



Pastimes Program Takes Participants Out and About the Community

Several times a week, the eight individuals who participate in the Pastimes program pile into the GAR Services van and head off to engage in a variety of social, recreational and educational activities in the community.

Currently available as an afternoon program only, Pastimes is the newest choice in the line of services offered by GAR Services and serves as a transitional program for older individuals who are leaving a full-day vocational program. Pastimes participants work at GAR Services in the morning and then spend the afternoon out and about exploring the variety of community-based resources available for seniors in a safe and supervised setting.

The group typically spends Mondays at the GAR Services building located in Glendale doing arts and crafts projects, as well as other educational and enrichment projects. The members of the group also draw up a schedule for the week of where they would like to go and what they would like to do.

Since its inception, the Pastimes program has visited places all over the Los Angeles area, including The Getty Museum, Olvera Street, Chinatown and The Kodak Theater. Participants also take part in a weekly dance class, as well as other existing senior programs at the adult recreation center in Glendale. "The Pastimes program serves as an educational tool that promotes the inclusion and understanding of people with disabilities within the general community," comments Carole Jouroyan, executive director of GAR Services.

"Initially we noticed that the community was surprised to see people with developmental disabilities side by side with them in a senior center class, but as the weeks have gone by, Pastimes has been accepted as one of the crowd with the end result being new and rich relationships for everyone," shares Jouroyan.

Continued on page 2

A PEEK INTO...

Perspectives

Look inside for Perspectives on Perspectives 2003, the 2004 schedule and movie lineup, and other related stories.

See pages 4 – 7

Help us get the word out about Perspectives. Please post the pullout poster.

RECAP:

10th Anniversary OPEN HOUSE



Maria Tapia-Montes and Joanne Bernal (right) from Intake man the registration table at the Koch-Young Resource Center 10th Anniversary Open House.

See story on Pages 8 – 9

Health and Wellness



Ensuring Healthy Teeth and Bright Smiles for Lanterman's Youngest

Did you know that oral health care for your children starts while they are still in the womb and not when their permanent teeth start coming later in life? Even after your child is born, there are a variety of things you can do to help maintain healthy gums until their baby teeth do come in.

Recognizing that early oral health care is critical to developing good lifelong oral hygiene, Lanterman Regional Center is currently offering two days of dental screenings per month for children from birth to three through the Early Intervention Dental Clinic. The clinic generally meets on the last Thursday and Friday of every month and appointments are on a first come, first served basis.

A dental screening includes a visit with Lanterman's dental coordinator, Leticia Reyes, who visits with the family, performs a visual screening of the child, asks a series of questions relating to the child's oral health, including brushing status, previous dental visits, and concerns the child's parents have regarding their child's oral health. Reyes also provides oral hygiene instruction and education, health and nutrition education, and teaches parents how to look in the mouth of a child.

Dental problems can be prevented and the earlier the intervention, the better the outcome. "Parents are the first line of defense in protecting their child's oral health and they need to know how to look at their child's teeth and identify possible problems," shares Reyes. "I have noticed that the one-on-one visits with families serve as a desensitization for the children who may be scared to go to the dentist," adds Reyes. "I let them hold the gloves and the mask and practice with the

toothbrush." In addition to one-on-one consultations, Reyes also conducts oral health education for various parent groups in the Lanterman community. "While the screening is specific to the child, I also focus on family dental health intervention since the only way to ensure good oral health for the child is to ensure that the family is also practicing good dental hygiene," notes Reyes.

During the screening, appropriate referrals are made to children's dentists within the Lanterman service area with whom the Center has already established relationships. Families can also make an appointment at the time of screening. Reyes sends each child home with a toothbrush and a coloring book, both of which have been donated.

Continued on page 13

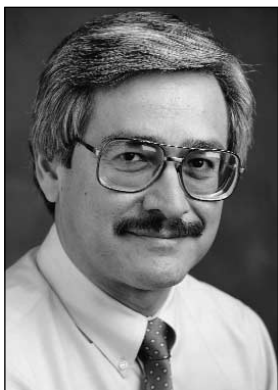


Bryan Carrera sits on Guadalupe Carrera's lap as Leticia Reyes, dental coordinator, examines his mouth during a screening at the Early Intervention Dental Clinic. A primary goal of the program is to identify infants and young children at risk for oral health problems and refer them for preventive services and treatment as needed.

Remembering Frank Del Olmo...

By Sharing His Story, He Gave Hope to Others

By sharing stories about his family's personal life, including the challenges of having a son with autism, Frank del Olmo raised awareness about autism, and provided guidance, support and leadership to scores of other families that found themselves in similar positions. Del Olmo's unique forum was the Op Ed page of The Los Angeles Times where he was a columnist and associate editor.



Frank Del Olmo

Del Olmo worked at The Los Angeles Times for nearly 34 years holding a number of positions beginning with staff writer, foreign correspondent, editorial writer, deputy editor and assistant to the editor of The Times — a position that placed him on the masthead. At the time of his untimely death at age 55, he was associate editor.

After his son, Frankie, was diagnosed with autism about 10 years ago, del Olmo began writing a yearly piece that was published in the paper around the Christmas holiday. In his early columns he addressed a number of issues that families with children that have been recently diagnosed with autism face, such as finding the time to continue traditions like decorating the Christmas tree and sending out holiday cards, but also learning to embrace the small milestones achieved by their children at school and in therapy.

Over the years del Olmo updated readers about Frankie's progress, accomplishments and setbacks, and shared family events such as the year they got a dog. He also commented on larger political and social issues affecting people with developmental disabilities, including the autism epidemic, the latest therapies for children with autism, issues involving pharmaceutical companies and vaccines that some experts suspect may be contributing factors to the rise in autism.

In his last column about Frankie, del Olmo reported on how far his son had come and explored what lay ahead for himself as Frankie became an adolescent. He also shared information learned long ago from a service coordinator at Lanterman: "It was a caseworker at the Lanterman Regional Center in Los Angeles who, in 1995, first helped my wife, Magdalena, and me understand how much we could do for Frankie if we were willing to fight for his rights — for educational programs that meet his special needs, for instance — under the Lanterman Act and related federal laws. Those rights and our advocacy skills proved extremely useful over the ensuing years as we identified innovative therapies that might help Frankie."

In her remarks at his memorial service, attended by nearly one thousand people, his wife Magdalena Beltran-del Olmo said: "He became an advocate and a voice for his little Frankie and children with autism." She recounted how each column resulted in an outpouring of letters from readers and that the family would schedule vacation time to respond to them.

"Because of his willingness to share his family's experiences in the public forum of The L.A. Times, Frank gave hope to many readers whose children had autism," shares Diane Anand, executive director. "He will be sorely missed by all who knew him personally or through his columns."

A book of del Olmo's most memorable columns will be published by the Los Angeles Times later this year and will feature one chapter on all 10 columns that he wrote on autism. His wife Magdalena is working closely with Times' Editor Frank Sotomayor on the book, of which all proceeds will go to charities funded by The Times.

Remembering Asenath Young — A Pioneer and Leader in the Developmental Disabilities Community

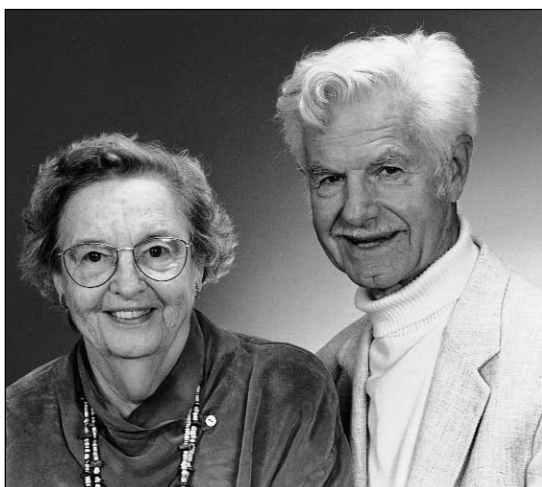
Asenath Young was a pioneer and a leader in the early developmental disabilities community movement that established community services and supports for children and adults with developmental disabilities and affirmed their rights to be included in community life instead of being warehoused in large isolated institutions. These efforts resulted in the founding of the regional center system in California. She was active from the inception of the first regional center that was established in 1966 at Childrens Hospital of Los Angeles. Young was also the first president of Frank D. Lanterman Regional Center when it separated from the hospital in 1979, and was a founding member of the statewide Association of Regional Center Agencies.



Asenath Young as she looked in the late 1970s.

Always concerned about social justice, Young helped write the plan for protection and advocacy in California. As a founding member of Pacific Oaks College, she successfully encouraged the Pacific Oaks Nursery School to include preschoolers with developmental disabilities as part of its regular nursery school program in the early 1980s long before the inclusion movement.

She was a strong advocate for family support because she knew first hand of the isolation and loneliness experienced by families of children with developmental disabilities, but she also was a staunch advocate of parents working in partnership with professionals and believed that it was the cornerstone of the regional center. For this reason Lanterman Regional Center honored her along with Dr. Richard Koch in the naming of the Koch ♦ Young Resource Center.



Dr. Richard Koch and Mrs. Asenath Young lend their names to the Koch ♦ Young Resource Center.

Young always thought beyond her personal and family situation to the good of the whole and was a firm believer in effecting change through the legislative process. For many years she was active in encouraging and mentoring parents in legislative advocacy. Lanterman Regional Center honors her legacy by continuing to train future leaders and advocates through its Leadership Institute.

"She both led and advocated by example, a rare trait in these days when both leaders and advocates are long on words and short on action," notes Diane Anand, executive director. "Her spirit will continue to guide our community."

Pastimes

Continued from page 1

On Fridays, the group volunteers at the Salvation Army in Glendale and helps serve lunch to homeless people. For Valentine's Day, the Kiwanis AKtion Club purchased flowers for residents at a local nursing facility, and the Pastimes clients delivered the flowers and visited with the residents at the nursing facility.

"The rationale for starting Pastimes was that some of the people we serve were getting older and their needs and physical abilities were changing because of a variety of different health-related issues associated with the aging process," notes Jouroyan. "We saw Pastimes as a continuum of services that provided the people we serve with the best of both worlds — working and participating in the community."

Viewpoint asked the Pastimes participants what they enjoyed best about the program and here's what they had to say:

"I like shopping at the Glendale Galleria, going to museums, doing art, going to the park for lunch and on Tuesday afternoon we go to dance class at 1 p.m.," shares Lois.

"I like everything about Pastimes... going downtown, watching videos, learning to write



(left to right) Pastimes participants Danny and Beverly, coordinator Angela, participants Shauna and Carmen, volunteer Barbara, and participant Jimmy outside the Glendale Public Library Central branch.

poetry, painting, learning to write letters to friends and family," explains Beverly.

"My favorite place to go is Black Cow in Montrose and other coffee shops, the museums, and I like riding the train," comments Danny. "I also like serving lunch on Fridays and going to the park for picnics." Occasionally, Pastimes takes Metrolink and Metro Rail to get to their destinations in Pasadena or Downtown Los Angeles. They also have made lots of new friends in the Montrose area and enjoy going and visiting with them.

Harmik shared with us through a translator that he likes the arts and crafts that he does at Pastimes as well as picnicking at the park and dance class. Carmen enjoys painting and going to Montrose and Jimmy added that his favorite store in Montrose is the magazine store. "They talk about the things they have done for months afterwards," adds Jouroyan.

In order to participate in the Pastimes program, interested parties must go through their service coordinator and have an amendment to their Individual Program Plan approved by Lanterman Regional Center. Participants must be over the age of 50. For more information about the Pastimes program contact GAR Services at [818.242.2434](tel:818.242.2434).



Taking advantage of community resources, Carmen and Shauna browse through magazines and books housed at the library.

THE QUARTERLY BUDGET UPDATE:

Budget Proposes Major Changes

As we go to press the budget situation in California is in flux. To recap, the State faced a \$30 billion plus budget deficit. Part of the debt was resolved when voters approved the \$15 billion bond initiative backed by Governor Schwarzenegger. But also, the State faces a \$15 billion budget shortfall for the upcoming fiscal year that begins July 1. The California Constitution requires that the budget be balanced. This means that the State cannot deficit spend as does the federal government. So shortfalls are made up by raising revenues (taxes and fees), or making budget reductions (reducing programs and services), or by taking loans, or a combination of these. A bit of good news is that tax revenues received by the State during April were \$1.5 billion higher than anticipated; but a significant budget gap remains.

The Governor’s January budget proposes no tax increases and relies mainly on reductions in programs and services. For regional center services, the Governor has two major proposals to control costs and slow the rate of growth in the budget for purchased services.

The first proposal is implementing statewide service standards for the services purchased by the regional centers. This proposal is supported by Lanterman Regional Center as a way to maintain the entitlement to services in an era of shrinking resources, while promoting fairness and equity among regional centers. You may access these draft standards released by the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) by their main Web page at www.dds.ca.gov or through a link on Lanterman’s Web site at www.lanterman.org. Lanterman’s response to these draft standards is also available on our Web site.

A second proposal, is one that was specifically requested by the Legislature in last year’s budget bill, parent copayment for certain services. This proposal has also been released by DDS. The proposed co-pay, would apply to:

- Only families with children between the ages of 3-17
- Only families receiving respite, day care or camping services
- Only families whose income is at least 400 percent of the federal poverty level (\$73,600 for a family of four)

The co-pay would be on a sliding scale starting at five percent of the cost of authorized services in the above categories and moving upwards as income is increased. Families would pay their share of the cost of services directly to the service providers. Regional centers are opposed to this proposal because it involves verifying income, something we have not done in the past, and which would represent a significant workload

Unlike the state agencies, regional centers have not had a cost of living adjustment since 1990 and have suffered significant increases in the cost of operating such as liability and workers compensation insurance, rent and the like.

increase. Service providers (vendors) are also opposed to this approach, as most of them would have to develop new systems for collecting payments from families and would add to their workload without added resources.

The Administration expects to reduce spending for purchased services (POS) by \$100 million mainly by implementing these two proposals. This represents about five percent of the total POS budget of over \$2.2 billion.

The regional center operations budget is also slated for a significant reduction. This budget pays for the direct services provided by the centers and their operating costs, such as intake and assessment, service coordination, monitoring of services, advocacy, and the management of client

funds. What is proposed is a reduction of \$32 million for service coordination, increasing the size of service coordinator caseload ratios. The Administration is also proposing a reduction of 15 percent or \$6.5 million from regional center administrative costs referred to as “cost containment.” When asked, Administration representatives say that this last reduction is equivalent to what has been expected of state agencies, but admit that no specific requirements of regional centers have been eliminated to compensate for this. This reduction will have a devastating impact on the centers and will jeopardize their ability to function and to continue to bring in federal revenues. This represents a real challenge to the centers who are already understaffed to perform such administrative functions as paying claims for services and managing complex computer systems required by our contract with the State. In addition, centers are being required to take over the payment and monitoring functions for programs currently funded through the Department of Habilitation (currently more than \$120 million annually) without any additional resources. Unlike the state agencies, regional centers have not had a cost of living adjustment since 1990 and have suffered significant increases in the cost of operating, such as liability and workers compensation insurance, rent and the like.

These proposals are currently being discussed and debated as a part of the overall budget process. The Governor will also release his May revision to the budget shortly before Memorial Day, and this will contain updated revenue and spending projections as well as any changes to initiatives proposed by the Administration. You can get up to date budget information by clicking on the “Budget Watch” button on the Lanterman Web site.

The Director’s

VIEWPOINT

Continuing the Tradition of Leadership



Executive Director Diane Anand

Part of our Lanterman vision and a core value of our community is leadership, defined as “an act of service to the community as a whole. As an organization, and as individuals, we strive to be in the forefront — pioneering new ways to enhance the lives of people with developmental disabilities, their families and the community we

share. We want to inspire the Center to reach its full potential and lead the way for others.”

