

CHAPTER CHATTER

Published By

Assistance League® of Tustin

President: **Melanie Meskell**

Editor: **Kathy Brittingham**



WINIFRED CAMPBELL PROFESSIONAL AUXILIARY

Chairman: **Sheila Carter**

445 El Camino Real, Tustin CA 92780

A Chapter of **National Assistance League®**

Mission Statement

Assistance League of Tustin is a non-profit organization of volunteers reaching out to the community of Tustin by providing to those in need.

Funds raised are returned to the community through philanthropic projects developed and administered by members.

DECEMBER 2010

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ~ MELANIE MESKELL



In the film classic, *It's a Wonderful Life*, Clarence Oddbody notes, "One man's life touches so many others, when he's not there it leaves an awfully big hole." Imagine the holes that might exist in our community without Assistance League® of Tustin! ALT's list of filled holes is certainly impressive with **Operation School Bell®, Dental Health, Outdoor Education and SAT Review** now well underway or almost completed and **Project Today** sessions running at maximum capacity in September and October. (Please note all of the Philanthropic Project numbers in the November Regular Meeting Minutes which Secretary **Carolyn Bittner** will send prior to the December meeting.)

November's highlight was our annual Principal's Breakfast, attended not only by all the principals in Tustin Unified, but also by Richard Bray, Superintendent; Kathie Nielsen, Chief Academic Officer and Mark Eliot, Director of Communications and Public Information. We had fun turning the tables on the educators by giving a pop quiz on our Philanthropic Projects. Our Chairmen provided visual clues for the quiz, which helped them greatly, but most were very surprised and impressed with the list of services we provide to the students in our district. I am sure they will all come better prepared for the quiz next year and they have assured us more publicity in district communications (as well as donations to our Thrift Shop). The many members who helped put on the event deserve a big **"thank you"** for providing great ambiance and a wonderfully delicious meal.

For the first time ever, Assistance League of Tustin participated in the Dinosaur Dash, sponsored by the Tustin Public Schools Foundation, by staffing a booth. This wonderful Public Relations opportunity was chaired by **Sheila Carter**, Chairman of WCA and facilitated by **Debbie Ewing**, President of TPSF. We handed out over 500 bottles of water to thirsty participants and handed out brochures to passersby. Additionally, our Assisteens® were stationed at the finish line, wearing their branded shirts, to hand out ribbons. I am sure that next year we will have an even greater presence at the event. In addition to Sheila, **Elizabeth Johnson, Jennifer Van Hying and Sheri Hammond** all deserve our thanks for showing up at 6 A.M. with big ALT smiles.

Another landmark this month—after years of thinking and talking about selling on eBay, thanks to our new Community Volunteer, **Warren Hutchins** (yes, a man and guess whose father-in-law?) has ALT up and selling. He has already sold a loom and a screen printing machine. Warren's enthusiasm is fantastic and we will garner much better prices on our *unique* donated items. Thanks again, Warren, and welcome to ALT. We look forward to meeting you on Saturday at our Holiday Party!

Continued...

President's Message continued...

Our facility is in much better condition these days thanks to the tireless work of Chapter House Chairman, **Nikki Hutchins**. The roof tiles have been replaced, new back doors installed and painted, the kitchen hood replaced to avoid eviction by the Fire Department and miscellaneous repairs finished. The next time you drive by in the evening, please note our brightly lit, branded and updated signage! Thanks also to **Suzanne Issa** for her graphic design work and acquiring bids.

Our Thrift Shop team, headed by **Susan Nilsen**, is looking forward to a much deserved break this month when we close from December 18th-January 3rd. Susan's latest innovation is the sale of Gift Certificates. You may want to pick one up for that hard to buy for person on your list. Better Clothing continues to contribute between 20-25 percent of our daily revenues, while the Silent Auction piques the interest of both collectors and regular customers. Also, please remember that our dear "Saint Maria" will be in Mexico for an extended vacation this month, so if you get weary of the malls, pop into the sorting room for some quality time with your ALT buddies.

At the conclusion of *It's a Wonderful Life*, Clarence writes, "Remember, no man is a failure who has friends." Our community certainly has a friend in ALT and each of us have great wealth in our ALT friendships. I give you all best wishes for happy holidays and a magnificent New Year.

