
Irene Ng Hamada, Alhambra, California

Please add [this donation] to the fund for L A. Regional Food Bank. Thank you and best wishes for 2021.
Marion Siu, Los Angeles, California

Always enjoy the newsletter! Happy to help out. Enclosed is a check for the Food Bank.
Dolores Parrish, Clarkson, Michigan

This month's newsletter showed me needs of my small contribution to the Food Bank. Enclosed is a check sent by mail as I do not use computer. Hope it is not an inconvenience for you. May year 2021 be blessed!
Ernest E. Bell, Los Osos, California

I just received my 2021 calendar. Thank you, it is beautiful. You all look absolutely wonderful. Keep up the good work!
Peggy Taylor, Altadena, California

I received the January/February issue of the RELAC newsletter yesterday and noticed what appears to be an erroneous statement in the article by Kathy Hanks on page 9. In the fourth paragraph the article states, "Joan Ouder Kirk, my mentor at TTC, recruited me to head a new division in the Internal Services Department (ISD) in 2000 to handle ISD contracts...." This statement disturbed me because, in fact, in 1982 I started working in the Data Processing Department (later merged into ISD) and was still working there 18 years later when Kathy became our division chief. I honestly don't know or recall how many years before 1982 the Contracts Division existed before I arrived there, but it was a minimum of 18 years old when Kathy came on board. Hardly "new"! I don't think it's fair or right to erase all the accomplishments and hard work of the many members of our division over the 18+ years our division existed before Kathy's arrival in 2000 with the three-letter word "new." I realize that there's a negative tone to this e-mail and that it's somewhat long, so I'll understand if you choose not to print it. However, I at least want you to be aware of the misstatement that I'm calling out in this email/letter.
Paul Feinzimer, Whittier, California

(Ed. Note: When the Internal Services Department (ISD) was created in 1995, it became responsible for services previously provided by the Data Processing Department (DPD) and Purchasing and Stores (P&S). The DPD Contracts Division remained a separate division until 2000, when a "new" ISD Contracts Division was created budgetarily and Kathy Hanks named the division manager. The division consisted of staff from the former DPD and P&S contracting sections and a fairly new Countywide Standards and Policies Section that assumed contracting assignments from the Chief Administrative Office.)

Just a note to say thanks for doing such a wonderful job as editor of the RELAC newsletter. I am glad that I joined as a member and I always look forward to receiving the newsletter.
Joyce Harris, Carson, California

I have just received my RELAC newsletter and learned of the passing of Tom Hibbard's wife. It is understandable that the adjustment after 58 years together can be a tough hill to climb. I would like to send Tom a card, but don't have his address.
Carol Matsui, San Dimas, California

(Ed. Note: We received a follow-up note from Carol, thanking us for assisting in making the connection." I felt good that I was able to let Tom know that I was thinking of him during this difficult period. Thanks for your help." We are happy to assist in connecting RELAC members when possible. But, be assured that we do not share personal information, such as e-mail or address, without prior permission from members.)

I didn't know Bill Yaney was in hospice. I had lost contact with him. He was always a kick to be around at work and he was very helpful to lots of his co-workers, sharing his immense knowledge.
Pam Everett, Burbank, California

Thanks for the extra copies of the RELAC newsletter. I sent a copy to my daughter, and she was happy to hear that I called her a "badass teacher!"
Marion Figueroa, Pasadena, California

Thanks for sending me a couple of extra copies of the November/December newsletter that contained the article on my "retirement" activities and the six generations of Carl Blum's. Again, thanks for all you do with the newsletter.
Carl L. Blum, Temple City, California

Technology Corner

by Joseph Kelly
RELAC Board Member

Cover That Up!

By "that", I mean the camera on your computing devices. Why? Because that device could be the subject of a hack, or malware you loaded inadvertently by clicking on a link in an e-mail. That hacker or malware could turn on your device remotely, start the camera and view or record everything your camera can see, oftentimes without the camera light being on. Hacking a device and viewing everything the camera can view is incredibly invasive. This is why when I am not using the camera, I cover the cameras on my devices with a piece of blue painter's tape. My twin sister covers hers with a Band-Aid and a good friend uses Post-its. They all achieve the same objective, which is to block the view if someone, unauthorized by you, happens to be on the other side of that camera.

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Number 2

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Office Hours

9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Monday - Thursday

Closed Friday,

Saturday, Sunday &

Public Holidays

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

January 2021

Board of Supervisors – Leida Erickson, Barbara Nack
Children & Family Services – Wanda Cherry
District Attorney – Gil Garcetti, Francesca Kim, Jackie Lacey

Health Services – Jackie Malone

LAC+USC Medical Center – Wesley Petty

LACERA – Miriam De Leon

King-Drew Medical Center – Mary Christensen

Mental Health – Nelly Bertolina, Linette Woron

Olive View/UCLA Medical Center – Tony Taheri

Parks & Recreation – Debbie Pepe

Public Defender – Bella Dilworth

Public Social Services – Isabel Connolly, Gregoria Domingo, Martha Marcucci, Jenny St. Mark, Yvette Vasquez

Sheriff – Deborah Duda, Alfonso Garcia, Kim Gibson, Heidi-Thea Sheridan, Larry Vanden Bosch

Superior Court – Brian Petraborg, Patricia Sundstrom, Annette Van Olden

Treasurer/Tax Collector – Kathleen Gloster, La Tanya L. Simmons-Spark

Workforce Dev., Aging & Comm. Svcs. – Eddie Washington

Department Not Designated – Patricia Adriano, Isabel Milan, Patricia Whitaker

New Associate Members – Henry Adriano, Veronika Garcia, Vance Gloster, Douglas Green, Alfreida Malone, Michael St. Mark, Rene Van Olden, Karen Vanden Bosch

We inadvertently omitted **Sheriff's Department** retiree Johnnie Ruth Anderson from the November 2020 new member list. We apologize for the oversight.

Thanks for New Member Referrals

We would like to thank the 10 members who recruited colleagues to join RELAC during January. Due to our aging membership, we must remain vigilant in signing up new members in order to remain a strong organization to protect your hard-earned pension and health benefits. We are the only organization that exclusively serves the interests of Los Angeles County retirees, so help us help you. For membership applications and brochures, call the RELAC office at (800) 537-3522, e-mail admin@relac.org or go online at www.relac.org. Be sure to tell the new member to put your name on the application as making the referral.

Our thanks to these RELAC members (shown in bold) for referring new members (shown in italics):

Corinne Alarcon, *Isabel Connolly*, Public Social Services
James Bertolina, *Nelly Bertolina*, Mental Health
Mavis Bonner, *Mary Christensen*, King-Drew Medical Center.

Gloria Brown, *Johnnie Ruth Anderson*, Sheriff

Joe D'virgilio, *Judy Hammond*, *Gil Garcetti*, District Attorney

Fidencio Domingo, Sr., *Gregoria Domingo*, Public Social Services

Sharon Gonterman, *Deborah Duda*, Sheriff

Judy Hammond, *Leida Erickson*, Board of Supervisors

Joseph Kelly, *Kathleen Gloster*, Treasurer-Tax Collector

Danny Regalado, *Alfonso Garcia*, Sheriff

Cesar Chavez Celebrated

by Evelyn Gutierrez, Chair
Community Support Committee

Proclaimed a federal holiday by President Obama in 2014, the life and legacy of Cesar Chavez, an American civil rights advocate committed to social justice, is celebrated on March 31. However, Los Angeles County celebrates the legacy of Chavez on the last Monday in March.

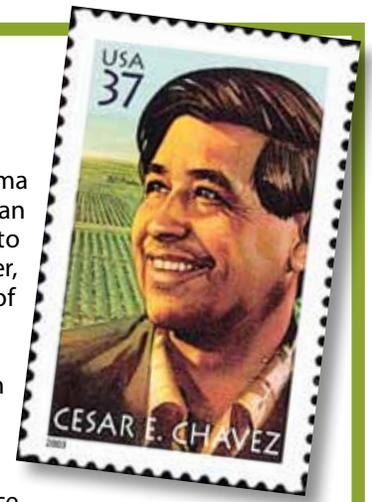
Chavez, born on March 31, 1927, was an inspiring role model for all Americans as a leader who personified human dignity, humility and a strong commitment to social decency for all people. His legacy promotes the importance of seven core values: respect, democracy, justice, family, education, work and service of others.

Chavez passed away at the age of 66 in 1993. His children and grandchildren remain committed to promoting the rights of hard-working people struggling to provide housing and food for their families.