Recently, we were saddened by the loss of two extraordinary individuals — each of whom was a valued part of our Lanterman community, and each of whom embodied the essence of leadership in a distinctive way. Their accomplishments are chronicled elsewhere in *Viewpoint*, but I wanted to comment personally on their meaning to Lanterman.

Asenath Young is familiar to many of you. She was a part of Lanterman virtually from its inception, serving as our first board president. Even more, she was one of the pioneers — one of those who spoke for justice — and was instrumental in the development of Lanterman Regional Center and the state system of service delivery. She encouraged support for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families, and was a champion of family-professional partnerships. Our Koch ♦Young Resource Center is in part named for her. We have lost a wonderful woman, visionary leader, great friend and tireless advocate for the community of developmental disabilities.

Frank del Olmo was another kind of leader. His gift was words, and as a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, beloved columnist and associate editor of the Los Angeles Times, he raised his voice over the years in many ways, touching many lives. As the father of a son with autism he understood well the issues facing our community, and used his talents to deepen awareness with a broad audience that reached beyond our immediate constituencies. His annual column, sensitively sharing his personal challenges and experiences with his son, helped countless families, spreading compassion and hope well beyond the borders of Lanterman.

Both these individuals brought their talent, experience and skills to bear on a variety of concerns. They were very different people and led in very different ways, yet their contributions to our community are immeasurable.

There is no single mold for a leader, no single way to make a difference. One can participate in a variety of organizations and bring awareness to many venues, helping to spread understanding and social acceptance. Over the years, we’ve seen remarkable leadership emerge from sometimes unexpected places, and we’ve been fortunate in the quality of leadership our extended community has enjoyed.

As leaders, both Asenath and Frank inspired us — as people, they were tireless advocates who left our community a better place. We shall miss them, but are comforted by the fact they live on in their contributions. The finest tribute we can pay each of them is to continue their tradition of leadership.

PERSPECTIVES on Perspectives

A woman who has adopted 11 children with special needs; the unlikely friendship that develops between a businessman and a young man with Down syndrome; a poet, author and painter with cerebral palsy — the 2003 *Perspectives* Film Festival, cosponsored by the American Film Institute and Lanterman Regional Center, captured a wealth of stories. Film has the power to move, inspire and entertain, but it also has the capacity to challenge prejudice and transform our views. We asked a group of festivalgoers, participants and planners about the impact the first annual *Perspectives* Film Festival had on them.



I volunteered at the festival last year, giving out surveys and film information to people entering and leaving the screenings. It felt good to do something fun, and it was worthwhile to volunteer side by side with some really nice people who happen to be clients of the regional center.

The films I saw took me on journeys in which I experienced joy, sadness, anger, frustration and, most of all, empathy. The characters reminded me that we all share the same basic needs and desires, and in that, there are no differences. Not long after the festival, I recall discussing the extraordinarily raw and beautiful *Dance Me to My Song* with a few co-workers. One of them was disturbed by the total nudity of the main character because she had CP. It definitely was not the usual “Hollywood” film nudity that we as Americans have become accustomed to. But however disturbing it was, I think it gave the viewer insight into the extreme vulnerability of the character, and it let us know that human sexuality comes in all shapes and sizes. We need to expand our concept about what “real” is and have our envelopes pushed. These films are a way for us to step into someone else’s reality. I wish that we as employees could have an opportunity to view some of these films and discuss them in an open forum so that we can air our perceptions and feelings. *Perspectives* is just the beginning — now we all have to do the work.

JEANNETTE ORLANDO

Resource Specialist, Lanterman Community Services

The issue that’s really important to me is the power of film to transform, educate and enlighten — not just entertain. In viewing films about people with developmental disabilities, I’m struck by the difference between portrayals that are positive and those that are accurate. The disease-of-the-week movies on television are often oversimplified, and they take enormous creative license to move the stories along. With *Perspectives* and any of the film festivals we do, we look for films that push the envelope, that make people sit up and pay attention to the issues. We try to shake things up a bit.



(left to right) Nancy Collet, director of programming, Festivals; Shaz Bennett; Christian Gaines; Erin Anderson, series producer, Festivals

What struck me about last year’s festival was the atmosphere, the feeling of community and the feeling of inclusion — only this time it was the inclusion of “typical” people. We feel that the more typical people who attend the festival the better — we’re looking to expand the audience. What we try to do is reach people, and we hope that this year’s

festival is seen by a lot more people. We need to effectively reach out to more clients, other regional centers, service providers. There are lots of ways of reaching people — through television and computers — but our work is programming films. It’s about creating live community and taking a journey together.

CHRISTIAN GAINES

Director, Festivals; American Film Institute

I’ve been working in festivals since I was 15, and I love seeing films on the big screen — the experience of sitting in the dark watching the same story that others are seeing and knowing that you may see the film in your own way. Sometimes film-festival audiences are a bit jaded, but the *Perspectives* audiences reminded me why it’s great to be in a crowd watching a movie — it’s a community event. In the screening of *How’s Your News?*, the audience filled with “other-abled” people was laughing so hard; it was infectious. “Typical” people may think, Oh, a festival about disability — that’s going to be so depressing. But actually I found it quite the opposite. Some of the films we showed were quite heavy, but they were so amazing and the audience discussions afterwards were so intriguing. The audiences saw aspects of the films that I hadn’t seen.

In one of the follow-up discussions, I was interested in how many people talked about wanting to get into the movie business, and how at the media forum some of the “other-abled” actors talked about wishing they could play characters with disabilities, saying that all the Oscars that go to typical actors should be theirs. Part of the unique experience of *Perspectives* is the hunger the audiences have to see themselves portrayed on the big screen.

After the experience of programming *Perspectives* last year, I have been so much more conscious of portrayals of developmental disabilities and especially of performances by actors with disabilities. “Other-abled” people are part of my life now.

Shaz Bennett

Film Programmer, Festivals; American Film Institute



I believe in *Perspectives* and the power of the big screen to communicate the value offered by people with developmental disabilities. As the president and CEO of the Exceptional Children’s Foundation (ECF), I strongly feel that one of the most significant missions we have is to educate the community about the contributions that have and can be made by people with disabilities. The use of celebrities and films is a strong yet underutilized tool available to us. Lanterman Regional Center and AFI should be applauded for this innovative and very important project!

Last year, the Exceptional Children’s Foundation was one of the sponsors of the festival, and several members of the ECF family participated in the festival’s activities. I attended the closing night’s forum and was encouraged by the spirit and passion of the supporters and actors in attendance. My hope, as a sponsor again this year, is that the festival will build on the success of its first year — leading to heightened recognition of this opportunity to increase the general public’s awareness of our citizens with developmental disabilities.

SCOTT BOWLING, Psy.D.

President and CEO, Exceptional Children’s Foundation



When I first heard about the *Perspectives* Film Festival, I wasn’t sure if it would be tasteful or respectful — in the past, Hollywood has not always portrayed persons with disabilities in a realistic light. But I saw about six of the movies and stayed for all the discussions afterwards, and I also attended the media forum on the last night. The size of the festival meant that I could talk to the filmmakers and ask, “How did you shoot that?” or “Why did you make that choice?” I love movies, and I love TV, and

I’ve been in the business myself as an actress, writer and filmmaker for many years. I want to see films that have a good story. But why are able-bodied people given the parts of persons with disabilities? Persons/performers with disabilities (PWDs) are daughters, sons, mothers, fathers, girlfriends, boyfriends, teachers, lawyers, store customers, etc. I’m an actor first; the fact that I happen to have cerebral palsy is second. I want to be known as a quality actor, not as a disabled actor.

I think it is important to have a film festival that portrays PWDs. Individuals need to see themselves reflected in the entertainment industry. But I look forward to the day when this film festival will not be necessary because persons with disabilities are integrated into the movies and into television shows on a regular basis.

DAWN GRABOWSKI

Actor



My first strong impression of *Perspectives* was walking into the screening for our film and seeing several smiling people with disabilities handing out programs and answering questions about the festival. I thought, This is the right place for our film.

I was impressed by many aspects of the festival, but my greatest praise goes towards the effort that was made to include people with disabilities and their families. This just makes sense and seems a simple idea, but it’s not always implemented as well as it

was at *Perspectives*. On a personal note, it felt very gratifying to be included in this festival because our film, which focuses on the humorous side of living with a disability, has often been met with uncertainty and trepidation by programmers at large established festivals. We found this frustrating because we knew that the very communities these festivals feared would take offense would actually be the ones who connected most strongly with our film. Inclusion in a festival like *Perspectives* is therefore very meaningful to us, and perhaps it will inspire some of the older festivals to show a little more backbone in the future.

The most meaningful moment of the festival for me was the excellent speech given by Andrea Friedman, an actress with Down syndrome, who said “I think people with disabilities should play people with disabilities in films.” Again, this is a simple idea, but just take a look at how many big Hollywood films employ big-name actors to play roles that could be more convincingly played by people with disabilities. To this end, I commend actor William H. Macy for his sensitive portrayal of a man with cerebral palsy, but I’d like to humbly suggest that *Perspectives* take a cue from Ms. Friedman and consider granting next year’s award to one of the many fine actors with disabilities working in film today.

I hope to be back again. It was a real honor to be included in the first year’s festivities.

ARTHUR BRADFORD

Director, How’s Your News?

Continued on page 7

AN INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL AND FORUM
PROMOTING UNDERSTANDING AND INCLUSION OF
PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES



PerspectivesSM

JUNE 4-6, 2004



American Film Institute



FRANK D. LANTERMAN
REGIONAL CENTER

ArcLight Cinemas
6360 W. Sunset Boulevard
Hollywood, CA
www.perspectives-iff.org

LIGHTS! CAMERA! ACTION!

PRESENTING THE SCHEDULE FOR PERSPECTIVES 2004



The American Film Institute (AFI) and Lanterman Regional Center have announced the program for *Perspectives* 2004, An International Film Festival and Forum Promoting Understanding and Inclusion of People with Developmental Disabilities.

Building on the success of last year's inaugural festival, *Perspectives* 2004 will take place June 4-6 at the ArLight Theatre in Hollywood, and will present an exciting and thought-provoking schedule of films.

Each screening will be followed by a lively discussion between filmmakers and experts in the field of developmental disabilities — a feature that makes *Perspectives* truly unique among festivals.

"Film has always been an avenue for opening eyes to experiences that enrich us and make us able to understand life from another point of view," notes Christian Gaines, Director, Festivals; AFI, "and AFI is delighted to be partnering with Lanterman Regional Center on this event. We began a remarkable dialogue last year, and are excited to build even greater understanding this year."

"What people with developmental disabilities and their families tell us they value the most and find the least are understanding and inclusion," explains Diane Anand, executive director of Frank D. Lanterman Regional Center. "*Perspectives* is an ongoing educational effort to change that."

Films featured at *Perspectives* will include:

OPENING NIGHT: FRIDAY, JUNE 4, 2004

7:30 PM AFTERLIFE

SCOTLAND 2003 104 MIN 35 MM

DIR Alison Peebles SCR Andrea Gibb PROD Catherine Aitken DP Grant Scott Cameron ED Colin Monie MUS Paddy Cunneen CAST Lindsay Duncan, Kevin McKidd, Paula Sage, James Laurenson, Shirley Henderson, Fiona Bell

Winner of the Audience Award at the Edinburgh Film Festival, few films capture our universal yearning for connection as simply and effectively as Alison Peebles' heartfelt and beautifully crafted AFTERLIFE.

Kenny Brogan (Kevin McKidd), an ambitious journalist, is working on a story about a doctor suspected of assisting terminally ill patients with suicide. He is on the verge of a big break, so it is not the best timing when his mother (Lindsay Duncan) is laid low with a twisted ankle, and he is summoned back home so that he can help look after his sister Roberta (Paula Sage), who has Down syndrome.

Alison Peebles' debut feature takes on big issues including disability, family loyalty and euthanasia but manages to avoid sentimental melodrama.

A reception in the upstairs bar at ArLight Hollywood will follow this screening.

SATURDAY, JUNE 5, 2004

11:00 AM SMUDGE

CANADA 2001 24 MIN VIDEO

DIR/SCR Hilary Jones-Farrow PROD Hilary Jones-Farrow, Merit Jensen Carr

Based on the book by Nan Gregory, Cindy, a young woman with Down syndrome, finds a puppy and attempts to smuggle it into her group home.

This screening will be followed by a discussion for people with developmental disabilities who want to get involved in acting and other areas of filmmaking.

This screening is being sponsored by Frank D. Lanterman Regional Center and tickets are complementary to all.

SATURDAY, JUNE 5, 2004

1:30 PM WHEN BILLY BROKE HIS HEAD...

AND OTHER TALES OF WONDER

USA 1994 57 MIN 35 MM

DIR/PROD Billy Golfus, David E. Simpson SCR/NARRATOR Billy Golfus DP Slawomir Grunberg ED David E. Simpson FEATURING

Wade Blank, founder of Atlantis/ADAPT; Larry Kegan, writer, musician, songwriter and "model" for Willem Defoe's character in Oliver Stone's BORN ON THE FOURTH OF JULY; Barb Knowlen, disability activist, head of Barrier Brakers; Joy Mincy-Powell, actor and disability activist, key participant/performer with the Open Door Theater; Ed Roberts, co-founder of the Center for Independent Living (CIL); Robin Stephens, an organizer at Atlantis/ADAPT

When Billy Golfus, an award-winning radio journalist, became brain injured in a motor scooter accident, he became one of the 43 million Americans with disabilities—the nation's largest and most invisible minority. But this video, as he says, "ain't exactly your inspirational cripple story." It's a documentary with attitude, which will entertain, enlighten and even enrage its viewers.

Accompanied by filmmaker David Simpson, Golfus travels the country encountering disabled people of all stripes, and witnessing the strength and anger that has forged a civil rights movement for disabled Americans. Laced with humor

and biting wit, WHEN BILLY BROKE HIS HEAD is definitely a no-holds-barred, first-person account, which refuses to tell the "inspirational" stories we have come to expect from films about people with disabilities.

SATURDAY, JUNE 5, 2004

3:30 PM KEEPING IT REAL—FK THE DISABLED**

USA 2001 83 MIN VIDEO

DIR Eli Kabillio SCR/PROD Eli Kabillio, Greg Walloch DP David Sperling, Neil Smith, David Goldsmith ED Egon Kirincic MUS Melanie Rock, Greg Talenfeld, Martin Trum FEATURING Greg Walloch Based on Walloch's play White Disabled Talent, with Stephen Baldwin, Paul Borghese, Anne Meara

Described by The New York Times as "Simultaneously tough and disarmingly sweet." New York City performance artist-turned-comedian Greg Walloch walks with braces due to cerebral palsy, and manages to incorporate material about being disabled and gay into his act without being preachy or precious.

KEEPING IT REAL—F**K THE DISABLED is part documentary, part concert film and part traditional filmed comedy starring New York stand-up comedian Greg Walloch. Politically incorrect, politically challenging and politically untouchable, Greg Wallach makes the viewer question the term "disabled" as he pokes fun at society, sex, religion, his friends and himself.

SATURDAY, JUNE 5, 2004

6:00 PM MIFUNE / MIFUNES SIDSTE SANG

DENMARK 1999 99 MIN 35 MM

DIR Søren Kragh-Jacobsen PROD Birgitte Hald, Morten Kaufmann SCR Søren Kragh-Jacobsen, Anders Thomas Jensen DP Anthony Dod Mantle ED Valdis Oskarsdottir MUSIC Thor Backhausen, Karl Bille, Christian Sievert CAST Anders W. Berthelsen, Iben Hjejle, Jesper Asholt, Sofie Grabøl, Emil Tarding, Anders Hove

The morning after Kresten's wedding, he receives word of his father's death, complicating the fact that he has already lied about having no living relatives. Unwilling to reveal his poverty-stricken past to his new wife, Kresten returns alone to his father's dilapidated farm, where he arranges his father's funeral while caring for Rud, his brother who is mentally handicapped. When Kresten hires Liva to help care for Rud, Kresten's life is further complicated. Like Kresten, the beautiful Liva is also living a lie.

