



Ask SSG

Next Issue:
April 22

Since 1952 Service, Diversity, & Vision

Visit us at www.ssgmain.org

January - February 2005

Passing of a Good Friend



Norman B. Houston

SSG mourns the passing of **Norman B. Houston**, who died on January 13, 2005. Norm spent two tenures on the SSG Board of Directors. His first was in the early seventies and his second was from 1981 to the present. In 1972 Norm had to resign from the Board because he was appointed by President Nixon to the federal Health and Human Services Department in Washington.

D.C. He rejoined the Board in 1981 when he came back to Los Angeles. Norm was a pillar on the Board and was very influential in the agency's continued work in a number of communities and of course the financial matters of the agency. He served in every office of the Board, the Executive Committee and a number of special committees. Norm's political and social connections helped us tremendously in getting things done.

Norm is survived by his loving wife Joy, children and numerous grand and great-grand children. Our heartfelt condolences to his family.



Some Dates to Remember in February - April !

(Please refer to your Payroll Schedule for a complete listing of agency observed holidays.)

- 2/12 Freedom To Marry Day
- 2/21 President's Day (SSG Holiday)
- 3/17 St. Patrick's Day
- 3/20 Spring Begins
- 3/27 Easter
- 4/3 Daylight Savings (spring forward 1 hour)
- 4/23 Passover Begins
- 4/27 Administrative Professionals Day

SSG Board Recognizes AP Residential Director Tri Huu Le

On January 20, 2005 the SSG Board of Directors honored **Tri Huu Le**, MSW, *Asian Pacific Residential Treatment Program (AP RTP)* Director and Program Coordinator for the *API Alliance*, for his 18 years of service and dedication to SSG. His excellent leadership of the AP RTP and API Alliance have created a lasting legacy. SSG bids a fond farewell and best wishes to Tri Le and his family in the future.

SSG's 3rd Floor Operations are moving to the 5th Floor!

Please be advised the **Fiscal Department** and **APCTC Metro** will be relocated to the 5th Floor as of March 1, 2005.

FAQ for Human Resources

- Q. What do I need to do when I have a change of address?
- A. An employee with a change of address must submit a Personnel Action Sheet (Form # 101) to the Human Resources Department before the personnel file can be updated. Make sure to complete the "Employee Information" section.
- Q. If I have a change of name what documents do I need to submit?
- A. An employee with a change of name must submit a Personnel Action Sheet and a copy of new social security card or receipt showing new name to the Human Resources Department before the personnel file can be updated. Make sure to complete "Employee Information" section and Section III and that all future forms or documents (i.e. time sheets, 101s, check requests) being submitted to SSG indicate new name. Nick names are not acceptable.
- Q. Is the Fortis PPO-Dental deductible by calendar or plan year?
- A. Per plan year (May 1 to April 30)



PLEASE RECYCLE

PROGRAM NEWS & SSG HIGHLIGHTS

Occupational Therapy Training Program - LA

Follow-up Study

Since 1975, **OTTP** has been serving at-risk, economically disadvantaged minority youth - reaching over 1,000 per year. Over 80% successfully complete the 10-week Occupational Therapy classroom-training component with 60% placed in productive, entry level working positions in the community. For Division Director **Sarah Bream**, OTR/L these successes sparked interest in what the youth experience after exiting the program. More specifically, what are the changes youth experience as a result of their participation in OTTP and are these changes sustained after their participation ends? **Sarah Bream** teamed up with UCLA MSW intern, **Carissa Lopez** to develop a research proposal to address these provocative questions. The technical assistance and guidance from CD&GIS's **Eric Wat** was integral in the successful production of the project titled, *OTTP Follow-Up Study: Measuring the Sustainability of Performance Outcomes*. The research team received encouraging feedback and support from the SSG Institutional Review Board and is in the process of seeking approval. The project will recruit youth who have exited OTTP one-year prior to participate in a phone survey and/or a focus group. The goals of the project are to identify the long-term and sustainable outcomes of at-risk youth, contribute to current occupational therapy research, address the current gap in outcome data of OTTP youth after discharge and strengthen the current intervention model.

On February 7, 2005, **OTTP** was surprised with a *Sam's Club Foundation check for \$500!* We had applied for gift cards for clients in November and a Sam's Club rep decided to enter our name in this program as well! Thank you so much, Sam's Club/Walmart!

Tongan Community Service Center

Project HEAL

Congratulations to the **Tongan Center** in receiving a grant under *Kaiser Permanente's Promoting Healthy Eating and Active Living initiative*. The funding will allow TCSC to develop and implement *Project HEAL*, which seeks to reduce obesity and its health related risks in Tongan families. For more information please contact TCSC Interim Program Director **Nellie Skeen** at (310)327-7501.

QUOTE OF NOTE

Submitted by OTTP-LA

"The question is not whether we can afford to invest in every child, it is whether we can afford not to."

Marian Wright Edelman



SSG Recommended for DMH Contract

SSG has recently been recommended for a *South Los Angeles Children and Family Services contract with LA County Department of Mental Health (DMH)*. This is a significant opportunity, as well as a testament to the strong track record of our current amazing DMH programs. Look for further notices in the next 6 months.

Asian Pacific Counseling and Treatment Centers

APCTC's Health Food Fair is currently featuring **Low-Carb** and **Sugar-Free** foods! If you would like more information, please contact **Virginia Ngai** @ 213-252-2100, x128.

APCTC congratulate the **Cerritos** and **Long Beach** staff on receiving *Medi-Cal Certification*. Thank you all for your hard work!