In tribute to the issuance of a 37-cent Cesar E. Chavez commemorative stamp by the U.S. Postal Service, L.A. County hosted the official ceremony on April 23, 2003. In attendance were members of the Board of Supervisors, elected officials, Chavez family members, Dolores Huerta and members of Supervisor Gloria Molina's organizing committee.

In 2021, L.A. County offices will be closed on Monday, March 29 in celebration of Cesar Chavez Day. However, we are all encouraged to spend the day helping others or donating food for the homeless. RELAC members are encouraged to donate to our RELAC Food Bank campaign, in memory of Cesar E. Chavez. Visit the RELAC website to donate and help fight hunger by families in need.

Contact your local library and community organizations for additional information on events and activities that celebrate and honor a true American hero, Cesar E. Chavez.



From top left, Herlinda Chico, Robert Garcia, Lena Gonzalez, Janice Hahn, Nick and Tina Chico

RELAC MEMBER NICK CHICO IS A PROUD PAPA

RELAC member Nick Chico and wife, Tina, witnessed the swearing in of their daughter, Herlinda, as a new trustee for the Long Beach Community College District and her election as vice president. "This is a proud and happy day," said Nick. The oath was administered by Herlinda's friend Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia, and among those attending via Zoom were state Sen. Lena Gonzalez and County Supervisor Janice Hahn. Herlinda, a field deputy for Hahn, became close friends with Garcia and Gonzalez when they worked together at Long Beach City Hall. Nick retired from the Internal Services Department in 2012 as section manager over parking services after 40 years of County service.

Keeping Up With Retirees

We asked two RELAC members to let us know what they have been doing since retirement. Their articles follow.

With sons, Aaron Jr. and David, on 80th birthday



With husband, Herb, and granddaughter, Janessa



VICTORIA PIPKIN-LANE New RELAC Director

A telephone call in late February 1989 from the Office of Supervisor Kenneth Hahn was the first step on a nearly 30-year journey of County public service. Newly appointed Press Deputy Lynn Sakamoto championed my hiring as Hahn's assistant press deputy.

The venerable supervisor was viewed as a "master" at public relations and working with him was never dull. Despite suffering a stroke in 1987 that left him partially paralyzed, Hahn knew the value of good publicity and was a staple in local newspapers, and on radio and television stations, opening libraries, installing swimming pools at local parks, or sponsoring community parades and celebrations. Hahn also gave me an on-the-spot education in government processes, with assignments involving the County Public Library, Treasurer and Tax Collector, Superior Court, and several community-based organizations funded by the County.

After the Second District tenure, 1989-1994, which included two years as press deputy to Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, I moved on to the Department of Children and Family Services as a public information officer, the District Attorney's Office as director of communications, then to the Chief Administrative Office/Chief Executive Office as assistant director of public affairs and director of the Office of Workplace Programs.

My final County assignment returned me to the Board of Supervisors, where I entered County service, as executive director of the Quality and Productivity Commission. The latter position entailed responsibility for Board-assigned reports on quality and productivity within County departments, administering the annual Green Leadership Awards program and promoting employee-led innovation. Department productivity managers consistently identified trendsetting programs, which improved internal operations and enhanced productivity. These programs saved the County millions of dollars in direct savings and cost avoidance. It was a fitting end to a varied and thought-provoking career in County government.

Retirement has been a wonderful journey for my husband, Herbert, and me. We celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary on Sept. 23, 2020. While our Alaskan cruise and other vacation trips were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have managed to enjoy short staycations to San Diego, Carlsbad, Sacramento, and near Marina del Rey.

Soon after my retirement in March 2018 (Herb retired from the aerospace industry in 2012), we joined the Dave Koz Cruise, which set sail from Copenhagen, Denmark to Sweden, Estonia, and Saint Petersburg, Russia. In light of the crazy year 2020 turned out to be, we are thankful that in 2019 we traveled to Sydney, Australia for another Dave Koz Cruise that visited Melbourne, Eden, Newcastle and Tasmania. These were seven-day cruises of live music featuring American artists such as Gerald Albright, Tower of Power, Boney James, Mindi Abair and Jonathan Butler. Comedian Tommy Davidson also performed.

Herb and I are big sports fans and purchased a stadium seat license and season tickets for the Rams football games. We live in Inglewood and looked forward to enjoying football in the new SoFi Stadium. Those plans are now on hold.

In the meantime, we continue to enjoy retirement and spending time with our grandchildren, Landon Freeman, 9, and Janessa Lane, 5.

KATHY GAVRAN LOHR

At the end of February 2020, I celebrated my 80th birthday, hosted by my two wonderful sons, Aaron Jr. and David. I have been blessed with my late, dear husband of 38 years, Aaron Lohr, who was an administrator at LAC+USC Medical Center, our sons, my two stepsons, Tony and Michael, their beautiful wives, my precious grandchildren, my large extended, loving family and friends. Many celebrated with me and shared memories, including those of my rewarding career as a registered nurse for 48 years. Little did we know at my party that by March we would be deluged by the COVID-19 virus. How lucky I was to have my birthday celebration when I did!



As Kathy Gavran, a 20-year-old graduate from Queen of Angels School of Nursing, I was hired at LAC+USC Medical Center. My intention of six months experience became 34 years! During my first four years, I primarily worked evening shifts on the medicine, neuro-medicine and diabetic wards while I gained my bachelor of science degree in nursing at Cal State L.A. In subsequent years I continued to work in the Medical Services unit, first as staff nurse, then head nurse with 24-hour responsibility for 40 to 50 patients and ultimately the assistant nursing director of medical services of 550 patients. Also, during this period, I was a part of the in-service education staff, an assistant director in the outpatient clinics and in the Office of Licensure and Accreditation.

In 1966 I was granted a year's leave of absence by Fotine O'Connor, director of nursing, to serve with Project Hope on the hospital ship S.S. Hope in Corinto, Nicaragua. THIS WAS A LIFE CHANGING EXPERIENCE. On the ship I taught Nicaraguan student nurses to care for four or five patients. Needing a greater challenge, I requested to work at the Hospital de Leon. Medicines and equipment were scarce and conditions were unsanitary. This, along with the poverty of patients, was heartbreaking. The Hope staff worked hard to improve conditions. Often, we boarded jeeps to go deep into the sugarcane fields or barrios to give immunizations.

From 1974 to 1976, I was the nursing director of the Pediatric Hospital, which included a communicable disease service. I was fortunate to work with Dr. Allen Mathies, its director. He later became the dean of the USC School of Medicine.

For my last 17 years, I was Kathy Lohr, director of quality assurance for the LAC+USC Medical Center, having the honor of reporting to Dr. Sol Bernstein, medical director, until I retired in 1994. After retirement, for another 14 years, I worked at Olive View Hospital with its quality assurance program as a UCLA contract employee and later taught clinical pathways as a part of the workforce development program.

My husband retired in 1994 after 17 years at UCLA as deputy director of UCLA Hospital and Clinics, and I after 34 years at LAC+ USC Medical Center. We then enjoyed many travels with family and friends. These included stays in Newport Beach, trips to Europe, including Croatia where

Continued on p.9

Jackie Lacey Retires After Losing District Attorney Race

Statement by RELAC member Jackie Lacey, who was defeated in November 2020 in her bid for re-election as district attorney. She retired on her birthday, Feb. 27.



"I am grateful that the voters gave me the opportunity to serve as the elected district attorney for eight of the nearly 34 years that I worked for the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. It was extremely rewarding in that I was able to protect the community through the fair and ethical pursuit of justice and to safeguard the rights of crime victims.

The employees in the office are smart, committed, and genuine. I miss them more than I miss the work.

In terms of retirement, I am spending time reflecting on the past and contemplating the future. Perhaps I'll write a book. I have had quite an adventure and I think some people might find the back story interesting."

Lohr continued from p. 8

my grandparents were born, and Mexico. Some were cruises. We also traveled to New York City, where my son Aaron Jr. continued his career in the entertainment business for eight years. He was a child actor. Yes, I was a stage mother, too! Since, he has pursued another career and is now the clinical director of a rehabilitation facility for addiction and mental health.

My husband passed away suddenly in December 2011, which was devastating to me and my sons. He was a wonderful husband and father. We continue to miss him so much!

I have since enjoyed a stay at San Ysidro Ranch in Montecito, traveled to Puerto Vallarta, Mexico; Park City, Utah; Cascade, Idaho; Santa Fe, New Mexico; Portland, Oregon; and New York City, traveling with or visiting friends and family. The highlight of my last NYC trip, in December 2019, was watching my son Aaron and his wife, Idina Menzel, perform at Carnegie Hall. Together they sang a duet, "I'll Be Home for Christmas." For me, it was thrilling, as well as beautiful!

