



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

# RELAC newsletter

Your Pension and Health Care Watchdog

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Nov/Dec 2022 Vol 57-6

## President's Message

by Brian Berger

When I last wrote, I was worried that we might not be able to have the scheduled live Annual Recognition Luncheon. It feels good now to say that we did and it was a fun-filled, noisy event with lots of time for recognition and story-telling among all of us. In addition, we had a great Dodger Night on Sept. 23 with 180 of you gathering at Dodger Stadium. I was out of town for a family get-together so had to miss what turned into a historic night with Albert Pujols hitting home runs 699 and 700, even though the Dodgers lost the game. From what I've heard of that night from many of you, it was also a happy gathering time for all who made it. You will find better summaries as you read through this newsletter, plus announcements of other things to come.

One thing you will also find reassuring is the report on the financial status of the County's pension system, especially when compared to other large public systems, including CALPERS. When we read, see or hear information on various news sites, it can be upsetting to see the financial challenges facing many of these large public systems. For LACERA to stay essentially even, especially in this time of downturns, is a tribute to the staff there and a source of relief for each of us.

As I say each time, if you have the capacity, take some time getting familiar with our website at [relac.org](http://relac.org). It has a wider range of information and services available. It also gives you a way to check on scheduled future activities as you plan your lives. The RELAC office has also been getting an increase in calls and e-mails from those of you who have a question or two. Those contacts also help all of us become aware if there is an issue that needs to be immediately researched, referred, and corrected, if necessary. The website is also a way to continue with your financial help for the scholarships, March of Dimes March for Babies, and the food bank programs. You have helped enormously in the past, as has been and will continue to be referenced in the newsletter, but the needs continue. It was nice to see and to hear one of the scholarship winners and her RELAC sponsor at the Recognition Luncheon.

The end of summer and an environment without most, if not all, of the health restrictions removed will make the coming months interesting, and for many of us, more adventurous. My wife and I look at each other and ask, "Are we going to get a return of the trick-or-treaters?"

It is with a heavy heart that I need to tell you that we at RELAC mourn the sudden death of Board member Evelyn Gutierrez on Oct. 4. Please see article on this page on Evelyn and her many accomplishments.



## RELAC Director Gutierrez Dies Unexpectedly

by Judy Hammond, Newsletter Editor

Evelyn Gutierrez, a member of the RELAC Board of Directors since 2016, died unexpectedly on Oct. 4. She was found unresponsive in her San Dimas home by a personal aide who arrived at 4 p.m. The cause of death was not known at the time the newsletter went to press. However, she had been in contact with the RELAC office several times earlier in the day and had not indicated she was not feeling well.



Gutierrez, 79, was director of workplace programs and marketing in the Chief Executive Office when she retired in 2003, a position she had held the last 15 years of her 35-year County career.

She was appointed to the RELAC Board on April 5, 2016 to fill the unexpired term of Martin Golds, who retired due to health reasons. The term expired that December and Gutierrez won election to the seat. She was reelected in 2020 and recently was reelected to a new term, which would have begun Jan. 1, 2023.

Two years ago the Board of Directors elected her to serve on the Executive Committee as secretary, and she was reelected to that position again in 2022. She served as chair of the Special Events, Community Support, and Membership Outreach committees.

"Evelyn was one of the hardest working and most dedicated people I have ever encountered," said RELAC President Brian Berger. "She leaves a tremendous void, both personally and professionally, within RELAC and within her many charitable endeavors at large."

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## LACERA v. County Board of Supervisors Lawsuit Heads to Trial with RELAC's Assistance

by Dave Muir and Bobbie Fesler  
RELAC Directors

LACERA's lawsuit against the County and the Board of Supervisors is set for trial Nov. 22 in Department 85 of the Stanley Mosk Courthouse in Los Angeles.

We have previously reported on the specifics of the lawsuit. Briefly, LACERA is asking the court to stop the County and the Board of Supervisors from interfering with LACERA's efforts to hire professional-level employees to invest the nearly \$72 billion pension fund and to perform other critical functions. LACERA's trustees (board members), which include RELAC Directors Les Robbins and J.P. Harris, have a fiduciary duty to govern the pension system with the care and skill that professional trustees are charged with in similar situations. The failure to do so exposes LACERA board members to financial liability for breaching their fiduciary duty owed to the beneficiaries of the system.

At the request of LACERA's attorneys, RELAC Director Dave Muir, who served as LACERA chief counsel prior to retirement, has provided a declaration to support LACERA's legal argument that the County Board of Supervisors (1) has no authority to second guess the judgment of

*Continued on p. 5*

# News From LACERA

by JJ Popowich  
Assistant Executive Officer

Hello, everyone! Here we are at the end of 2022 already! I hope you enjoyed the fall season and weren't badly impacted by the terrible wildfires we experienced in California and throughout the greater West. As I write this at the end of September, we are at the—fingers crossed—tail end of the final heat wave of the year and closing in on Halloween.



Now on to the non-spooky stuff! I'm excited to fill you in on the latest news plus the latest improvements we have made to LACERA services—there's a lot to report! In my last article, I mentioned that the County COVID transmission level had triggered our return to remote work in July. Fortunately, we were able to return to the office at the end of August. This mostly seamless ability to transition between onsite and offsite work is an important part of our business continuity capabilities and is possible due to the technological advancements authorized by our boards and executive team and implemented by our hardworking systems team.

I also discussed last issue how we are working hard to address service issues. One of our biggest priorities this year has been meeting the demand in our Call Center and bringing the wait times down. I'm happy to report a couple of major steps forward in achieving that.

In August, we went live with our My LACERA Support queue, which expedites service for members who need help logging into and/or using My LACERA. When calling the main LACERA number, you can now choose from the numbered prompts to quickly be connected with a specialist for help with forgotten passwords, account lockouts, trouble uploading documents, and other My LACERA technical issues. The new support queue has been an instant success, handling about 80-90 calls per day, which reduces the wait time for those in our main queue.

We also assigned additional staff on a temporary basis to the Call Center. These two efforts have reduced wait times in the main member services call queue by 15 minutes on average! Along with that impressive stat, our staff members are handling an increased number of calls and we are seeing a reduced number of abandoned calls. I'm also excited to share that we have two classes of retirement benefits specialists who are set to graduate this fall and winter, and this will allow us to address some of the staffing issues we've been dealing with. We are already recruiting for our next class, which will start in March or April of next year.

As of the end of September, we are also set to deploy new wait-time and callback features, which will be available by the time you read this. The next time you call

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## Board of Retirement

by Les Robbins, RELAC Director,  
LACERA Board of Retirement Trustee



### STAR COLA Will be Enacted in 2023

Our pension law has a very nice benefit, a type of financial safety net that we may see enacted for the first time in quite a while and it is called the Supplemental Targeted Cost-of-Living Allowance or commonly referred to as the STAR COLA.

This benefit is designed to keep the original buying power or value of your pension at no less than 80% of its original value. So, when due to inflation, the original value of your pension falls below 80%, this benefit kicks in and makes up the difference.

As you all know, we do get a cost-of-living adjustment each April that is based on the CPI for the previous year. Fortunately, for a very long time, inflation has been negligible. In the latter half of 2022 we saw that change for the first time in nearly 30 years. Because of the current inflation rate, our cost-of-living adjustments have been unable to allow retirees to keep up with inflation, thus causing some retirees to fall below the 80% threshold. Because Plan A members, both safety and general, get a maximum 3% COLA each year, they will not be impacted by the STAR COLA benefit. Because all other plans only get a maximum 2% COLA each April, this is who the STAR COLA benefit will impact.

At the Oct 6 meeting the Board of Retirement approved the benefit on a permanent basis at an annual cost of \$2,467,000. Those affected will be notified and will see the benefit when they get their annual COLA in April.

## Investment

### Board

by Joseph Kelly  
LACERA Board of Investments  
Trustee



The Pension Trust's investment return for fiscal year end 2022 was positive .1%, significantly better than its benchmark, which was down -4.6%. (A benchmark is a standard or measure that is used to analyze the allocation, risk, and return of a given portfolio.) By comparison, CalPERS' preliminary net return for the same period was -6.1%, and CalSTRS's was -1.3%. It was a tough year in which we faced volatile global financial markets, geopolitical instability, domestic interest rate hikes, and inflation – all which had an impact on returns. Nevertheless, Jon Grable, LACERA's chief investment officer, and his team returned a positive performance, significantly outperforming the Pension Trust's benchmark. Congratulations to LACERA's Investment Office for a job well done! You can find historic returns in the chart at the end of this article.

The Board of Investments (Board) held a two-day strategic planning session in Long Beach in September. I always enjoy these offsites and especially enjoyed this year's session. Among other topics, we discussed investment opportunities related to energy transition, real estate opportunities, and the impact of technology on operations. The Board also reviewed its investment beliefs, published in 2016. Many thanks to all LACERA staff who worked very hard on this planning offsite.

The Board has held virtual meetings since the start of the pandemic. At a recent meeting, the Board approved a framework in which those trustees who feel comfortable doing so can return to the boardroom at LACERA's offices beginning in November. However, the Board will maintain a virtual option for those trustees who may not be comfortable doing so. I intend to return to the boardroom, and I look forward to seeing staff and my fellow trustees again.

LACERA Pension Fund		July 2022	Total Assets: \$72.6 billion	
Returns	FYTD	3 year:	5 year:	10 year:
	+ 3.3%	+ 9.6%	+ 8.6%	+ 8.8%

## Holiday Meals Needed

The LA Regional Food Bank recently notified its partners and donors of the urgent and increased need for hot meals during the upcoming Thanksgiving and holiday season.

With the continued generosity and caring support of our RELAC members, the Regional LA Food Bank and its partners will be scheduling holiday meals at various locations on Nov. 21, 24, 25 and 26, and during the 2022 holiday season.

For updated information, call (323) 234-3030 or visit the RELAC website to make a donation to the RELAC 2022 Food Drive campaign.

