



Serving Others

RSVP OF SOUTH BAY

WWW. RSVPSB.ORG

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ISSUE 2, 2007

The Mission of RSVP is to improve lives and strengthen communities through services and volunteerism.

Happy Holidays

From the Desk of Thomas White, Executive Director, RSVP

There is a flurry of activities occurring at RSVP. This year 121 new volunteers began services, swelling our ranks to 957 members assigned to 111 workstations accounting for 108,708 hours, or nearly \$2 million in community services. In addition, we organized a new storytelling program to teach elementary school children about emergency readiness and we received a grant from the office of the Governor to create a guide for mobilizing local communities in the event of a natural or manmade disaster. Yes, there have been challenges. Your commitment, dedication to the cause and sense of ownership has helped us to keep perspective, and we will keep getting better.



As we gather with friends and family for the holiday season, let us remember that we need each other to endure and be diligent in sending our prayers to families separated by war, who are sick and shut in, who are without the warmth of an embrace, and who live in our communities without food or shelter. And of course, let us be thankful for the friendships made through RSVP.

My personal goal for the coming year is to continue investing in RSVP, its friends and its volunteers in an effort to make the South Bay a healthy community for all of its residents.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff of RSVP, thank you very much for your support.

"SAN DIEGO — More than 1,000,000 individuals were evacuated as wind-fed wildfires burned 245,957 acres of forest land, an area larger than New York City, destroying more than 1,600 homes and businesses. Thousands of residents sought shelter at fairgrounds, schools and community centers.

California Governor's Office funds RSVP to develop a Handbook on Emergency Readiness

Recent events in San Diego reinforce the three core messages that RSVP will deliver in its forthcoming handbook on emergency readiness. The messages are: (1) proper individual preparedness can save lives, (2) neighbors are more likely to be the first contacts with individuals in their community following an earthquake or other natural or manmade catastrophic events, and (3) all disasters are first and foremost local disasters.

Chuck Lobb and Judith Arnold, is made possible through a \$36,000 grant from California Volunteers, Office of the Governor. It will highlight strategies for mobilizing neighborhoods for emergency readiness based on our Community Volunteer Emergency Network or CVAN project. CVAN, which was implemented in 2003, is a proponent of grass roots readiness where neighbors prepare to help neighbors in case of an earthquake, terrorist attacks or other cataclysmic events. For additional information, visit our website at www.rsvpsb.org.

I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I know: the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve. --

Albert Schweitzer

The manual which is being developed in consultation with

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BE SAFE, BE ALERT Seniors Against Investment Fraud

Submitted by WISE & Healthy Aging: When shopping or traveling this holiday season, please keep in mind these important tips to help safeguard your money and your property.

1. Stop your mail while traveling for the holidays. If you are traveling to visit relatives for the holidays, be sure to stop your mail service to avoid letting your mail pile up. If a thief gets a hold of your credit card statement, they can use the information to make purchases or open new accounts.
2. Switch to direct deposit. To reduce the risk of having your Social Security or other federal benefit payments lost or stolen, sign up for direct deposit through Go Direct. Call (800) 333-1795 or log on to www.GoDirect.org.
3. Protect yourself from pickpockets. The holidays are high season for pickpockets. Keep handbags zipped and wallets in your front pocket.
4. Don't donate to charities you have never heard of before. If you are going to give to a charity this year, make sure your donation goes to the right recipient. Ask all charities to provide you with their tax ID number. If they refuse the information, don't donate.
5. Make sure your home is never dark. If you don't have lights on a timer, then leave them on when you leave the house, especially porch lights and other outdoor lights.
6. Check your accounts for signs of suspicious activity. Sign up for online access to your bank and credit card accounts and check the accounts several times a week for unusual transactions. If you notice a transaction you did not initiate, call your financial institution or credit card provider immediately.
7. Don't give out your personal information. Never give any personal information over the phone or Internet to an unfamiliar company or caller, even if they tell you it is for "verification" or "identification" purposes. This information - such as your Social Security number, driver's license number, credit card number and expiration date - can be used to access your bank accounts or make unauthorized charges on a credit card.