Now, I enjoy gardening at my Sherman Oaks home of 49 years, visiting with my sons, their wives and my dear grandchildren, telephone calls with family and friends, playing with my dog, Bella, who is such a good companion, and, now zooming with my book club and LAC+USC CARES Board.

During my career as an R.N. my challenge was always to do my best to help ensure that patients got quality health care. After retiring, I knew that I wanted to be a part of helping to provide patients in need with essentials the County cannot. My heart has always been with LAC+USC Medical Center. I joined CARES, its medical center auxiliary. Now, I am proud to be a board member and am thrilled with the volunteer opportunities in which I have participated. It's amazing what this organization and its staff accomplishes. I love them all! It is my sincerest hope that this pandemic will end soon and I can go back to volunteering there.

(Ed. Note: In April 2020 roughly 4 billion people, or half the world's population, were under some type of stay-at-home order due to the COVID-19 virus. The orders have continued in various forms, keeping us confined to our residences away from our family, friends and medical doctors. One way to address this physical distance is to use videoconferencing to stay connected. Videoconferencing allows people to connect face-to-face via a camera attached to or built into a computer, tablet or mobile phone. Prior to COVID-19, videoconferencing was used mostly by businesses, as it saved the time, expense and hassle of travel to and from business meetings. However, during the pandemic, personal use has skyrocketed. Two popular – and free – services are Zoom (zoom.com) and GoToMeeting (gotomeeting.com.) According to recent research, 29% of U.S. seniors aged 65 and older have used videoconferencing services.)

Staying Connected During a Pandemic

by Joseph Kelly
RELAC Director

My first use of Zoom was to connect with my siblings in spring 2020 regarding the pandemic. I had been communicating with them individually by telephone, but I soon preferred the video calls because they were more efficient and we all got to see one another. In early summer, I noticed that more of my friends were using Zoom to stay connected as well, and I began to participate in video calls as though they were coffee or lunch dates. One day I realized that I had not contacted a high school friend to extend birthday wishes. I coordinated a Zoom call with him and a few other high school friends, and we had a blast. These friends gave me some tips regarding camera position and lighting tips that I still use. For example, I position my laptop high enough so I am looking slightly up at the camera lens. A light right above the video camera pointing right at me allows others to see my face clearly and does not result in shadows.

In November 2020, I had my very first Zoom Thanksgiving. I was averse to having friends come to my home given the public health officer's guidance, so I cooked a great meal and delivered plates to each of three friends. I then returned to my home and the four of us connected via Zoom, ate our meals, and got caught up, thankful that we continued to be healthy in the pandemic. Would I have preferred to have hosted these friends at my home? Absolutely. But we chose the next best and safe option.

Last summer I was exchanging e-mails with a former department head with whom I worked and I realized that I hadn't been in touch with several other recently retired department heads. I thought it would be great to see how they were doing during the pandemic, so I coordinated the first ever Retired Department Head Zoom Happy Hour! County department heads work very closely together and over time build a strong sense of camaraderie. I organized the second happy hour in January and we welcomed Jackie Lacey, retired district attorney, to the group.

We're coming up on the one-year anniversary of the first stay-at-home order. When I look back, I very much appreciate the ways in which technology has allowed us to stay connected, while we remain distant. If you have yet to leverage this technology, don't wait any longer. As Nike would say: Just Do It!



Participating in the Retired Department Head Zoom Happy Hour in January were (from top, left) **Jackie Lacey**, District Attorney; **Joseph Kelly**, Treasurer-Tax Collector; **Philip Browning**, Children and Family Services, Child Support Services; (middle) **Russ Guiney**, Parks and Recreation; **Robin Kay**, Mental Health; **Steven Golightly**, Child Support Services; (bottom) **Sheryl Spiller**, Public Social Services.



Inside LA County

by Judy Hammond
Newsletter Editor

The County has agreed to make improvements at its juvenile halls as a result of a state Department of Justice investigation into serious deficiencies in the treatment and conditions of confinement and inadequate education services. The Probation, Mental Health and Health Services departments, as well as the County Office of Education will take a wide range of corrective actions, to be overseen by an independent monitor and subject-matter experts. Included in the settlement are limiting use of force; ensuring youth are not unlawfully confined to their rooms; providing warm, homelike living units; providing necessities such as hygiene items, bedding and access to the bathroom; timely medical and mental health care; appropriate education time; and a trustworthy avenue for youth to get problems addressed.

Policy changes announced by newly elected District Attorney George Gascon have drawn criticism from some of his own staff and Sheriff Alex Villanueva. The Association of Deputy District Attorneys filed a lawsuit to try to stop some of the directives, including the elimination of some sentence enhancements. Former DA Ira Reiner and Gil Garcetti, however, joined 63 other current and former elected prosecutors to file a friend-of-the-court brief supporting Gascon's authority to enact the new legal policies. Villanueva said he is unhappy with Gascon's decision to bar deputy district attorneys from attending parole hearings and would send someone from his department if requested by family members.

State Atty. General Xavier Becerra launched a civil rights investigation into the Sheriff's Department to see if the department routinely violates people's constitutional rights.

Sheriff Villanueva rejected the County Equity Oversight Panel's recommendation that he discipline Undersheriff Tim Murakami for allegedly using a Japanese racial slur toward employees of color, saying there was insufficient evidence. The panel interviewed employees who said they had heard Murakami make the comments, and two employees, one black and one of Mexican descent, have filed discrimination lawsuits against the County, claiming Murakami used the racial slur.

A contempt of court hearing was dismissed after Sheriff Alex Villanueva testified before the Civilian Oversight Commission, after first refusing to do so.

Supervisor Sheila Kuehl has suggested considering replacing the Sheriff's patrol functions with a county police force (the chief appointed by the Board), with the elected sheriff running the jails, much like San Francisco.

A study by the California Voter Foundation and the USC Center for Inclusive Democracy found young voters in the March 2020 election were three times more likely to have ballots rejected, and the newly registered had even higher rejection rates. Signatures were a big challenge for voters because young people are not taught cursive in school and styluses are being used to sign applications at the Department of Motor Vehicles when registering.

The County is spending \$100,000 to study the potential of redeveloping MaLaren Hall in El Monte, formerly run by Department of Children and Family Services to house foster children, for workforce and economic development.

A developer has been selected to work with the community to replace the city-county West L.A. Civic Center, described by Supervisor Sheila Kuehl as "rundown and underutilized," with "a beautiful space" that will include housing, retail and restaurants, open and community space, and expanded parking. The original plan to build a 23-story tower has been scaled back to no higher than eight stories.

Arboretum officials are fighting a Public Works Department proposal to cut down trees – some 70 years old and more than 100 feet tall – at the Arcadia facility to make room for groundwater recharge ponds and a pump station to manage storm water and boost climate resilience.

Sheriff's Deputy Kevin Hones received a 10-day suspension for a "sloppy" report that claimed he found a gun in a box in the front seat area of a car he was searching, after video showed that another deputy found the weapon in a bag in the trunk. Critics countered that stronger discipline should have resulted, saying filing a report with false information and perjury are crimes and grounds for dismissal.

The County Animal Care and Control Department lost its contract with the City of Carson to provide daytime weekday services, while gaining a new contract with West Covina.

The annual county homeless count was canceled due to the pandemic.

The federal judge overseeing a year-old lawsuit about unsafe and inhuman conditions of homeless encampments is threatening to take over more control because of what he said is inaction by the County and City of Los Angeles.

The Department of Public Health said drug overdoses involving the opioid fentanyl were largely responsible for the 26 percent increase in deaths of homeless people in the county during the first seven months of 2020. Though the deaths of the homeless leveled off later in the year, the 1,383 homeless deaths still increased about 9 percent from the previous year.

Phil Washington, head of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority for the past six years, will not renew his contract in May. Washington, who recently headed President Biden's transition team for transportation, did not reveal what his next job will be.

The state Department of Fish and Wildlife has certified the final environmental impact report to restore the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, the largest coastal wetlands in the County, located between Playa del Rey and Marina del Rey. The next step is to get approval from the federal Army Corps of Engineers, which may take another 2 ½ years.

Critics of the decision to keep the courts open during the pandemic cited that as of Feb. 6, about 120 D.A. employees, more than 2,800 Sheriff employees, and at least 445 court staff and judges tested positive for COVID-19; and three court staffers and a public defender died of the virus.

At one point more than half of the youths in the County's juvenile detention facilities were in quarantine after a surge in positive cases of coronavirus among staff.