# RELAC Resumes Annual Recognition Luncheon

by Evelyn Gutierrez, Special Events Committee



RELAC veteran members



Linda Hopkins, March of Dimes executive Velma Brooks-Benson, Brian Berger



Marcia Mayeda



Door prize winner Robert deLeon



Drawing winner Sylvia Bratincevic



Scholarship winner Elliott Hull, his mother, Kim, Linda Hopkins



RELAC staff and directors



Scholarship winner Alyssa Wightman and family



Dodge tickets winner Diane Rodriguez



County executives with RELAC president Brian Berger

Dino, Marcia Mayeda's dog



Following a two-year absence, the RELAC Annual Recognition and Awards Luncheon was held at the Almansor Court in Alhambra on Aug. 10 with over 170 in attendance.

RELAC President Brian Berger introduced keynote speaker Marcia Mayeda, director of the County Animal Care and Control Department, who provided a PowerPoint presentation and relevant information on the benefits of pets on seniors and an aging population. Berger praised Mayeda's leadership, saying she has developed the department "into a nationally recognized leader in animal welfare, providing a full range of senior services and pet adoption services."

A special welcome was delivered by Berger to attending County officials and LACERA representatives, including: Keith Knox, treasurer-tax collector and public administrator; Ricardo Garcia, public defender; Jeremy Gray, chief deputy, Registrar-Recorder; Chief Margarita Velazquez, representing Sheriff Alex Villanueva; and Alina Borke, representing Parks and Recreation Director Norma Garcia.

Recognition awards were presented by Velma Brooks-Benson, March of Dimes regional executive, to RELAC as a top 2022 March for Babies Team. RELAC Vice President Linda Hopkins presented 2022 scholarship awards to Alyssa Whitman and Elliott Hull.

Closing the fun and enjoyable reunion luncheon, special guest therapy dog Dino was presented with a RELAC cap as he assisted with the presentation of door prizes, as members danced to the music of the Bobby Z Band.

*Happy Birthday, RELAC Centenarians*

## November

Martha J. Choi, 102, Coroner  
William D. Collins, 104, USC Medical Center  
Isabel Estrada, 104, Health Services  
Xuan Can Nguyen-Phuc, 101, Public Social Services  
Nellie Smith, 101, Health Services  
Norville W. Smith, 104, Probation  
Davidson V. Turner, 101, Sheriff  
Edna M. Wagstaff, 102, Assessor  
Darlene E. Wright, 102, Sheriff

## December

Irene B. Baker, 104, John Wesley Hospital  
Jean Benkert, 100, Los Angeles Municipal Court  
Estelle D. Durham, 101, Rancho Los Amigos Hospital  
Mary J. Gardner, 101, Public Works  
Stella M. Johnson, 101, Public Social Services  
Yoshiko Mayekawa, 100, County Engineer  
Dorothy Mayfield, 100, Public Social Services  
Alice H. Nakashima, 101, Treasurer/Tax Collector  
John A. Puz, 101, Public Library  
Carle W. Stewart, 101, Probation  
Myrtle G. Throne, 102, Roads  
Josephine Uttke, 101, Sheriff  
Louis A. Vita, 103, Flood Control District  
Leroy Wilkey, 101, Building Services

*[If you have an upcoming birthday and do not wish your name included in our centenarian list, please notify the RELAC office.]*

# DODGERS WELCOME RELAC

## A Historic Game!

by Evelyn Gutierrez, Special Events Committee

Dodger fans, including RELAC members, in attendance on Friday, Sept. 23 witnessed a historic moment when Albert Pujols hit his 699th home run in the third inning, followed by his 700th in the fourth inning. This historic and emotional event brought the stadium to its feet, including our 180 RELAC members.

Max Muncy, Albert Pujols



This incredible event placed Pujols in the company of three other great athletes: Babe Ruth, Hank Aaron and Barry Bonds.

As this was my first time coordinating this Dodger event for RELAC, I was worried about seating, section location and the location of the Dodger hot dog booth, but comments from RELAC members in attendance were comforting.

Gail LeGros, Board of Supervisors retiree, was among the happy attendees. "These seats are great, so convenient. Great seats," she said.

Drew Davis, Department of Children and Family Services retiree and our top ticket seller, agreed. "These seats are in a great location over home plate. I bought 26 tickets to create a great family reunion, but Pujols made tonight incredible and extremely memorable. Thank you, RELAC, for a great event and my new cap."

New RELAC caps were also presented to the second top ticket seller, District Attorney's Office retiree Alice Lopez (who sold 10 tickets) and third top seller Internal Services Department retiree Frank Barajas (selling nine tickets).

As a special recognition bonus, Dodger executive Bryson Pharis arranged for a large screen "Welcome to RELAC members" message on the diamond vision screen. As a fitting closure, we were treated to great Dodger fireworks. Seats in the ADA section provided a great view and a safe place for mobility challenged members.

Organizational challenges dealing with mobile tickets and iPhone scanning really tested our teamwork skills. Thanks to RELAC staff members Sheila Simpson, Brenda Stephens and Toni Simmons, and the Dodgers' Pharis, we hope our members were not too uncomfortable with a paperless ticketing system. With lessons learned, next year will be much easier to manage.

"Thank you, RELAC Board," said Andrea Carroll, executive director of the County Library Foundation. "We had a great time at the Dodger game! How marvelous to be there for Albert Pujols' home run triumph. And how fitting, in the world of baseball, that an "older adult athlete" achieved such an amazing goal."



Drew Davis



Diamond vision screen welcome

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Aug. - Sept. 2022

**Animal Care & Control** - Joji Cruz

**Assessor** - Linn Hilde

**Child Support Services** - Marsha Johnson

**Children & Family Services** - Nancy Billin, Myrna De La Cruz

**Fire** - Adam Dehart

**Health Services** - Carolyn Contreras, Enrique Garcia, Margaret Latham, Susan Yamamoto

**Internal Services** - Christina Jenson, Alexander Ruiz

**King/Drew Medical Center** - Albenis Draughan

**LAC+USC Medical Center** - Charley Chan Jr., Nancy Herrera-Allen, Teri D. Parry, Debra Wallace

**Mental Health** - Gilberto Garcia-Torres, Bertrand Levesque, Anna Yee

**Parks & Recreation** - Timothy Lindsay

**Probation** - Deidra W. Blanton, James A. Blanton, Jacqueline Evans, Henry Frierson, Elizabeth Ramos, Cheryl Jackson Wilson

**Public Social Services** - Angela Dominguez, Darnell King, Margarita Santistevan, Seyfollah Sharghi, Clara Smith

**Public Works** - Tom Eng, Mark Steuer

**Rancho Los Amigos Hospital** - Robert Boucher, Crystal Alexander

**Sheriff** - Harry Avellaneda, Katherine Broussard, Denise Fuchs, William Hascher, Richard Hirsch, Scott Ponder, Patricia Torres, Lorraine C. Yee

**Dept. Not Designated** - Bobby Asberry, Phan Vuong

**New Associate Members** - Herlinda Asberry, Arman Bastani, Lennard Billin, Julie Boucher, Gloria Laci-Chan, Marguerite Lindsay, Michele Ponder, Timothy Roth

*New member Howard Byas was listed in the September-October newsletter as a retiree of the Department of Children and Family Services. He is a Probation Department retiree.*

Our thanks to these 10 RELAC members (shown in bold) who recruited colleagues (shown in italic) during September and October 2022.

**Juliet Abdelshehid**, Linn Hilde, Assessor

**Paul Aldredge/Michael Edwards**, Elizabeth Ramos, Probation

**Jean Copes**, Katherine Broussard, Sheriff

**Darlene Cravea**, Angela Dominguez, Public Social Services

**Selena Mc Curdy**, Myrna De La Cruz, Children & Family Services

**Beverly Padril**, Nancy Herrera-Allen, LAC+USC Medical Center

**Sylvia Ramos**, Alexander Ruiz, Internal Services

**Les Robbins**, Denise Fuchs, Sheriff

**Mark Santistevan**, Margarita Santistevan, Public Social Services



Alice Lopez



Frank Barajas



Evelyn Gutierrez, Kim Fuentes, Sophia, Bryson Pharis



Jackie Guevarra, Phil Ow



## What's Happening?

by Evelyn Gutierrez, Chair  
Special Events Committee

The RELAC Board of Directors sincerely wishes you a happy and healthy holiday season. A full range of holiday activities, parades, local events and the traditional Music Center Holiday celebration has been planned for your enjoyment.

The optional wearing of face masks remain a good choice for individuals at risk. The following information is provided for your consideration and attendance. Please check on scheduled dates and locations to ensure your arrival time.

### Nov. 27 – Sunday, Surf City presents Magic on Main Street

Join the Huntington Beach community on Nov. 27 from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. for the Huntington Beach Downtown Main Street parade. Enjoy entertainment, holiday craft booths and FREE refreshments. Call for additional information (800) 729-6232.

### Dec. 3 – Saturday, Palm Springs Festival of Lights Parade

Parade starts at 5:45 p.m. at Palm Canyon Drive and ends at Tamarisk Road. The Festival of Lights is a nighttime event and lasts about 90 minutes. The parade features over 80 entries, giant Macy's-style helium balloons, marching bands and equestrian units. Call to verify parade details (760) 323-8276.

### Dec. 10 -11 – 60th Annual Huntington Harbor Boat Parade

View the traditional holiday decorated boats and new unique entries. Boat line-up at 4 p.m. with parade start at 5 p.m. Call (714) 840-7542 to confirm parade information or visit hhboatparade@gmail.com .

### Dec. 10 – Saturday, Marina Holiday Boat Parade

The traditional fireworks display kicks off the holiday celebration from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Marina del Rey Tournament of Lights, 13967 Marquesas Way #50, Marina del Rey. Call (310) 670-7130. The boat parade features ships decorated with lights, and entertainment. Popular viewing spots include Fisherman's Village or Burton Chace Park. Fireworks by the water scheduled from 5:55 p.m. to 6:05 p.m. Enjoy a spectacular tribute to the holiday season.

### Dec. 24 - L.A. County 2022 Holiday Celebration at the Music Center

Saturday from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Admission FREE to the County's 63rd annual holiday celebration at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, featuring over 20 musical ensembles, choirs, and dance companies from diverse cultures celebrating the diversity of Los Angeles. Parking: FREE in the Music Center parking lot.

