



Ask SSG

Next Issue:
April 22

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January - February 2008

SSG BOARD STRATEGIC PLANNING

The SSG Board hosted its 2nd Strategic Planning Session on February 12th with a presentation by **David Howard, MSW (Ph.D. candidate), CD&GIS**, on the *Needs, Trends and Program Development Issues Relating to Sustaining and/or Developing Effective Programs for the Homeless*, with a focus on SPA's 4 and 6. SSG currently has five Divisions/Programs that provide services to individuals and families who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness. This session was part of a series of sessions to be held over the next year, and covering a wide variety of topics and concerns relevant to the agency's growth and development. Various staff from throughout the agency are invited to participate depending upon the topic. These sessions provide the foundation for Board directives and goals relating to the agency's overall strategic planning process.



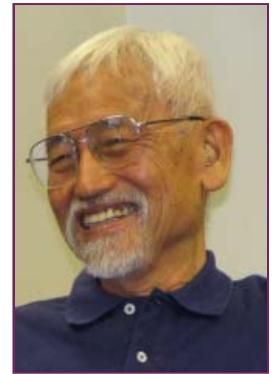
David Howard



B-r Judy Lawyer, Elena Fiallo, Wendy Chiu, Dianna Malak Lopez, Veronica Kelley Lewis, Beth DeLosSantos, Dr. Jacquelyn McCroskey (Board), Naomi Kageyama, Herb Hatanaka (Ex. Dir.) M-r Elizabeth Berger, Eric Wat, Hayley Levy, Trang Hoang F-r Donald Kinsey (Board), Donna Wong, Esq. (Board), David Howard, Fernando Del Rio (Board), John Eckman (Board President)

Passing of a Good Friend

Takuya ("Tak") Maruyama, a long-time volunteer for SSG, passed away last December. Since 1991 Tak had been a valuable member of the SSG Core family. He was instrumental in establishing what is now Census Data and Geographic Information Services (CD&GIS). He helped this unit become a Census Information Center, a status given by the U.S. Census Bureau to only about 60 organizations and universities at the time, making SSG a leader in community data both locally and nationally. An expert in finding the most obscure data, he had help many SSG programs in grantwriting and program development, by providing crucial data about their community. Tak's philosophy of using reliable research and data as a basis for developing responsive programs is still taken to heart by SSG's program development team and many program directors. Even in his eighties and walking with a cane, Tak would take a bus from his West LA home to our core office in Downtown LA twice a week. Two years ago, he had to "retire" from CD&GIS because of his deteriorating health. We're saddened by the news of his passing. Tak was survived by his wife, Mo, three children and many grandchildren.



Tak Maruyama

Good Bye, Thank You, and Good Luck



Noel Alunit

Noel Alunit started with the Asian Pacific AIDS Intervention Team in 1993 at the age of 25. He coordinated many contracts from the City, County, State, and Federal levels. He also created performance pieces that toured the country and wrote novels. His last book *Talking to the Moon* went on to become an LA Times Bestseller. For his work in AIDS and Art, Noel was named one of Genre Magazine's Men We Love and listed as one of OUT Magazine's OUT 100. After 15 years with APAIT/SSG, Noel Alunit left to work for MAKE ART/STOP AIDS, an international network of artists, scholars, activists dedicated to ending the global AIDS epidemic. "I learned so much at APAIT and SSG," Noel said. "I became a better man and artist because of the fine people I met there. I grew up because of them."

SSG NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS

PARENTS NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH PROGRAM



Sabrina Sorto, a 4th grade student at Norwood Elementary and a participant in PNYP's after school program was the winner in a contest to design a new logo for PNYP. Her drawing, selected from many others, was voted the winner and the most creative by the other students. The



The new PNYP logo is an interpretation of her drawing and stayed as true as possible to her original idea. *Congratulations Sabrina!*

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY TRAINING PROGRAM - SAN FRANCISCO

Congratulations to OTTP-SF for receiving its MediCal certification in January 2008. This step is an important one in the efforts of Director Colleen Devine and her staff and interns to build SSG's first program in San Francisco and to bring the great work of OTTP to Bay Area youth.

