

County DIGEST



JULY 1997

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

LOIS A. LUCCI

For the past seven years, Lois A. Lucci has worked for the County of Los Angeles. She is currently a Nursing Care Specialist I with the Department of Health Services, Division of Medical Oncology at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center. Because of her love and dedication to her profession, the County Board of Supervisors honored her as the County's June 1997 Employee of the Month.

Lucci has twenty years of oncology (cancer) experience, seven years at her present location. At Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, she performs advanced professional nursing care in the highly specialized field of oncology, providing medical management to patients in an outpatient setting. Additionally, she consistently implements enhanced patient-centered care with an emphasis on the comfort and management of the side effects of chemotherapy treatment.

One of Lucci's achievements is the "creation" of an Image Enhancement Center at Harbor-UCLA which is scheduled to open in the next six months. She developed the concept of the center and recruited financial support so that it may be operated free of charge.

The loss of hair and changes in skin and nails are frequent side effects suffered by patients receiving cancer therapy. Lucci used her persuasive skills in recruiting a major wig manufacturer to donate surplus hair pieces for the Center's use. She also facilitated donations of moisturizers and soaps from a large skin care product company and scarves from a scarf company.

Knowing how appearance makes a difference in a person's life and how people are perceived through their outward appearance, Lucci obtained the



LOIS A. LUCCI ACCEPTS HER COMMENDATION FROM ZEV YAROSLAVSKY, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS.

services of a cosmetologist to teach patients the art of make-up application. She designed a room to look like a professionally-lighted cosmetology studio complete with piped-in music donated by a pharmaceutical company. Indeed, at the Image Enhancement Center, patients will have a better outlook on life and learn that life with cancer is not about dying but about living.

Lucci received a diploma in nursing from the Mercy Hospital School of

Nursing in Pennsylvania. She is a member of the Oncology Nurses Society.

As the manager of the Infusion Clinic where chemotherapy agents are administered intravenously, Lucci recognized the need to increase patients' access to the clinic. She was able to increase operating hours to five days a week from the previous two days a week. Since then, the Clinic has been treating an average of sixty patients a week.

Lucci has done all this and continues to provide care to cancer patients despite having a rare genetic disorder which causes non-straightening of her elbows. She has demonstrated to patients the ability of dealing with a disability.

During her spare time, Lucci enjoys painting on canvas using acrylics. Her subjects include landscape, seascape and portraits. To her, "painting takes away the stress and problems of the job."

Lucci moved to California in 1984 from Pennsylvania where she met her husband Bill. They have been married for ten years and reside in Redondo Beach.

Lois A. Lucci credits her patients for giving her inspiration to continue her work. The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors honored her for inspiring others to live life to the fullest, especially those who seem to have lost sight of living.

Congratulations and thank you for your continued dedicated service to the people of Los Angeles County.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

COUNTYWIDE WORKPLACE GIVING CAMPAIGN

SHOWING THE GENEROSITY OF LA COUNTY EMPLOYEES

The ending of the 1996 Workplace Giving Campaign was celebrated on May 6 with a festive recognition event honoring the top achieving departments from the County of Los Angeles. Presenting plaques to the County's award-winning departments were the eight Fund Distribution Agencies: the Asian Pacific Community Fund, the Brotherhood Crusade, the Combined Health Appeal, the Earth Share of California, the Local Independent Charities, the Los Angeles Women's Foundation, the United Latino Fund and the United Way, all of which were direct beneficiaries of the campaign.

Recognized for "Highest Percentage of Employees on Payroll Deduction" were the departments of Internal Services, Parks and Recreation, Chief Administrative Office and Military and

Veterans Affairs. Winners in the "Greatest per Capita Cash Contribution" category were the departments of Public Social Services, Mental Health, Auditor-Controller and Consumer Affairs. John

by thanking all the Board members, agencies and coordinators in a record-breaking sixty seconds!

The 1997 Campaign will run from August 4 through October 31, kicking-off with a breakfast sponsored by the Fund Distribution Agencies. A private night for Los Angeles County employees at Disneyland will conclude the 1997 Campaign.

The goal is to raise \$2,000,000 through payroll deduction and special events in order to continue providing a broad range of services that are essential to our communities.

We invite all County employees to participate in this campaign and celebrate Halloween and the conclusion of a successful Workplace Giving Campaign at Disneyland.



SUPERVISOR ZEV YAROSLAVSKY (LEFT) CONGRATULATES INTERNAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR WILLIAM F. STEWART AND CAMPAIGN COORDINATOR MARILYN WILLIAMS.

Moschitta, fast-talking television and radiopersonality, concluded the program

THIS SUMMER...

EXPERIENCE THE WONDERS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY ATTRACTIONS

Across from the County's headquarters lies one of the premier centers for the performing arts in the world — the Music Center of Los Angeles County.

Since its opening in 1964, the Music Center has presented music, opera, drama and dance to millions each year on its stages as well as in schools and community centers throughout Southern California.