Stay safe and socially connected during the holidays. Create great holiday memories with fellow County retirees and friends.

## Efforts to Reform Social Security Windfall Elimination Provision Continue to Stall in Congress

by Dave Muir, RELAC Director

Efforts to repeal the Social Security Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) have been stalled in Congress due to a dispute between those who advocate for all-out repeal and those who urge more limited relief through reform.

The WEP, which adversely affects many of RELAC's members, reduces 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.

An editorial published in "The Voice" newsletter of the Retired State, County and Municipal Employees Association of Massachusetts (Mass Retirees) noted that "National political support does not exist for full repeal." The editorial concludes:

"As retiree advocates, the political reality we face is real. Do we continue to chase rainbows in support of full repeal legislation that has no viable path forward to becoming law or do we choose to focus on the passage of WEP reform legislation, which does have a realistic path to becoming law in 2022. [Efforts in 2023 will continue.]

"While not an easy pill to swallow, to us the choice is clear. We must focus on turning the possible into reality and bring up to \$1,800 a year in relief to the 2 million retirees now harmed by the WEP. This path would also save future retirees from the same fate."

To review the complete editorial, go to RELAC's website at [relac.org](http://relac.org) and click on "legislation."

Mass Retirees, with RELAC's assistance, continues its leadership in advocating for reform of the WEP. A major "call to action" is planned after the November election.

## Lawsuit cont. from p.1

of LACERA when it comes to hiring the personnel needed to properly invest the pension fund and operate the system, and (2) must adopt ordinances to implement LACERA's employment decisions.

Most importantly, RELAC has filed an amicus curiae (friend of the court) brief to support LACERA in the litigation. The brief informs the court of RELAC members' special interest in assuring that the trustees on the LACERA boards have unrestrained authority to apply their professional expertise in investing the pension fund to maximize returns and in operating the system to assure beneficiaries of the pension fund receive the benefits to which they are entitled. As explained to the court, "If the County was allowed to strip away the exclusive right of [our elected representatives] to control the operations of LACERA," the County, rather than the LACERA boards, would control LACERA'S operations, rendering meaningless the statutory right of RELAC's members to elect LACERA board members.

The court pleadings may be viewed on RELAC's website at [relac.org](http://relac.org) under the announcement section.

## RELAC Membership Meeting Set for Jan. 26

by Victoria Pipkin-Lane, Chair  
General Membership Committee

RELAC will hold a general membership meeting Thursday, Jan. 26, 2023 at the Department of Public Works (DPW) headquarters, 900 S. Fremont Ave., Alhambra.

DPW Director Mark Pestrella will welcome RELAC members, who have not had a membership meeting in three years due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The agenda will include two important action items: voting on amendments to RELAC bylaws approved by the Board of Directors and compensation for RELAC directors. Details of the proposals will be published in the January-February newsletter. There also will be a featured speaker discussing issues relevant to retired employees, ranging from health care and wellness to the importance of good nutrition and regular exercise.

Refreshments will be served beginning at 9:30 a.m. and the meeting will begin at 10 a.m. Drawings for a wide range of gifts will take place.

# Letters To The Editor

## Write On!

The nature of my e-mail today involves the Welcome New Members section of the September/October 2022 RELAC newsletter. I retired from the Probation Department on 10/30/2021 after 41 years of service. My dear mother, Dorothy Byas, who retired from Children and Family Services, referred me to RELAC, which I joined. I'm a paying member as such. I'm requesting a correction to the Welcome New Members section of the September/October newsletter, which reflects I retired from Children and Family Services, which is an error. Please correct this issue in the November/December 2022 newsletter. I believe after 41 years of honorable service to the Probation Department as a director, there should be a correction. Please confirm my request has been handled.

**Howard Byas, Florence, Arizona**

[Ed. Note: We apologize for the error and appreciate the notification. We have corrected our records.]

Thank you, thank you for the lovely birthday card, a surprise that meant a lot to me. [It's] good to be remembered. With care and my sincere gratitude.

**Carmen Falcon, Apple Valley, California**

I am always appreciative of receiving birthday greetings from RELAC. This year is especially so because I celebrated my 94th birthday. These greetings always take me back to my career as a social worker in DPSS, MLK Hospital, Homemaker Services, Children's Services, etc. I also served as a supervising social worker and medical social worker consultant. Thank you.

**Marilyn Fisher (AKA Marilyn Weaver), Springfield, Missouri**

Thank you so much for all you do. You really made my day when I received birthday wishes for my 94th!

**Elli De Rosa, Roseville, California**

Please change my address. We moved from California a year ago and now live in Tennessee. I turned 91 in January and would like to receive your holiday cards. Sorry we don't do pictures. Grateful for your help.

**Lucille Brake, Hendersonville, Tennessee**

Thank you so much for reprinting the PBS [Public Broadcasting Service] article about me in your July/August newsletter. Two of my former Probation Department colleagues saw the article and contacted me via RELAC. I cannot begin to tell you how awesome it was to reconnect with these colleagues after 40 years. We were able to meet for lunch and did our best to catch up on 40 years of memories. This would not have happened without your wonderful RELAC newsletter, so thank you from the bottom of my heart.

**Rose Mitchell, Lancaster, California**

Thanks for checking into [the death of former Sheriff's Deputy Ray Marlett]. He was the deputy that was the bailiff in the board room for the Board of Supervisors meetings. I remember Ray – he was a very nice person and I enjoyed our friendship. I'm glad he will get recognition for his time with the Board. And, I commend you for all the work you do with RELAC and the newsletter. Bill and I read it cover to cover to keep up on what is going on with the County.

**Georgette Dame, Ingram, Texas**

(Dame is former executive officer of the Board of Supervisors)

Judy [Hammond], just finished reading your beautiful, loving story of your daughter Sara, Lucky, Cali...whew, brought tears to my eyes. What a blessing your babies were able to be in your home with your daughter and you, spoiling them with love. Amazing how old Lucky 21 years and Cali 20 years, almost holding record for both. I am compassionate for the love of dogs and cats.

**Norma Nieto, Whittier, California**

I want to thank everyone who helped with providing [Dodger Night] tickets to my wife and me. We had not been to a Dodger game in more than two years and we were able to witness Major League Baseball history when Albert Pujols hit his 699th and 700th home runs. It was exciting and this is one Dodger game I will forever remember. Thank you all again!

**Jude Hernandez, Son of Ernie Hernandez – RELAC Event Musician**



### Gutierrez cont. from p.1

His comments were echoed by immediate past president Dave Muir. "Evelyn was one of our most dedicated and committed Board members. This is a great loss to our Board and retirees at large."

The Board of Supervisors honored Gutierrez in 2021 for 18 years of service as a member of the County Quality and Productivity Commission. She was appointed to the commission in 2003 by Supervisor Gloria Molina and later by the Chief Administrative Office following Molina's retirement. The scroll presented by the Board of Supervisors upon her resignation from the QPC in October 2021 cited Gutierrez's role as first vice chair, chair of the Awards Program from 2013-18, and work on the Productivity Investment Board, Leadership Conference, and Strategic Foresight Working Group.

Gutierrez said she was interested in becoming a RELAC director to promote membership, expand activities, and enhance awareness of County services that interest and benefit retirees.

"Los Angeles County and its employees are my second family. My dedication and loyalty to L.A. County has been at the core of my public sector career. I am honored for the opportunity to continue to serve Los Angeles County as a member of RELAC's Board of Directors."

Gutierrez was a devoted County volunteer since her retirement. Besides serving on the Q&P Commission, she was a volunteer at the East Los Angeles Library, where she worked in the bookstore and helped raise funds for children's programs and new books, and coordinated the Cesar Chavez educational program. She was a board member and secretary of the LA County Library Foundation, assisting with corporate fundraising for countywide programs like the Online Homework Help Line. She was also an active member of Saint Thomas Aquinas Church in Monterey Park.

Gutierrez graduated from East Los Angeles College and attended Cal State Los Angeles and Cal Poly Pomona. She is survived by her sister, Deborah Watts.

### RELAC NEWSLETTER

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# Living With Parkinson's Disease

by John Schunhoff, RELAC Member



Schunhoff, left, with husband, Ken

I was diagnosed with Parkinson's almost exactly five years ago, in September 2017. A PD diagnosis is not something which is confirmed by a laboratory test. It's based on the symptoms and the judgment of the doctor.

Looking back, way back, the first symptom which I had, which is sometimes PD-related, is that I lost my sense of smell. It happened gradually, but now about the only thing I can smell is a wood fire. What caused me to start the path to diagnosis was a tremor in my left arm. My internist referred me to a neurologist, who eventually referred me to a "movement disorders" research center. Many of the symptoms of PD could have other causes, so the diagnosis is the judgment of your provider. The cause of PD is also not clear. Occasionally there is a family history. There seem to be various theories on environmental factors, but nothing definitive. In my case, there is no known family history and nothing I can point to environmentally other than working for L.A. County (joke).

The movement disorders doctor who made the diagnosis advised that there were several key elements to living with PD: 1) Carbidopa/Levodopa (the primary drug used for treatment), 2) exercise, exercise, exercise, and more exercise, 3) getting improved sleep, and 4) eating foods rich in vitamin E, not just taking a supplement. I'll describe these in reverse order.

I haven't seen scientific studies which document the role of vitamin E with PD, but I haven't seen any detriments from eating more avocados, papayas, almonds, almond milk, pumpkin seeds, leafy greens, and other foods rich in vitamin E, so I have increased those in my diet.

My sleep is more difficult with PD, so I'm taking melatonin at bedtime, and that seems to help.

In my experience, exercise is really the key to enduring with PD. When I was diagnosed, my husband and I joined the local gym, and started working out with a trainer. My balance (balance is a very big issue for some with PD) and my core strength improved. (There is a scale on which PD is measured, which takes into account various movement and balance factors.) I attribute the exercise with my significant improvement on this scale during the first year. Unfortunately, COVID intervened and in-person training at our gym ceased, so we started training with our trainer virtually via FaceTime. I know this is something many can't afford, but we've prioritized it.