Truly yours, Melanie Meskell



Extra Blue Book inserts are available in the Thrift Shop Sorting Room



Please note the address changes below in your blue book:

Delores Hoskins
210 Lockford
Irvine, CA 92602
*no change to phone or email

Barb Evans
1611 Balboa Ave., Balboa Island, CA
92662 (phone: 949-673-6468)
barb.evans2000@gmail.com



DECEMBER 2010 MASTER CALENDAR

CHAPTER

Holiday Meeting & Program
Thurs., Dec. 2
10 AM Chapter House

No Board Meeting
No January Regular Meeting

**Thrift Shop Winter
Break
Dec. 18th—Jan. 2**

January Newsletter

WCA

Prospective New Member Event
Tuesday Dec. 7
@ Chapter House

**CHAPTER/WCA PARTY
Saturday December 4th, 5PM**

@ the home of
Karen and Jeff Liederman
11812 Colony Dr., SA



DEADLINE December 12

ASSISTEENS

**Tues., Dec. 14th
@ the Zumberge's
11241 Vista Del Lago
Governing Board Meeting
5:30-6:30
Holiday Party
6:30-8:30
Bring a \$15 gift to exchange**

**EMAIL NEWSLETTER EDITOR
britts6@aol.com**



Melanie's Pumpkin Butter Dessert Squares
"Borrowed" from Williams-Sonoma Kitchen*

1 package yellow cake mix; set aside one cup
½ cup butter, melted
3 large eggs
1 jar Muirhead Pecan Pumpkin Butter (13 ½ ounces)*
2 TBSP milk
1 TBSP flour
2 TBSP sugar
¼ cup butter, softened
1 TSP cinnamon
Dash allspice

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Divide yellow cake mix, placing all but one cup in a mixing bowl. Stir the melted butter and one egg into the cake mix. Press the mixture into the bottom of a greased 9 X 13 pan.

Mix the jar of pumpkin butter with two eggs and milk. Pour this result over the cake mix. Scatter chopped, toasted pecans over this layer, if desired.

Stir the reserved cup of cake mix with the flour, sugar, softened butter, cinnamon and allspice. Mix together until crumbly. Sprinkle over the top of the pumpkin layer. Bake for 35-40 minutes or until golden brown. Cool. Cut into 2" squares. Makes 24.

*Muirhead brand is sold at Wms-Sonoma for about \$12 per jar. I found pumpkin butter at Trader Joe's for a fraction of that, but doesn't have pecans in it and it is a smaller jar. So, I add chopped pecans, toasted for about 5 minutes at 350 degrees and use 1 ½ jars.

Rename this ALT Newsletter (currently "Chapter Chatter")

There is still time to submit your suggestion. Winning name will be announced at Founder's Day. Here are the entries to date:

**ALT "Happenings", ALT in Action, ALT Log,
The ALTitude...Reaching New Heights, ALT "Live"**

Email to mmeskell1@gmail.com
New name will be announced at Founder's Day

Please join us !!!

**Assistance League of Tustin®
Chapter and WCA**

HOLIDAY PARTY

at the home of
Karen and Jeff Liederman
11812 Colony Dr.
Santa Ana, CA 92705

Saturday, December 4, 2010
5 P.M.

\$12.00 per person (\$24 a couple) and bring an appetizer to share.

RSVP to: Pat Peairs (714) 838-4220 patriclynn@hotmail.com



Membership Chairs ~ Julie Dickson and Elizabeth Johnson

We had a terrific cooking demonstration and lunch at Roy's Hawaiian Fusion Restaurant. The three course meal consisted of Rock Shrimp Tempura, Japanese Misoyaki Butterfish with Sizzling Soy Vinaigrette and everyone's favorite dessert . . . Chocolate Souffle! Delicious and fun!!

Our next FunRaiser is on Sunday, December 5th at 11:00 touring the fabulous homes on the AL Capistrano Valley Christmas Home Tour. If you would like to come, please let Elizabeth know!

Happy Holidays to all of you!!!



Thrift Shop Notes ~ Susan Nilsen

Christmas is just around the corner and the elves at 445 El Camino Real have been plenty busy. We set out the Christmas stuff right after Halloween and we have all but cleared out the storage area in the back of OSB. Thank you to ALL my many elves!

Gratefully, we continue to experience good daily sales which is really important since we will be closed for two weeks during the Christmas Holiday. Believe it or not, our better clothing is accounting for nearly 30% of our monthly sales!

We will be closing the shop **at NOON on Friday, December 17th**. During that afternoon we will be getting the shop, sorting room and Chapter House ready for our annual carpet cleaning on Saturday, December 18th. We can use as many extra bodies that afternoon as will be available (Assisteen boys and girls, this is a way to get in your required hours). Also, since Maria will be gone the last week we are open and the first week after we re-open (She is having a church wedding in Mexico over the Christmas holiday) I will be forever indebted to anyone who can spare a few hours during this very busy time. Please email me and let me know when you might be available during those two weeks (in addition to your regular hours if you are already scheduled).