The third film from the Danish DOGMA collective (Thomas Vinterberg's THE CELEBRATION, Lars Von Trier's THE IDIOTS), MIFUNE justifiably created a sensation at the 1999 Berlin Film Festival, winning the Silver Bear.

SATURDAY, JUNE 5, 2004

8:30 PM SLINGBLADE

USA 1996 135 MIN 35 MM

DIR/SCR Billy Bob Thornton PROD David L. Bushell, Brandon Rosser, Larry Meistrich DP Barry Markowitz ED Hughes Winborne MUS Daniel Lanois CAST Billy Bob Thornton, Lucas Black, Dwight Yoakam, J.T. Walsh, John Ritter, Robert Duvall, Vic Chesnutt, Jim Jarmusch

A tour de force from Billy Bob Thornton, who doubles as star and director. Thornton plays a man with mental retardation released from care after 20 years, who befriends a young boy (Lucas Black) and becomes involved in a domestic drama which threatens to trigger the homicidal impulse which landed him in the institution in the first place. As star, Thornton is spellbinding.

Billy Bob Thornton was nominated for Best Actor in a Leading Role at the 1996 Academy Awards® and won for Best Writing, Screenplay Based On Material Previously Produced Or Published.

SUNDAY, JUNE 6, 2004

11:00 AM TALK TO ME and GIVEN A CHANCE...

A LITTLE GIRL'S JOURNEY

(Total Run Time 83 MIN)

TALK TO ME

USA 2003 28 MIN VIDEO

DIR Vanessa Kaneshiro

Public school systems throughout the United States are experiencing a rapid rise in the number of children with autism. Seven-year-olds Adre and Emma, and five-year-old Julian, are in the Autism Program of the Oakland, California, Public Schools. This engaging documentary takes viewers into their lives at home and at school, and profiles the valiant efforts of their parents and teachers to help them reach their maximum potential. By the end of the documentary, we learn that some of the dedicated teachers will be laid off because of the State's budget crisis.

Screens with:

GIVEN A CHANCE... A LITTLE GIRL'S JOURNEY

USA 2003 55 MIN VIDEO

DIR Kim Marriner PROD/SCR Tami Lynn INTRO Billy Bob Thornton NAR Kassie Marriner

This documentary chronicles the development of Kassie Marriner who was drug-addicted at birth and diagnosed with cerebral palsy. Kassie narrates the film and provides a three-word answer to the question: "How do you treat

a person with a disability?" The answer: "Like a person." The film is dedicated to John Ritter who played an important role in Kassie's journey. Ritter was dedicated to bringing attention to people with disabilities, and Billy Bob Thornton helped see the project through after Ritter's death. Always aware that it isn't about how a person walks or talks, it's the beauty in his or her soul, the documentary encourages others to adopt special needs kids.

SUNDAY, JUNE 6, 2004

2:00 BEST MAN: 'BEST BOY' AND ALL OF US TWENTY YEARS LATER

USA 1997 88 MIN 35 MM

DIR/PROD/SCR/ED Ira Wohl DP Tom McDonough

Filmmaker and psychotherapist Ira Wohl revisits his cousin with a developmental disability, Philly. Twenty years ago, the two collaborated on the Oscar®-winning film BEST BOY. Now, at age 70, Philly gets ready for his bar mitzvah. BEST BOY charted Philly's move out of his parent's home into a group residence and followed him as he achieved greater independence. The first film did not simply record Philly's story, but actually contributed to his development.

In BEST MAN, Wohl looks at Philly's life 20 years later and plants the idea of his having a bar mitzvah. This first-person documentary examines Philly's relationship with Wohl, with his peers at the residence and with his sister Frances, to whom responsibility has passed upon the death of their parents.

SUNDAY, JUNE 6, 2004

4:30 PM MEDIA FORUM

The Media Forum brings together members of the developmental disability and entertainment communities for an engaging and informative dialogue about the issues surrounding representations of people with developmental disabilities in film and television. The event begins with a panel of experts presenting their ideas on selected topics and opens up into a discussion amongst the panelists and audience. This year's panel includes Olivia Raynor, director of the National Council on Arts and Disability; Gail Williamson, vice-chair of the Screen Actors Guild Performers with Disabilities Committee; Playwright John Belluso, director of the Mark Taper's Other Voices Project; Paul K. Miller, Ph.D., member and past chair, California Governor's Committee; Barry Morrow, Academy Award-winning screenwriter (RAINMAN, BILL); and Ros Borlund, producer (AFTERLIFE). Other panelists to be announced. David Streit, filmmaker in residence, Production, AFI Conservatory and producer (JURASSIC PARK III, INTERNAL AFFAIRS) will moderate the Media Forum.

Following the forum, the *Perspectives* Media Award will be presented to the California Media Access Office for their tremendous efforts in advancing the cause of understanding and social acceptance by promoting the hiring of actors and filmmakers with disabilities.

Admission to the Media Forum is free to all.

CLOSING NIGHT: SUNDAY, JUNE 6, 2004

6:30 PM TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD

USA 1962 129 MIN 35 MM

DIR Robert Mulligan SCR Horton Foote BOOK Harper Lee PROD Alan J. Pakula DP Russell Harlan ED Aaron Stell MUS Elmer Bernstein CAST Gregory Peck, Mary Badham, Phillip Alford, Robert Duvall, John Megna, Frank Overton, Rosemary Murphy

Gregory Peck won an Oscar® for his brilliant performance as the Southern lawyer who defends a black man accused of rape in this film version of the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel. TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD captures a time, a place and, above all, a mood, making this film a masterpiece, placing it as number 34 on AFI's 100 Years... 100 Movies list.

The enigmatic figure of Boo Radley as the neighbor with a developmental disability who saves Jem, is a well-loved character and an important early depiction of how people with developmental disabilities were marginalized by the society of the time.

Special guest: Mary Badham

A reception in the upstairs bar at ArLight Hollywood will follow this screening.

Advance Tickets Highly Recommended

To order advance tickets go to www.arlightcinemas.com, call 323.464.4226, or visit ArLight Hollywood's box office at 6360 W. Sunset Boulevard (at Ivar).

Tickets are \$11, \$10 for ArLight, AFI and Skirball members, including four hours of free validated parking. You can become a member of ArLight by registering at Guest Services or on their Web site.

For more information go to www.perspectives-iff.org or e-mail perspectives@lanterman.org.

CARLOS ARTURO SIERRA IS STEALING HEARTS WITH HIS SONG

For over half his life, since he was eight, Carlos Arturo Sierra has been singing. His parents Miguel and Josefina love Frank Sinatra and Luis Miguel, and one day when they were playing the Sinatra CD, Carlos just started singing along and trying to imitate him.

So they initially signed up Carlos for voice lessons at his school. As Carlos' vocal talents developed, he also became interested in acting. In addition to lessons at school, Carlos received voice lessons from long time family friend, Abigail Loces, as well as several other professionals, English and Spanish acting lessons, and attended musical and drama camp. As his dad says, "The rest is history."

In 2000, Carlos received the Saban Scholarship at the Media Access Awards, which honors a young performer with a disability. With some of the scholarship money he received, he recorded a demo CD with songs in both English and Spanish. In 2003, he was awarded the Ricardo Montalban/Nosotros Scholarship



(left to right) Miguel Sierra, Carlos Sierra, Director/Producer Peter Farrelly and Josefina Sierra on the set of *The Ringer* in Austin, Texas.

Perspectives on Perspectives

Continued from page 4



When my husband and I first heard about the *Perspectives* Film Festival last year, we were delighted, but to be perfectly honest, also a bit apprehensive. Our nearly two-year-old son has cerebral palsy, and we weren't sure we had the stomachs for any

sad but meaningful stories about people with disabilities. But, hoping for the best, we went anyway and saw *How's Your News?*, an incredibly touching and funny documentary about a group of developmentally disabled adults and their trek interviewing people across the country. While the film itself was truly a revelation to me, the larger experience of the festival was deeply moving.

In the time since my son's birth, I've ridden a roller coaster of emotions. I get tired sometimes of explaining to well-meaning "typical" friends why Luke wears glasses, why he still doesn't talk, why he needs seven therapies a week, and that, no, he cannot yet crawl or walk. But as dramatic as it sounds, the film festival was one of those rare events where I felt completely at home. The usual wall that stands around us simply didn't exist. Before the movie started, I looked around the theater and said to myself, "Here are our people. We matter!" And the film itself didn't so much take me away from my own life as change the way I look at that life and our journey. In the days and weeks and even months afterwards, I kept thinking, There are so many people I want to have see these movies — families affected by disabilities but also families not affected by them. It is an opportunity to build community — a chance for our "typical" friends and relatives to get a real feeling of what our lives are like: difficult but funny, unbelievably challenging yet unexpectedly beautiful, utterly transforming.

KELLY SANCHEZ
Parent

at the Media Access Awards, which honors a performer with a disability.

While at the 2003 Media Access Awards reception, Carlos was approached by Director/Producer Bobby Farrelly to audition for an upcoming film, *The Ringer*. So at the end of December 2003, Carlos flew to Austin, Texas. He was given a singing role in the film as well as a small part that featured Carlos being interviewed about another player who was participating in the Special Olympics.

At 20, Carlos is a very busy man. He's starred in several films, including *The Ringer*, *United States of Leland* and *Mockingbird Don't Sing*. He's also appeared on several television shows and in a Cingular Wireless commercial. He's participated in several theater productions including two with Teatro Ilusión, a monthly inclusive theater program for children with disabilities. Carlos is also in the transition program at Eagle Rock High School and spends his mornings taking computer, voice and fitness classes at Glendale City College and his afternoons at Eagle Rock High. He also made an appearance at the 10th anniversary celebration for the Koch ♦ Young Resource Center where he serenaded guests.

In addition to singing, which he can do in both English and Spanish, Carlos enjoys dancing, swimming, basketball, soccer and riding a bicycle. He also enjoys spending time with his girlfriend, Sofia, who he has been dating for four years. They enjoy going to the



(left to right) Director/Producer Bobby Farrelly, Carlos Sierra and Casting Director Rick Montgomery at the 2003 Media Access Awards.

movies and out to dinner. Carlos is looking forward to eventually getting married.

"Carlos loves to sing, and we love to hear him," shares Miguel. "It's hard sometimes, because a lot of people don't believe that he sings, but Carlos wants to make a profession out of singing, so we are doing our best to help him achieve his goal." Currently the family is helping Carlos make a second CD, and is arranging a variety of personal appearances including a recent one at a Los Angeles Unified School District event at the Los Angeles Convention Center.

With lots of hard work and patience, hopefully, it's only a matter of time before Carlos is receiving his Grammy award for male performer of the year.

Writing Songs and Making Music to the Rhythm of Their Lives — The Kids of Widney High

Fifteen years ago, Michael Monagan, a teacher at Widney High, a special education school in Los Angeles, started a song writing class for students at the school to give them an opportunity to write songs for a school play. "The students, however, also had other things in mind and started writing songs about anything," notes Monagan, "so at the end of the year I decided to take them into the studio and we made an album."

The first album, *Special Music from Special Kids*, was a big success upon its release in 1989, and there was a lot of interest expressed in making a movie about the Kids of Widney High. So the group waited and waited, however, the movie never panned out. Ten years later in 1999, the new student members of the group released the group's second album, *Let's Get Busy*. About four years later, while the students were working on their third album, they finally got their chance to be in a movie. Director Barry Blaustein working with the Farrelly Brothers, who are on the *Perspectives* Council of Advisors, approached the group to participate in their upcoming movie, *The Ringer*. The group has also been featured on Kevin and Bean's Christmas albums produced by KROQ Records.

Traveling to Austin, Texas, the singer/songwriters of Widney High performed two songs in *The Ringer*. In one scene, the Kids of Widney High performed as the live band at a ballroom dance singing "Pretty Girls" and in the final scene of the movie, they sing their version of "Respect" with the cast dancing around the band.



The Kids of Widney High on set for the shooting of a scene in the film, *The Ringer*.

As so often happens because of other arrangements, the songwriting class was canceled the end of last school year, thereby making all members of the Kids of Widney High graduates of the school. Due to a stroke of good luck the class is being resurrected shortly and new blood can begin flowing into the group again.

"One of the things that has held the group together over the years is that we have had a consistent back-up band," adds Monagan. The band consists of two guitarists, a bass player, drummer and harmonicist.

On February 24, 2004, the Kids of Widney High released their third album, *Act Your Age*. The album is available for purchase at www.kidsofwidneyhigh.com, as well as at CDBaby and Amazon. Currently, the album is primarily being played on college radio, but the group is looking to expand on charts all over the country. You can also catch The Kids of Widney High live at a variety of venues located throughout the Greater Los Angeles area. For more information visit www.kidsofwidneyhigh.com.

KYRC 10th Anniversary Celebrates the Importance of Partnership

On March 25, 2004, over 300 people attended the 10th anniversary Koch♦Young Resource Center (KYRC) Open House at Frank D. Lanterman Regional Center. The event was underwritten by EOS International with contributions from Whittier Law School and Ann Seisa of Vagthol's Residential Care, Inc. Lanterman dedicated the event in memory of Mrs. Asenath Young, a pioneer who throughout her life strove to foster the overall development of our community and served as a model figure in her dedication to improving the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

As guests arrived throughout the afternoon, they were met by greeters and guided through a tour of the Resource Center stopping at the following stations: Help Desk, *Perspectives* Film Festival (photo 7), Library Collection, Touchpoints™ Project (photo 19), Resource Packets (photo 18), Assistive Technology Lab (photos 3 and 16), Lanterman Web site, Dental Resources (photo 14), Support Groups, Peer Support Partner Program and Educational Training (photo 1). Once guests completed a tour of the Center, they were invited to mingle and network on the second floor while enjoying light food donated by O'Mamamia and Celaya Bakery.

Additionally, three breakout sessions were held for various target audiences, including *An Inside Look at Information Management Systems: Cost-*

effective Solutions in a Time of Shrinking Budgets given by Jackie Prentice of EOS International (photo 8), *Introduction to Mentors and Technology Project (MAT)*, and *Perspectives Film Festival: A Closer Look* with Sam L. Grogg from the American Film Institute (photo 15). The sessions were well-attended and generated much food for thought.

The event concluded with the 10th Anniversary Celebratory Program (photo 20), which included two outstanding performances by Kristina Turnage (photo 5), a poet and a participant in the assistive technology computer class, and Carlos Arturo Sierra (photo 6), a singer who wowed the crowd with his smooth Paul Anka tunes. The program also included a tribute to regional center pioneer Asenath Young, and testimony on the value of community partnership. As Master of Ceremonies Martin Sweeney noted, "Together we make up quite a colorful quilt."