Famed architect Frank Gehry's plan to transform the L.A. River calls for putting massive bridge-like concrete planks and girders over the concrete flood control channel that would support trees, grass, scenic ponds, horse trails, walking paths, and a huge cultural center. A coalition of environmental groups, however, has threatened to withhold support for the river master plan if references to the platform parks are not deleted.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has offered to lease the County another 47 acres that has been used for agriculture to add to the 1,500-acre Whittier Narrows Regional Park.

Fifty trees have been planted at Alondra Community Regional Park as part of the "Good Shade" program. Parks are often the only access to nature, fresh air and physical activity that many households have in the area.

There is something for everyone among the 175 virtual classes being offered by the L.A. County Parks Department, including computer programming, art, fitness, language, parent and child learning, acting, and piano and guitar lessons.

PASSAGES

Compiled by Judy Hammond,
Newsletter Editor



Dempsey



Clark



McGee

RETIREMENTS

Jackie Lacey, first woman and first African-American to serve as district attorney, serving from Dec. 3, 2012 to Dec. 7, 2020, retired on Feb. 27 (her 64th birthday) after failing to win re-election bid last November. **Marcia Clark**, 67, who resigned from the District Attorney's Office in 1997 after taking a leave of absence following the 1995 O.J. Simpson murder trial, was granted retirement benefits by the LACERA Board of Retirement on Jan. 6. Clark, lead prosecutor in the Simpson trial, had 15 years of County service. **Carol Quan**, special assistant to Assessors Rick Auerbach, John Noguez and Jeffrey Prang, with 40 years of service. **Phil Ansell**, 61, who served more than 20 years in Department of Public Social Services before becoming the first director of the County's Homeless Initiative in 2015. **Herb Wesson**, chief deputy to former Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke and most recently L.A. city councilman. **Elizabeth (Betsy) Webster**, chief deputy, Animal Care and Control.

APPOINTMENTS

Hilda Solis named chair of the Board of Supervisors; **Holly Mitchell** named chair pro tem. Four acting department heads given the permanent position: **Fesia Davenport**, chief executive officer, at \$494,741 salary; **Rodrigo Castro-Silva**, county counsel, \$410,000; **Emilio Salas**, executive director of the Los Angeles County Development Authority, \$265,094; **Rafael Carbajal**, director of Consumer and Business Affairs, \$240,000. And San Diego County Chief Probation Officer **Adolfo Gonzales** hired to head L.A. County's Probation Department, \$336,628. **Fredericka McGee**, vice president of California government affairs and operations for the American Beverage Association and former deputy chief of staff and general counsel to two California Assembly speakers and general counsel to three speakers, named chief of staff for Supervisor Holly Mitchell. **Wendelyn Julien**, chief executive officer of the Court Appointed Special Advocates of Los Angeles and a commissioner on the County Commission on Children and Families, named executive director of the Probation Oversight Commission at \$227,660 annual salary. Reappointments to the LACERA Board of Retirement: **Alan Bernstein** (Supervisor Sheila Kuehl), **Ron Okum** (Supervisor Kathryn Barger), **Gina Zapanta** (Supervisor Janice Hahn).

DEATHS

Sarah Flores, 83, aide to five County supervisors, from COVID-19. Former RELAC Director **Simon Russin**, 76, retired public health officer and chief environmental health officer, who served on LACERA's Retirement and Investments Boards. RELAC member **Ellen Alkon**, 84, medical director of public health and director of public health education for physicians, retiring in 2006 after 26 years. RELAC member **Ted Lumpkin Jr.**, 100, a 32-year County employee who was a member of the Tuskegee Airmen, an all-black World War II unit that helped desegregate the U.S. military, from COVID-19. **Walter "Ted" Holland**, former planning director for Department of Health Services, retiring as chief master mechanic at LAC+USC Medical Center. **Hayward M. McNeill**, 86, who served 16 years on the County Mental Health Commission, the appointee of two County supervisors. **Lester Korn**, who served on the Music Center Board of Directors. **Steve Afriat**, 68, chair of the Civil Service Commission, from complications of a heart condition. **Timothy Tellez**, 47, sheriff's deputy for 20 years, from COVID-19. World renowned orthopedic surgeon Dr. **Lawrence Douglas Dorr**, 79, who started his career at LAC+USC Medical Center and Rancho Los Amigos Hospital, from complications of bacterial pneumonia. Retired Sheriff's Capt. **John Biard**, who retired in 1989 after 30 years. Women rights champion **Joan Dempsey Klein**, 96, former L.A. Municipal and Superior Court judge, and the first woman to become a presiding judge of a California appellate court, who retired in 2014 at age 90. **Sandra Hutchens**, 65, who served 29 years with the L.A. County Sheriff's Department, retiring in 2007 as division chief for the Office of Homeland Security, and in 2008 becoming the first woman sheriff of Orange County, after long bout with breast cancer. An Orange County Sheriff's training facility has been renamed in her honor. Retired Sheriff's Commander **Thomas Vetter**, who retired in 1994 after 36 years of service. **Richard Wulliger**, 88, L.A. Superior Court judge pro tem, Regional Planning commissioner, president of Opera Associates of the Music Center, and member of the Los Angeles Opera Board. **Gabriel Gutierrez**, 83, former Municipal and Superior Court judge who was presiding judge of the Juvenile Court in 1985-87, and recipient of the Mexican-American Legal Defense and Education Fund achievement award in 1975. RELAC member **William "Bill" Yaney**, 78, former administrator in the Community and Senior Services Department, from COPD. **David McKnight-Hillman**, a 25-year-old counselor at Wayfinder Family Services, a South Central nonprofit organization that provides residential therapeutic services to youths placed by the County Department of Children and Family Services, beaten to death in January while trying to break up a fight among seven youths at the facility.



Ansell



Salas



Gonzales



Bernstein



Carbajal



Klein



Julien



Wulliger

Public Health Official Ellen Alkon Dies of Kidney Failure



RELAC member Dr. Ellen Alkon, 84, who was medical director for public health and director of public health education for physicians during her 26-year career in the Departments of Health/Public

Health, died Dec. 30 of kidney failure in Fort Worth, Texas.

Alkon had a life-long affiliation with the County, growing up on the grounds of Olive View Hospital in Sylmar, from age two weeks to age 16. Her parents were among the first physicians –her father was director of laboratories and her mother directed the surgery unit --at the County hospital, which was then a tuberculosis sanatorium.

“Olive View had housing for staff and it was a lovely small town to grow up in,” said Alkon in a September 2017 profile in the RELAC newsletter. “There was a post office, library, small store, dining hall and two communities, one of employees and their families, the other of ex-patients. I left Olive View when I was 16 for Stanford, returning for visits and at age 21 to get married in our home on Sycamore Street (now an office warren).”

After leaving home, she moved to Chicago, Berkeley, Annapolis and Minneapolis for education and work, never expecting to work for L.A. County. But in 1980 her husband, Paul, became a chaired professor of English at USC and she got a job as coastal region chief in the preventive/public health section of the County Department of Health Services.

She retired in 2006 because the commute from her Rolling Hills Estates home kept taking longer. However, she returned as a 120-day retiree to work with physicians in training. She was also adjunct professor emeritus at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health.

“I love meeting the future generation and giving them important and surprisingly new-to-them concepts,” she said in her 2017 profile.

After retiring, she volunteered for public health organizations, including Southern California Public Health Association (lifetime member of the governing board and representative to the Emergency Medical Services Commission) and the American Association for Public Health Physicians (on its board). She also became active in the American Association of University Women, the League of Women Voters and the Peninsula Village.

“Ellen was a leader in public health, a wonderful physician and a colleague and friend of mine,” said Susan James Carr. “She was always available to discuss strategies to improve public health practice in the field and in programs. I was director of nursing professional practice at Olive View-UCLA Medical Center in the mid-1990s. Ellen came one afternoon and did a presentation on her early life at Olive View, complete with photos. It was delightful to see her at a younger age and hear her stories.”

RELAC member Carol Meyer, former director of the County’s Emergency Medical Services, said it was a pleasure to work with Alkon. “I will always remember her smiling face, enthusiasm for health care and

Sarah Flores, 83, Aide to Five Supervisors, Dies of COVID-19 Following Two-Week Hospital Stay

by Judy Hammond, Newsletter Editor



With Supervisor Mike Antonovich, 2016

With husband, George, 1988

Sarah Flores, who worked for five County supervisors and made a bid for a seat on the Board of Supervisors herself, died Dec. 7 at the age of 83 from COVID-19. She had been in the hospital since Nov. 21.

Flores retired in 1997 after more than 40 years with the County. She was an aide to Supervisor Mike Antonovich, running his San Dimas field office, at the time of her retirement.

