



THE TRAVELING AQUARIUM

Aquarium of the Pacific
brings a tidepool exhibit of
sharks, sea stars, anemones
and more to Maryvale

SPRING-SUMMER 2019

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MISSION Statement

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



Mary Anne Atkisson
Guild Co-President

Phyllis Conkle
Guild Co-President

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PHYLLIS CONKLE

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Asst. Corresponding Secretary
DIANA DOYLE

A TIME TO CELEBRATE AND A TIME TO ANTICIPATE

There's something about our group that inspires, something that captivates and something that activates. As we celebrate our successes, we must remember that they were not easy achievements but rather the result of hard work, cooperation, and vision.

With that in mind what is that elusive something? It's a challenge certainly. As we end our two-year tenure as Guild Co-Presidents, we've tried to capture what creates this special "something." As Guild members work together on projects, such as the "Be a Friend, Bring a Friend" Luncheon or the Spring Gala, a feeling of companionship, friendship and camaraderie is established. This feeling seems to carry over into all aspects of our membership creating a great circle of friends that feels more like family.

One of the most extraordinary things about Guild members has been their compassion and thoughtfulness, not only for

ONE OF THE MOST EXTRAORDINARY THINGS
ABOUT GUILD MEMBERS HAS BEEN THEIR
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NOT ONLY FOR MARYVALE, BUT FOR EACH OTHER.

Maryvale, but for each other. For example, when Mary Anne's son was ill for several months Guild members, without exception, stepped in to help and cover most of her duties as Co-President. The level of consideration and care was unexpected but so appreciated.

Perhaps it's all these attributes that make up the elusive "something!" If that's the case, it's certainly something in which we can take pride, because something very special happens here.

In this issue you will read about a change in our organization, as the "Junior" Guild was absorbed into the "Senior" division. We are also going to incorporate more stories about the Maryvale girls and how they are being helped by Maryvale through our donations and assistance.

As Co-Presidents, it's been our job to think about the big picture over the long term. It's been fulfilling to watch Guild members embrace that mindset as we all joined together to share in our common goals. What an honor it has been to be part of this organization and its vision. As your new Co-Presidents take office for next year, we'll be able to anticipate a renewal and continuation of the Guild's commitment to serve.

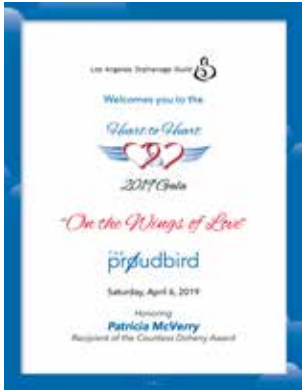
Sincerely,
Phyllis Conkle and Mary Anne Atkisson
Co-Presidents

highlights

of 2019



- | The Anne Sisteron Jewelry Event, held Friday, May 10th, generated almost \$4,000 in profit for the Guild. Anne gives 20% of all sales that day to the Guild. All the proceeds from this event go into the Guild's Graduation Fund. Money from this fund is used for gifts for the Maryvale graduates, such as a computer.



- | The Spring Fundraiser, "On the Wings of Love," generated approximately \$110,000 in profit – of this amount \$29,635 was for the Fund a Need item.
- | At the Guild's final General Meeting of 2019 a \$200,000 donation check was presented to Maryvale's President & CEO Steve Gunther & Chief Development Officer Carole Tremblay.

Clockwise from top: JoAnn Bourne, Nancy Lamb, Mary Anne Atkisson meet with Anne Sisteron; Mary Anne and Nancy shop at the event; Phyllis Conkle, Carole Tremblay, Steve Gunther and Mary Anne pose alongside the LAOG check; Gala invitation "On the Wings of Love" – see pgs. 6-7.

One From the Heart

Every year Maryvale grads receive a silver charm bracelet, courtesy of the Los Angeles Orphanage Guild. See pg. 10.



- | Thanks to the efforts of Chair Patty Robinson the Annual Appeal Campaign this year has collected over \$28,000 and still counting!
- | Nine new Provisional members have joined the Guild: Holly Culhane, Pam Dawber, Margaret Johnson, Mary Elizabeth Horan Lutz, Carolyn Lombardo, Jolynn Regan, Desa Stoeckinger, Melinda Tamkin, Mary Vossler.