The following individuals spoke poignantly about the value of community partnerships:

- Staff members Jessica Nuñez, Yadira Navarro and Leticia Reyes talked about the value of partnership within different units at Lanterman;
- Individuals from the Whittier Law Clinic and Ann Seisa of Vagthol's Residential Care, two of Lanterman's service providers, spoke of the value of effective and proactive partnership between Lanterman/KYRC and service providers to provide the highest quality service to clients and their families (photo 17);
- Professional partners, Sonia Aller (Tech for Tots), Beth Walker (Pasadena Public Library) and Karen Wade (Project TECH) attested that collaboration between Lanterman/KYRC and community agencies is of mutual benefit to both partners and allows everyone to better serve their community;
- Family members Blanca Siebels, Germán Barrero, Eryn Jones, Karen Diaz and Chongae Koh testified about the value of Lanterman/KYRC in providing information, education and support to families (empowerment, leadership development), and through their actions have shown the ability of proactive family members to give back to others in the community through peer support, advocacy, etc;
- Adult clients Eli Fattal, Allen Barnes, Mary Flynn and Ralph Bingener shared their experiences and spoke about the opportunities that have opened up to them through Lanterman/KYRC and shared how they have given back to their communities;
- Community partners Steven Bundy (Pasadena First Church of the Nazarene), Barbara Reilly (creator of Team Spirit baseball), Lisa Levin (UCLA Special Olympics), Allison Henkel (USC Helenes)



Photo 2: Ann Seisa of Vagthol's Residential Care, Inc. with Dr. Richard Koch, for whom the Resource Center was named in part 10 years ago to the day.

Photo 4: Rosie and Milan Barrero

Photo 12: Ervin displays some of the software that was donated to the Assistive Technology Project.

"I thought the event was a great success and I enjoyed telling people about the library. My parents were also very impressed with the whole setup and felt their visit was well worth it.

My sister was born with a mild form of mental retardation so they had a great appreciation for all that is being done at the Center. My mother, in fact, would have wished there had been such a resource center in Canada in the early 60s when my sister was born.

I also enjoyed the breakout presentations on (Qseries, Tracking Log) and the *Perspectives* Film Festival, which my parents plan to support. Hopefully, soon we can have a collaborative and unified library database of all the resource centers in Southern California."

— Suzanne Giesinger, off-site librarian,
Koch♦Young Resource Center

and Peter Choh (Young-Nak Church) again emphasized how collaboration with Lanterman/KYRC provided a mutual benefit to both parties and at the same time helped the people in our community.

The formal program ended with the presentation of four Lanterman Leadership Awards.

Community Partnership Award – Diane Anand, executive director, presented this award to Barbara Reilly, a community member with no previous regional center affiliation who created the Team Spirit Inclusive Baseball League (*photo 13*).

The Community Partnership Award is given in recognition of an individual or entity who has worked in partnership with Lanterman Regional Center to pioneer new ways to enhance the lives of people with developmental disabilities and their families, and the community in which they live.

Leon Tebshrary Spirit Award – This award, presented by Patricia Herrera, director of Family Support Services, recognized John Poulos, a client of Lanterman who has been proactive in assisting other adults with self-advocacy and employment, and who also currently sits on Lanterman's board of directors (*photo 11*).

The Leon Tebshrary Spirit Award is given in recognition of an individual with a developmental disability who through a spirit of willingness and a readiness to volunteer, has made a significant contribution to the lives of other people with developmental disabilities, their families, and the communities in which they live.

Roberta Happe Service Award – Melinda Sullivan, associate director, presented this

award which was given to Sam Suzuki, a 26-year staff member dedicated to inclusion and overall improvement of quality of life for Lanterman clients and their families (*photo 9*).

The Roberta Happe Service Award is given to a Lanterman Regional Center staff member or consultant who has demonstrated the power to lead by example and the personal commitment to improve and enhance the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities, their families, and the communities in which they live.

Eveline Landry Family Award – Linda Landry presented this award, which acknowledged Martin Sweeney, a parent (and Lanterman consultant) dedicated to increasing access to assistive technology resources, who has worked tirelessly to improve the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families (*photo 10*).

The Eveline Landry Family Award is given in recognition of a family member of an individual with a developmental disability who has demonstrated an extraordinary personal commitment to supporting other families, and enhancing opportunities for people with developmental disabilities and their families throughout the community.

Lanterman Regional Center and the Koch ♦ Young Resource Center were delighted to have this opportunity to re-introduce our community to the resources available to them through the KYRC, to build and promote community partnerships, and to publicly acknowledge those who have been leaders in our community. In our present budget climate, we hope that this event helped strengthen our community's resolve to work together by focusing on the necessity and value of partnership.

"Hello. I just want to tell you how much I enjoyed the Open House yesterday. The program was wonderful and very, very moving. I appreciated having an opportunity to say a few words about the grant and to hear from your other partners. And the remarks and performances by family members and clients were very inspirational. It was an absolutely great evening!"

— Beth Walker, Pasadena Public Library



"Thank you! I enjoyed it [Open House] greatly, and was pleased to share the unique project we did together through Tech for Tots."

— Sonia Aller, Tech For Tots

A Different Kind of Experiences

By K.J. T.

There are many, many different kind of experiences, Good as well as bad. Only you're attitude and time will tell what kind you'll have.

Any experience is a learning experience If shown and learned with pride.

The only way that is done is if you don't run and hide. I was afraid of experience — afraid to make a move. I just had to learn to see from a different point of view.

A very special thank you to Lisa Levin, for her time, energy and creativity in providing overall coordination and attending to every detail of this anniversary celebration.

Thank you to everyone who helped, without you, this event would not have been possible!

SPONSORS:

Event underwritten by: EOS International

Contributor: Whittier Law School

Sponsorship of Flowers: Ann Seisa, Vagthol's Residential Care, Inc.

Flower arrangements by: Atwater Florist and Nursery

Catering partially funded by: O'Mamamia

Cake donated by: Celaya Bakery

OPEN HOUSE COORDINATION:

Check-in table: Intake Team

Signage: Drew Biehle, William Martinez

Tour stations: Marielle Farnan, Suzanne Giesinger, Toni Jones, Koch ♦ Young Resource Center Staff, Joe Perales

Children's area: USC Helenes

Breakout session coordination: Thani Chow, Marielle Farnan, Patricia Herrera, Linda Landry, Jackie Prentice, Martin Sweeney

Survey coordination: Linda Landry, Jackie Prentice, Lisa Schoyer

Perspectives Film Festival speaker: Sam Grogg

Translation: Alma Flores

Library preparation: Ralph Bingener, Eli Fattal

Packet collation: Jessica Jameau

Volunteer recognition preparation: Autumn Harrison, Olivia Hinojosa, Diana Kampa

Room/building setup and technical support: Claudia Ayala, Drew Biehle, Thani Chow, Ronna Kajikawa, William Martinez, Reyna Paredes, Tammy Simmons

Parking coordination: Shoghig Dikijian, Roberta Erio

Proclamation pick-up and setup: Frank Lara

Greeters/tour guides: Tom Armentrout, Germán Barrero, Rosie Barrero, Kathe Beltran, Rita Chen-Brown, Bill Crosson, Silvia Davis, Silvia Flores, Frank Lara, Mariko Magami, Darrius Price, Jeff Richards, Enrique Roman, Jerry Sunada

Food setup and supervisors: Vinita Anand, Claudia Ayala, Gwen Jordan, Hasmig Mandossian, Anna Moreno, Debrah Murphy

Photography: Drew Biehle, Ronna Kajikawa, Jerry Sunada

Performances: Carlos Arturo Sierra and family, Kristina Turnage and family

Formal program traffic control: Tina Chinakarn

Program participants: Sonia Aller, Diane Anand, Nora Asahara, Allen Barnes, Germán Barrero, Ralph Bingener, Steven Bundy, Peter Choh, Karen Diaz, Eli Fattal, Mary Flynn, Meredith Goetz, Allison Henkel, Patricia Herrera, Evyn Jones, Chongae Ko, Steven Lafemina, Linda Landry, Yadira Navarro, Jessica Nunez, Barbara Reilly, Leticia Reyes, Ann Seisa, Blanca Siebels, Melinda Sullivan, Martin Sweeney, Karen Wade, Beth Walker, Scott Wylie

Awards coordination: Diane Anand, Zena Begin, Steve Beltran, Executive committee of Lanterman board, Executive staff, Patricia Herrera, Olivia Hinojosa, Ronna Kajikawa, M.J. Kienast, Candice LaMere, Linda Landry, Monica Mauriz, Yudy Mazariagos, Debrah Murphy, Mercedes Shamlo, Melinda Sullivan, Martin Sweeney, Maureen Wilson

Awards by: Southern California Trophy Company
Asenath Young dedication photos provided by: Margaret Young

Asenath Young PowerPoint photo collage: Martin Sweeney

Printing by: Macson Printing and Lithography

Pat Smith Helps Enhance Services at the Pasadena Public Library

Meet Pat Smith, a City of Pasadena librarian who's helping to make Pasadena's public libraries more accessible to people with developmental disabilities and their families.

Smith wasn't always a librarian. One day, while she was volunteering at the Long Beach Public Library, she had the opportunity to hear a librarian from Santa Monica. "After listening to her, I realized that this was what I always wanted to do — I wanted to become a librarian — so I worked full time, and I attended San Jose State's extension program at California State University, Fullerton on weekends," she explains.

It took Smith two and one half years, but in 1995, she graduated with a master of library and information sciences. After graduation, she worked for the Anaheim Public Library as a children's librarian, and in 1998 she took a position with the Pasadena Public Library, first as a children's librarian and later as the manager of the San Rafael Branch Library.

Smith has always been interested in library services for people with disabilities in general. The branch of the Anaheim Public Library where she worked was located in a neighborhood that housed several group homes serving adults with developmental

disabilities. Smith got to know some of the providers and started to offer library programming for these groups, including a special story time and library tour. "The positive reaction of the group homes made such a huge impression on me, that I kept asking myself why I hadn't done it sooner," Smith recalls.

"When the opportunity to apply for the statewide grant came up in 2002, I volunteered to be a part of it because I saw it as a chance to enhance the services that the Pasadena Public Library provided people with developmental disabilities," notes Smith. "I have an older brother with Down syndrome and although he hasn't lived at home since I was very young, he has always been a big part of my life," she shares. "He's the one who



*City of Pasadena Librarian
Pat Smith*

inspired me, and participating in the statewide grant is my chance to give back."

Lanterman is pursuing initiatives to increase the literacy of adults with developmental disabilities, and the Pasadena Public Library wants to reach out and become more accessible for people who are not taking advantage of its resources. "There's huge potential for various community resources to form partnerships in order to achieve similar goals," comments Smith. "The partnership between the Library and Lanterman Regional Center is such a natural one — clients, families and caregivers can attend programs in Pasadena, utilize available community resources, and because of the Internet link and lending relationship they will still have access to many of the same materials, including books, video and software available at the Koch ♦ Young Resource Center."

As part of the grant, Smith pursued her certificate in assistive technology through California State University, Northridge, completing it in October 2003. She helped choose the grant-funded literacy and life-skills software that will be installed at La Pintoresca Branch in northwest Pasadena, and will offer orientation programs there later this year.

INTERNET RESOURCES

**[The Autism Education Network](http://www.autismeducation.net)
www.autismeducation.net**

Last month, The Autism Education Network launched their Web site in recognition of National Autism Awareness Month. The site was created to raise awareness about the importance of effective education programs and to help parents secure appropriate special education services for their children with autism. The Autism Education Network is dedicated to connecting parents and professionals through the Internet to influence and improve education policy and programs for individuals with autism. The site enables families and professionals to connect and collaborate with others on common interests and goals, and includes an e-learning center offering online training and seminars regarding special education topics and best practices in autism treatments, and an e-advocacy center which creates, customizes, and delivers e-mail alerts, take-action letters, and petitions using comprehensive legislative databases regarding federal and state special education law directly affecting the autism community.

**[Through the Looking Glass](http://www.lookingglass.org/index.php)
www.lookingglass.org/index.php**

Through the Looking Glass (TLG) is a nationally recognized center that has pioneered research, training and services for families in which a child, parent or grandparent has a disability or medical issues. TLG's mission is "To create, demonstrate and encourage non-pathological and empowering resources, and model early intervention services for families with disability issues in parent or child, which integrate expertise derived from personal disability experience and disability culture." The idea behind the name of the organization comes from the idea that disability does not have to be just negative or traumatic, but rather that disability brings new perspectives that can engender creativity and new meanings — even playfulness and humor. Through the Looking Glass' National Resource Center for Parents with Disabilities provides information, referral, publications, training and consultations regarding parenting with a disability with a special focus on custody, adoption, adaptive baby care equipment, pregnancy and birthing. The Center also offers a parent-to-parent network, professional trainings and workshops, a newsletter, national library and resources clearinghouse, and bulletin board.

Opening Minds by Increasing Accessibility to the Pasadena Public Library

As part of a statewide grant awarded to public libraries throughout the state of California last year, the Pasadena Public Library received funds in August 2003 to improve its services for people with developmental disabilities, their families and caregivers. Lanterman Regional Center was selected as the Library's community partner in preparing the grant application and is assisting the Library in meeting their goals.

A community advisory committee comprised of staff from public agencies, private groups, individuals with developmental disabilities and their families met during the spring of 2003 and identified three key areas that the grant needed to address:

- Improving literacy skills and information access
- Greater library staff sensitivity and awareness
- Enhancing the Pasadena Public Library's collections of materials of interest to people with developmental disabilities and their caregivers

Nine months later...

- Lanterman Regional Center is in the process of updating two current categories in our online Community Resource Directory — social recreation programs and medical — and is developing a dental category. Research and development is ongoing for several other categories and the Center is in the process of purchasing and implementing a new user-friendly and low-maintenance system to house the Directory. The directory is accessible on the Lanterman (www.lanterman.org) and Pasadena Public Library (www.ci.pasadena.ca.us/library/) Web sites.
- The Pasadena Public Library is adding a new collection of popular materials on disability-related topics, life-skills materials and software that will be available for use at La Pintoresca Branch, where orientation classes will be offered later this year. TTY access to reference assistance is also in the works.
- On April 27, 2004, approximately 50 Library staff members attended training with Tom Pomeranz, creator of Universal Enhancements, which is designed to increase understanding of developmental disabilities and to improve customer service to individuals with disabilities. About 60 Pasadena-based service providers and their staff received complementary sensitivity training from Pomeranz so that service

provider and library staff can work better as a team to make library visits a more meaningful experience for individuals with developmental disabilities in the Pasadena area.

- An Internet link and lending relationship between the Pasadena Public Library and the Koch ♦ Young Resource Center (KYRC) is being developed. The KYRC catalog will be accessible to Library patrons through the Pasadena Public Library's Web site, and KYRC patrons will be able to check out materials from the Pasadena Library. Eventually, regular pick-ups and drop-offs of materials from the KYRC will be offered at the Pasadena Public Library's Central facility.
- Staff from the Pasadena Public Library attended the Koch ♦ Young Resource Center Open House and participated in the formal program. Library staff also attended the annual social and recreational forum.
- Lanterman Regional Center is consulting with Barbara Del Monico, a literacy specialist, to continue to strategize on literacy development for adults with developmental disabilities in the Pasadena community. She will work with various stakeholders throughout the Pasadena community including the Pasadena Public Library to gather input on this topic.
- The KYRC is working with the Library to plan a literacy workshop for this coming fall or winter to inform the community about ways and resources available to develop literacy for individuals with developmental disabilities. A presentation by IntelliTools will be featured.

"There are many mutual benefits of the partnership between the Koch ♦ Young Resource Center and the Pasadena Public Library, including doing public relations for each other, taking advantage of each other's specialties to be more cost-effective and to provide the best resources to the communities we serve without duplicating efforts, access to more varied and larger audiences in the general community, access to venues for workshops and events, and the ability to provide complementary services such as the library providing a computer lab room and KYRC providing an instructor or volunteers to work with Library staff to run a class for students with special needs, which means together we can both provide more," comments Lisa Levin, information and resource specialist at Lanterman Regional Center.

FATHERS' CORNER: *Dads at Denny's*

By Angel Marrero

My name is Angel and I'm the father of two beautiful boys. My son Brian is nine years old and is diagnosed with high functioning autism/Asperger's Syndrome. My son Kyle is five years old and is your typical kindergartner who knows it all. My sons are my life and I'm a very proud dad.