The Music Center is home to the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the Center Theater Group/Mark Taper Forum and Ahmanson Theater, the L.A. Opera, Los Angeles Master Chorale and the Music Center Education Division. Other groups associated with the center of performing arts include the Southern California Dance Theater Association which presents the James A. Doolittle Dance Season and the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz.

The Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, the Mark Taper Forum, the Ahmanson Theater and the future Walt Disney Concert Hall make up the Music Center complex.

The Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, which seats more than 3,000, was inaugurated with the appearance of famed violinist Jascha Heifetz. Current and future shows include *Dracula* by the Houston Ballet and *Cinderella* by the American Ballet Theater.

The Mark Taper Forum, which opened in 1967, seats 752. *Nine Armenians* by Leslie Ayvazian will be the fourth staged play from the New Theatre For Now Series. The Ahmanson Theater, which originally seated 2,071, was inaugurated in 1967 with "More Stately Mansions" featuring Ingrid Bergman. The Ballet Folklorico de Mexico is slated to perform late this year.

Four restaurants and a gift shop complete the Music Center complex. Banquet rooms and a complete catering service are also available.

Through the efforts of the Board of Supervisors, the County has played an invaluable role in the successful operation of its performing arts facility as well

as the promulgation of the arts.

For general information, call (213) 972-7211 or (213) 972-7615 TDD.

If outdoor recreation is your interest, then trek to one of the County's eight natural area parks and wildlife sanctuaries. Here are a few:

The Whittier Narrows Nature Center in El Monte, which sits on a 277-acre sanctuary of riparian woodland, features four lakes and many plants and animals found in a wetland community. The lakes provide a winter sanctuary for migrating waterfowl and are opened by special permit for birding and photography. Other activities include hiking and walking, seasonal special events, naturalist docent training, junior ranger program, nature birthday parties and nature day camps. Reservations are needed for school and group tours. The center is wheelchair and stroller accessible.



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INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM SCHOLARSHIP

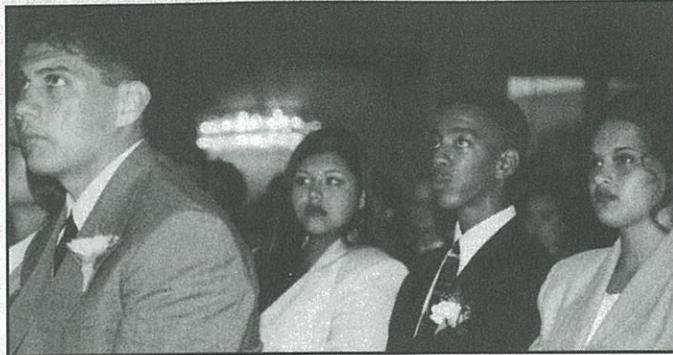
MAKING DREAMS A REALITY

Today's youth are the designated leaders of tomorrow. With the proper guidance and education, they can steer us to the twenty-first century with great ease.

The Independent Living Program Scholarship under the auspices of the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) has done just that — providing assistance to young adults, who at the age of eighteen, are released by DCFS from the foster youth program.

Approximately 1,000 young adults emancipate from the department each year. Unfortunately, financial assistance is limited.

Last month, 120 youths who have emancipated or will be emancipating from DCFS were honored at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion. The department was able to provide financial assistance to



A FEW OF THE EMANCIPATED YOUNG ADULTS AS THEY LISTEN ATTENTIVELY TO ONE OF THE PROGRAM'S GUEST SPEAKERS.

these teens. Many are still awaiting help in order to make their dreams a reality.

DCFS has made a commitment — a promise to help every youth as he/she emancipates from the system and obtains a higher education and/or

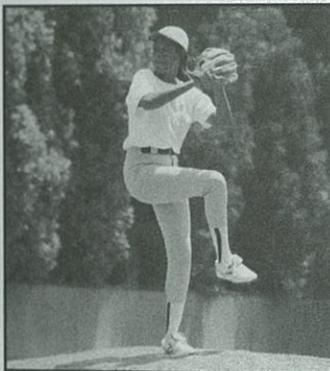
vocational training. To accomplish this, the department needs your help as governmental funds are not sufficient enough to keep this promise.

At a recent Board of Supervisors meeting, Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky brought in a motion to assist DCFS in promoting employee awareness of the program while Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich addressed the issue.

Your donation, which is tax deductible, will go directly to help meet the needs of emancipated youths as they embark on a journey to adulthood.

If you would like to make a donation to the Independent Living Program Scholarship or obtain additional information on how you can help, call Leslie A. Griffith at (818) 858-5915. Sponsorships are also available.

CASEY AT THE BAT



SOUTHPAW CASEY GETS READY FOR ACTION.

(PHOTO COURTESY OF MICHELLE KRISTOL.)

Cynthia Casey, an employee with the Office of Affirmative Action Compliance, has been selected as a team player of the second ever professional women's baseball league.