BENEFITS ASSISTANCE CLIENTS URBAN PROJECT & LIFE CENTER

BACUP's 1st annual "Bringin' in the New Year" was held on January 12th with approximately 50 guests attending the celebration. The event was a great success and lots of fun attracting current and past BACUP participants, family members, friends, supporters and service providers.

TONGAN COMMUNITY SERVICE CENTER

Welcomes a New Project Coordinator



Brian Hui

SSG welcomes Brian Hui, Project Coordinator, at the Tongan Community Service Center. Brian is a recent graduate of Pomona College where he majored in Religious Studies. Brian's background and interests revolve entirely around the cause for social justice, especially for immigrant communities in LA County. We are pleased to welcome Brian to the SSG family and look forward to his success at TCSC!

HOMELESS OUTREACH PROJECT INTEGRATED CARE SYSTEM

Partnership with East LA College

HOP-Broadway Division Director Cheryl Branch and the African American Alcohol & Other Drug Council of LA County (AAAOD) have facilitated a ground-breaking partnership with East Los Angeles College to provide the 'Chemical Dependency Counselor Certificate Program' held evenings and weekends at HOP-Broadway/Community Assessment Service Center (CASC) located at 5715 S. Broadway. Classes are geared for individuals seeking to become Certified AOD Counselors and/or registered with State ADP. Classes are accredited by CAADE & CAADAC. Classes available for SSG staff as well as community residents. Sliding scale fee and fee waivers available for eligible individuals. Call Rona at 323-948-0444 or email rmcfadden@hopics.org for more information about future classes (current class which began 2/4/08 is filled).

CENTRAL MENTAL HEALTH
420 S. San Pedro St., G4
Los Angeles, CA 90013
Phone: 213-620-5712
Fax: 213-621-4155

New Location!



ASIAN PACIFIC AIDS INTERVENTION TEAM

For the third year running, delegates from APAIT marched in the Chinese Lunar New Year parade in Chinatown. The march was anchored by API Equality-LA, a coalition of allies and LGBT organizations and individuals that seek to promote LGBT equal rights in Southern CA. Currently, the coalition is working to educate and increase awareness in the API community against potential anti-civil union/marriage rights for LGBT individuals which will be a hot button issue for the state of CA in the 2008 election.



l-r Tracy Yap, Peter Cruz, Inthava Bournpraseuth, Mark Hao

SSG NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS

Reading is Fundamental Book Distribution Events

HOPICS-Avalon

Three SSG Divisions, HOPICS-Avalon, APCTC-Metro and OTTP-LA held book distribution events during their holiday parties in December. Two more distributions will be held before the end of the school year.



David Howard, CD&GIS and Katrina Davis, HOPICS Avalon Family Center help children select books.

OTTP-LA



Stephanie Feuer, OTTP and Wendy Chiu, SSG Core coordinating.

APCTC-Metro



Dr. Lan Nguyen-Chawkins reading to the children.



The love of books starts early.

Personal Accomplishments

Eric Wat, CD&GIS has a new website that went online in February. It will feature a new short story and a new creative non-fiction essay each month. To check out his website at, www.thesumofmyflaws.com



Eric Wat



Justin Williams, a former OTTP employee, who is also the son of current OTTP employee Debbie DeLeon, QI Coordinator, is in the Airforce; he is being deployed to Iraq for 6 months beginning in mid March. We wish him the best and await his safe return.

Employment Opportunity

OTTP has an opening for an Occupational Therapist, please fax your resume to Suzanne Afuso-Sugano at (310) 323-1570.

Tongan Community Service Center has an opening for a part-time Office Assistant. Bilingual Tongan/English preferred. Contact Brian Hui at (310) 527-7501.

Some Dates to Save

ORANGE COUNTY ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

Celebrating 10 Years on May 15, 2008

OCAPICA will be celebrating their 10th Anniversary with a dinner at The Westminster Rose Center.



The Los Angeles AL-IMPICS Celebrating 35 Years

Saturday, May 17, 2008

Over 4,000 individuals in recovery from alcohol and drug abuse come together for one day to celebrate sobriety and wellness. The Olympic-style events include track & field, basketball, volleyball, weightlifting and social games.

For more info, to volunteer or participate contact Veronica Kelley Lewis at 213-236-9389 or vkelly@ssgmain.org.

SSG Annual Staff & Board Appreciation Luncheon at CAL State LA July 25, 2008