As the father of a child with autism, I can share with you that I've had many uphill battles and have had to face very difficult moments. Beginning with accepting the fact that my first-born child has a disability, and then preparing myself for all the issues and challenges that follow.

As a man and as a father, it was very difficult for me to believe that my little toddler was being diagnosed with anything other than a mild case of delayed speech. I remember receiving the diagnosis from the psychiatrists and psychologists at UCLA and thinking they're dead wrong. I remember the endless nights of emotional anger and tears as I questioned God, "Why me? Why was I dealt this card?" I felt alone, misunderstood, lost and helpless. I shut my feelings in and convinced myself that men must always be strong, hide their true feelings and never share their pain with anyone.

My early stage of denial was misinterpreted as being uncaring by my spouse and our communication began to fall by the wayside, so much so, that currently we're in the process of a painful divorce. It wasn't until I began psychotherapy, that I realized that the only way I could ever help myself and help Brian was to come to terms and accept his disability. I became more vocal with family and friends, talking about my son's autism. I made amends with my creator and asked God for forgiveness and guidance. I began seeking support groups for fathers and I couldn't find any. Mothers had many support groups to choose from, but fathers had none.

Then one Saturday morning God answered my prayers. I had arrived early to one of Brian's social skills therapy classes and both Kyle and I ended up in the office waiting room. As we were waiting, I happened to see a flyer on the bulletin board that said daDA Fathers' Support Group. I couldn't believe my eyes. I immediately contacted Aaron Hinojosa and Germán Barrero. I spoke to both of them and expressed my desire to attend one of their meetings. To make a long story short, I have been an active member of daDA since 2002. After our third meeting we decided to find a place that would be of easy access to everyone in the greater Los Angeles area.

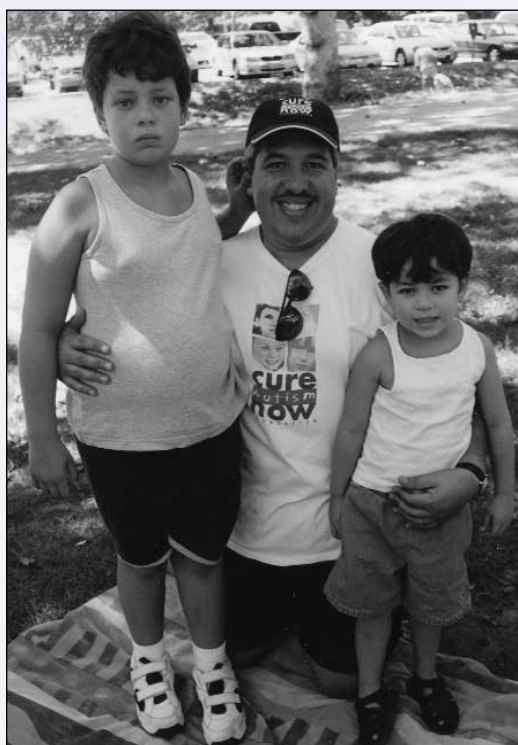
I suggested Denny's and made the arrangements with the manager to allow us to meet the second Monday of every month. As a joke we would say that daDA meant "Dad's At Denny's" and the restaurant staff liked the idea. This support group has been exceptional and very meaningful. We all come from very different backgrounds and

experiences, yet we all share one common bond, and that's a child with a disability. I thank God in helping me find such a group where I can share, and be understood. The magic to daDA is the fathers and the complex stories each one of them have to share. The beauty of daDA is that we all learn from one another, and that is priceless. I'm now in the process of searching for a single parents' support group. Unfortunately, statistics show that the divorce rate of couples with a child with a disability is higher than 65 percent. I know I'm not alone and I will not give up. As with a fathers' support group, a single parents' support group is difficult to find. If anyone is interested in starting one, please contact me and let's begin our own. Denny's is always available! To all the fathers who read this article, I invite you to come to one of our fathers' meetings. Trust me, you're not alone.

Angel Marrero, lives in Montrose and works for Landsafe Credit / Countrywide Home Loans. Angel is a proud member of daDA. If you are interested in a support group for single parents, contact Olivia Hinojosa at 213.383.1300 x705 or olivia.hinojosa@lanterman.org. Janine Meneses, service coordinator, will partner with Marrero on this effort.

Fathers' Corner is a regular Viewpoint feature. If you are a father and would like to write for Fathers' Corner in an upcoming Viewpoint, please contact Vinita Anand at 213.383.1300 x753 or vinita.anand@lanterman.org.

The daDA Fathers' Support Group meets on the second Monday of every month from 7p.m. to 9p.m. at the Denny's at 3060 San Fernando Road in Los Angeles (off Fletcher Street, exit off I-5 or near the Glendale Freeway). For more information, contact Aaron Hinojosa at 213.704.5932 or Germán Barrero at 626.840.9842.



Brian, Angel and Kyle Marrero at the daDA picnic last year.

Grammy award-winning singer Chaka Kahn invited 11-year-old Lanterman client Andrew Hain of Glendale to sing on stage with her at the Cure Autism Now "Walk Now" event held April 17. The 5K walk and family resource fair drew 4,500 people to Dodger Stadium and raised over \$720,000 for autism research.

Board Member Profile

Linda Jones Brings Over Two Decades of Experience in the Field of Developmental Disabilities to Lanterman's Board

The Lanterman Service Provider Advisory Committee acts as a representative voice regarding important matters related to the Lanterman service provider community as a whole, and as such, holds one seat on Lanterman's board of directors. For six years, this board position was filled by Ann Seisa who served on the Service Provider Advisory Committee for 10 years, two as chair.



Linda Jones

In November, at the end of Seisa's service to both the board and the Service Provider Advisory Committee, a new person had to be selected. With 25 years of experience in the field of developmental disabilities, Linda Jones, already a member of the Advisory Committee was selected to represent the interests of Lanterman's service providers on the board.

Jones, who has worked at UCP for 23 years and has her master's degree in social work from the University of Southern California, is the director of Client Services at UCP and oversees the organization's supported living and independent living services in Los Angeles and Ventura counties. While at UCP, Jones has worked to provide a variety of services for children and adults with various developmental disabilities, including residential and day programs, as well as supported employment and living, independent living and children-specific services.

"Because of my background and experience providing many different services, I feel that I am able to aptly represent the interests of the service providers that make up Lanterman's community," shares Jones. "I would also like to add that I'm honored to have been given the opportunity to represent such an outstanding group of service providers who are doing an incredible job in very difficult times."

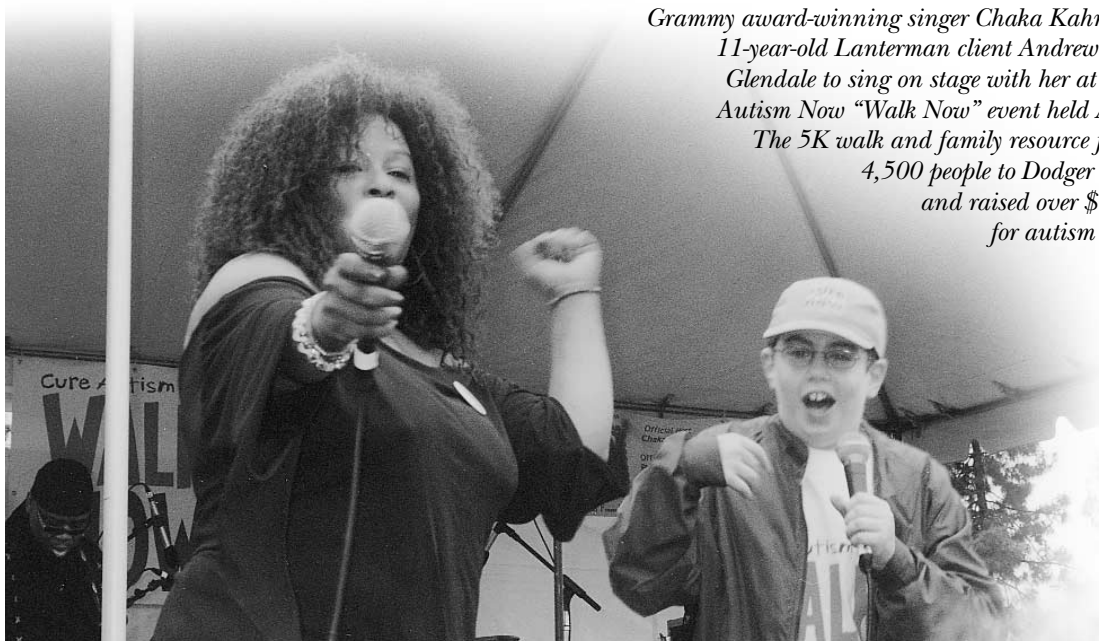
Jones explained that she was looking forward to being able to continue to enhance the quality of services delivered by Lanterman's service providers and to further expand the relationship between service providers and the Regional Center. She also added, "Serving on the board is a great learning opportunity for me personally, especially being involved on the board at such a critical juncture in the overall future of the regional center system."

Looking for New Blood... with experience

As a multi-million dollar corporation, Lanterman is always interested in recruiting board and committee members who have backgrounds in finance, personnel and related areas. Should you or someone you know be interested in volunteering in such a capacity, please contact Patrick Aulicino at 213.383.1300 x690 or patrick.aulicino@lanterman.org.

Board Welcomes Your Attendance at its Meetings

Please be aware that anyone in the community is welcome to attend Lanterman's board of directors meeting, which is conducted on the fourth Wednesday of every month at 6 p.m. Meetings are held at Lanterman Regional Center. Please contact Frank Lara in advance at 213.383.1300 x665 or frank.lara@lanterman.org so you can be placed on the list of attendees. We look forward to your visit.



Meet the People on the Other Side — Meet the Operations Team

If you have ever pushed zero to speak with the operator when you call Lanterman Regional Center or dropped something off at the reception desk and wondered about the people on the other side, here’s your opportunity to get to know something about the people behind the voice on the phone and the glass at the desk.

Claudia Ayala, Reyna Paredes and William Martinez are some of the first people that individuals who call or come to the Center interact with. They are the Operations team and are responsible for the overall operations of the agency including reception, telecommunications systems, ordering supplies, processing the mail, record retention, building safety and security, injury prevention, and equipment inventory among a host of other responsibilities.

As you read through each of their profiles you will get a better idea of who these three people are, including their personal goals, what are some of their individual responsibilities, and what advice they have to offer.

CLAUDIA AYALA

When were you born, and where do you live now?

I'll be turning 26 later this year. Currently I live in Los Angeles just a short distance away from the Center.

Would you like to share something about your family?

My husband, Sinque Brown, is my life partner. He’s been a great supporter in my life, both in my successes and failures. We grew up together, lived in the same building and had many of the same experiences. I feel that we understand each other more because of this shared past.

How long have you been at Lanterman?

I have been at Lanterman for seven years. This was my first job after I graduated from Grant High School in Van Nuys. I had come to Lanterman as a summer youth and was working with the executive offices when a position opened up in Operations, so I jumped at the opportunity. I am extremely grateful that I was invited to join the Lanterman family.

What are some of your responsibilities?

As the manager of Operations, I am responsible for the overall operations-related aspects of the agency. As a team we provide great customer service to both Lanterman’s visitors and Lanterman staff. The three of us work closely together to ensure that all of our responsibilities are executed in an effective and timely manner. In addition, I am the liaison with the building management and work closely with them to ensure that Lanterman’s safety and security needs are met, and that the facility is maintained. On any given day, a large part of the day is spent troubleshooting various issues that arise. I also ensure that we are implementing our injury prevention plan, and I am always looking for ways to reduce overall costs and improve the services delivered by the department. I believe that there is always room for growth and improvement, and welcome feedback about ways in which we can improve the service we provide for you. Please feel free to e-mail me with your comments and suggestions at claudia.ayala@lanterman.org.

Do you have any advice for Lanterman staff that are new to the Center?

Provide the individuals and the families that you serve with as much information as possible. Interact with them and understand their unique situations and where they are coming from. If you have an experience or someone shares something with you, take the next step and go and search for more information. Your support and dedication can provide the positive change needed in an individual’s life.

REYNA PAREDES

How long have you been at Lanterman?

I have worked at Lanterman Regional Center for 16 years.

What are some of your responsibilities?

My responsibilities as a Lanterman employee include providing clients, their caregivers and fellow staff members with the best service possible in the following areas: reception, specifically the training of new staff and temporary staff, telephone system switch, managing office supplies, record management, mail services, security system, trouble shooting fax and copier equipment, fulfilling purchase orders, equipment inventory, and all in all being a team player that brings a positive attitude and helps create a productive work environment.

Do you have any advice for Lanterman staff that are new to the Center?

One of the most beneficial tips I have for new staff members is to get to know your co-workers. Lanterman is based strongly on teamwork, and the better you know and communicate with your co-workers, the better the team atmosphere will be. Moreover, your safety is one of our top priorities here at Lanterman, and please, never leave the building alone when working late. Always have a guard walk you to your car.

Do you have any advice for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families that are new to the Center?

The most important thing that families new and old can do is to get involved with Lanterman Regional Center as much as possible. Being an active participant with the Center will most definitely add to a more positive experience and I believe that families will benefit so much more if they use the resources available to them. Also, don't be afraid to ask questions of any of the Lanterman employees, we're here to help.

WILLIAM MARTINEZ

Where and when were you born, and where do you live now?

I was born in El Salvador on July 3, 1979. I came to the United States when I was 11 years old and I currently live in Alhambra.

Would you like to share something about your family?

I have two brothers, one older and one 11 months younger. My parents left my brothers and I at a very young age for the United States, looking for better horizons and a much better place for us to live because at the time El Salvador was in the midst of a civil war. They have worked hard all their lives and still do, so that my brothers and I can have a better future

How long have you been at Lanterman?

I have been at Lanterman for a little over six years. I came to Lanterman as part of



(left to right) Claudia Ayala, William Martinez and Reyna Paredes

Do you have any advice for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families that are new to the Center?

Be determined to acquire results, but also be patient, and above all, keep yourself informed. The Resource Center at Lanterman is a great place for that. I love it as a staff person, and it’s a great place for families to visit and get information. The staff there can help you find a book, access support and a host of other things. They have personally helped me acquire some insight into how Lanterman provides services and supports to people with developmental disabilities.

What is your fondest memory of your time at Lanterman?

The memories that Lanterman has provided are priceless. Lanterman has created a beautiful environment. I love the diversity and teamwork of the staff, and their dedication. Lanterman’s mission is outstanding, and it gives me great pride to be a part of it. It’s great to work for an organization that is providing wonderful opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. To be a part of the accomplishments that Lanterman has achieved is a pleasure.

What are some of your hobbies/interests outside of work or things you like to do in your spare time?

In my spare time I enjoy reading, listening to music and watching movies. I am highly interested in opportunities that provide spiritual growth. I read many inspirational books in this area. They have inspired me to be optimistic and dedicated to ensure my success.

What are some of your personal and professional goals?

Currently I’m attending Los Angeles City College. I am working on completing my general education requirements and I am planning on continuing my education afterwards to pursue business management. I have another couple of years before I am able to transfer, but it feels good to be taking steps towards my career goals.

Is there anything else that you would like to add?

Working at Lanterman has been great. The Center has given me the opportunity to grow and believe in myself. Being successful here has given me the strength to continue to dedicate myself to achieving my other goals. Sometimes it’s hard going to school and working full-time, but you just need to keep telling yourself that this is what I want and work towards it. Always keep your mind open to continue your educational and professional experiences.

What is your fondest memory of your time at Lanterman?