On the other hand, there are other options for exercise. Yoga is good because of the stretching. Swimming is good. Walking is good. Just keep your balance (I use a walking stick when I leave the house, just to make sure I don't fall). If you have Medicare, your provider can authorize some physical therapy visits. Insist that the therapist give you printouts of the recommended exercises so you can try to replicate them. The problem with Medicare for therapy visits is that once you improve and then start to plateau, they don't seem to be able to authorize additional visits.

Carbidopa/Levodopa is an old drug. Despite many clinical trials over the years, this and several related drugs are still the primary mainstays for PD treatment. (I'll leave further discussion of this to the scientists.)

One aspect of PD which I didn't initially recognize is that some people with PD, in addition to making smaller movements, start to speak more softly. I didn't realize I was speaking more softly, but my husband confirmed it, so I began

Judy Hammond (RELAC newsletter editor) asked me to write an article about living with Parkinson's disease (PD). Despite my career in the Departments of Health Services and Public Health, I am not a medical doctor or registered nurse, and I am not an epidemiologist or medical scientist, so this brief article is based entirely on my experience as a person living with PD.

speech therapy. There is a non-profit based in Texas called the Parkinson's Voice Project (PVP) which produces a comprehensive series of exercises in a workbook, and many speech therapists can help you with this curriculum. (The problem, as often, is that if you use Medicare for speech therapy, it may offset the Medicare visits you could have for other therapy.) Another local option is the speech therapy program at California State University at Los Angeles, which trains its graduate students in working with adults with PD and utilizes the PVP curriculum.

Nationally, the Parkinson's Foundation offers a number of online webinars for persons with PD and their caregivers. Locally, the Parkinson's Community Los Angeles (PCLA) offers web information sessions and also what seems to be an increasing number of exercise and other classes online.

What is clear to me is that those of us who live centrally or west in L.A. County have several excellent options for movement disorder centers. It is also clear to me that those PD patients who have a good provider who is not in one of these centers are generally well-served, if that provider can and will refer to others when issues arise since this is a long-term disease, at least, and thankfully, for many.

When I started writing this, I began to explore where and how PD patients in L.A. County who do not live near these centers get their care, and particularly those without Medicare. But, that will have to wait for a subsequent article by me or someone else. If there are any of the services or programs I have described which a RELAC member with PD would like to explore, just contact me at johnschunhoff@gmail.com.

*(John Schunhoff worked for the County for 25 years, including serving as chief deputy of the Public Health Department and interim director of the Health Services Department. He retired in 2012.)*

## Eight County Firefighters Added to California Memorial Wall

This year 82 fallen firefighters were added to the California Fire Foundation Memorial Wall in Sacramento's historic Capitol Park, including eight from Los Angeles County.

The eight are: Firefighter Brian K. Ballentine, Firefighter Specialist Tory Carlon, Capt. Carlos Estrella, Firefighter Jonathan Flagler, Capt. William L. Knott, Firefighter Specialist Samuel C. Neubauer, Capt. Manuel Ramos, and Battalion Chief Mark A. Tolbert.



## Retired Female Deputies Set Bi-Annual Luncheon in Upland

The Retired (L.A. County Sheriff's Department) Female Deputies Social Club is hosting its bi-annual luncheon on Nov. 5 at the La Villa Bella at Historic San Antonio in Upland. Details are available on RELAC's website at relac.org .

# Keeping Up With Retirees

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



Ansell and wife (far right) visit relatives in Italy this summer

## PHIL ANSELL

I came to work for the County in March 1995, after representing social workers in the Department of Children and Family Services and Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) for eight years as a field representative with SEIU Local 535. I spent 19 years in DPSS, the last several as chief deputy. I concluded my County career as the first director of the Los Angeles County Homeless Initiative.

At my retirement celebration on April 1, 2021, I shared the following poem:

### IN PURSUIT OF JUSTICE

From organizing in the streets  
To organizing on the inside,  
I entered the County  
Convinced of the County's power to promote justice.  
As a Jew born into the first generation after the holocaust,  
The call of tikkun olam – repair of the world –  
Was both deafening and self-evident.  
When I entered DPSS, welfare reform evoked fear –  
For poor families and immigrants alike.  
We organized to protect immigrant benefits  
And forged the country's most family-friendly TANF program.  
With Medi-Cal and food stamps outreach,  
CalWORKs, GROW and the ACA,  
DPSS touched more and more lives  
And partnered in more and new ways.  
In a bureaucracy where laughter and beards both felt subversive,  
I struggled to be my whole self  
And to enable others to do the same.  
The wine was sweet, but the bottle narrow.  
When a courageous Board and CEO launched the Homeless Initiative,  
There was the chance to confront the most extreme expression of poverty in new ways  
To gather with partners around new tables  
To open both our minds and our hearts.  
Encountering homelessness evokes our most powerful emotions –  
Fear, anger, compassion, shame, and love.  
We are tempted to flinch, to look away,  
To deny our own feelings and the humanity of our homeless neighbors.  
But in this movement, we don't look away.  
We rely on each other for insight, support, and discernment.  
We listen broadly and deeply, trusting that among us  
The path forward is present, while not being fully visible to any one of us alone.  
We have built a powerful movement  
Supported by the current extraordinary Board of Supervisors.  
We have shown that with additional resources we can bring our homeless neighbors home  
And that without more housing the flow into homelessness will continue to exceed the flow out.  
As the scope of the politically possible  
Has expanded in unimaginable ways in just the last 10 weeks,  
Our movement is poised to spearhead advocacy  
For a Section 8 entitlement in Washington and for ongoing State revenue in Sacramento.  
As I shift from a life focused on doing  
To a life focused on being,  
During this Passover week I reflect on Moses  
Who only saw the promised land from afar.

A day will come when homelessness will  
Land on the trash heap of history where it belongs –  
Along with slavery and other horrors of the past  
Which once seemed natural but are now unthinkable.  
This movement, which we have built together,  
Will carry the torch into the justice of tomorrow.  
I have been blessed that we have walked this path together.

At the end of my first year of retirement, I wrote the following poem, which captures my transition from a life focused on doing to a life focused on being:

### CONSECRATION

The call to enable manifestation  
of the sacredness  
Inherent in each moment  
Comes from the Deep.  
The challenge to honor Life  
is the challenge to enable the sacred to emerge  
To acknowledge, receive, hold, and nurture  
The sacred.  
To listen and surrender  
Discern and align  
Is Life's command  
Its imperative.  
Retirement obliterates all excuses  
Any distractions are self-made  
Time unfolds gently  
Without constraints.  
Only the interior barriers  
Obstruct Life's flow  
Breath and love are always knocking  
on being's door.  
The taste of Presence  
is an inspiration  
Its sound  
an injunction.  
The Burning Bush is every leaf  
The tablets every stone.  
Creation needs no anxiety or fear,  
Only Love.  
"Reality is the Infinite in the  
garb of the finite."  
Through the garb of us  
The Infinite breathes.

In this moment where American democracy is under siege, hard-won rights are being dismantled, and global warming threatens all life, I am seeking to discern how to best live my retirement phase of life. For now, I am focused on attuning to my own most authentic self and on spending time with the people I love.



## How I Met My "Sister" Wife

by Phil Ansell, RELAC Member

I first kissed my "sister" 44 years ago. Let me explain

I was in Milan, Italy as a foreign exchange student with American Field Service during my senior year in high school. Silvia was the younger daughter in my host family, with which I was scheduled to live for a year. When I arrived, I was 17 and Silvia was 18.

The family ethos of the program was very strong. I called my host parents "Mamma and Papa" from the day I met them and related to all three of my host siblings as the siblings I had never had.

When my two host sisters, my older "sister's" boyfriend and I left for a New Year's trip in northeastern Italy, I had no idea that my relationship with Silvia would become romantic. We had accepted each other as brother and sister, including the innocent affection that can arise among siblings, such as hugging and holding hands. We were very comfortable together, with a very deep level of trust and acceptance.

As we lay next to each other in the attic of their friends' house, I still remember the surprise I felt as a well of emotion arose inside me and, without thinking, I leaned over and kissed her. During the remaining days of that brief trip, we explored and exulted in the shift in our relationship, shielded in our bubble from the knowledge that I could not simultaneously be "son and son-in-law" in my host family.

After we failed for a month in our effort to suppress the new feelings between us, I arranged to move to another family nearby and informed my host parents (and future in-laws) accordingly. When I left Italy six months later, my host father said of the relationship between Silvia and me: "Se son rose fioriranno." (If they are roses, they'll bloom.) We spent six years living on separate continents, as we both completed our college degrees. When we married seven years after we first met, I wrote the following in my vows, which were included in our Ketubah (our Jewish wedding document):

I look at you with eyes full of hope, a heart full of love, and my spirit full of the commitment to:

- love each other as equals
- play together as friends
- create together as artists
- trust each other like siblings
- and act together to make the world more peaceful, more just, and more humane.

In the intervening 37 years, the potency and truth of these words have continued to reveal themselves as the wellspring of life energy which animates us has continued to unfold, now including our two adult sons and first grandchild. For me, the "sibling" origin of our relationship is fundamental: the foundation of trust and mutual care with which we first greeted each other in August 1977 has been the ground of our bicultural relationship ever since. Contrary to most contemporary understandings of romantic love, I never "fell" in love with my wife; we grew into love with each other on a foundation of friendship, trust, respect, and shared interests. Perhaps as a result, the romance between us is as strong now as it was when we first kissed on New Year's Eve 1977.

Phil Ansell is the retired director of the Los Angeles County Homeless Initiative and was previously the chief deputy director of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Social Services. His wife, Silvia Battigalli, is a retired high school French teacher.



### NANCY DAVIS SINGER

*With late husband, Ed*

I joined the County Department of Auditor-Controller on July 1, 1966, following my graduation from the University of California at Berkeley the prior month. As an accountant-auditor, my first supervisor was Dan Ikemoto, who became a very close friend for almost 56 years until his passing earlier this year. My first assignment was auditing dog tags. Soon thereafter, I became the supervisor of the cost accounting team before transferring to the new Systems Division. In 1980 I transferred to the Auditor-Controller's Executive Office, where I spent the rest of my county career. During this time, I served on the Fiscal Credit Union's Supervisory Committee; served on and chaired the County Claims Board, where lawsuits against the County were reviewed; represented L.A. County on several State Association of County Auditors committees; and, as a member of the County Management Council, chaired quite a few of the (then) offsite semi-annual management conferences. In 1994, at a management conference, I announced that I would retire in 96 paydays. And on March 3, 1998, I did just that.