2018-2019

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OFFICERS

(L-R): Patti Summers, Cindy Fairbank, Nancy Lewis, Angela Siuta-Pechin, Phyllis Conkle, Indy Carey, Mary Anne Atkisson, Melinda Woodruff, Diana Doyle, Joanne Bourne, Holly Luntzel, Shelly Scott, Karen Scott.



on the cover:

Under the Sea

Guild organizes a visit by Aquarium of the Pacific to Maryvale.

the gift of



Idalia Santos

God indeed works in mysterious ways.

What else can explain how a young girl traumatized by a painful childhood would one day be a pillar of strength and an inspiration to others who also spent their formative years in the midst of an emotional minefield?

“My parents were abusive,” Idalia Santos reflects, “but they didn’t want (their children) to be abused in a school. How ironic!”

They enrolled Idalia in a private parochial school, where she discovered something she’d never experienced before – peace.

When she was later placed in residence at Maryvale, she remembered that peace, and she gathered the strength to tell Sister Joanne that she wanted to attend a private school. She didn’t know it then, but the members of the Los Angeles Orphanage Guild went to work to make sure her dream became a reality.

Idalia was able to attend San Gabriel Mission High School, where all of her hidden potential was released.

“I ended up joining track, basketball and volleyball to meet people,” she notes. “It was my outlet to get out all of my anger, frustrations, sadness and emotions in a positive way.” It also gave her a renewed sense of purpose.

“It was then that I knew that education was my ticket out,” Idalia recalls. “So I studied three hours straight every day after school.” After her graduation, she attended Cal Poly Pomona, where she studied construction engineering. Idalia later earned an MBA from Marymount California University in Palos Verdes, thanks to some help from Maryvale staff, which helped with a scholarship.

Idalia says her choice of engineering as a career is a way of repaying the care and generosity she received at

Maryvale, including the support provided by the LAOG.

“My dream is to create a safe place, a sustainable, healthy environment so people can have a better quality of life,” she explains.

Her time at Maryvale will never be forgotten, she assures. “The advantage of being at Maryvale, compared to any other place, is that they have staff who really care and are supportive. Through the sisters’ help I learned ethics, morals, values, etiquette,

and most of all, how to be humble. Those foundational elements helped make a difference in my life.

“There is structure, activities and events which help a child or a teenager move along and enjoy every day,” Idalia adds. “This allows for healing.”

She is especially grateful to the Guild members, who, in addition to their financial support, opened their homes to host summer barbecues and holiday gatherings for Maryvale’s girls.

Her maturation from a frightened, angry young victim of abuse to a confident woman with a professional career is just part of the story. She also is President of the St. Vincent de Paul Society at Good Shepherd Catholic Church, and she volunteers for seven non-profits. She also intends to return to Maryvale as a volunteer to “help other children succeed like I did.”

It’s all her way of giving back.

“My journey, starting from Maryvale, has been beautiful,” Idalia says. “I go to church every day to thank God.”

– e.s.

Goodbye, Bette!

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to former Junior Guild President Bette Baer, who has led and championed the Junior Guild for many years, and is now retiring with husband Roger in Texas.

As this next LAOG chapter begins, we will be sharing our new experiences with you. Stay tuned!





MARYVALE activities

WITH
MELINDA WOODRUFF & DIANA DOYLE



Melinda Woodruff & Diana Doyle
Chairs for Maryvale Activities

In a letter sent to the LAOG Membership in January it was announced that the division we called the “Junior Guild” had been dissolved and would no longer be functioning as they had in the past. The members that comprised this group were invited to join what was then called the “Senior Guild.” In January, the “Juniors” transitioned into the “Senior” Guild as members and have become fully integrated into the LAOG. We were delighted to welcome them! We are now considered one Guild.