It’s difficult to pinpoint just one fond memory, when I have so many. So, some of my fondest memories include working together as a team with Accounting, Information Systems and the Review Department at a retreat at Michael Hall’s house. I also fondly recall working for Irene Mann and Henry Sams, two of my former bosses. I also really enjoy all of the events we have held that enable the staff and the people we serve to interact on a more personal level, such as the Lanterman picnic.

Would you like to share something about your family?

I have been married for 26 years and I have a son and two daughters. My son Manuel is 26, my daughter Monique is 18 and Stephanie is seven.

What are some of your hobbies/interests outside of work or things you like to do in your spare time?

I enjoy cooking, swimming, barbeques, camping, taking pictures, listing to music, gambling at PALA, taking my daughter Stephanie out shopping and going out for dinner with my daughter Monique. In general, just spending quality time with my family.

Is there any else that you would like to add?

It is an amazing experience to be an employee of Lanterman. During the past 16 years, it has been, and continues to be very inspiring. Working here gives a person a great way of building friendships with families, vendors and co-workers. I am grateful to have the opportunities to meet each and every one of you. You are all my Lanterman family and I will always value the days that I spend working with you.

a summer youth program, and ended up staying for a few months after the program ended since I needed volunteer hours for my senior year of high school. Thanks to Frank Lara who was then manager of Operations, I was offered a part time position. The end of my teenage years and the beginning of my adult life, in part, has been lived here at Lanterman.

What are some of your responsibilities?

While my responsibilities often vary considerably, there are several ongoing functions that I oversee including maintaining the reception area, security system and storage system, as well as routing the mail and delivering packages, Lanterman’s recycling program, and setting up the conference rooms. Currently I am also maintaining and

Hollywood Girl Scouts Bring Warmth to Lanterman Community

A couple weeks after the holidays were over, the seven and eight-year-olds of Girl Scout Brownie Troop 791 set out on a mission — to collect as many coats as possible. “This was one of our troop’s service projects,” shares Preshea Harmon, troop leader, “and the girls were able to donate over 40 coats.” Coats were collected from family members and friends, and the Girl Scout’s also used some of their funds to purchase new coats. “We are delighted with all the help the Girl Scout’s have given us,” comments Jackie Ashman, Lanterman’s director of Human Resources who also coordinates donations, “and we can’t thank them enough.”



Top (left to right): Jacey Hernandez, Crysta Acevedo, Paizli Harmon, Mary Noller-Gross

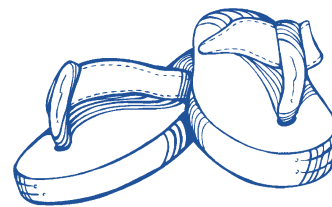
Bottom (left to right): Angel Espinosa, Michelle Contreras, Alexa Ahn, Alexis Morris

This was the troop’s second year participating in the initiative started by the organization One Warm Coat, which works with different Girl Scout Councils throughout the country, although the first year donating coats to Lanterman. “We heard about Lanterman from Diana Jackson, one of the other Girl Scout troop leaders, after we had already donated the coats last year,” explains Harmon, “however it sounded like a place that we would like to help in the future.” Last year, the girls collected hats, scarves and gloves from an ice skating event and donated them to Lanterman.

Here’s what some of the girls of Brownie Troop 791 had to say when they were asked about how this project made them feel. “It made me feel warm inside to give coats to people that might not have one,” shared Paizli Harmon and Alexis Morris said, “That [coat collecting] made me happy because other people needed new jackets.”

Clean Out Your Closets and Donate Last Year’s Summer Stuff

Could you imagine not having shorts, t-shirts and sandals, or even a fan when it’s 100 degrees outside? It’s



hard to even think about denim jeans and sweat pants, but that’s the reality that faces some of the individuals that Lanterman serves — not having appropriate items for summer weather.

“Many of the individuals we serve, especially those who are living independently don’t have the means to purchase clothes, fans or even shoes,” shares Jackie Ashman, director of Human Resources and Giving. So if you or your children have summer clothing languishing in closets that you never plan on wearing again, please consider donating it to Lanterman Regional Center. In addition to summer clothing other related items that are needed include fans, sunscreen, beach and pool toys, hats, and sunglasses.

All donated items are tax deductible and Lanterman can arrange for pick-up of donated items. Contact Jackie Ashman at **213.383.1300 x684** or jackie.ashman@lanterman.org. Items such as furniture and electronics are also welcome.

Ensuring Healthy Teeth and Bright Smiles for Lanterman’s Youngest

Continued from page 1



Leticia Reyes, dental coordinator, examines Karen Arenas as part of the Early Intervention Dental Clinic.

The Early Intervention Dental Clinic is part of the Early Start Oral Health Project funded by a grant that was secured through the collaborative efforts of the University of the Pacific School of Dentistry and Delta Dental. Some of the key goals of the statewide project include developing protocols for oral health screening to identify infants and young children at risk for oral health problems and refer them for preventive services and dental treatment as needed, involve early start coordinators in the process, and assist and support the Children and Family Commissions to better serve children with special needs by sharing protocols, resources and preventive education. The long-term goal is to integrate oral health screening and intervention practices into the early start program.

If you are interested in setting up a screening for your child or would like to arrange for an oral health training please contact Leticia Reyes at **213.383.1300 x745** or leticia.reyes@lanterman.org.

Funds Available for Early Intervention Education and Training

Nine years ago in May 1995, parents and professionals from a variety of different agencies collaborated to bring “Because You Care About Children,” a conference with Dr. T. Berry Brazelton to the Southern California early intervention community. The group was very successful at fundraising, and had a considerable amount of funding left after the conference was paid for.

The Brazelton Early Intervention Education Committee established the Early Intervention Education Fund with the California Community Foundation in order to promote families and professionals to seek new and innovative methods to enhance and support the development of children birth to three.

The fund is designed to supplement training costs for parent and professional teams. Applicants must be a parent of a child under the age of three who is receiving Early Start services and a professional partner who works with children with special needs from birth to three years of age. Additional guidelines are as follows:

- Scholarships are intended to supplement available funding for local education or

training opportunities. State Early Start activities are not considered training opportunities for the purposes of these funds.

- Application must include primary funding source and the amount being requested as a supplement. Funds are not for reimbursement to programs or persons for fees paid in advance. No “after the fact” reimbursements.
- Checks will be made out to the event coordinator only. No cash awards will be made.
- Applicants will be awarded funds one time only per year.
- Applications must be submitted 60 days prior to the event.

Applications for supplemental funds from the Brazelton Early Intervention Education Fund are available through Lanterman’s Training and Development department. Contact Ronna Kajikawa for a copy of the application at **213.383.1300 x720** or ronna.kajikawa@lanterman.org.

Meet the Operations Team

Continued from page 12

ordering the various forms, letterhead, envelopes and business cards that Lanterman employees use in their daily course of business. I also manage my time to help other staff with moving heavy equipment and just try to help meet everyone’s needs as much as I can.

Do you have any advice for Lanterman staff that are new to the Center?

Lanterman has grown a lot since I started here, and it seems to continue to grow, and the services we provide are very unique and special. That’s why we need to always do our best to serve our community and help them achieve their full potential.

Do you have any advice for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families that are new to the Center?

No, not really. I just hope that we can help them, and meet their needs as much as possible.

What is your fondest memory of your time at Lanterman?

Some of my fondest memories include being able to build great friendships with some of the staff and the ability to seek advice when I need it. Since I came to Lanterman when I was really young, I have had to

make a lot of important decisions, such as whether or not to pursue higher education, and I am glad that there are people here I can trust and find help in. The holiday parties and the acknowledgement of your birthdays has also always been something special for me.

What are some of your hobbies/interests outside of work or things you like to do in your spare time?

Right now I am a full-time student, majoring in graphic design and minoring in management. I’ll be graduating in June! Yeah! I also love taking pictures and dancing cumbia, salsa, merengue and anything else that makes the skeleton move.

What are some of your personal and professional goals?

Once I finish up my degree, I would like to do some freelance work and maybe in the future have my own business where I can employ some of the skills I have learned over the last several years, however, I would love to work with, or at, Lanterman as long as I can.

Is there any else that you would like to add?

I am extremely grateful to Lanterman for giving me such great opportunities to grow. I look back and think how much I have learned and how much working at Lanterman has helped me in having a better future.

Viewing Autism from a New Angle – *The Ride Together*

By Vinita Anand

Every now and again, I find the opportunity to read something other than my graduate school textbooks, the magazine *Time* and the newspaper *Los Angeles Times*. It's really hard to justify reading for pleasure (thank goodness there isn't a new Harry Potter book out right now) when reading for school looms over you, but reading for work, that's a different and justifiable story. So I volunteered to write a review for the Koch ♦ Young Resource Center Open House about a book in the collection.

I'd briefly heard about *The Ride Together: A Brother and Sister's Memoir of Autism in the Family* at a

team meeting, and after reading some promotional material about the book I decided that this was the book I was going to review.

So one evening after dinner

I sat down to start *The Ride Together*, figuring I'd only read for a half hour or so, but I couldn't put the book down. The book, a family memoir about Joan and Monroe Karasik and their four children, David, Michael, Judy and Paul, is alternately told by Judy who writes in narrative and her younger brother Paul who draws comics.

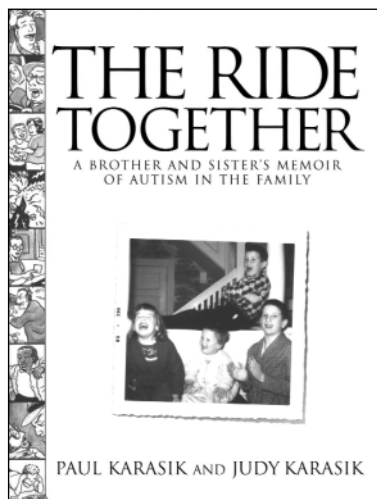
The book starts in 1995 with the entire family reunited except for their father who had passed away to say one final goodbye to the longtime family home their mother was going to vacate. Throughout the subsequent chapters which are divided into four time periods, 1953 to 1966, 1967 to 1980, 1990 to 1996, and 2001, Paul and Judy relate the story of their family, their brother David who has autism, and the history of their relationship with him.

The experiences of the Karasik family, "a typical middle-class 1960s family: one mother, one father, one daughter, and three sons, one of who David, has autism" are laid out for all readers to learn from in *The Ride Together*. The book provides an insider view of a family coming to understand their responsibility to David as he grows up but also as they grow up and leave home and appreciate the meaning that his life gives theirs.

Within the context of every day life, including politics, school, summer vacations, getting married, having children and parents aging, the book realistically portrays the complexity of the relationships that develop between parents and their children with and without disabilities, the relationship that exists between the siblings without disabilities, and the relationship between these siblings and their sibling with a disability.

Out of the many books that I have browsed through and reviewed for columns in Lanterman's newsletter *Viewpoint*, this is one of the best and easiest to understand books about autism and some of the issues that arise in a family with a member with autism that I have ever read.

To borrow a copy of this book and for other autism-related resources please contact the Koch ♦ Young Resource Center at **213.383.1300 x730**, toll-free at **800.546.3676** or kyrc@lanterman.org.



Building a "Palace" for Lanterman's Clients to Call Home

Eight years ago, Ann Seisa, owner of Vagthol's Residential Care, Inc. embarked on a remarkable journey when Katie Stepanek moved into one of her residential homes. Stepanek was late diagnosed with phenylketonuria (PKU) and presented many medical, behavioral and dietary challenges, however, after a year of being on phenyl-restricted diet, her caregivers began to see the light. Eight years later, Stepanek, whose life has been transformed by the diet, attended the grand opening and dedication of the Koch-Vagthol's Metabolic Residential Center. "Katie has paved the way for others who were late diagnosed with PKU to have a better quality of life," notes Seisa.

Two years in the building, Seisa admits that this is by far the most difficult and challenging project of her 18-year career providing services and support to adults and seniors with developmental disabilities. Not only were there construction challenges, Seisa also encountered strong opposition to the project from some of the surrounding neighbors who cited increased traffic and a "commercial" facility in a residential area as their reasons.

Seisa promised in her welcome speech to the neighbors, "We vow to be a good neighbor and an asset to this equestrian community." Not only did Seisa host a barbeque for the neighbors, but she invited the community to the grand opening and has spent several morning since the opening on April 29, giving tours to neighbors and addressing their comments and concerns. "Since the initial opposition, a lot of neighbors have come up and given me a hug and shared how pleased they are with how the project has ended up," adds Seisa. "It is going to take time, but we will continue to communicate and be very proactive in addressing their concerns."

Seisa also added in her welcome speech, "As we celebrate today, we are renewing our commitment to offer the highest quality living options in a residential home setting for adults and seniors with developmental disabilities, and to assist and support clients in partnership with their families, regional centers, and others to achieve their fullest potential as active members of our community."



Honorable Marsha Ramos, Vice Mayor, City of Burbank; Diane Anand, executive director; Ann Seisa; Dr. Richard Koch; and Barbara Paul, field representative from Senator Jack Scott's office, participate in the ribbon cutting ceremony at the opening of the Koch-Vagthol's Metabolic Residential Center.

The home was named in honor of Dr. Richard Koch, an internationally recognize expert on PKU, who has dedicated over five decades of his medical career to improving the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities, especially those with PKU. Described over and over as a "palace" by guests, the question of, "Can I move in?" was heard more than once throughout the course of the event.

Over the next several months, five individuals who have been institutionalized in state developmental centers over many years will be moving out into the home, which is located near the Los Angeles Equestrian Center in Burbank, to begin a new chapter in their lives. Each resident will have his or her own room. In addition, there is a gourmet kitchen, dining room, lounge area and large back yard that is beautifully landscaped and features a stable that may one day be home to a couple of horses. Also, the staff ratio is five clients to three staff, with one-to-one care provided if needed, because of the dietary and care needs of individuals with previously untreated PKU.

"This has been a tremendous project for me and my husband. We are very blessed to do what we do and be able to make a living of it. I know it has improved our lives and our children's lives, and in return we are trying to improve the quality of the lives of the individuals we serve," shares Seisa.



At left, (left to right) Dr. Richard Koch, Katie Stepanek and Ann Seisa.

Above, the newly renovated house that will be home to five individuals diagnosed later in life with PKU who will be moving here from the State Developmental Centers.

WHAT IS PKU?

Phenylketonuria, abbreviated PKU, is an inherited metabolic disorder that leads to mental retardation and other neurological problems if untreated. It occurs in one of every 10,000 to 15,000 births. With this disorder, the body is unable to metabolize an amino acid called phenylalanine (PHE), a component of protein. Therefore, when a person with PKU consumes PHE-containing foods, the PHE builds up in their body. High levels of PHE can cause damage to the central nervous system. If this problem is left untreated, the consequences are progressive mental retardation, neurological deterioration and behavioral disorders.

Since the mid-1960s, the PKU screening test has been included in the "newborn screening" process. Early detection of PKU is important because treatment, which could potentially prevent neurological damage from occurring, can be initiated immediately. However, if PKU is not diagnosed shortly after birth, the chronically high PHE levels will cause mental retardation and a variety of other problems.

In order for an individual to inherit PKU, that person's mother and father must carry the PKU gene. If they do, they have a one in four chance of having a child with the condition. Symptoms of PKU may vary with each individual according to the severity of damage, but some of these include: mental retardation, behavioral disorders such as head-banging, self-injurious behavior and aggression, dry scaly skin, unsteady gait, loss of muscle tone, seizures and spasticity.

Treatment for PKU normally includes dietary control such as eating foods low in PHE and consuming a protein substitute called "medical food." Medical foods contain vitamins, minerals and all essential amino acids except phenylalanine. By limiting intakes of PHE through natural sources and assuring adequate intake of the non-offensive amino acids, the levels of PHE in the blood are maintained at lower levels, allowing for normal growth and development.