She began her career in the Chief Administrative Office, where as part of the stenographer pool, she worked on loan in the offices of Supervisors Roger Jessup and Warren Dorn. She then went to work for Supervisor Burton Chace, and later became the first Latina executive secretary when

she was hired by Supervisor Frank Bonelli. She continued in that position with his successor, Pete Schabarum, who promoted her to a deputy and then assistant chief deputy.

When Schabarum announced he was retiring, Flores took an unpaid leave of absence to become a candidate to replace him and was top vote-getter in the primary. However, before she and Judge Greg O’Brien, who placed second, could face off in the 1990 general election, a federal judge – in response to a Voting Rights Act lawsuit -- ordered the district boundaries redrawn and a new election. Gloria Molina won the seat. Flores returned to work for Supervisor Mike Antonovich, who, along with Supervisor Deane Dana, had backed her candidacy.

“Sarah would have been a superb supervisor because of her experience, knowledge,” said Antonovich, a RELAC member. “She had values, backbone and the integrity to represent her district. She served as my senior deputy for the San Gabriel Valley. She never stopped fighting to restore the San Gabriel Mission’s cross on the County seal, was engaged in the district’s town councils, and was a superb mentor to my high school and college interns.”

Brian Mejia, a former field deputy for Antonovich who now works for the Department of Parks and Recreation, was one of those interns. “I’ve been fortunate to call Sarah my boss, mentor, friend and motherly figure,” he said. I’ll be forever grateful to her for taking a chance many years ago on me -- a shy and introverted teenager -- and for seeing my potential and bringing me out of my shell.”

Schabarum, also a RELAC member, said he lost touch with Flores after he retired and was surprised to hear of her death. “She was an integral part of my office staff, starting out as my personal secretary, then advancing to a deputy position. She was well-liked among the staff, as well as the community she represented.”

Flores was preceded in death by her husband, George, who was a manager in the Department of Community and Senior Services when he retired. She is survived by five daughters -- Jeannette, Michelle, Yvonne, Josette and Lucretia -- 11 grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

RELAC Director Evelyn Gutierrez said she and Flores, an advocate for expanding job opportunities for Latinos, were part of the County Family for 40 years and in the ‘80s they co-founded the Chicano Employees Association, followed by the Hispanic Managers Association. Flores also co-founded the County Secretarial Council.

“Sarah was and remains an inspiration for all women in public service. Her legacy lives on through her incredible daughters and their commitment to helping others and communities in need,” said Gutierrez.

RELAC member Leida Erickson, who worked with Flores in three supervisors’ (Bonelli, Schabarum and Antonovich) offices, said her friend of 55 years was “well-loved and a hero in my eyes – always there for me, always a stalwart example of faith and family first.” “Sarah crossed racial barriers and the glass ceiling and paved the way for Hispanics and women in County government -- now look at the five women members of the Board of Supervisors!”

After Flores retired, she took care of her blind mother and aunt, who died shortly thereafter from breast cancer. Then her husband was diagnosed with colon cancer and Flores cared for him. He died in 2003. She remained in her Glendora home until about 2014, when she went to live with her daughter Yvonne and her family

Steve Afriat, Commissioner and Gay Activist, Dead at 68

by Judy Hammond, Newsletter Editor

L.A. County Civil Service Commission President Steven Afriat, who served an unprecedented 19 years on the County Business License Commission, 15 years as president, has died at age 68.

A gay activist who was instrumental in the incorporation of West Hollywood and open about his sexuality years before it was publicly acceptable, Afriat died Dec. 28, 2020 of complications from a heart condition, following a brief hospitalization.

Nominated by Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, Afriat was appointed to the Civil Service Commission on Feb. 10, 2015.

The Board of Supervisors adjourned in Afriat's memory on Jan. 5, offering effusive praise.

"I loved Steve Afriat," said Supervisor Kuehl in bringing in the adjournment motion. "Always there when you needed him to pull a rabbit out of a hat, to work for the gay and lesbian community, and a gentleman. Kind of a throwback, an old-fashioned courtly man, always kind, always caring, always considerate. Very, very smart, and just one of those people that you think 'what a gift to humanity.'"

Supervisor Janice Hahn called him a "wonderful human being, a gentle soul, and kind." "No matter what side of the issue he was on, he was legendary for bringing people together, never saying an unkind word even if he was on different sides of the issue with people. That's what made him so influential and so good at persuading people to come over to his side of the issue."

Supervisor Kathryn Barger said Afriat had taught her a lot when he was on the Business License Commission. "He became a voice of reason and would advise me regarding some of the things taking place and really helped me navigate how issues impacted the business community. He, I mean kind is an understatement."

Afriat was chief of staff from 1983-85 to former Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, who was then a Los Angeles city councilman, and was the first openly gay person to hold that position at City Hall. He left to open his own consulting firm, and was quite active in West Hollywood, including helping with its incorporation. He helped launch the AIDS Walk Los Angeles, just as HIV was becoming a major health crisis for gay men across the city. Assessor Jeffrey Prang was one of his clients when Prang ran successfully for the West Hollywood City Council and later in 2014 for assessor.

"He would always take a meeting or a phone call, or make an introduction," said Prang. "He shared his knowledge, his experience, with anybody who wanted it or needed it."

More recently, Afriat served on the board of directors for Equality California, which campaigns for LGBTQ rights.

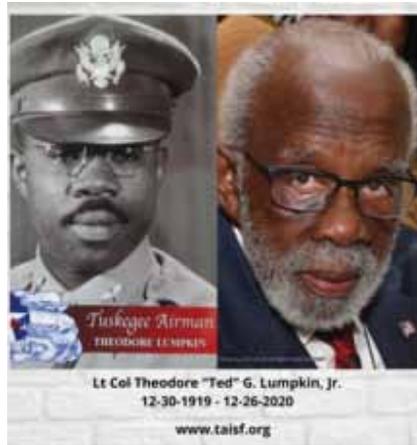
As an openly gay man, "he was a trailblazer, not only as a chief deputy, but in his business," Yaroslavsky said. "He was hugely successful at a time when -- in the '80s and '90s -- people tiptoed around issues of sexuality, especially in the business community, which was a more socially conservative world than my office was." At that time, gay men who came out risked losing their jobs and their families, Yaroslavsky said. Kuehl agreed. "He was very brave in being out in the early '80s... Steve was brave and clear, really understood what the community was going through in terms of the AIDS pandemic, and just was influential in his way of representing in city hall."

Afriat is survived by his partner of 30 years (and husband since 2015), Curtis Sanchez; sisters, Bonnie Noveck and Sari Afriat; a niece and nephews.



Tuskegee Airman Lt. Col. Ted Lumpkin, 32-Year County Employee, Dies at 100

by Jason H. Williams, RELAC member



RELAC member Theodore (Ted) George Lumpkin, Jr., one of the oldest surviving Tuskegee Airmen, the all-black unit that helped desegregate the U.S. military during World War II, passed away Dec. 26, just four days before his 101st birthday, of COVID-19 complications.

Lumpkin "went out with his boots on," said his wife, Georgia (who turned 99 on Jan. 6), because he did not suffer for a long period of time. His remains were cremated and his ashes dispersed at sea by his son Theodore George Lumpkin III, a licensed pilot.

His family said one of Lumpkin's lifelong ambitions was to live to the age of 100 since his father had lived to the age of 96.

In addition to his wife, Lumpkin is survived by three children, nine grandchildren, one great-grandchild and many nieces and nephews.

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and the Military and Veterans Affairs' Veterans Advisory Commission adjourned in memory of Lumpkin, in January and several media outlets --including CNN, MSNBC, Channel 2, the New York Times and the Los Angeles Times -- did reports on his death. Plans were underway in February for a memorial flyover by flying vintage planes in formation, similar to the P-51s flown by Tuskegee Airmen in WWII.

Lumpkin began working for Los Angeles County in 1947 and over a 32-year career worked for several departments, retiring from the Department of Community Development at the management level. After his retirement, he started a new career in real estate, where he was a state licensed real estate broker, owned his real estate company and was active in professional realtor organizations.

Lumpkin was born on Dec. 30, 1919 in Los Angeles and attended L.A. area public schools, graduating from Jefferson High School in 1938. He attended Los Angeles City College in 1940, earning an associate in arts degree in mathematics. He was a 21-year-old junior at UCLA when he was drafted into the military on July 1, 1942. After receiving basic training and radar training at Tuskegee Army Airfield in Tuskegee, Alabama in October 1942, he was selected for officer training at Miami Beach, Florida, Air Force Candidate School.