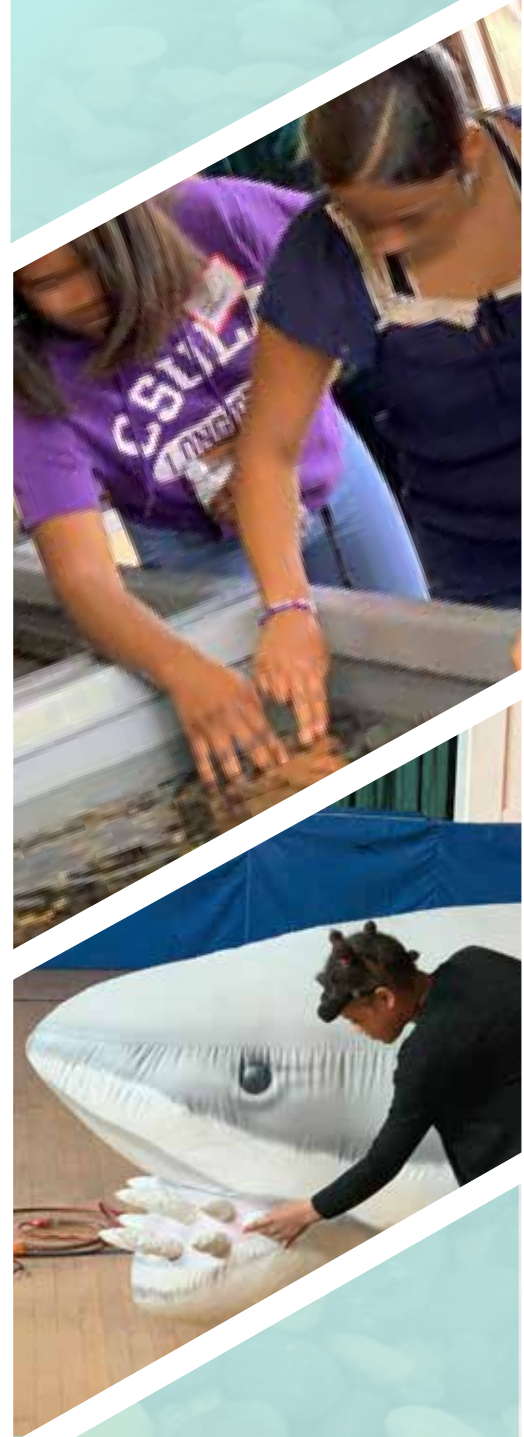
With the reorganization of the LAOG into one Guild, participation in the Maryvale activities will be fully open to all members. **A new era of involvement has arrived.** Under the guidance of Melinda and Diana the Guild will continue to provide enriching activities for Maryvale’s children. Volunteering for activities will be announced at General Meetings. Members can sign up at that time, if they have had the necessary training.

Maryvale will work with all LAOG members to provide the necessary State-mandated volunteer training. The information gained from attending these training sessions is so valuable in learning how to deal and better understand the children. *This will be a must for all volunteers.* Training sessions will be held periodically throughout the year and sign-ups can be done at General Meetings or online. At this writing the next Maryvale Training will be on Saturday, October 5th.

Future Maryvale Activities include: Saturday, July 20th, Bowlero in Pasadena; Children’s Christmas Party, Sunday, December 15th.

the deep

AQUARIUM OF THE PACIFIC
COMES TO MARYVALE



THE activities LIST

Bowlero in Pasadena
Saturday, July 20

Maryvale Training Session
Saturday, Oct. 5

Children’s Christmas Party
Sunday, Dec. 15



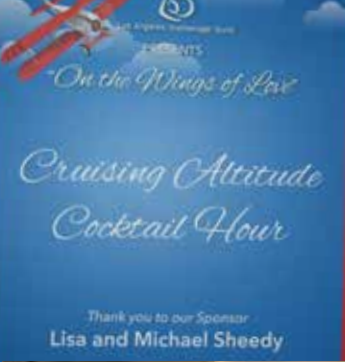
2019 HEART TO HEART GALA
On the Wings of Love
HONORING PATRICIA MCVERRY



The 2019 Heart to Heart Gala: On the Wings of Love, chaired by Nancy Lewis and Holly Luntzel, was a rousing success, thanks to our many dedicated and generous supporters.



The gala was held at a storied venue, The Proud Bird, which showcased a gallery of classic airplanes and vintage photographs.