SUMMER RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

15

Whoever said that summer time brought lazy days didn't live in Los Angeles. There's so much to do in the area this time of year, from outdoor concerts and performances, to going to the beach, hiking the mountains, swimming in the pool or walking through air-conditioned art galleries. The following is a list of organizations that provide recreational opportunities during the summer. Some of these resources specialize in working with people with developmental disabilities, while other programs work with the community at large and include people with developmental disabilities in their programs. Let us know about your experiences with these organizations so we know whether to include them in future editions. Send you feedback to the Koch♦Young Resource Center at [213.383.1300 x730](tel:213.383.1300), toll-free at [800.546.3676](tel:800.546.3676) or kyrc@lanterman.org. Also, if you know of any resources, please share them with us. Whatever your fancy for summertime recreation, remember to wear sunscreen if it's outdoors and have fun.

FOOTHILL/PASADENA AREA

Adaptive Recreation Program of Pasadena sponsors a variety of year-round recreational activities, including camps and art programs, as well as community social events for all groups and ranges of need. Contact Jackie Scott at [626.744.7257](tel:626.744.7257) for more information.

Andres Martial Arts, located in Burbank, offers Tae Kwon Do instruction for individuals with disabilities in an inclusive setting. Contact Vincent Rodricks at [818.843.2637](tel:818.843.2637) or andresmartialarts@hotmail.com for more information.

Armory Center for the Arts offers a full range of year-round mainstream art instruction. Students with disabilities are evaluated for entry on a case-by-case basis. Each session includes 20 different class options. Poetry readings and concerts are also available. Call [626.792.5101 x114](tel:626.792.5101) for more information.

BCR offers year-round activities including a monthly dance from September to June hosted on the second Friday of each month at McCambridge Recreation Center on Glen Oaks Boulevard in Burbank. The dances are for individuals with developmental disabilities 16 and older and cost \$2. Contact Rachel Galperin at [818.843.4907](tel:818.843.4907) for more information.

Boys and Girls Club of Burbank mainstreams all programs with participation determined on a case-by-case basis. They offer a variety of activities year round from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. Contact Alex Fey at [818.842.9333](tel:818.842.9333) for more information.

Boys and Girls Club of Pasadena mainstreams individuals on a case-by-case basis into their year-round camps, crafts and sports programs. Call [626.449.9100](tel:626.449.9100) for more information and a schedule of activities.

Camp Joan Mier and Camp Paivika are sponsored by AbilityFirst, and offer weekend respite camps for children ages seven to 12, as well as teenagers. Contact Brenda at [626.396.1010 x324](tel:626.396.1010), Kelly at [626.396.1010 x320](tel:626.396.1010), or Jessica at [626.396.1010 x318](tel:626.396.1010) for more information.

Center for Developing Kids in Pasadena offers a wide range of activities year round, including social group and exercise. Contact Sue Trautman at [626.564.2700](tel:626.564.2700) for more information.

Center for the Arts – Eagle Rock offers an array of programs including creative art classes. Contact Jenny Krusoe at [323.226.1617](tel:323.226.1617) for more information.

Club Maple offers free social recreation opportunities every Thursday evening from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Maple Park Apartments for adults 18 years plus. Club Maple also coordinates one outing a month with Glendale Parks and Recreation. Call [818.548.2788](tel:818.548.2788) for more information.

Fred Vilaris Studios of Self-Defense in Glendale offers year-round instruction in martial arts for all levels from beginner to experienced. The staff has experience with students with developmental disabilities. Contact Armen at [818.957.7544](tel:818.957.7544) for more information.

Glendale Adventist Medical Center – Pediatric Therapy Center offers a wide range of group and camp programs year round that are taught by occupational, physical or speech therapists. A new sport group will be forming in the fall. Contact Stacy Sartor at [323.255.1134](tel:323.255.1134) for more information.

Glendale Parks and Recreation offers a year-round day camp for children ages six to 12. Contact Gabriel Winter at [818.548.3797](tel:818.548.3797) for more information. Also offered is a summer day camp at three different locations for children for

children six to 15 years of age. Call [818.548.2788](tel:818.548.2788) for more information.

Glendale YMCA offers year-round programs and classes. Contact Ryan Lakota at [818.240.4130 x13](tel:818.240.4130).

High Spirits Dance Program is a dance class for people with developmental disabilities, their siblings and other family members, as well as community members. Classes are held at the Altadena Community Church. Contact Lynnette Adams at [626.399.5789](tel:626.399.5789) for more information.

Little League Challenger Baseball includes young children with disabilities in the T-Ball division. Practices are held at Yosemite playground in Eagle Rock. For more information call Joe Fitzpatrick at [818.512.8547](tel:818.512.8547).

LL Frank Center, sponsored by AbilityFirst, offers year-round activities, including holiday activities, in Pasadena. Contact Amanda Donahue at [626.449.5661](tel:626.449.5661).

Pickwick Recreation Center in Burbank offers a variety of year-round activities including bowling and ice-skating. Call [818.846.0035](tel:818.846.0035) for more information.

South Pasadena YMCA offers a variety of activities year-round including swimming and teen fitness classes. Contact Michael Henderson, sport director, Amy Lopez for swim, and Julie for teen fitness at [626.799.9119](tel:626.799.9119) for more information.

Team Spirit provides sporting opportunities for children both with and without disabilities to play together. The first sporting event of 2004 will be T-Ball. Contact Barbara Reilly at [213.833.6179](tel:213.833.6179) for more information.

Wingz dance class in La Cañada integrates children with special needs into a mainstream dance experience. For more information contact Smith Wordes at [818.679.3823](tel:818.679.3823) or revealed@sbcglobal.net.

Y-Spirit offers a year-round dance program for people with developmental disabilities, their siblings and family members. Call [626.351.3336](tel:626.351.3336) for more information.

LOS ANGELES AREA

Bethune Theatredanse is a studio that provides year round dance instruction for individuals with developmental disabilities. Contact Zina Bethune at [323.874.0481](tel:323.874.0481) for more information.

Born to Act Players offers acting opportunities weekly on Saturday mornings from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Los Angeles Valley College Theatre Arts Department from age eight through adulthood. For more information call Mary Rings at [818.345.5057](tel:818.345.5057).

Boys and Girls Club of Hollywood is a year-round community program. Onsite teen center and learning centers offer activities. Membership is required. Call [323.464.7325](tel:323.464.7325) for more information.

Braille Institute offers youth-oriented activities such as after-school programs, camps and special events for children ages six to 19 with visual impairments. Contact the Youth Center at the Braille Institute at [1-800-BRAILLE](tel:1-800-BRAILLE) for more information.

Catholic Big Brothers is a year-round program for boys ages seven to 14 where participants are matched with older "big brothers." Contact Rosario Delgadillo at [213.251.9800](tel:213.251.9800) for more information.

Elysian Park, located near Dodger Stadium, provides opportunities for children and young adults year round. Activities include field trips, nature walks, theme weeks, sports, and arts and crafts. Contact Carol at [323.226.1402](tel:323.226.1402) for more information.

Etta Israel's Camp Moshe provides year-round day camp opportunities in Los Angeles for children with special needs. Call [323.965.8711](tel:323.965.8711) for more information.

Hollywood YMCA offers a variety of year-round services including a weight room, gym and pool. Call [323.467.4161](tel:323.467.4161) for more information.

Jeffrey Foundation in Los Angeles offers various day program opportunities for school-age individuals. Contact Deanna Weigold at [323.965.7536](tel:323.965.7536) for more information.

Jewish Big Brothers and Big Sisters Associations offer residential summer camps for Jewish boys and girls with disabilities, ages 12 years and up, on a case-by-case basis. Call [818.907.3873](tel:818.907.3873) for more information.

Jewish Programs for the Disabled (Chaverim) offers year-round activities throughout the Los Angeles area for Jewish adults with developmental disabilities. Activities include bowling, miniature

golf, music, dances and seasonal dinners. Call [818.884.1092](tel:818.884.1092) for more information.

L.A. Goal is located in Culver City and provides a variety of year-round leisure opportunities for adults. Membership is required. Contact Petite Konstantin at [310.838.5274](tel:310.838.5274) for more information.

Los Angeles City Parks and Recreation offers a variety of year-round services throughout the city, as well as several camping facilities including Camp Valcrest, Decker Canyon Camp, Camp High Sierra and Camp Seely. Contact Mark Hothberg, Camping Facilities, at [213.485.4853](tel:213.485.4853) for more information. For general information call the main office at [213.847.9218](tel:213.847.9218) or visit www.cityofla.org.

Los Angeles County Museum of Art has a year-round program called Art for All, which provides services such as gallery tours, special exhibitions, guest lectures and hands-on workshops that are geared towards individuals of all ages with disabilities. Services are free, but reservations are required. Contact Mary Marks or Selma Waxson at [323.857.6130](tel:323.857.6130) for more information.

Shane's Inspiration creates Universally Accessible Playgrounds for children of all abilities. They have two large parks one in Griffith Park called Shane's Inspiration and the other on Sepulveda Boulevard in West Los Angeles called Aidan's Place. The sensory-rich equipment is independently playable for children with disabilities while exciting and challenging for able-bodied children. They also host play dates through Shane's Club. Visit www.shanesinspiration.org or call [818.752.5676](tel:818.752.5676) for more information.

Special Olympics is a year-round program focusing on a variety of sports activities. Contact the Greater Los Angeles office at [310.215.8380](tel:310.215.8380) for information about joining a team in your area.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA AREA

Ahead with Horses, Inc. offers year-round equestrian developmental therapy for children with special needs. Call [818.767.6373](tel:818.767.6373) for more information.

American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) is a national youth soccer program that also has VIP program during the fall that provides a quality soccer experience for children and adults with disabilities. Contact Margie Close at [800.872.2976](tel:800.872.2976). If you are interested in games and practices that are held at Balboa Park in Encino contact Adrienne Coffin at [626.396.5161](tel:626.396.5161).

Boy Scouts of America offers inclusion in scouting. Contact Pierre Landry at [323.255.0354](tel:323.255.0354) or Landryph@aol.com for more information.

The Creative Arts Center offers a variety of creative arts activities. Contact Kim Freed at [818.238.5397](tel:818.238.5397) for more information.

Easter Seals offers a year-round, weekend-only camp program at various camps in San Diego County for people with developmental disabilities. Call [831.684.2380 x107](tel:831.684.2380) for more information.

Exceptional Children's Foundation offers residential camp opportunities in the San Bernardino Mountains. For details call Walter Nuñez at [310.845.8032](tel:310.845.8032).

Gymboree provides gymnastics instruction in three community locations for children ages zero-to-four. Call [818.906.6225](tel:818.906.6225) for more information.

Jay Nolan Services offers a Saturday program at five different locations in the community. Call Cindy Strully at [818.361.6400 x126](tel:818.361.6400) for details.

New Directions provides vacation travel plans for people with developmental disabilities, including day and overnight trips. Call [805.967.2841](tel:805.967.2841) or visit www.newdirectionstravel.com for more information.

Plaza de la Raza offers year-round art and cultural experiences, including music, dance and visual arts. Contact Maria Jimenez Torres at [323.223.2475](tel:323.223.2475) for more information.

Prader-Willi California Foundation offers a variety of summer camps for children with Prader-Willi Syndrome. Please call the Prader-Willi California Foundation for more information [800.400.9994](tel:800.400.9994).

Social Vocational Services has offices throughout the Greater Los Angeles area and many of them sponsor year-round leisure activities. For more information and to place your name on the calendar mailing list call [310.944.3303](tel:310.944.3303) or e-mail them at svsco@earthlink.net.

The United States Adaptive Recreation Center at Big Bear Lake offers year-round activities. Contact Shelly at [909.584.0269](tel:909.584.0269) for more information.

Training & Events

The Training and Development unit provides information on training opportunities that focus on developmental disabilities and related topics. The unit staff coordinates training events that are conducted by Lanterman Regional Center. Staff also coordinate registration arrangements for clients, family members, staff, board members, and service providers in the Lanterman community to attend external educational events of special interest.

The Center also publishes a training and events webpage that is accessible via our Web site: www.lanterman.org.

If you are a parent or client in the Lanterman Regional Center service area and are interested in attending a training opportunity outside the Regional Center, contact your service coordinator. For consideration, your request must be received by Training and Development three weeks prior to the posted conference deadline. We welcome your suggestions for future training topics and information on upcoming educational events that we can share with others.

You may send comments, or request to be on the mailing list, by one of the following options:

BY MAIL:

Training and Development
Lanterman Regional Center
3303 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 700
Los Angeles, CA 90010

BY FAX:

213.639.1157

BY E-MAIL:

Maureen S. Wilson, director
maureen.wilson@lanterman.org
Ronna Kajikawa, executive assistant
ronna.kajikawa@lanterman.org

Lanterman Regional Center Family & Client Training

The following are training opportunities that focus on developmental disabilities and related topics and are conducted or sponsored by Lanterman Regional Center for clients, family members and board members in the Lanterman community.

FAMILY TRAINING

BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP FOR PARENTS

This six-session course offered in English, Spanish and Korean introduces the basic principles, concepts, and practical applications of behavior management. The classes focus on managing and controlling challenging behaviors, and using positive reinforcement to replace inappropriate behaviors. **All families should touch base with their service coordinator to determine whether this course will meet your needs.** Contact the Koch♦Young Resource Center at 213.383.1300 x730, toll-free at 800.546.3676 or kyrc@lanterman.org for additional information and to register.

BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT SPECIALTY WORKSHOP: TOILET TRAINING

This six-session course introduces the basic principles, concepts and practical applications of behavior management along with specific toilet training strategies for parents of children with special needs. Classes are conducted in different locations in the Lanterman community with options for morning, evening or weekend workshops. Classes are conducted in a positive and confidential environment with other parents and are designed to provide support to participants as they practice learned behavior techniques between sessions. **All families should touch base with their service coordinator to determine whether this course will meet your needs.** Contact the Koch♦Young Resource Center at 213.383.1300 x730, toll-free at 800.546.3676 or kyrc@lanterman.org for additional information and to register.

IEP TRAINING: TRANSITION TO PRESCHOOL

For families with children two to three years of age. Trainings are offered in both English and Spanish. Presenters: LRC Staff.

For more information and dates call 213.383.1300 x730.

PARENTING THE CHILD WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

This is an exciting five-week course that addresses issues faced by families who have children from birth to age six with special needs. Topics covered include developmental stages and milestones, intervention and therapy that support child development in the family, planning and setting goals for your child, appropriate expectations and boundaries in behavior management, advocating for your child, and making connections with resources and support. A specialized training on autism is also available. "General" refers to all diagnosis other than autism.

For more information, registration and additional dates call 213.383.1300 x730.

ENGLISH — GENERAL

April 22 - May 20, 2004
Five consecutive Thursdays
6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
AbilityFirst
40 North Altadena Drive
Pasadena, CA 91107

ESPAÑOL — GENERAL

Mayo 1 - Mayo 29, 2004
Cinco sábados consecutivos
11:30 a.m. a 1:30 p.m.
Shriner's Hospital
3160 Geneva Street
Los Angeles, CA 90020

SERVICE COORDINATION AND ADVOCACY TRAINING

This training is a 10-hour course for Lanterman families to better enable them to advocate for and assist their family member with a disability. Topics covered include an overview of the regional center system, service coordination, overview of developmental disabilities, services and supports, education, and advocacy and legal issues.

For more information, registration and additional dates call 213.383.1300 x730.