He graduated on Jan. 20, 1943 as a second lieutenant with the U.S. Army Air Force and was assigned to the 100th Fighter Squadron in Tuskegee, Alabama. He served as an air intelligence officer during his WWII tour of duty in Italy and in the Western Europe Theater from 1944-45. During this period, he was a member of the 332nd Fighter Group, which consisted of the 99th, 100th, 301st and 302nd Fighter Squadrons. By the end of WWII, Tuskegee Airmen became one of the most highly decorated units in military history.

Lumpkin returned stateside in November 1945 until his honorable separation from active duty as a captain in 1946. He completed his undergraduate degree at USC, graduating in 1947 and furthered his education by earning a master's degree in 1953, also from USC. On Sept. 10, 1948, he married Georgia Louise Kelly, and to that union were born three sons and one daughter: Kelly, Theodore III, Timothy and Ellen. He continued his military service with the inactive Air Force Reserves and would later retire from the active Air Force Reserves in 1979, with the rank of lieutenant colonel. In the same year, he joined RELAC.

On March 29, 2007, the Tuskegee Airmen were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian honor available in the United States, by President George W. Bush. The Tuskegee Airmen were also commended by President Barack Obama when he invited Tuskegee Airmen survivors from WWII to the White House in 2009.

Lumpkin had over a decade of experience with Tuskegee Airmen, Inc., the

Continued on p.15

IN MEMORIAM

This list includes retired employees, both RELAC members and non-members.

Alcohol/Drug Pgms. Admin. - Joseph V. Partansky
Animal Control - Amalia King
Antelope Valley Rehab. Center - Freda Naomi Breland
Assessor - Alan Aller, Eugene C. Aronson, Reynaldo Q. Arriola, Larry E. Kemp, Alfred Muir, Annette R. Ondatje, Jeffrey Osaka, Emma L. Pfeiffer, Caridad E. Robles, Sergio A. Rodriguez, Magdi A. Taman, Elmira V. Tarin
Auditor-Controller - Lupo B. Cortez
Beaches & Harbors - Lee A. Dante
Board of Supervisors - John F. Gilligan
California Children's Services - Anita I. Villafranco, Lawrence Williams
Chief Executive Office - John Ramirez
Child Support Services - Dolores M. Chappell, James R. Crum, Claudia A. Figueroa, Gloria J. Fluker, Irene Lopez, Brenda Montoya, Steven Rivera, Furline A. Rucker, Beatriz E. Sanchez, Alicia V. Uranga
Children & Family Services - Elyse C. Campbell, Velma J. Caradine, Jeff D. Cekovich, Rutha M. Coleman Smith, Robin L. Cooper, Hortencia De La Rosa, Louis W. Foster, Caroline T. Galvan, Salvador Garcia, Sandra Joyce Grand, Magdalena B. Kadir, Arthur W. King, Mary R. La Motte, Charles A. Marshall, Agnes D. McKay, Jeffrey T. Murphy, Ernest Pappas, Carolyn L. Pyles, Margaret L. Roman, Frances Young
Citrus Municipal Court - Evelyn R. Smith
Communications - Gerald R. Crawford, William B. Thompson
Compton Municipal Court - Helen M. Krueger
Consumer Affairs - Murl Gholar
County Counsel - Steven R. Klaf
District Attorney - Raymond J. Byrne, Stella Carrasco, Tommy C. Simpson, Brian B. Torsney
East L.A. Municipal Court - Nancy J. Mittelman
Engineer Facilities - Ivan M. Bullum, Kenneth E. King, Shih C. Lee, William E. Rodall, Arthur Snyder, Kenneth A. Yates
Fire - William Richard Baker, Ralph Bommelje, Ronald D. Brisco, Frank R. Brown, Raymond L. Brown, Roy E. Burlson, Frank G. Burton, Bobbie Cahoon, Vincent E. Canales, Lon L. Caskey, Tommy L. Cook, Paul E. Dietrich, Herman H. Gedney, George Hemmingsen, Larry P. Jacobs, Leonard N. Julian, Vincent Martinez III, Earl E. Parker, Lynn O. Parks, Gene C. Pennington, Jerry Don Reed, Paul T. Secor, Myles A. Smith, Frederick Vega, Monte J. Wanamaker, Jack N. White, Richard L. Willeford, Lester E. Wolfe
Flood Control District - Clyde H. Thomas
Harbor/UCLA Medical Center - Marilyn E. Barajas, Annie P. Bowers, Dorothy Clements, Sandra E. Cox, Ethel M. Dilworth, Ronald E. Fickenworth, Samuel W. French, Edmund Galabit, Mary Hale, Marian C. Ho, Mabel Holland, Maxine Hughes, Catalina Israel, Lillie D. Jensen, Melvin V. Jones Jr., Kathleen J. Lazok, In Jeong Lee, Selina W. Lee, Patricia Loughran, Alissa C. Martinez, John W. Mebane Jr., Martha Miramon, Martha Serra, Jean Simmons, Ida B. Steverson, Lee R. Swanson, Gilanie G. Umbrá
Health - Phyllis J. Cazenave
Health Services Administration - Carmen Esparas Alaya, Esther L. Allen, Carmen Astorga, Margarita V. Avina, Fred L. Black, Joyce Clark, Dorothy G. Easley, Minerva Y. Edwards, Maria Cecilia L. Gines, Dolores Maria Goytia, Chiyo Hedani, Anna M. Kronish, Lucy T. Lee, Cesario L. Leyco, George T. Maglasang, Ida Onishi, Maria A. Puente, Susan Robinson-Zir, Ricardo Ruiz, Dorise D. Seid, Sharon Square-Harris, Doris A. Vasquez, Librada M. Vega, Robert Washington, Kenneth E. Wood
Internal Services - Jessie Cerda, Donald Bernard, Bruce V. Churchill, Valerie E. Clark Willia, Carolyne S. Collins, Virginia D. Del Rosario, Wesley S. Gray, Clifford Green, Joseph T. Guerrero, Kenneth K. Kurisu, Carolyn Madsen, Eddie Medellin, Grace Mori, Frank A. Rogers, Victor Sayson, Virgilio R. Tandoc, Gary Zaslove
Juvenile Court Health Services - Duc H. Nguyen, Ludivina Risos
King-Drew Medical Center - Bertha L. Jordan, Theresa Peola Bucknor, Lloyd J. Daron, Fredesvinda F. Diaz, Merilyn C. Edwards, Ruth E. Evans, John E. Gibson, James G. Houghton, Mildred C. Neal, Samrauy Petchthong, Efen Juarez Rodriguez, Emily K. Smith, Krystle C. Talbott, Essie M. Ward
LAC+USC Medical Center - Elizabeth Aello, Ruby Aklamakpe, Johnny A. Burton, Aura E. Campos, Carlos L. Cano, Elkanah Carter, Debbie Chen, Suebretta Clay, Adelina D. Contreras, Eloisa Corona, Leonardo Creencia, Ernestine Duran, Petronella G. Fecken, Aurelio Flores, Jo E. Floyd, Peter Fong, Ramon R. Francisco, Lucille J. Frear, Hortencia Gallegos, Madelon L. George, Maribel Gonzalez, Signe P. Green, Anita Guerrero, Lemuel J. Haywood, Maria Mercedes Hernandez, Zephyr Holloway, Pauline P. Jackson, Mable Jones, Robert Bu Khoo, Thomas E. Kurfess, Cynthia Licup, Martha E. Madrigal, Bertrand Martin, Mary L. McKeever, Carlos Mendez, Adelina Meza, Sylvia S. Mitchell, James H. Monroe, Albert H. Niden, Veronica T. Olaniyan, Jose Olivo, Norman Ornelas, Nancy M. Outland, Helen V. Phillips, Michele Raffle, Tyrell L. Richmond, Margaret H. Riegert, Lawrence J. Rochino, Silas Serrano, Annie Doris Sharpe, Clara M. Smith, Lucille G. Smith, Reynaldo Solis, James Stuart, Isabel S. Urias, Fannie M. Voldase, Helen Marie Williams, Louise Williams, Carmen M. Zavala
LACERA - Marvin W. Conant Jr., David J. Dover, Marian F. Friedline
Mechanical - Edward R. Gilmore, Waldo E. Henderson, James H. Watkins
Medical Examiner-Coroner - Richard D. Grijalva
Mental Health - Noemi Contreras, Joel Foxman, Kathy L. Irvin, Carolyn M. Kuttim, Elizabeth C. Morrison, Robert W. Norman, Richard B. Rosenstein, Dixie L. Ryan, Masao Tsuru, Helen L. Washington
Museum of Art - Jerry Knox
Museum of Natural History - Romeo T. Julaton
Office of Public Safety - Ernest Calvary, Alex Gay Jr.
Olive View/UCLA Medical Center - Martha Bamer, Herbert Lewis Barnum, Aurora Bertulfo, Jesse S. Cabrera, Tessie A. Escobar, Ecaterini Gaitanou, Wilda Jean Hedges, Misako Hirata, Young S. Kwon, Tijuana C. Lusby, Lorraine Murrell, Lynn D. Salvador, Katherine H. Wantig
Parks and Recreation - David Lopez, Lucille O. Clark-Smith, Jack Harwood Stewart, Marvin D. Thomley, Lionel Wesley
Probation - Susan R. Aaron, Eric L. Armstead, Josephine Bourgeois, Margery J. Brown, Gloria G. Chavez, Arthur Corona, Dorothy L. Hampton, Michael R. Horgan, Jake L. Johnson, John J. Klein, Victor A. Lepisto, Alexander Lilo, Donald S. Mac Alester, Elaine Marks, James M. Metcalf III, Ruel Mizrachi, Esteban Morales Jr., Darius B. Moreland, Dorothy Morgan, Cynthia A. Navarro, Ruby F. Nichols, Maria E. Ramirez, Danethel C. Randolph, Herman R. Rankins, Yvette E. Sims, Timothy B. Starkey, Ernest S. Takemoto, Bettie E. Urbina, Leonard S. Vinluan, Harry L. Warren, Doris J. Whitfield
Public Defender - Carmen M. Torres
Public Health Program - Marvin L. Abeyta, Joseph P. Aguirre, Joseph S. Alexander, Ellen S. Alkon, Arthur Allen, Charles Bell, Robert Bueras, Irene Culver, Maria F. Fajardo, Gracie Franklin, Marjorie Garrett, Bernice Guyton, Bryan A. Hill, Nancy Keller, Gloria C. Lipps, Anne V. Moacanin, Jimedel C. Molde, Ernia M. Naylor, Betty J. Price, Norma Robles, Simon Russin, Bobbie J. Sanders, Yoshiko Sawasaki, Carlton J. Swanson
Public Library - Angelina Cervantes, Lillian P. Cotner, Martha C. Dodson, J. Holcomb, Norma Luisa Montero, Nancy L. Paige, Lauha V. Taal, Evelyn Taylor
Public Social Services - Lesliean Abeyta-Zambr, Jeremy Simon Addams, Gladys Alvez, Elizabeth S. Ambrose, Suzette Branson, Michael D. Buncley, Robert Dale Daniels, Gloria R. Davies, Richard Devin, Gail M. Dickens, Clara M. Eizmendi, Aldo F. Falcinella, Christine M. Gastelum, Irma Grimaldi, Anne P. Hagopian, Emory Hall, Kathryn K. Hanafusa, Barbara A. Horan, Lorraine E. Hughes, Kim Hy, Cateria Denise Jones, Marguerite Jungles, Jo R. Lablanc, Traci D. Lang, Algertie Lee, Joseph P. Lewandowski, Lucy Lish, Richard G. Lottridge, Rosalina M. Malgapo, Carole Faye Mc Nulty, Aziza Mikhail, Jose Moline, Maria A. Morales, Robert Murillo, Delia Murillo, Doris J. Nunley, Dorothy A. O'Hara, Algje P. O'leary, Geraldine J. Packard, Ana Paiz, Ronsard Prom, Steven M. Rabins, Veronica G. Randall, Mario A. Robles, Michael Robles, Francisco Saavedra, Elizabeth K. Serey, Marilyn J. Shepherd-Leake, Dorothy Marie Silva, Tsagik M. Simonian, Donald Smith, Victor T. Suos, Zao N. Tran, Jared C. Tyler Sr., Miguel Valentin, Anna P. Vaughn, Gene H. Warner, Diane Wasserman, Mabel J. Wesley, Shigeko Yokota
Public Works - Juan Ayala, Edward L. Bertig, Carlos Briseno, Angie Cano, Pete Contreras, Kenneth O. Fix, Norman R. Gillan, Guillermo E. Huerta, Gary A. Hughes, Richard Y. Karasawa, Leon E. Kimbell, Daniel J. Koss, Jan Chong Lew, Roger W. Mc Clure, William O. McConnell, Mario G. Ramirez, Yag D. Sarin, David T. Sheldon, Michael T. Shelton, Henry L. Taylor Jr., Vincent F. Varia, Gary E. Wallick
Rancho Los Amigos Hospital - A. D. Adams, Carrie B. Alford, Beverly J. Buckley, Johnny J. Garcia, Nenita Hansberger, Ida M. Henderson, Somboon Intrachoot, Stanley L. Johnson, Samuel Lo, Wayne M. Meinberg, Peter D. Pena, Betty J. Philson, Erika B. Ponce, Jose S. Sanchez, Melvin Smith, Cleora Stroud, Elizabeth Thompson
Regional Planning - David N. Young
Reg.-Recorder/County Clerk - Robert J. Aubuchon, Levertis Barnes Sr., Margarite E. Brown, Richard M. Escalante, Peggy H. Ho, Sharon Jones, Helen Mc Alister, Dennis Mc Craven, Irene M. Standard, Gayle L. Willis
Sheriff - Leticia A. Acevedo, Vito R. Adragna, Jack M. Anderson, Joseph Baclawski, Phillip J. Barragan, Manfred E. Bartsch, Russell J. Bezette, John L. Biard, Donald J. Bonthron, Richard J. Bowles Jr., Phillip L. Bullington, Louise Calhoun, Santiago R. Carrillo, Linda L. Castellucci, Roberto H. Castro, Edward E. Clark Jr., Leonard J. Cournoyer, Harold C. Fife, Donald Garcia, Ruben A. Gracia, Cynthia R. Grundy, John H. Guise, Charles E. Haskell, Pearl F. Holloway, Sandra S. Hutchens, Ronald Kliewer, Jesus P. Lima Jr., Melissa S. Lysholm, John S. Mac Quarrie, Kenneth A. Main, Ruth Martinez, Ronald Peter Mc Cabe, Gary S. McAuliffe,