My late husband, Ed, and I moved to Rancho Mirage on the day I retired. I immediately became involved in charity work to benefit children and the developmentally disabled. I served as a volunteer docent at the Children's Museum, served on the board of a local group that provided field trip transportation for low-income schools, and worked on fundraising for the then-named Foundation for the Retarded of the Desert. In 2004 I joined its board of directors and was instrumental in changing the name to Desert Arc and have continued to serve in every officer position, including chair of the board for our over 700 developmentally disabled adults. In 2001 Ed and I joined Temple Sinai of Palm Desert and became volunteers on several committees. Last year I became president of the board of directors and will serve in this position until 2025. Since 2010 I have also been vice president of finance of the local Hadassah chapter, an organization that raises funds for medical research and medical care in Israel without regard to race or nationality. I guess volunteering is in my DNA!

Ed and I were fortunate to make many good friends here in the desert. We would say that we had a huge family here, none by blood. We both played a lot of bridge with others; he played a lot of golf, and I have taken up canasta. Besides numerous trips to New York City, Boston, and Fort Lauderdale to visit family and lifelong friends, we did quite a bit of traveling on cruise ships and tours and we made lots of friends on those, with whom I still stay in touch. Cruise destinations included Alaska, Hawaii, China, Mediterranean, Italy, France, Canada, Caribbean, Panama Canal, and the eastern seaboard. We also did a driving trip throughout the United Kingdom, during which I was freaking out on the "wrong" side of the roads.

Ed died in 2016 after fighting cancer for 14 years, first bladder cancer then pancreatic cancer.

Since his death I have taken several trips in the U.S. and to France with friends; continue my volunteering with Desert Arc, Temple Sinai, and Hadassah; and stay busy socially with friends.

It is amazing to me to think that I have been retired for over 24 years!

## LACERA cont. from p. 2

LACERA, you will be provided an approximate wait time. If you decide not to hold, you can choose to request a callback. The callback feature will be offered to callers during our busiest times between the hours of 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Other upcoming improvements we are working on include adding a voice authentication service to speed up the identification verification process when you call as well as after-call surveys so you can leave feedback for us about your experience.

In addition, we have created a My LACERA walkthrough video for both active and retired members and a revamped Ready to Retire resources section on lacera.com. These self-help options are aimed at providing members the information they need at their fingertips, so they don't have to call and wait for assistance. I encourage you to check out the My LACERA walkthrough video at lacera.com/my-lacera to see the features available to you as a retired member and how to use them efficiently. You can skip ahead to the bookmark at 5 minutes, 15 seconds for the retiree-specific information.

Another important project that has been in the works for months is updating our death benefit claims process so we can get benefits to survivors faster. LACERA recently updated our account management software and launched an in-house automated process so that when we receive death notifications, the system can immediately generate the necessary forms to mail to most survivors. This is an excellent time for me to encourage you to update your beneficiary information on My LACERA. If a claim form is returned to LACERA as undeliverable, our staff has to research the beneficiary's address, which slows down the payment process considerably and adds stress during what is already a difficult time for your loved ones. So please take a few minutes to log in and check that everything is in order—it will help us help your survivors!

Last but not least, I'd like to update you on our strategic planning process. We have completed several major milestones over the last several months, including the recent member survey. First let me congratulate you on making your voices heard: We received more than 26,000 responses to the survey, of which 55 percent were our retirees! The overall response rate of 14 percent is quite high for such a widespread survey with no incentive offered, which tells us that our members are deeply engaged with the organization and its future direction. We are awaiting the final analysis and report from the survey, and I'll provide insights from that in a future article.

We also engaged staff members from across LACERA over the summer through an employee survey and voluntary action planning teams. Their ideas, along with your survey responses, are being incorporated as a special review and implementation team prioritizes, refines, and synthesizes the objectives and action steps for each of our seven identified strategic goals. Once adopted, a final draft of the strategic plan will be presented to the boards in December 2022 or January 2023 for review. I will continue to keep you posted on our progress, as well as when the rubber really hits the road in the form of implementation in 2023. Stay tuned!

Well, that's it for this month's edition. I hope everyone is enjoying their retirement (you've earned it!), and I'll see you next time.



## All in the County Family

RELAC member Valeriea Caesar, at left, and her mother, Delores Davis Gillum, center, both worked at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center their entire County careers. Caesar was director of health information management in 2014 when she retired after 38 years. Gillum, a licensed vocational nurse, retired in 1992 after 28 years of service. RELAC Director Linda C. Hopkins, at right, niece of Gillum and cousin of Caesar, retired as human resources manager of the Department of Human Resources in 2011 after 36 years of service.



## Open House Honors Chief Daryl Osby

The L.A. County Fire Museum sponsored an open house celebration Aug. 16 to honor Daryl L. Osby, who retired July 30 after 38 years with the Fire Department, 11 as the department's first African American fire chief. During the event, Osby ceremoniously hung his turnout coat and helmet on the Wall of Honor to symbolize the culmination of his firefighting career.

## Thank You to Retirees With 40+ Years of Service

We salute the following recent County retirees who served more than 40 years.

**Lela Black**, District Attorney, 43 years, 1½ months  
**Nadine A. Bowman**, Public Social Services – 43 years, 2½ months  
**Phillip Garcia**, Health Services-Olive View Medical Center - 43 years, 10½ months  
**Eve Griffin**, Public Social Services - 42 years, 2 months  
**Eleanor F. Kyle**, Sheriff - 40 years, 2½ months  
**Michael London**, Health Services-LAC+USC Medical Center - 46 years, 7 months  
**Brenda W. McIntyre**, Public Social Services - 43 years, 5½ months  
**Linda Miranda**, Public Works - 41 years, 2 months  
**Matthew Moore**, Probation - 44 years, 9 months  
**Denise M. Pacheco**, Public Health - 41 years, 7½ months  
**Daryl S. Richardson**, Public Works - 43 years, 4 months  
**Karen A. Roby**, Public Health- 41 years, 9 months  
**Debra A. Ruffin**, Health Services-Ambulatory Care - 47 years, 2 months  
**Laura Sarff**, Health Services-LAC+USC Medical Center, 40 years, 1½ months  
**Della R. Serrato**, Children and Family Services - 42 years, 10 months  
**Alma Delia M. Thompson**, Health Services- Harbor-UCLA Medical Center- 45 years, 7½ months  
**Sally Trujillo**, Health Services- LAC+USC Medical Center - 46 years, 2½ months

# County Family: The Mitchells

## A Life of Public Service

by Victoria Pipkin-Lane, Chair  
Newsletter Committee

Public service is and has always been an honorable profession in the household of Board of Supervisors Chair Holly J. Mitchell, who represents the Second District. Her mother, Sylvia, and father, Edward, met while working as social workers for the L.A. County Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) and worked for the County for more than 20 years, retiring from the Probation Department in 1978. Edward went on to the Los Angeles Urban League and then the State of California Employment Development Department, where he retired in 1983. Sylvia became head of a women's prison and chief probation officer for the County of Alameda. After retiring, in 2003 she was appointed to the L.A. County Probation Commission by then-Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas.

"The reality is that all adults around me while growing up worked in public service, for DPSS and Probation," Holly Mitchell recalled during a recent interview.

"Mom's work was never perceived as something that ended. She was always working to meet the broader needs of her caseload, from writing grant applications to doing holiday giveaways" where toys were provided for needy children. The grant funds were used to finance holiday parties for children in juvenile hall on Memorial Day and the Fourth of July. The smell of hot dogs and hamburgers on the grill was exciting for these children and let them know someone cared about them. Her mother also spent time taking children to places like the Greek Theater and Watts Summer Festival. "I saw firsthand how the power of government could be used in creative ways to meet the unique needs of people," said Mitchell, who now incorporates her son, Ryan, into her work with events such as the Christmas in July event.

Her early memories of her parents' work left an indelible impression. One specific incident still resonates with Supervisor Mitchell. She was with her mother, who was then the warden of the California Institute for Women at Frontera in Corona, in the parking lot when a deputy was taking a pregnant woman in labor to the hospital. The woman, handcuffed and shackled, struggled to get in the van, but the deputy did not try to help her. "My mother was furious." Sylvia Mitchell used her position to change the policy so that no longer would a pregnant woman be chained and shackled while taken to the hospital, but the edict was later overturned by prison officials. It wasn't until 2005 that California became one of the first states in the nation to prohibit the shackling of pregnant women prisoners in labor. Holly Mitchell was among those supporting the legislation. "I called my mom after the vote and told her, 'You didn't wait for a bill' to do the right thing."

Mitchell was forever changed by the encounter at Frontera. Her preconceived notion of women prisoners also changed. "They were women just like you and me, they looked like you and me, and unfortunately were caught up in bad situations. Many were victims of abuse," she said.

"It fueled the kind of work I do and my passion for equity, criminal justice reform. I work in government to stem the structural issues that prevent children and families from thriving," she said, citing schools that do not offer advanced placement (AP) classes. Students cannot successfully compete for admission to highly rated universities without AP classes, she noted.

Although she did not envision a career as an elected official, while working as a senior staff member for state Sen. Diane Watson, she was encouraged to run for public office by Sheila Kuehl, then a state senator. "I said, no, I'm a good second in command. The 1992 election between Diane Watson and Yvonne Burke became so personal, so ugly," she decided it was not for her.

However, her legislative advocacy while serving as chief executive officer for Crystal Stairs, California's largest nonprofit dedicated to child and family development, pushed her into running for office. The state Assembly at the time was planning to cut \$1 billion in the subsidized child-care budget. Assemblyman Mervyn Dymally, who represented a Los Angeles district, was no longer chair of the subcommittee on the budget.