SAIF

Seniors Against Investment Fraud

E-mail updates

If we do not have your e-mail address, please call us at 310-320-3322 to add your name to our address book to receive future copies of our newsletter and other notices electronically. What you can expect is information about our travel club, notes on investment scams and other fraudulent activities that you and your family should be aware of, new volunteer opportunities, recipes, and note worthy community events.

Welcome New Board Members



Pamela Gillett

Though RSVP Directors are recruited year-round, our Annual Board of Director's Meeting is held in March of each year. Recently two new members were elected to the RSVP Board. A heartfelt thank you was extended to our outgoing members, including our past-chairman, Robert Van Lingen, for their efforts, and a warm welcome has been extended to Pamela Gillett from Anastasi Construction, and Jeffrey Koven, owner of Prism Eye Productions. In addition to our regular Directors, Creasie Adams, Area Manager of External Affairs for AT&T has agreed to serve on the RSVP Advisory Board.

Anastasi Development Company was the primary sponsor of RSVP's 2007 Annual Awards Luncheon. It is in the business of building trust, home by home. Since 1962, the Anastasi family has taken great pride in building quality crafted homes of exceptional value. Each home is built with an unwavering devotion to delivering a superior product through passionate attention to detail. Anastasi Development Company is committed to you and servicing your home as if it was their own.

From *Cooking Light Magazine*

Amaretto-Amaretti Pear Crumble

This easy desert gets a double shot of almond flavor: Sweet, fragrant pears are tossed with amaretto and topped with crunchy amaretto (Italian almond-flavored cookies) crumbs. This dish is very juicy, so we suggest serving it with ice cream.

Ingredients

- 4 firm Bose pears, peeled, cored, and cut into 1/2-inch-thick wedges (about 2 pounds)
- 1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice
- 1/2 cup apricot preserves
- 1/4 cup amaretto (almond-flavored liqueur)
- 1 1/2 tablespoons chilled butter, cut into small pieces
- 1 cup amaretti cookie crumbs (about 16 cookies)
- 1 1/2 cups vanilla low-fat ice cream

Preparation

Preheat oven to 375°.

Combine pears and juice in a large bowl; spoon into a 1-quart baking dish.

Combine the apricot preserves and liqueur in a small bowl; spoon evenly over pears. Sprinkle butter over pear mixture, and top with 1 cup amaretti cookie crumbs. Bake at 375° for 30 minutes or until golden brown. Spoon pear mixture evenly into 6 bowls, and to each serving with 1/4 cup ice cream.

Yields 6 servings

Welcome Jacqueline Morris

Jackie Morris was recently assigned to RSVP through Senior Services of Los Angeles County. She is one of the voices at the other end of the phone when you call 310-320-3322. Jackie's employment experiences includes Bookkeeping, Word Processing, Wang Computer Programming, Security, and Telemarketing. She is currently studying accounting. We welcome Jackie to RSVP, and hope that her stay with us will be richly rewarding.

Welcome New Volunteers

Lucille	Abrams	Beverly Ann	Knox
Patricia	Ashe	Anacarmen	Leyba
Marie	Ashmore	Genevieve	Liner
Electra	Bakic	Susan	Lohn
Joy	Barneson	Hedy	Lutz
Gail Hart	Bedinger	Natty J.	Mahgoub
Mary	Blanco	Barry	Meikle
Deron	Bogosian	Yoshiko- Yoshi	Miwa
Goldie	Boswell-Boeder	Margo	Morrissey
Jennifer	Boudreau	Audrey	Murphy
Robert	Boudreau	Donna	Nisbet
Millie	Brandon	David	Ouyang
Alice	Brechin	Marsha	Parkhill
Kevin	Brennan	Mary Ann	Pasko
Carolyn	Bruhanski	Shirley	Paul
Jerome	Burton	Wayne	Paul
Marlene	Butts	Barbara L.	Pedersen
Clarence	Catherman	Muriel	Pershin
Trudy	Clarke	Muriel	Perski
Thomas	Clavin	Bill	Peterson
Dede E.	Cohen	Mary	Pirie
Karen	Czerwinski	Pat	Pruuel
Bonnie	Denker	Marion	Rallis
Marjorie	Donald	Veena	Rangappan
Wendy	Dove	Stanley R.	Raskin
Edithe A.	Gall	Jack	Ricketts
James R.	Gardner	Patricia A.	Riglin
Emily	Garley	Susan	Rupp
Lucy	Godoy	Michael	Russell
June	Green	Jean A.	Sahs
Claire	Greenwald	Mary	Scarpatti
Martha	Hoegler	Dee	Schuyler
Beverly	Iltner	Linda L.	Shampine
Mary	Jackson	Eileen	Slusher
Rajeana	Jensen	Oscar	Stutes
Grace	Johnson	Donna	Vandenber
Oreta	Kaye	Bea	Virobik
Judith	King-Wagner	Eleanor	Voeste
		Fred	Voeste
		Paul Allen	Widrig
		William	Wilder
		Beverly	Wilken
		Robert	Wilson
		Shirley	Wrigley