Reflections:

In Memoriam continued from p.14

Richard E. Miller, Joseph C. Monarrez, Daniel Morales, Michael Dean Morton, Charles Murray, Melquiades Ortiz, Joseph W. Pace, Frederick T. Paddock, Michael D. Papp, Vivian A. Parker, Walter O. Phillips, Thomas E. Pigott, Jeffrey R. Plough, Julieta A. Reyno, Daniel P. Rikalo, Esther Marquez Rios, Leroy Robinson, Steve Salazar, Yvonka L. Sanders, George M. Sandoval, Robert J. Shepherd, Jack W. Shine, Harold J. Slagle, Dale E. Smith, James W. Smith, John H. Smith, Jack L. Snyder, Timothy D. Tellez, Jeffrey C. Tibbetts, Robert G. Turner, Agnes Z. Vergara, Thomas M. Vetter, Justin S. Walter, Herbert R. Wielkie, Earl H. Young

So. Cal Air Pollution Control - Jose Velasco

South Bay Municipal Court - Jeanne K. Marinkovich

South Coast Air Quality Mgmt. - Jeanette R. Silva

Superior Court/County Clerk - Norvel Armor, Sergio Cafaro, Jose A. Cancel, Bernice Cumming, Katherine M. Davis, Oscar Davis, Alfred H. Elliott, Daniel Felix, Joel Franco, Mila J. Gorecho, Lois Hines, Kathy A. Houston, Richard K. Kiel, Sydney Lawrence, Judith H. Leff, Clinton H. Moore, Verna E. Morsey, Binh X. Nguyen, Bertha G. Peralta, Carmen Rivera, Catherine Mary R. Rossitto, Patricia A. Selegue, Joseph A. Skorich, Gladys L. Tennille, Felix Tobin

Treasurer/Tax Collector - Harold Anthony Bean'e, Alice S. Kodama, J. A. Patel, Janice Stoglin

Women's Hospital - Marina Luz Motts

Workforce Dev., Aging & Comm. Svc. - Rachel Luera, Theodore G. Lumpkin Jr., Mary K. Maxwell, Hadassah M. Snider

Unidentified County Agency - Alicejane Adams, Raymond C. Miller, Jorge Saavedra, Marie M. Wahnschaffe



On Impending Death

When we learned in September 2020 that RELAC member Bill Yaney, a retiree of the Community and Senior Services Department, was terminally ill, we invited him to write something for the newsletter. He declined, but said:

"Thanx for your offer to publish something I might write, but I don't think so at this time. Just warn the smokers out there COPD is waiting for them and it ain't fun not being able to breath, something we all take for granted, but don't do that to yourself or your loved ones. They deserve better after being a partner for 40 years! They suffer along with you as you slowly expire breath by breath.