"There was no representative from Los Angeles County on the committee, even though one-third of the children impacted lived here," she said. The cuts were made. She ran for the Assembly and won. As chair of the subcommittee on the budget, she led the effort to restore the subsidized child-care funding. "I went to Sacramento to work on the budget," she said. In her mind, budgets are "value statements. We



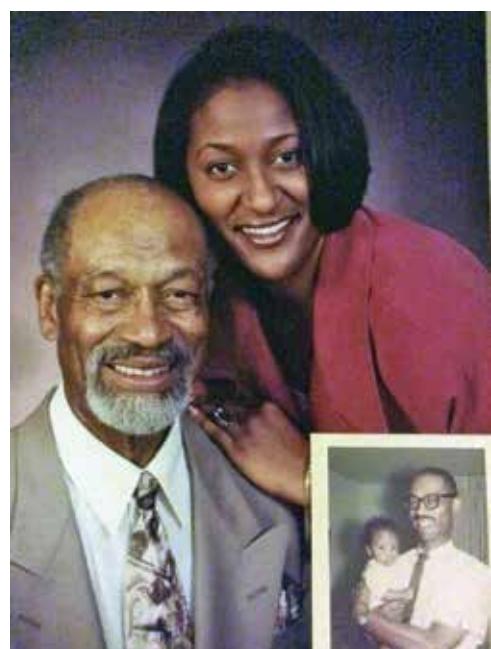
Sylvia and Holly Mitchell

have the resources to provide access to health care and housing, to fund programs to help mothers, and to intervene in a meaningful way to help families thrive."

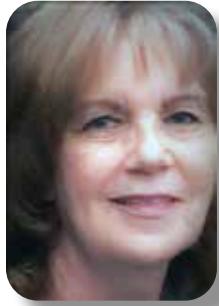
Supervisor Mitchell keeps humanity front and center in all initiatives she undertakes. "I purposely have made the non-sexy issues my priority." Recently, she brought Director of Public Works Mark Pestrella and department engineers to a community meeting to discuss ways to improve an intersection that was the site of a traffic accident that took the lives of six people, including a pregnant woman, and injured more than 15. "It was an example of government coming to the community to solve a problem," Mitchell said.

When it's all said and done, Mitchell wants Angelenos "to enjoy clean air, public transportation to get to and from LAX, to live, work and have" recreational outlets in their own community. "It's not about me or my legacy, I want a better quality of life for all. I want to leave the Second District better than I found it," she said, adding,

*"My parents would be tickled to know that I am in an article in the RELAC newsletter."*



Edward and Holly Mitchell



# Inside LA County

by Judy Hammond  
Newsletter Editor

Saying it was in the public's interest, the State Attorney's Office has taken over a Sheriff's Department investigation into the award of a Metropolitan Transit Authority contract after deputies raided the home of Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, the MTA, and Patti Giggins, a friend of Kuehl's and member of the Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission who headed the firm receiving the contract. Kuehl, whose computer and cellphone were confiscated, claims she had no role in the contract and is a victim of efforts by Sheriff Alex Villanueva to attack political enemies. Villanueva had asked the attorney general to investigate reports that Kuehl had been tipped off about the early morning raid the night before, which she has confirmed, telling reporters she was alerted by county lawyers. Villanueva believes the information came initially from Inspector General Max Huntsman, whose job is to monitor the department. The sheriff has subsequently banned Huntsman, who he said is a suspect in a criminal case, from the department's facilities and databases.

The effort to place a measure on the November ballot to recall District Attorney George Gascón failed after the Registrar-Recorder found 195,783 of the 715,833 signatures collected were invalid. Backers needed 566,857 valid signatures; they got 520,050.

Gascón was presented with the President's Award from the International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies on July 15 during its 73rd Annual Conference in Los Angeles. Robin Toma, who is executive director of the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations, is president of the association.

With an estimated 5,200 recreational vehicles being used as shelter in L.A. County, a three-year pilot program is being established to identify hot spots where crime and dilapidated RVs have increased and find areas where they can park safely and legally.

The County has committed \$236 million in new funding for homeless services in the City of Los Angeles to settle a lawsuit filed by the L.A. Alliance for Human Rights.

After meeting virtually for the past two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Board of Supervisors on Sept. 27 restored in-person public meetings, though limiting the audience to 100, requiring masks, and restricting the media to a designated seating area.

Supervisors, with Supervisor Janice Hahn opposed, authorized an increase in the Measure B Trauma, Emergency and Bioterrorism Response property tax assessment that will generate an estimated \$50.2 million in new revenue annually, with 67.51 percent going to the Department of Health Services.

The employee rideshare program, administered by the Chief Executive Office before being transferred to the Human Resources Department, will now be operated by the Internal Services Department.

The Internal Services Department is also getting a new executive position for a county director of digital equity, whose job will be to establish an intergovernmental broadband coordinating committee to expand affordable and reliable internet.

The Department of Public Health erroneously posted personal information of 805 food truck and other mobile-food operators and permittees on its environmental health division website. The information included names, driver's license numbers and possibly dates of birth.

The Board of Supervisors has asked staff to develop recommendations to prevent the improper taking and sharing of photos of human remains by first responders, following a federal jury's award of \$30 million to Kobe Bryant's widow and Chris Chester, who lost his wife and daughter in the helicopter crash. Supervisors later increased Chester's payout by \$4.95 million.

More than 180,000 residents applied for the County's new Breathe guaranteed income program, and the 1,000 who were chosen randomly are now receiving \$1,000 a month for three years to spend however they wish. Participants range in age from 18 to 91 and speak many languages.

County supervisors approved providing paid leave for those donating bone marrow and organs.

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A \$450,000 settlement was approved for Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk employee Timothy McNamara, who alleged he was subjected to age and disability discrimination and whistleblower retaliation.

The County is considering transferring oversight of the Los Angeles County Native American Indian Commission, the first of its kind in the nation when it was established 46 years ago, to the Department of Arts and Culture.

The County is the largest purchaser of goods and services in L.A. County, purchasing more than \$6 billion annually.

The trial of a 67-year-old man, who has been found guilty of murdering two women in 1981 and 1986, was the first case in L.A. County to use investigative genetic genealogy.

Supervisor Janice Hahn said she was "horrified" that at least 70 girls alleged in a lawsuit that they were sexually assaulted and abused at County probation camps over the course of several decades. "Ultimately, we need to reexamine this concept of locking up young girls in the custody of primarily men who have an enormous amount of power over them," she said. A \$950,000 settlement was approved in a lawsuit (Dominique Anderson, et al v County) filed by eight former juvenile detainees and probationers who said they engaged in sexual activity with probation officers.

District Attorney George Gascón said that he is encouraged by a California Supreme Court decision to allow a petition for review challenging the automatic imposition of the state's Three Strikes law.

The County is planning a memorial to honor those who died of COVID-19.

A temporary restraining order was issued to force changes in the treatment of L.A. County jail inmates, many mentally ill, in the overcrowded downtown inmate reception area after the American Civil Liberties Union complained of "medieval" and "barbaric" conditions.

Supervisors have asked staff to come up with a plan to move more than 7,000 jail inmates with mental health issues – which represents about half of the prisoners – into secure facilities designed exclusively for treatment.

Pandemic issues, primarily supply chain difficulties, will delay the opening of the \$1 billion Lucas Museum of Narrative Art in Exposition Park by two years to 2025.

A portion of the Crenshaw/LAX rail line opened Oct. 7, but the connection to the airport is not expected to be completed until 2026. The project is three years behind schedule and more than \$90 million over budget.

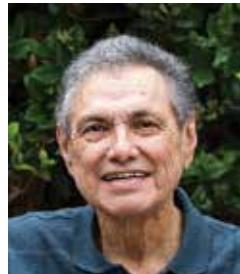
The chief executive of a company used by the County to store election employee payroll and scheduling data has been arrested, accused of improperly storing the information on computer servers in China, compromising the personal information of hundreds of employees.

The District Attorney's Office is asking a judge to review the conviction of a 1979 murder defendant in a case involving the death of a sheriff's deputy due to concern about the credibility of a jail informant.



# PASSAGES

Compiled by Judy Hammond,  
Newsletter Editor



Barrios



Villalta-Ayala



Connolly



Chong-Castillo

## RETIREMENTS:

**Oscar W. Autelli**, chief information officer at LAC+USC Medical Center, with 19 years, 7 months service. **Dean De Gruccio**, who served as chief deputy of the Community and Senior Services Department, with almost 31 years of service. **Tatiana Moskova**, human resources manager, Community and Senior Services Department, 19 years of service. **Laura Sarff**, chief quality officer at LAC+USC Medical Center, more than 40 years of service.

## APPOINTMENTS:

It was incorrectly reported in the September-October newsletter that Dr. **Lisa H. Wong** was appointed director of the Mental Health Department. Wong, the department's senior deputy director, was actually named acting director. **Patrick Ogawa**, former chief deputy executive officer to the Board of Supervisors, appointed to the Hospitals and Health Care Delivery Commission by Supervisor Hilda Solis. **Stephen David Simon**, head of the L.A. City Department of Disability, named interim executive director of the Los Angeles Homeless Authority.

## HONORS:

Lobby of San Fernando Child and Family Clinic named in honor of **Maria Chong-Castillo**, public works deputy to Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, in recognition of her efforts on behalf of the facility and service to the community.