I will also be needing anyone who has a few hours during the time we are closed. Donations pile up, and the shop, sorting room and Chapter House have to be put back together after the carpet cleaning. Should any of you happen by the shop while we are closed, please take a moment to bring inside any donations that may have been dropped off. This helps prevent theft and vandalism.

Finally, just a reminder that every year at Christmas we give Maria a cash bonus. There is a green envelope in my box in the conference room. For those of you who wish to contribute, please place your chosen amount in the envelope, no later than Monday, December 6th, so I can give it to Maria on her last day of work, Wednesday, December 8th.

Once again, as we end yet another year, I thank each and every one of you who have given of your time and energy making my job just a little bit easier. Our windows look fabulous, the store looks great and our customers are happy. You are the greatest!



Sorting Soiree'

By Kassy Hepps

Who would think Sorting could be fun while accomplishing so much?

November 11, 2010 found Donna Spector, Janet Caselli, Jan Crumpton, Bonnie Rische and yours truly, meeting at Ye Olde Thrift Shoppe.

After putting in a grand total of at least a solid 10 hours of time, one would have hardly recognized the back room.

Our great newest members completely filled **four** (count'em 4), hanging racks of clothing! The sales floor was tidied, and before calling it a day, you could see all counter spaces, even the carpet!

We then rewarded ourselves with a justly due lunch at our neighbor, Quinn's.

How much better can Sorting Day be?
Accomplishment, learning more about the heart of ALT, some laughs and good food.

Hard to beat...

Please remember, everyone is invited to our Soiree's the second Thursday of each month.



Working at Thrift Shop has its own rewards!






THRIFT SHOP SCHEDULE

December 2010



Weekdays: Full Day 9:30 to 2:30 * Half Day AM 9:30 to 12:00 PM 12:00 to 2:30

Saturdays: Full Day 9:30 to 4:00 * Half Day AM 9:30 to 12:30 * PM 12:30 to 4:00

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Burgess Polett AM* Lightfoot PM McFee AM Buckley PM	2 CLOSED	3 Peairs Gayley* Thacker PM VaughanAM	4 Assisteens Smith Clarke Zumberge Boyd
5	6 Rische Vaughan AM* Teng PM Orton AM Watts PM	7 Peairs Solomon AM* Galey AM Sage PM Crumpton PM Spector PM	8 Lillegard Ewing* Kozak AM Kozak AM Liederman AM Gray PM	9 CLOSED	10 Collins Sills AM* Kimura PM Franke	11 Assisteens Klein Coffee TBA TBA
12	13 Casillas Ballard* Reader AM PascoePM	14Bays Issa AM* Dunn AM DelCrognale AM Kramer AM Crumpton PM Galey PM Roberts PM	15 D Clarke AM Buckley PM M Clarke AM* Sage PM Peairs PM TBA AM	16 CLOSED	17 Kelley Kimura* Sills PM Smith AM Peairs	18 CLOSED
19 CLOSED	20 CLOSED	21 CLOSED	22 CLOSED	23 CLOSED	24 CLOSED	25 CLOSED 
26 CLOSED	27 CLOSED	28 CLOSED	29 CLOSED	30 CLOSED	31 CLOSED 	

*** TELECARE**
DAY CHAIRMAN

CHAPTER MEMBERS
Call or email Pat Peairs
714 / 838-4220
patriclynn@hotmail.com
if changing your day.

WCA MEMBERS
Call or email Sheila Carter
714/389-3731
sheilacarter1@cox.net if
changing your day.

ASSISTEENS
Call or email Pam Erickson
714/669-0560
busypamx3@aol.com
if changing your day.

**PLEASE NOTE: This is the MASTER CALENDAR for Thrift Shop. No Schedule changes are noted.
It is your responsibility to remember any changes you have made in your scheduled day.
You must still NOTIFY THE CHAPTER, WCA OR ASSISTEENS SCHEDULER of any changes you make.**

Principal's Breakfast ~ Tami Ballard, Philanthropy VP

Thanks to all who helped put on a fantastic Principal's Breakfast. I especially want to thank those who came to help with set up and cooking the day before and those who came bright and early that morning to serve and clean up. Big hugs go to **Pat Peairs, Jill Burgess, Carolyn Bittner, Bonny Atzeff, Carol Merritt, Marcia Galey, Susan Nilsen, Tracy Solomon, Sheri Hammond, Darlene Clarke, Melanie Meskell, Karen Bastien and Mary Kane.** You are my angels. We had every principal in the district attend along with several administrators and Francine Scinto from the school board. They were wonderful students as Melanie gave them a few lessons and a test on the many ALT programs that we partner with TUSD to benefit Tustin schools.