Best wishes to you and all the folks at RELAC. You provide retired County staff so much support and information as to what's going on in County government and we thank you so much. I'd like to wrap my arms around all of you and give you a great big hug. With thanx of appreciation."

Bill sent an e-mail to friends on Sept. 2 to let them know of his situation:

"As you may know, I've had COPD and my breathing has gone way down. Out of breath just walking from the back door to the front door. When I do that, I then have to sit for 10 minutes to get my breath back again. It's getting worse and worse so Kaiser has now set me up on their home hospice care program. The nurse was here today and spent a lot of time with Sammy, explaining what that program was all about. Sounds good with medical visits and special phone numbers to call 24/7 and a hospital bed. That was delivered this afternoon and we had them set it up in the family room just steps away from the computer and going the other direction, steps away from the bathroom. I'm looking forward to seeing my mother, sister, Uncle Nate and Uncle Dale on the other side. You all have been very special to me for many years and I love you for it. Take care and best wishes for a long life...Bill

P.S.: Don't get me wrong, I ain't checking out in the next few days. Still got to get Trump reelected!"

Bill, an avid Trump fan, almost made it to the election. He died Oct. 29.

About six weeks before letting friends know of his impending death, Bill sent this note at 1:37 a.m.:

Hello Out There. Just another one of those sleepless nights for this 78-year-old guy. My partner of 40 years and our two little dogs are sound asleep upstairs and here I lay wide awake with a couple of hours sleep and, based on my history, will be wide awake 'til the crack of dawn. The sun arriving, announcing a new day, seems to be the sleeping aid that I need to welcome slumber land once again. In the meantime, I lay here doing my Marcel Proust number of "Remembrances of Things Past."

Tonight's remembrance is the trip on a freighter from Norfolk, Va. to Genoa, Italy. I had just earned my MA and it was time to travel and experience the world off campus... soon discovered a very different world. As the ship nears the Straits of Gibraltar, it becomes a race with other ships all sailing through those narrow straits. Only one ship at a time can go through there, so consequently the ships line up, waiting their turn to traverse this very narrow passageway into the heart of Europe. Since time is money in the shipping industry, first arrivals at the straits saves the company a lot of money. Being idle outside and waiting is very costly to them. Well, we made it there and was first or second in line to go through these famous straits. Sunrise and we begin the journey through the Straits of Gibraltar...very exciting event for me as I grew up in rural Ohio with parents who did not graduate from high school because they had to go to work. Here I am on a ship sailing the waters between Africa and Europe and it suddenly hits me! Where else in the world can a farmer's kid do what I was doing. So damn lucky to be born in the USA was my thought as I walked from one side of the bridge of the ship and seeing Spain across the bridge to the other side of the ship and see Africa...what a marvelous country we live in and the opportunities here to do what I was doing. I was ready for my amazing adventure that is just life itself!

Well, I've rambled on for long enough and my coffee at 1 a.m. in the morning is now cold. Time for it to hit the microwave for a few seconds. Then I hear my game site calling me with the updated games. Pogo.com changes them every night at midnight.

Love and appreciate all of you. Hope I haven't bored you with my ramblings, but I've had a good life! Love and Hugz, Old Bill

Ellen Alkon continued from p.12

willingness to do anything needed for the County."

Alkon was preceded in death by her husband, who died in January 2020, and eldest daughter, Kathy, who died in 2008. She is survived by daughters Cynthia Alkon and Margaret Alkon (Jonathan Marshall).

Sarah Flores continued from p.12

in Fontana after several falls. Her eldest daughter, Jeannette, continued to live in Glendora and Flores often stayed with her. Her daughter Yvonne and her entire family also came down with COVID-19.

Early in her retirement Flores used to take her pre-school-age grandchildren with her to deliver "Meals on Wheels", which Erickson said may have been part of activities at St. Dorothy's Catholic Church, where she attended Mass every morning.

Ted Lumpkin continued from p.13

national non-profit organization. He was a national board member, western regional representative and Los Angeles Chapter president. He served as a board member of the Tuskegee Airmen Scholarship Foundation (TASF), beginning in 2007, raising thousands of dollars for scholarships, targeting financially and academically deserving underserved students.

Those who wish to make tax deductible contributions to TASF in Lumpkin's memory may do so online at www.taisf.org or by mail: Tuskegee Airmen Scholarship Foundation, Bob Hope Patriotic Hall, 1816 S. Figueroa St., Suite L-5, Los Angeles, CA 90015.



**RETIRED EMPLOYEES
of LOS ANGELES COUNTY**
1000 South Fremont Ave. Unit 15
Alhambra, CA 91803-8802

Return Service Requested

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #66
PASADENA, CA

WHERE ARE YOU?

We continue our efforts to locate RELAC members for whom we have no current address, phone number, or e-mail address. If you have information on these members, please contact us at (800) 537-3522 or admin@relac.org.

From California: Charles Anderson, Santa Cruz; Joanne Bailey, Stevenson Ranch; Linda Barton, Indio; Mary Ann Barry, San Clemente; Jacqueline Burchiere, Indio; Belinda Drabek, Riverside; Rosie Jones, Lancaster; Jack Keath Jr., Lancaster; Nicoli Lopez, Tehachapi; Janice Henegan Lyons, Los Angeles; Genaro Mates, Los Angeles; Orville Mc Collom, Oakhurst; Margaret Mountain, Corona; Virginia Mouzakis, El Segundo; Yolanda Navarro, Walnut.

From Arizona: Fullmer Chapman, Fort Mohave; Albert German, Mesa; Please Laster, England; Leland Mathis, Queen Creek; Ruth Williams, Dewey.

From Nevada: John Di Matteo, Henderson; Nancy Dineen, Dayton; Joan Garrott, Joan Olson, and Carle Stewart, all of Las Vegas.

From Oregon: Richard Dandrea, Roseburg; Michael Galvin, Sheridan; Alice Richardson, Central Point.

From Washington: Robert Bauder, Ocean Shores; Michael Garofalo, Vancouver; Sue Ann Nikolenko, Spokane.

And from various states: Manuel Agramonte, Houston, Texas; Carlton Branch, Newport News, Virginia; Betty Brewer, Salt Lake City, Utah; Thelma Brown, Tulsa, Oklahoma; Heinz Cuvelier, Provo, Utah; Burton Denmark, Fort Collins, Colorado; Cheryl Myers, Fayetteville, North Carolina; William Nelson, Ozark, Missouri.

Saluting RELAC Donors

*by Evelyn Gutierrez, Chair
Community Support Committee*

On behalf of the RELAC Board of Directors, a big "Thank You" for your continued support and donations to our community special projects. Your support truly makes a difference to low-income families, the fight against hunger and medical research focused on the premature birth of at-risk babies.

March for Babies 2020 Campaign Update

Los Angeles County Top Teams
Public Social Services - \$30,912

RELAC - \$12,355
Public Works - \$8,252

Los Angeles County Top Five Walkers

Joe Kelly - RELAC - \$6,315

Carol Williams - Registrar-Recorder - \$3,889

Sung Lee - Child Support Services - \$2,734

Evelyn Gutierrez - RELAC - \$2,421

Linda Hopkins - RELAC - \$1,591

LA Regional Food Bank 2020 Campaign Update

As of Feb. 1, RELAC members have donated \$17,375 to help fight hunger in Los Angeles County. Food Bank partnerships with various County departments have provided low-income families, the homeless and families unemployed due to COVID-19 with much-needed food. Your generosity is sincerely appreciated and underscores that County retirees remain connected and supportive of those in need.

If you wish to donate, please send a check made payable to LA Regional Food Bank to the RELAC office or donate online by visiting the RELAC website. We also thank those who wish to honor Cesar Chavez by making a donation in his honor.

Fire Department: Spark of Love Toy Donations Update

Toy donations and teen gifts were delivered to local fire stations during the month of December. Firefighters expressed their appreciation for RELAC's support and toy donations, especially for unemployed families impacted by COVID-19. Your donations of unwrapped toys and teen gifts made the holidays special for many families.



RELAC Director Don Fandry delivering toys.

IMPORTANT!
*Are you moving?
Did you change your
name, address or
e-mail address?*

Cut out the address portion of this newsletter, correct it and mail to:

RELAC
1000 S. Fremont Ave.,
Unit 15 Alhambra, CA
91803-8802 or
Phone:
(800) 537-3522
(626) 308-0532
Fax: (626) 308-2901
Email:
admin@relac.org
website:
www.relac.org

Note: It is important that you mail this to RELAC or contact RELAC by phone as we DO NOT receive your address change from LACERA.