## DEATHS:

Probation Officer **Paula Lind**, 52, a 16-year veteran of the department, beaten to death at her Lancaster home by an intruder; a suspect has been charged for the murder. Retired Sheriff's Deputy **Ray Marlett**, whose duties included serving as a bailiff in the Board of Supervisors hearing room. Former Sheriff's Lt. **Patrick Michael Connolly**, 83, an original member of both the Emergency Services Detail and the Special Enforcement Bureau, a long-time narcotics detective and head of the Hostage Negotiation Team, who later became chief of police at Cal State University Los Angeles, UCLA, and the cities of Huntington Park and Chino. RELAC member **Sara Caballero Valdez**, 70, secretary to the executive director of LAC+USC Medical Center when she retired in 2007 after 38 years of service. **Vicki Moore**, division chief for the Department of Children and Family Services, Bureau of Finance Administration, Revenue Enhancement Division, with 42 years of service. Chief Executive Office retiree **Richard Nelson**, who was chief engineer for the Board of Supervisors public meetings. Firefighter Specialist **Ismael M. Villalta-Ayala**, with 12 years of service. Ocean Lifeguard **Derek C. Traeger**, 28, a six-year veteran of the Fire Department, who died Aug. 14 in a motorcycle accident. Former Superior Court Judge **Arleigh Maddox Woods**, 92, (appointed in 1976), who broke racial and gender barriers during her more than six decades in the legal profession and judiciary, including becoming in 1980 the first black woman in the U.S. to serve as a justice on a state appellate court when she was appointed associate justice of the California Court of Appeal, Second Appellate District. Active Sheriff's Deputy **Robert Rodriguez**, a 23-year veteran of the department. Retired Deputy District Attorney **Janet Moore**, 69, who handled numerous high-profile cases during her 34-year career in the D.A.'s Office. RELAC Director **Evelyn Gutierrez**, who headed the County's Workplace Programs and Charitable Giving Office in the Chief Administrative Office when she retired in 2003. **Ed Barrios**, 82, assistant director in the Department of Human Resources when he retired in 1999, with 35 years of County service.

## ELECTIONS:

**Lindsey Horvath** and **Robert Luna** got the L.A. Times endorsements for county supervisor and sheriff, respectively, over challengers **Bob Hertzberg** and incumbent **Alex Villanueva**.

## COURTS:

Ex-USC Dean **Marilyn Flynn** pleaded guilty to federal bribery charges that she funneled \$100,000 through the university on behalf of former County Supervisor **Mark Ridley-Thomas** to benefit his son in hopes of getting the supervisor's support for a County social work contract. Ridley-Thomas' trial is set for Nov. 15. Charges against sheriff's Deputies **Jonathan Miramontes** and **Woodrow Kim** were dropped by a Superior Court judge who found there was insufficient evidence that they had lied to cover up an on-duty assault. The two were accused of writing false reports about a 2018 incident in which Kim allegedly knocked a suspect to the ground with the door of his patrol car. The D.A.'s Office said it was going to try to reinstate the charges. Sheriff's Deputies **Gisel Del Real** and **Carrie Robles** suspended from duty pending the outcome of an investigation into their involvement in what the department called an unspecified "scheme to defraud the citizens of Los Angeles County." As part of the investigation, a search warrant was served at a gun shop frequented by law enforcement. Del Real and Robbins helped process applications for permits to carry concealed weapons. A grand jury indicted Sheriff's Deputy **Sean Essex**, 51, with sexually assaulting four girls between the ages of 7 and 13. He has pleaded not guilty. The charges include a victim who reported the alleged abuse in 2006, but the case was declined by the District Attorney's Office at that time. Sheriff's custody assistant **Jose Flores**, 43, pleaded no contest for attempting to bring methamphetamine into the Men's Central Jail four years ago, and was sentenced to formal probation for two years and ordered to perform 300 hours of community service. Sheriff's Deputy **Carlos Lopez** was relieved of duty after being arrested on suspicion of driving drunk and crashing his patrol car in the Santa Clarita area. He abandoned the vehicle, triggering a major law enforcement response, but was found at home an hour later at his nearby home, driven there by another deputy.



Lind



Maddox



Valdez



Traeger



## Sheriff's Sgt. Ray Marlett, 83, Had A Number of Notable Assignments

Retired Sheriff's Sgt. Ray Marlett, 83, whose many assignments included serving as custody escort for Charles Manson at the Hall of Justice, passed away at home on Sept. 15.

Marlett, one of the first sergeants assigned to the officer-involved shooting unit, joined the Sheriff's Department in 1969 and served for 27 years, retiring from the Internal Affairs Bureau in 1996. One of his assignments in Internal Affairs was to serve as bailiff at the Board of Supervisors meetings. His wife, Susan (also a retiree of the Sheriff's Department), said he met a lot of actors and dignitaries there, and often would talk about how Supervisor Kenneth Hahn would kiss people on the cheeks. One of his favorite stories was the time he pursued an attempted murder suspect all the way from Lakewood to the Mexican border.

In addition to his wife, Marlett, a Fallbrook resident, is survived by three sons, Chris, Ryan and Matthew, stepchildren Kristy and Rocky, and six grandchildren.

The Board of Supervisors, on the motion of Supervisor Kathryn Barger, adjourned in Marlett's honor on Sept. 27.



With actor Vincent Price



## Deputy District Attorney Janet Moore Described as Iconic, Accomplished

Retired Deputy District Attorney Janet Moore, 69, who handled numerous high-profile cases during her 34-year career in the D.A.'s Office, including the attempted murder of truck driver Reginald Denny during the 1992 riots and the murder of two Japanese exchange students, has died. Chief Deputy D.A. Sharon Woo described Moore as "iconic, accomplished, and beloved."

The following are excerpts from a memo Woo issued to District Attorney staff.

"Janet joined the District Attorney's Office in 1983. At the earliest stages of her career, her compelling advocacy skills were immediately apparent. Janet's eloquence and expanding legal acumen led to an assignment with the former Hardcore Gang Division, where she successfully pursued some of the most difficult and challenging criminal cases in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Janet's thoughtful, well-constructed, and compelling case presentations drew praise from jurors, judges, surviving victims, victims' families, and witnesses alike. Her steadfast honesty and adherence to the highest standards of ethics earned her the respect of members of the defense bar, who faced a formidable and effective advocate in Janet. Janet shared her insights and wisdom with prosecutors throughout the Country, serving as a popular and exceptionally well-respected instructor nationwide. She

## In Loving Tribute: Love of My Life

(Ed. Note: RELAC member Gary Townsend, who retired in 2011 after serving as chief deputy assessor for 21 years under four assessors, lost his wife of 35 years, Cathy, on Aug. 8. He gave us permission to reprint this tribute that he sent to friends following her passing.)

### Catherine Marie Carey

Dec. 12, 1945 – Aug. 8, 2022

The light of infinite love continues to shine and will shine forever. On the warm Los Angeles summer evening of Aug. 8 in hospice at Belmont Village, my beautiful Cathy left this time and space, leading the way as she always has - Being My Special Friend, Partner, and Companion. My heart is full of love as I write these words.

I am so grateful for the love you have all given Cathy and me. I am grateful for your prayers, good energy and the kindness you so graciously shared with us. Most of all, I am grateful for sharing my life with Cathy for the past 35 years. For the years of laughter and the blessing of being able to fulfill our goals and dreams of making the world a better place together in small ways.

On a dark day back in June of 1968, I came to realize that in life, it's not what you do, but who you love and how you love that truly changes this world. That knowledge filled our world with light. Cathy and I embraced that light together.

Cathy, at 22, an elementary teacher in a small district in New Hampshire, was fired along with 12 other teachers who were striking for fair wages and decent working conditions. She spent her entire career actively leading and facilitating union and social justice work. Loving her made me a better person, and I loved her so much.

I will continue working toward our hopes, dreams and goals with peace and happiness in my heart. Stay Safe, Joyful, Optimistic. Hugs, Good Prayers for All, and Keep Loving those in front of you, around you, and the World.

Join me in thanking the incredible nurses, doctors, and support staff at Cedars-Sinai that cared and loved Cathy these last six weeks...Thanks for being our friends and colleagues during these last few difficult years....Cathy and I love each of you and I look forward to hanging with you soon!!

Lots of Love

Gary



# IN MEMORIAM

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

**Agricultural Comm./Wts. & Meas.** - Wilson Ballesteros, Bertha A. Guizado, Richard J. Knight

**Animal Control** - Luis A. Villegas

**Assessor** - John Eliopoulos, John L. Faber, Clara L. Hawkins, Elsa Hendricks, Luise T. Herzog, Mariam Z. Ibrahim, Owen K. Kraus, Paul E. Little, Earl H. Smith

**Beaches & Harbors** - Robbie M. Knight, Henry H. Kupsa, Arthur I. Salmonson

**California Children's Services** - Helen Y. Masuda, Dorothy M. McCaskill, Michael Weinraub

**Chief Executive Office** - Michael G. Adams, John G. Zenan

**Chief Information Office** - Joe F. Funches, Ruben S. Rucker, Morris C. York

**Child Support Services** - Daniel Belis, Joyce C. Brown, Irma J. Davis, Deborah A. Murray, Brenda M. Williams

**Children & Family Services** - Edward Chey, Eileen S. Cinque, Aura Fernandez, Sharlene F. Grant, Gloria Guerra, Pamela H. Ha, Cora Mack, Mary L. Mina, Phuoc Huu Nguyen, Cathy Queen, Mildred F. Schnerk, Scott Song, Linda M. Tait, Hattie L. Thomas, Georgiana Treder, Betty A. Ybarra

**Correctional Health** - Genelyn L. Sazon, Julian C. Wallace

**District Attorney** - Shirley B. Graves, Wanda C. Hatton, Robert T. Hight, David A. Lacey, Brenda J. Singleton

**Engineer Facilities** - Shirley J. Johnson

**Fire** - Richard C. Atkins, Wallace E. Carlson, Robert K. Davis Jr., Anthony B. Dimiceli, Paul A. Downing, Christopher Elam, Verne S. Handy, Robert J. Hecht, Yvonne Johnson, Leslie L. Mac Willie, Leland E. Mathis, Victor E. Meece, Deborah Ann Riddell, John L. Sell, William M. Slead, James E. Tollefson, Ismael M. Villalta-Ayala, Stephen A. Walker, George V. Webber Jr.