Homeless Outreach Program

On January 27, 2005, the **Homeless Outreach Program (HOP)** served as a primary site for the *Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) Homeless Count*. The purpose was to determine the most accurate point-in-time count and estimate of annual homeless residents in LA County. In addition, this count will provide government, service providers, and community leaders with updated homeless demographics and conditions. The count took place over 3 nights from 8pm-3am in all eight service areas. LAHSA enlisted the help of homeless individuals and formerly homeless individuals who participated in training and were paid to do the count. Thanks to Arzina Robinson, Outreach Supervisor, who was able to recruit 50 homeless individuals to serve as "counters". HOP was happy to serve as a main hub for volunteers and "counters" to get their location assignments, get snacks, get their assignments and be cheered on by the site staff. Service providers were teamed up with homeless persons to walk or drive through their assigned areas, using the Tally Sheet to record the number of homeless individuals and family units observed on the streets, in vehicles, or in makeshift shelters (such as tents or tarps). Our site was supported by the Los Angeles Police Department who were stationed outside to ensure everyone was safe. A very special Thank You to Cheryl Branch for coordinating the effort, the HOP staff for offering their site, setting up all the tables and snacks, welcoming all the volunteers and making this a night to remember. LAHSA was very appreciative and will be publishing the results of the numbers in the coming months.

Pacific Asian Alcohol and Drug Program

PAADP was a proud sponsor of the *Filipino American Community - LAPD Forum* held on February 25th. The theme was "Public Safety Is Everybody's Business" with keynote speaker Commissioner Vellie Dietrich-Hall of the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders.

CELEBRATIONS

February is Black History Month

What does Black History month mean to me? Being African American I choose to celebrate Black History every day of the year, but this particular month means more to me because it's a chance for other cultures to see and experience the strength and beauty of the African American culture in a way they wouldn't normally experience it. It's a chance for our younger generation to find something out about one or more great African Americans that they did not know of. It's a chance to celebrate African Americans that don't get recognized like Martin Luther King or Charles Drew. African Americans like Sojourner Truth, Angela Davis, Ralph Abernathy (civil rights leader) Little Rock Nine (first black teenagers to attend all-white Central High School) Frederick Douglass (American abolitionist) W. E. B. Dubois (American author and teacher). Black History month means to me that we too can stand up and be counted and proud of who we are and how far we have come as a race and a nation. Black History month means a chance for my son to learn that he comes from a great race of people and we are not to be dismissed, for African Americans do make a difference! By **Jayne Swan**, FIC



The Civil War brought forth many hardships and pain to our nation as a whole. This was not a time to be proud of our nation. Since that horrible period, the African American community has come a long way. Many changes have been made to improve the relationship between the races. Changes must come from outside of oneself as well as inside of one's thoughts and hearts. Things might not be as well as we would like them to be, but the African American community as a whole can be very, very proud of the accomplishments that have been made.

February is a month of celebration and honor for the hard work that has been achieved by many African Americans that existed long before our present time.

The halftime show of the Super Bowl was centered on all of our nations traditions, I was so proud to see the first Black fighting pilots from WWII, as they marched across the field, tears came to my eyes. They stood so proud and marched with honor.

I am so proud to be a part of Black History month. To see all the great things that my race has done. I am especially proud for the young people that can participate as well as learn about all the great things that have been done long before their time or mine. I am glad that the African American communities are being honored so proudly by our nation. By **Bob Watson**, BACUP

The term Black History brings up numerous thoughts and emotions in me. Thoughts of our struggle sadden me, our long-lived injustice angers me, our historical endurance gives me strength and courage, our belief in God increases my faith, our Civil Rights victories give me a great appreciation for all of my opportunities, our countless inventions and accomplishments make me proud, our contributions to this great nation motivate me.

Black history goes far deeper than the well known figures that are deservedly celebrated each year. Black history is my grandfather who served as one of the first African American officers on the Los Angeles Police Department. Black History is my father who rode on one of the first integrated school buses, in Birmingham, Alabama. Black history includes millions of others who endured, survived, and triumphed! By **Veronica Kelley**, FIC



Black History Month is a time to recognize where God has brought us from and a forum for us to speak out and acknowledge who we are as a race without being intimidated. By **Irene Bryant**, FIC/Older Adult Cares

Lunar New Year

The Lunar New Year is an important time for celebrations and fresh starts for many around the world and is filled with similar customs that date back thousands of years, from honoring ancestors to cleaning house to colorful parades.

The Lunar Calendar is based on the movements of the moon, with each month beginning a new moon. The Lunar New Year starts on the first new moon, generally between Jan. 21-Feb.19. February 9 is the beginning of the year of the Rooster in the year 2005.

Roosters are born in 1933, 1945, 1957, 1969, 1981, 1993 and 2005 and will come again in 2017. Roosters are ambitious, resourceful, determined, talented, detail-oriented & hardworking. They are quick & definite in decision-making; Roosters are not afraid to candidly speak their minds. They are attractive, confident & lively, with a flair for the dramatic. Roosters make excellent restaurateurs and love to travel because of their courageous & adventurous spirit.

Compatible with:

Snake, Ox and Dragon

Non-Compatible with:

Rabbit

Western Counterpart:

Virgo



Interesting Stats

Submitted by **Takuya Maruyama**, CD&GIS

Women's History Month - As of July 1, 2003 there were more women (147.8 million) than men (143.0) in the U.S. Actually, males outnumber females from 0 to 39 yrs, but at 40 the women outnumber the men. At age 85+ there are more than twice as many women as men. Women working full time, year-round earn 76 cents for every \$1 their male counterparts earn. Of women of child-bearing age (15 to 44 yrs) 44% are childless and 71% of them are in the labor force. 29% of women in unmarried-partner households have a higher level of education than their partners. Of married women, 22% have higher levels of education than their husbands. Women in unmarried-partner households are also more likely than married women to earn more than their partners.