THANK YOU RSVP VOLUNTEERS . . . You helped raise close to \$6,000. for this years Oktoberfest Fund Raiser!

HERMAN GOES TO SCHOOL



RSVP Launches Emergency Readiness Program for Children

Herman the Crab is a Disaster Preparedness story made for Elementary School Children. The story is about a crab who has problems with his shell not being disaster proof. He loses his shell to a flood, earthquake, thunderstorm and fire. He learns that he needs to take care of his shell for these reasons. Herman has been presented to 464 Torrance Unified School District elementary school children and there are request for presentations for another 585. The curriculum includes a coloring book with crayons, and handouts to be taken home to parents. RSVP needs donations to keep this wonderful program active and volunteers to tell Herman's important Disaster Preparedness story to children.

RSVP of the South Bay presents...

RSVP is once again working closely with Collette Vacations to give our members the opportunity to take fun and exciting national and international tours. Here is our tentative schedule for the 2008:



May 18—24: Southern Charm, a 7 day, 10 meal tour of Charleston, Savannah & Jekyll Island.

September 20—27: New England Back Roads, an 8 day, 11 meal tour that includes Boston, Bennington, Molly Stark Trail, Adams Farm and Kennebunkport.

November 11—20: Reflections of Italy, a 10 day, 13 meal trip that features Rome, Colosseum, Assisi, Florence, and San Marino Venice.

December 7—12: A Country Christmas, a 6 day, 6 meal travel featuring Asheville, Biltmore Estate, Smokey Mountain National Park, and the Gaylord Opryland Hotel.

**For information please call
RSVP of South Bay at 310-320-3322**



RSVP of South Bay

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Give a gift of kindness! Each year, thanks to our donors, RSVP support programs that encourage literacy among our children, help the elderly remain self-sufficiency, and promote services that change lives. When you support RSVP, you make a difference in the South Bay community. You can donate on line at www.rsvpsb.org, or you can donate by mail. Send a gift for any amount to: RSVP South Bay, 1339 Post Avenue, Torrance, CA 90501. *Thank you for your continued support!*

Need Volunteers
Barnes & Noble Gift Wrapping

Volunteers are needed to wrap books and gifts for the Holidays at Barnes and Noble between December 10 and December 24. The store makes available all supplies, our volunteers wrap gifts, customers make donations, we receive 100% of proceeds. If interested, call Ges Davis at 310-320-3322. Thank you for your help.

DON'T FORGET TO CALL IN YOUR HOURS!

You can report your hours on our web site at www.rsvpsb.org by clicking on the "report your hours" link, or by calling 310-320-3322 after 5:30 on weekdays, or on weekends.

A special thanks to the Torrance Lomita Airport Rotary for their generous donation of \$5,000, and Gary Robert Cruse, Sid Kato and Eugene Hamayasu for donating their used cars to RSVP.



Your old car is worth more than you think. It can help support the programs and services of RSVP!

- *We pick up your car at home*
- *You get a receipt*
- *You get a deduction on your income taxes*
- *Call 310-320-3322 to donate your car, truck or other vehicle*