**Flood Control District** - Robert L. Scavarda

**Glendale Municipal Court** - Elaine G. Carey, Kevin Lurette

**Harbor/UCLA Medical Center** - Helen D. Carson-Wyatt, Gloria Chapman, Clara S. Fajardo, Alberta Frye, Joseph J. Hardy, Giselle Johnston, Joseph Radic, Connie Rillera, Pauline G. Rodriguez, I.M. Samloff, Mary Towles

**Health Department** - Cora I. Cloos

**Health Services Administration** - Gwendolyn J. Caampued, Ethel R. Francis, Jay S. Gordonson, Donna Harris, Lucia Leal, Mary E. Martinez, Frankie Mercer, Sara Valdez, Roylee Young

**Human Resources** - Edward Barrios, Janice M. Cull

**Internal Services** - Mavis J. Anderson, Conrad G. Carrisoza, Luis R. Castillo-Olivera, Anthony Cervantes, Richard S. Chan, Chiu Tze Chuang, Roy Cinowalt, Marcelina Cruz, Bobby Wayne Daniels, Lina C. Francisco, Linda J. Frazier, Sondra M. Harvey, Eustace Hawarden, Donald M. Herman, Anwar Z. Tadros, Aida R. White

**Juvenile Court Health Services** - Virginia Green, Malinda G. Holmes, Jean R. Jeffery, Dulce Amor G. Jose, Lynn D. Negus

**King-Drew Medical Center** - Bessie Mae Hughes, Beryl E. Kendrick, Donald W. Ross, Sandra Salomon, Linda K. Velasquez

**LAC+USC Medical Center** - Shahla Abbassi, Thelma B. Armstrong, Henry Barron, Mildred J. Bobo, Darryl W. Brown, Gwendolyn Butler, Reather Butler, Jerome Carr, Darlene M. Chavez, Jeffrey Chen, Eric Coleman, Carmen Deane, Donald C. Egbert, Margarita G. Flores, Stephon Green, Lois Faye Grundy, Carrie Mae Hammond, Sue Han, Constance H. Johnson, Lydia P. Juezan, Stephen K. Larsen, Celia Leibowitz, Beverly D. Lewis, Thelma J. Liggins, Gloria Pina Martinez, Geneva D. McGee, Young J. Moon, Betty M. Neuman, Jose Luis Ortega, Juanita Ortiz, Isidro Rea, Diana Simmons, Virginia M. Tarango, Frederick E. Williams

**LACERA** - Charles E. Avery

**Malibu Municipal Court** - Susan B. Safrn

**Mental Health** - Susan Anne Edelman, Arpy I. Henderson, Florine S. Irvin, Joan T. Kubichka, Angelica Ramos, Dolores H. Scott, Charlotte K. Shick

**Museum of Natural History** - Peggy J. Kayser, Gary D. Wallace

**Olive View/UCLA Medical Center** - Jane E. Benoit, Arthur D. Chambers, Gray S. Haithcock, Benjamin A. Holley, Glenna A. Knighten, John J. Lee, T.C. McGehee, Helen K. Mendler, Manolo D. Quianzon, Carmen C. Reyes, Christine Riordan, Erma Swan, Thomas F. Williams, Keng Yin Wong

**Parks and Recreation** - James Everett, Aloysius Fernandez, George L. Mathieu, Steven Floyd Stroud, Willie Taylor

**Probation** - Robert F. Armstrong, Kathryn M. Bell, Rudolph Bozeman, Daniel C. Brantley, Melvin C. Coleman, Charles M. Ellis, Wanda Harris, Paula S. Lind, Florencio Q. Lopez, Robert L. Marshall, Darryl D. Miyamoto, Henry R. Nandino, William R. Nettles, Lorraine K. Oda, Marie A. Reyes, Lynda L. Schenk, Dennis L. Spoolstra, Stephaine A. Tovar-Perez, Russell H. Turner, Marie A. Wade, Shirley B. Walker, Edward P. Young

**Public Defender** - Toni V. Coleman, Joe E. Gualano, Morris J. Kushner, John L. Ryan, Arthur C. Wynn

**Public Health Program** - Silvia Barrientos, Brenda Butler, Octavia P. Chaney, Louise M. Holm, Charles L. Krueger, Shirley Love-McGill, Lilia Michelin, Colin B. Miller, Robert Rivera, Joe E. Salazar, Vassil Valkov

**Public Library** - Kitty I. Carr, Patsy P. Sung

**Public Social Services** - Maro Avdesian, Manuel Avila, Ileana R. Barton, Mary L. Bass-Pitts, Richard T. Bergeron, Priscilla R. Brannon, Delois Brown, Arturo C. Burquez, Laura Clark, Carmen M. Davila, Rolando C. Escobar, Jose J. Fuentes, Susan Garner, Augusta A. Granda, Sofia Haworth-Rive, Segundo A. Iparraguirre, Angele K. Israel, Derrick J. Issac, Anoushik Keshishian, Julie A. Kilpatrick, Natalie Klemm, Pui-Shan L. Kong, Gary D. Lee, Severa Lujan, Betty Manns, Gloria Miranda, Barbara Molina, Janice Netterville, Anthony A. Olivas, Beruz R. Pashaian, Raymundo R. Ramirez, Olimpia Reyes, Manuela N. Rivera, Ralph Russo, Marian Angela Toya, Elaine Varnado, Gloria J. Washington, Martha M. Williams, Bessie Williams, Craig S. Wilson, Tamara S. Wright, Albert Zargarian

**Public Works** - Joseph A. Bistline IV, Benjamin Del Castillo Jr., Lester E. Dickes, James R. Elliott, Ernesto S. Gallegos, Cristobal Garau Jr., Paulina S. Garcia, Richard J. Glenn, Samuel Gutierrez, Robert W. Hansen, Frans L. Johnson, Joe Losorelli, Donna M. Lund, Mario R. Mariani, Ross A. Orcutt, Martin J. Parkinson, Albert K. Rupp, Yoshiko Shiomi, Robert M. Taylor, Kuo-Ping Wang

**Rancho Los Amigos Hospital** - Sandra M. Blanco, Larry Cook, Soledad L. Dagandan, Paul L. Hubler, Albert Hutchison, Prosperidad Igtnloc, John Alexander James, Lorraine M. Kall, Maria Knebl, Henry Ma, Virginia Meza, Raymond C. Morales, Thelma A. Obfenda, Dolores Ortiz, Emma L. Pamplin, David W. Quick, Ermelinda Sanchez

**Reg.-Recorder/County Clerk** - Delbert C. Johnson, Barbara J. Mohr, Viola D. Peoples, Jimmy R. Woods

**Sheriff** - Donn A. Berrier, John B. Bivens, Carlos R. Bowers, Robert W. Capps, Raymond B. Davis, Anthony L. DeBell, Noel M. Freedman, Charles B. Fyan, Edna E. Goodman, Donald F. Goodnight, Jack W. Gray, Raymond Edward Grey, Michael A. Grundy, Michael A. Handley, Gary L. Hanes, Allen James Hansen, Arthur M. Hernandez, Rosemary Hill, Patrick H. Hoban, Richard G. Johnson, Douglas R. Johnson, Michael I. Kart, Russell G. Kraintz, Janet F. Kuklin, Carmel M. Labate, Raymond L. Marlett, Leon L. Martin, Arthur D. McClain, Linda J. McClure, John S. McMillen, Lawrence L. Misch, Norman Navarre, Ronald W. Oehlkers, Anthony A. Pellegrini, Robert D. Rodriguez, Jesus Ruiz Jr., Mark R. Seibel, Jerry D. Smith, John D. Spiller, Gee S. Sue, John Vargas, Arnulfo Verdugo, William Villanueva, Allan L. Zuckerman

**South Gate Municipal Court** - Debra J. Thomas, Sanford A. Warner

**Superior Court/County Clerk** - Keith M. Alber, Virgil E. Chaney, Joyce E. Darling, Enrico M. De Santos, Jacqueline Gallien Royston, Emilio A. Garcia, Richard D. Graf, Margaret E. Hanchette, Celestine H. Johnson, Pansy S. Lee, Patricia H. Martin, William V. Mc Taggart Jr., Johnice R. McCullough, Jerry F. Moore, Aida D. Murphy, Carolyn H. Pannell, Patricia A. Patterson, Elizabeth Ramirez, Phillip Rico, Regis E. Taylor

**Treasurer/Tax Collector** - Patricia W. Bell, Paula A. Brown, Carl W. Sherman

**Women's Hospital** - Debra A. Robinson

**Unidentified County Agency** - Essie R. Cox, William H. Farmer



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

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## 2023 Annual RELAC Scholarship Program

The primary purpose of the RELAC Scholarship Program is to provide financial assistance to RELAC members, their children and stepchildren, and their grandchildren and step-grandchildren who are outstanding high school seniors planning to attend college or another eligible educational institution.

The program allows for five \$1,000 scholarships to be awarded with a scholarship filing period from Jan. 1 through March 1, 2023. Additional information on the program will be available on the RELAC website by Nov. 1, 2022.

For additional information, please contact Linda C. Hopkins at lhopkins1054@gmail.com.

### RELAC Holiday Luncheon & Toy Drive

**Thursday, Dec. 8, 2022**  
11:30 am – 2:30 p.m.

The Doubletree by Hilton – Whittier  
7320 Greenleaf Drive, Whittier  
Atrium Ballroom

**Spark of Love Toy Drive Event**  
L.A. County Fire Department

Light luncheon, holiday dessert  
Holiday caroling and sing-along  
\$15 per luncheon ticket –and **TOY**

**\*\* Menu \*\***

Turkey Focaccia Club Sandwich (Kettle Chips) – Plated  
Tossed Cobb Salad – (Grilled Chicken, Avocado, Bacon) - Plated  
Vegan Cobb Salad - Plated  
Chef's Holiday Dessert

### Reservation Form

**2022 Holiday Luncheon**  
Thursday, Dec. 8, 2022

RELAC Member \_\_\_\_\_  
Spouse/Guest \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Turkey Focaccia Club Sandwich	_____ \$15 ea.	\$ _____	Total
Cobb Salad (Chicken, Avocado)	_____ \$15 ea.	\$ _____	Total
Vegan Tossed Salad	_____ \$15 ea.	\$ _____	Total
Total Enclosed		\$ _____	

Make check or money order payable to "RELAC" ...Note: Holiday Luncheon  
In left corner. Mail check to: RELAC, 1000 S. Fremont Ave., Unit 15  
Alhambra, CA 91803-8802 **Confirmation Deadline: Thursday, Nov. 30, 2022**



**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

E-mail:  
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.