Guild members, family and friends were invited to have photos taken by photographer Bill Ballerini (see page 7). Many who ventured through the Silent Action were pleasantly surprised at the interesting collection of items, which included a rare opportunity to hear Father Greg Boyle speak, a Spanish soiree, artwork by Maryvale girls, a Hawaii excursion and wine raffles.



Our Live Auction featured tickets to a P!nk concert, a gourmet dinner for 10 by celebrity chef Danny Harold, exclusive Dodgers tickets, VIP Jimmy Kimmel tickets, a private backstage tour of "The Price is Right" by former producer Barbara Frear, concert tickets to Michael Bublé, and vacation stays at Balboa Island, Deer Valley and Santa Ynez.



The evening's highlight was the presentation of the Countess Estelle Doheny Award to Guild member Patricia McVerry. Her inspirational speech was accompanied by a moving biographical video.



ON THE
RED
CARPET



The McVerry and Halfhide families



Angela Siuta-Pechin & Chris Pechin



Christopher Lewis, Nancy Lewis, Aiko Tan,
Jean Marcon



Holly & Greg Luntzel



Phyllis Conkle, Mary Anne Atkisson, Steve
Gunther, Angela Siuta-Pechin, Nancy Lewis



Karen & Joe Knott



Patti & Robert DiTullio



Valerie Kiley



Buzz Rabin & Stephanie Silvers



Rick Sendele & Nancy Elliott



Jerry Atkisson, Mary Anne Atkisson,
Andrea Atkisson, Mia Lee



Patti Summers & Corrina Miller



Heba Koermer and Lauren Koermer

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

2019 HEART TO HEART GALA

On the Wings of Love

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Thank you to everyone who made our Wine Raffle possible by your generous wine donations!

*Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of these lists.

MIND BODY AND SOUL

Wellness activities play a critical part in our girls' healing process. It allows them to form relationships, build skills, laugh, play...and be kids.

We are so grateful to the Guild for continuing the Junior Guild's tradition of bringing valuable experiences to our campus and taking the girls out to engage in the world around them.

Whether it be an opportunity to hold creepy crawlers, go bowling or a fun Christmas party, thank you Los Angeles Orphanage Guild for providing our children with memorable experiences.

The Story of Choices

There is a saying - once a Maryvale girl, always a Maryvale girl. For our alumnae, this often means solid bonds with staff, and forever being part of the Maryvale family.

Sheila, 24, a Maryvale alumna, has a unique story.

Sheila left Maryvale and went into transitional housing. She also began volunteering at our Rosemead Early Education Center and attended Pasadena City College (PCC).

Sheila earned enough credits to work at Maryvale as a teacher's assistant. But breaking away from the past is not easy. With life's challenges, she left Maryvale. For a while, we did not hear from her.

Recently, Sheila contacted Steve - she was doing well. She was graduating from PCC in Child Development and planning the next steps in her education...and needed help.

"You can count on us." Steve said.

Sheila applied to three universities and was accepted to all of them. She chose Cal State San Marcos and begins classes in fall 2019.

Thanks to education gifts from donors, Maryvale can help with our former resident's on-campus living expenses and fees. This was a great relief because it guaranteed she could pursue her dream.

"She took responsibility and was using her resources wisely. Sheila demonstrated she was ready to take the next step by showing the level of maturity needed to be successful. We are so pleased to be able to help this member of our Maryvale family," says Steve.