L to R: ALT President, Melanie Meskell, School Board Member Francine Scinto, past Project TODAY Chair, Carol Merritt and Pat Peairs, OSB Chair

I had several requests for the casseroles we made for our breakfast. They make great Christmas morning meals as they can be made ahead of time and popped in the oven the next morning. Cheers, Tami Ballard

Blueberry-Pecan French Toast (serves 8-12)

1-loaf of French bread, cut into one-inch cubes
5 eggs
3 cups milk
1 cup sugar
1 teaspoon cinnamon
½ teaspoon nutmeg
2 cups fresh or frozen blueberries
1 cup pecans, chopped
¼ cup butter
½ cup brown sugar

Whisk together eggs, milk, sugar, and spices. Pour over bread pieces in a large bowl. Gently fold bread into mixture. Press down with hands so that all bread is covered with the egg mixture. Cover and refrigerate overnight.

Preheat Oven to 325. Add half of the berries to bread mixture and gently mix together. Pour into greased 9x13 pan. Sprinkle remaining berries and pecans over top. In a medium saucepan, melt butter and brown sugar. Pour evenly over berries and pecans. Bake 45 minutes to one hour, until puffed and bubbly. Serve with fresh fruit, your favorite breakfast meat, juice and coffee.

Jill's Frittata (Serves 8-10)

6 eggs
2 cups cheddar cheese
2 cups jack cheese
1 cup milk
2 cups cottage cheese
1 cup Bisquick
chopped chives

Combine all ingredients and put into a greased 9X13 baking dish. Cook for 40 minutes at 350. (This can be made the night before, refrigerated and cooked the next morning).

Public Relations ~ Suzanne Issa, Terri Roberts

Did you see it? We got press recently in some local papers thanks to Suzanne Issa:

“Assistance League of Tustin (ALT) hosted a home cooked breakfast for the Tustin Unified School District (TUSD) Principals, administrators and school board council at the ALT Chapter House in appreciation for partnering with the many programs offered by the volunteers of Assistance League of Tustin. The programs include; Operation School Bell which provides over 800 school uniforms, shoes and school supplies. Dental screening for over 1,400 elementary school children and urgent dental care for those in need. Outdoor Education provides sleeping bags, warm jackets, hats and gloves to around 200 students attending science camp. Project TODAY fully funds a drug and alcohol intervention program for students with first time drug on alcohol offenses on school campus or at school events. Low cost SAT review courses for college bound students. Assistance League is committed to putting caring and commitment into action. Funds are raised at their downtown Tustin Thrift Store located at 445 El Camino Real and the through the generous contributions of friends and businesses in our community.”

ASSISTEENS by Debbie Ewing

The Assisteens have had a busy November, working the 2k finish line at Dinosaur Dash, collecting canned goods for the Orange County Rescue Mission and holding the soccer VIP picnic/end of season party.

Upcoming events include the Tustin tree lighting on 12/10 where the Assisteens will sell hot chocolate, the holiday party on 12/14 at the Zumberge home (with an Assisteens gift exchange of gift cards or items valued at \$15 or less and a “book wrapping” for the OC Rescue Mission’s children).

The Assisteens will also run a Christmas party at the OC Rescue mission children’s center on Saturday, 12/18 (adult helpers are always needed, more info. will be e-mailed out) and will do a gift wrapping get-together at the chapter house to wrap the gifts for the Mary’s Shelter teens and babies on 12/22.

Assisteens wish all a wonderful and blessed holiday season!



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ASSISTANCE LEAGUE OF TUSTIN
P.O. Box 86
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December Birthdays

- 12/01 Bonnie Watts
- 12/04 Joan Parker
- 12/06 Margie Lightfoot
- 12/07 Alyssa Lutz
- 12/10 Karen Liederman
- 12/12 Pat Morehead
- 12/13 Betty Sommer
- 12/15 Karen Munroe
- 12/17 Dorit Parson
- 12/18 Kim Weber
- 12/25 Sheryl Franke
- 12/27 Grace Dowdell
- 12/29 Connie Colwell
- 12/30 Brenda Lawer
- 12/30 Kathy Marvick