ENGLISH

May 4 - June 1, 2004
Five consecutive Tuesdays
7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Except May 25 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
BCR
230 East Amherst Drive
Burbank, CA 91504
Presenters: SCAT faculty

ESPAÑOL

Septiembre 8 – Octubre 6, 2004
Cinco martes consecutivos
9:30 a.m. a 11:30 p.m.
Centro Regional Frank D. Lanterman
Presenters: SCAT faculty

ENGLISH

October 7 - November 4, 2004
Five consecutive Thursdays
7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Except October 28 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
Exact location in Glendale community to be announced
Presenters: SCAT faculty

CLIENT TRAINING

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY COMPUTER CLASSES

The Adult Education and Career division of Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) in partnership with the Assistive Technology Project of Lanterman Regional Center have established assistive technology computer classes to assist Lanterman clients and their families. These classes are an introduction to computers, software, programs, Internet and e-mail. Classes in other languages, independent study options, and open lab hours are available. Classes fill up quickly. Students must be able and prepared to attend classes on a weekly basis. If a student requires special accommodations, please be sure to indicate so. *For registration and more information call 800.546.3676 or 213.383.1300 x730.*

BEGINNER FOR ADULTS — ENGLISH

SUMMER SESSION: July 6 - August 17, 2004
Seven consecutive weeks
Tuesdays, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Lanterman Regional Center
Presenters: LAUSD

INTERMEDIATE FOR ADULTS — ENGLISH

(For students who have already taken the beginner classes or who already have basic computer skills.)
SUMMER SESSION: July 8 - August 19
Seven consecutive weeks
Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Lanterman Regional Center
Presenters: LAUSD

BASICA POR ADULTOS — ESPAÑOL

Al momento, no hay clases disponibles en Español. Las anunciaremos cuando esten disponibles. Si usted o alguien que conoce puede servir de voluntario como instructor de clases de computación, llame al Centro de Recursos Koch ♦ Young a 213.383.1300 x730.

BEGINNER FOR ADULTS — KOREAN

Minimum of 10 students required.
Dates and times to be announced pending level of interest.

SEXUALITY & SOCIALIZATION TRAINING

Lanterman Regional Center offers several options for sexuality and socialization training. **Please note: All of the sexuality and socialization trainings require a referral from your service coordinator. Contact your service coordinator to register.**

ABILITIES

Abilities is a sexual abuse and exploitation risk-reduction program for adults with developmental disabilities. This



three half-days training includes topics such as: definitions of sexual abuse, assertiveness training, self-esteem and communication, personal safety training, and what to do if a person is ever sexually abused or assaulted.

Class dependant on enrollment, six person minimum

GET SAFE

The Get Safe program is a personal safety program for people with developmental disabilities. Topics covered include assertiveness training, safety awareness, defining boundaries, and creating healthy relationships.

Class dependant on enrollment, 10 person minimum

(For children 10 and under)

June 30 - July 14, 2004

Three consecutive Wednesdays

4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Lanterman Regional Center

WOMEN'S REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND SELF-ADVOCACY TRAINING (RHSA)

RHSA is a peer-advocacy-based training program for women with developmental disabilities. The four session training is co-taught by a health educator and a female client, and includes topics such as: basic anatomy, menstruation, menopause, pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, contraception, the importance of women's health exams, and using self-advocacy to communicate with your doctor. Class dependant on enrollment, six person minimum

The address for Lanterman Regional Center is:
3303 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 700
Los Angeles, CA 90010

Learn Sign Language

Lanterman Regional Center is looking to offer a sign language course for interested parents this coming fall. If you are interested in attending classes, please contact the Koch♦Young Resource Center at 213.383.1300 x730, toll-free at 800.546.3676 or kyrc@lanterman.org for more information.

Save the Dates!

Foothill Autism Alliance, Inc. is hosting *The Realities of Transition: Will Your Child be Able to Get a Job?* on Wednesday, June 9, 2004. The discussion will cover the ITP process, ITP versus IEP, vocational training programs and preparation for leaving high school. Featured speaker will be Sherri Mudd, director of the Foothill SELPA. The program starts at 7 p.m. and will be held at the First United Methodist Church (Trevor Hall) located at 700 North Glenoaks Boulevard (Glenoaks and Harvard) in Burbank. Visit www.foothillautism.org or call 818.66.AUTISM for more information.

Foothill Autism Alliance, Inc. and Frank D. Lanterman Regional Center are hosting *Inclusion Education: Examining the Options* with Mary Falvey on Wednesday, September 8, 2004 from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. in Burbank. Mary Falvey is a professor at California State University, Los Angeles and specializes in inclusion education. Visit www.foothillautism.org or call 818.66.AUTISM for more information.



ADULT SIBLING SUPPORT GROUP

Call for dates, location and details.
Contact: Olivia Hinojosa 213.383.1300 x705

ARMENIAN PARENT GROUP

Quarterly meetings – Glendale area
Call for dates, location and details.
Contact: Rima Shahoian 818.548.4349
Sona Topjian 213.383.1300 x468

ARMENIAN PARENT SUPPORT GROUP

Monthly meetings at group members’ homes
in the Glendale area.
Monthly – Last Friday 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Contact: Rima Shahoian 818.548.4349
Sona Topjian 213.383.1300 x468

AUTISM SOCIETY OF AMERICA

San Gabriel Valley Chapter Support Group
1167 North Reeder Avenue; Covina
Monthly – First Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.
Contact: Patricia Kreysler 626.447.3452

DE MI FAMILIA A SU FAMILIA

(Grupo para familias con niños con autismo.)
Lanterman Regional Center
Primer miercoles de cada mes
9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
Contact: Romi Castillo 323.463.3678

DOWN SYNDROME SAN GABRIEL VALLEY
PARENT SUPPORT GROUP
WITH CHILDREN UNDER SEVEN

Church of the Brethren
1041 North Altadena Drive; Pasadena
Monthly – Second Thursday, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Contact: Rhonda Tritch 323.255.0037
Olivia Hinojosa 213.383.1300 x705

FAMILIES AND FRIENDS
OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

St. Dominic’s Community Center
2002 Merton Avenue; Eagle Rock
Monthly – First Friday, 7:30 p.m.
Contact: Emma Guanlao 323.259.8332
Sandy Riancho 323.344.9355

Training & Development
Opportunities

For Service Providers

The following are training opportunities that focus on
developmental disabilities and related topics and are
conducted or sponsored by Lanterman Regional Center for
service providers in the Lanterman community.

SHHH! WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW
ABOUT CONFIDENTIALITY AND HIPAA
PRIVACY RULES

In this training, service providers will learn about
confidentiality and the new Health Insurance Portability
and Accountability Act.
Tuesday, June 8, 2004
10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Lanterman Regional Center
Presenter: Lanterman Regional Center Staff
213 383-1300, x. 720
Cost: \$5 pre-registration, \$10 at door
Parking not validated

CRISIS PREVENTION AND
INTERVENTION

This two-day training is designed to prepare direct care staff
to facilitate the de-escalation of potentially violent
situations through crisis prevention and intervention
techniques.
Tuesday, June 15 and Wednesday, June 16, 2004
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Lanterman Regional Center
Presenter: Behavior Intervention & Training Team
213.383.1300, x.720
Cost: \$50 advance registration, \$15 materials (cash at door)
Parking not validated

HANDLING OF PERSONAL AND
INCIDENTAL MONIES

In this training, service providers will learn about
guidelines, documentation and reconciliation of personal
and incidental funds.
Tuesday, July 13, 2004
10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Lanterman Regional Center
Presenter: Lanterman Regional Center Staff
213 383-1300, x. 720
Cost: \$5 pre-registration, \$10 at door
Parking not validated

FILIPINO AMERICAN
SPECIAL SERVICE GROUP FOR
THE DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED

Call for dates, location and details.
Contact: Alice Gubatan 213.384.2340

FOOTHILL AUTISM ALLIANCE —
NETWORK RESOURCE MEETINGS

BCR
230 East Amherst Drive; Burbank
Monthly – Second Wednesday, 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
Contact: Sue Brooks 818.66.AUTISM (818.662.8847)

FRAGILE X PARENT
SUPPORT GROUP

Call for dates, location and details.
Monthly – 7 p.m.
Contact: 818.754.4227 (voicemail)

GLENDALE/BURBANK/FOOTHILL
PARENT SUPPORT GROUP

Burbank First United Methodist Church
700 North Glenoaks Boulevard; Burbank
Monthly – First Wednesday, 10 a.m.
Contact: Cheryl Francisco 213.383.1300 x530

GRUPO DE APOYO PARA FAMILIAS
DE INTERVENCION TEMPRANA

Lanterman Regional Center
Seguendo miercoles de cada mes, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
Contact: Augustina Mellin 213.365.2138
Monica Mauriz 213.383.1300 x698
Edward Perez 213.383.1300 x674

GRUPO PARA FAMILIAS CON
NIÑOS CON PRADER-WILLI

Shriner’s Hospital
3160 Geneva Street (Virgil and Third); Los Angeles
Llama para fecha y mas información
Contact: Angeles y Jesus Lopez 323.644.3319

INCLUSION IN REGULAR
CLASSES SUPPORT NETWORK

Dates, locations and times vary each month.
Call for next meeting.
Contact: Sam Suzuki 213.383.1300 x509

JAPANESE-SPEAKING PARENTS
ASSOCIATION OF CHILDREN WITH
CHALLENGES

Little Tokyo Service Center
231 East Third Street, Suite G-104; Los Angeles
Monthly – Third Saturday, 9:30 a.m.
Contact: Mariko Magami 818.249.1726
Michiko Wilkins 818.557.0728

KOREAN PARENT SUPPORT GROUP

Asian Advocate for Special People
Lanterman Regional Center
Monthly – Second Monday, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Contact: Bong-Sok Sung 213.381.5107
Suki Chang 213.392.5070
Christine Yuh 213.383.1300 x503

LA ESPERANZA

(Grupo semanal en Español)
Lanterman Regional Center
Lunes, 9 a.m.
Contact: Ana Ripoll 213.389.8329
Maria Cibrian 323.666.1601
Gayane San Vicente 213.383.1300 x594

MOMMY & DADDY & ME —
EARLY INTERVENTION
PARENT SUPPORT GROUP

Call for details.
Contact: Olivia Hinojosa 213.383.1300 x705

PADRES UNIDOS LANTERMAN

(Grupo en Español)
Childrens Hospital of Los Angeles (Vermont and Sunset)
Conference Room “D”
Segundo martes de cada mes, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Contact: Irma Cruz 323.461.9307
Yadira Bautista 323.460.4794

SAVE THE DATE!

The Down Syndrome Association of Los
Angeles is hosting its Tenth Annual Buddy
Walk on Sunday,
September 19, 2004
at the Santa Anita
Race Track in Arcadia.
Contact DSALA at
818.242.7871 for
more information.



The address for Lanterman Regional Center is: 3303
Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 700; Los Angeles, CA 90010

RETT SYNDROME SUPPORT GROUP

Quarterly meetings – Pasadena area
Call for dates, location and details.
Contact: Marie Hyland 626.790.4836
Pep Stenberg 626.355.5334

TEATRO ILUSIÓN

(Grupo semanal en Español)
Shriner’s Hospital
3160 Geneva Street (Virgil and Third); Los Angeles
Cada viernes, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Contact: Yolanda Hernandez 562.928.5324

NEW GROUPS

BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT
SUPPORT NETWORK

(Facilitated by a behavior therapist)
AbilityFirst
40 North Altadena Drive; Pasadena
Monthly – Second Tuesday, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Contact: Olivia Hinojosa 213.383.1300 x705

daDA FATHERS REGIONAL
SUPPORT NETWORK

Denny’s Restaurant
3060 San Fernando Road; Los Angeles
Monthly – Second Monday, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Contact: Aaron Hinojosa 213.740.5932
Germán Barrero 626.840.9842

TOUCHPOINTS NEW PATHS
SUPPORT GROUP

These support groups offer parents an opportunity to meet
in a small group facilitated by a counseling professional
specifically trained in the areas of grief and disabilities.
Topics discussed include the role of grief in your life, missed
milestones, the impact on family rituals, redefining perfection
and other topics to help families deal constructively with
normal feelings of stress and grief.
For more information and dates call Tina Chinakam at
213.383.1300 x715

GRUPO DE APOYO PARA EL MANEJO DE
LA CONDUCTA

(Dirigido por un terapeuta de comportamiento)
Shriner’s Hospital
3160 Geneva Street (Virgil and Third); Los Angeles
Ultimo martes de cada mes, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Contact: Alfredo Kertzman 714.328.4914

PASADENA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT –
OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION FAMILY
SUPPORT NETWORK

For families with children birth to six
Webster Elementary School
2101 East Washington Boulevard; Pasadena
Monthly – Second Thursday, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Contact: Bailey Jackson 626.398.8333

SIBSHOPS

For siblings ages six to 12
Los Angeles and Pasadena areas
Monthly – Third Friday, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Contact: Olivia Hinojosa 213.383.1300 x705

Lanterman
Self-Advocacy Groups

MID-WILSHIRE
SELF-ADVOCACY GROUP

Lanterman Regional Center
Monthly – First Monday, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Contact: Armen Frundzhyan, 323.462.7300 or
afrundzhyan@netzero.net

THE ACHIEVERS

1200 East Colorado Street; Glendale
Monthly – Third Monday, 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Contact: Jack Riggle, 818.841.1124

WOMEN’S ADVOCACY GROUP (WAG)

Lanterman Regional Center
Monthly – Third Tuesday, 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.
Contact: Mary Flynn, 213.383.1300 x759 or
mary.flynn@lanterman.org

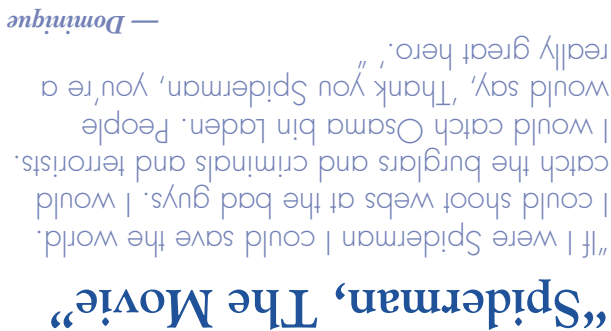
If you are interested in starting
a support group, but don’t know
how to take the first step, call
The Koch•Young Resource Center
for information at
800.546.3676

Phone: 213.383.1300
Fax: 213.383.6526
Online: www.lanterman.org

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Postimes Program	1, 2
Health and Wellness: Dental Clinic	1, 13
Remembering Frank Del Olmo	2
Remembering Asenath Young	2
The Quarterly Budget Update	3
The Director's Viewpoint	3
Perspectives on Perspectives	4, 7
Perspectives Poster	5
Perspectives Schedule	6
Carlos Arturo Sierra	7
The Kids of Widney High	7
KYRC 10 th Anniversary Celebration	8 - 9
Pasadena Librarian Pat Smith	10
Internet Resources	10
Increasing Accessibility to the Pasadena Public Library	10
Fathers' Corner: Angel Marrero.....	11
Board Member Profile: Linda Jones	11
Staff Highlight: Operations Team	12, 13
Hollywood Girl Scouts Donate Coats.....	13
Clean Out Your Closets	13
Funds Available for Early Intervention Training	13
KYRC Resources: The Ride Together	14
Home for Individuals with PKU	14
What is PKU?	14
Summer Recreation Opportunities	15
Training & Events	16
Someone Cares	17
Buddy Walk 2004	17
Photo Exhibit	18



the meaning and words out many a times, was so focused on this project that he expressed things in his story that I never even knew he

For most all of us, there has been or will come a time when we struggle to communicate what we are really trying to say, for many children with Asperger's Disorder, autism, and other social and communicative challenges this is a daily challenge. Recognizing that this was a particular challenge for students with one of these disabilities, Patricia Sandler, director of Group's Village Glen School Culver City Campus, and Jane Schulman, outpatient therapist at The Help Group Child and Family Center, created a photography and writing project to help children at the school express themselves.