The Aquarium of the Pacific visits Maryvale's Rosemead Campus

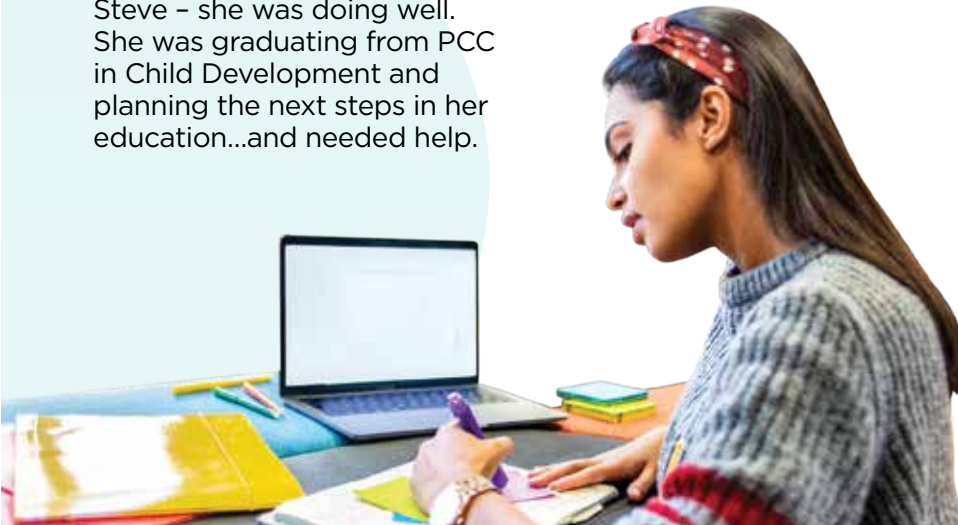
MOMENTOUS OCCASION

Graduating high school is a momentous occasion for the residents of Maryvale. Along with severe trauma and several home and school placements, one can easily fall behind. Nationwide, only about half of youth raised in foster care end up graduating high school. And, they typically obtain lower grades with a higher dropout rate than average students.

We work with our girls advocating for them and ensuring they are on track to graduate. We also provide after-school tutoring, and our residents have access to a library and a computer lab thanks to a generous donation from the Los Angeles Orphanage Guild.

We are so proud of our five graduates who, this June, will walk in cap and gown to be acknowledged for their achievements in front of the Maryvale community, family and friends.

Steve Gunther, MSW
President and CEO



GUILD ACTIVITIES



“GANG VIOLENCE IS ABOUT A LETHAL ABSENCE OF HOPE.”

— FATHER GREG BOYLE
 AUTHOR OF “TATTOOS ON THE HEART: THE POWER OF BOUNDLESS COMPASSION,” “BARKING TO THE CHOR: THE POWER OF RADICAL KINSHIP.”

Greater Good

A special opportunity to see Homeboy Industries founder Father Greg Boyle speak was a much coveted gala silent auction item. For more than 30 years Fr. Boyle has dedicated himself to creating a climate of hope through rehabilitation for gang members, including job training, tattoo removal and other services. Today Homeboy Industries has the largest gang intervention, rehab and re-entry program in the world. From left are Patti Summers, Diana Doyle, Tour Leader Omar, Joan Layden, Holly Luntzel, Father Boyle, James Murphy, Nancy Lewis, Chris Conkle, Phyllis Conkle, Carole Tremblay, Melinda Woodruff.



Mandatory Training

For LAOG members who plan to interact with the Maryvale children, a mandatory training class at Maryvale is required. Jane Skibinski, Annie Doyle and Diana Doyle (above) were among the attendees during the first training session in March. For those who would like to participate in Maryvale activities and attend the next training course on Saturday, Oct. 5, please email Melinda Woodruff at rjmewoodruff@sbcglobal.net.

The Provisionals

The Provisionals were introduced at LAOG’s final meeting of the year at the Petersen Automotive Museum’s Drago Ristorante. They are: Melinda Tamkin, Carolynn Lombardo, Mary Vossler, Holly Culhane, and advisor Francesca Perazzelli.



Congratulations, graduates!

Five Maryvale high school graduates were feted at a ceremony that lauded their accomplishments. All grads received suitcases containing nearly all of their “wish list” items, courtesy of LAOG.



The Los Angeles Orphanage Guild
would like to thank the following donors to the

2018-2019

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Los Angeles
Orphanage Guild

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Editor: Mary Anne Atkisson
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<p>20 Saturday Bowlero*</p> <p><i>*Must have attended the March 2019 training session</i></p>	<p>14 Saturday Spanish Soiree</p>	<p>01 Tuesday Board of Directors Meeting Hostess: Eve Marie Bhandari</p> <p>05 Saturday Maryvale Training Session</p> <p>22 Tuesday General Meeting Maryvale</p>	<p>NOV</p> <p>"Be a Friend, Bring a Friend" Luncheon Info TBA</p>	<p>15 Sunday Christmas Party for the Children of Maryvale</p>	<p>07 Tuesday Board of Directors Meeting Hostess: Mary Anne Atkisson</p> <p>28 Tuesday General Meeting Caffe Roma</p>
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