The Los Angeles Legends will play from July 9 through the end of August at various locations. A number of home games are scheduled to be played in the Long Beach and Los Angeles areas. For ticket information and game schedules, call the Ladies League Baseball at (800) 729-8700.

Congratulations and good luck!

SUMMER HEALTH ADVISORY

“HOLD THE MAYO”

July 4 signals the start of the picnic season. Thousands make their way to County beaches and parks to celebrate not only America's Independence but also to share in the camaraderie of family and friends.

But wait. Hold the mayonnaise or at least keep it cold to avoid food poisoning in warm weather. Some dishes get risky if left unrefrigerated while others are okay. Know your foods is the message from health officials of the County's Department of Health Services (DHS).

The department urges residents to get the best from their summer get-togethers by taking the necessary precautions against food poisoning.

“Casual mishandling of food during warm weather in a park where there are no washing facilities increases the risk of food poisoning,” says David Dassey, physician-epidemiologist with the Acute Communicable Disease Control division. “You need to handle picnic food differently from food you serve at home.” Moreover, family and pot luck dinners can also lead to problems when food is left unrefrigerated.

One of the more common causes of food poisoning is salmonella, a bacterium typically found in raw or undercooked meat, poultry and eggs. People who

become infected can develop symptoms including fever and diarrhea. By far, the largest number of cases occur during the summer months of July, August and September.

The following are some guidelines for preparing picnic food as recommended by Dassey:

- Cook all meat, especially hamburgers, thoroughly. It is not safe to eat hamburgers rare.

- Keep foods containing eggs, meat or dairy products under constant refrigeration until you eat them.

- Do not re-ferigerate food that has been left out for several hours during a picnic. Throw left-overs away.

- Fully cooked food that is not handled by dirty hands or contaminated equipment will remain safe to eat for several hours. Uncooked meats or foods touched by hands and not subsequently cooked are risky.

“Creating a menu that is appropriate for a picnic is the best way to avoid getting sick,” Dassey said.





Another site for adventure is the Catalina Island Interpretive Center in Avalon. Visitors to the island may hear recorded sounds of whales, dolphins and sea lions at this center. Kelp forests, native plants and animals are among the topics explained and illustrated. Reservations may be requested for school and group tours.

The Placerita Canyon Nature Center in Newhall, another County attraction, is a 350-acre park. It features oak groves, chaparral-covered slopes and a sycamore-lined stream. Placerita is home to the famous "Oak of the Golden Dream" where gold was "first" discovered in the state in 1842 and "Walker's Cabin," a reminder of early frontier living. The park maintains eight miles of hiking trails, one of which is wheelchair and stroller accessible.

The Los Angeles County Natural Area Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries are operated by the Department of Parks and Recreation under the direction of the Board of Supervisors. The Department offers countywide recreational opportunities at 119 diverse locations many of which are available for activities such as weddings, corporate functions and film locations. For information on these and other parks and sanctuaries, call the Department's Public Information at (213) 738-2961.

Congratulations to the following employees who are joining the ranks of the retired after 30 or more years of service to the people of Los Angeles County:

CHILDREN'S SERVICES: John A. Metzger

FIRE: Daniel S. Ammann, Thomas S. Benton, Ira L. Gruber, Robert S. Overstreet

HEALTH SERVICES: Mae E. Bailey, Mattie M. Banks, Ronald L. French, Ralph Kim

INTERNAL SERVICES: Fred Benson

MENTAL HEALTH: Roland Summit

MUNICIPAL COURTS: Nancy Holstrom

PROBATION: Samuel Hankerson, Caroline Nakamura, Alan L. Wondra, Vivian M. Finney

PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Doris Hays-Semien

PUBLIC WORKS: Herbert Bryant, Jr., Shale L. Hanson, Charles W. Thompson, Kenneth E. Wade

SHERIFF: Raymond D. Baytos, Thomas M. Broadston, Katie G. Carter, Ramon Sanchez, Ruthie M. Williams, Murray J. Carter, Richard E. Howard, Marvin G. Tegtmeier

TREASURER AND TAX COLLECTOR: Friedia C. Herczeg

Congratulations to the following employees who are retiring after serving the people of the County of Los Angeles for more than 25 years:

ASSESSOR: Herman J. Knickmeyer

CHILDREN'S SERVICES: Margaret Almado, Diane V. Briggs, Patricia G. Davis, Xavier L. Willis, Carol G. Wippert

CORONER: Claude G. Boucher

FIRE: Stephen E. Hudson, Dennis W. Perryman, Thomas W. Robertson



JULY RETIREES

HEALTH SERVICES: Arthur G. Adame, Mollie M. Bailey, Preciosa Barroso, Jean Broglia, Epifania Capitan, Ruby M. Nix, Y. R. Setoguchi, William C. Shoemaker, Freddy Yeh

MUNICIPAL COURTS: Kathryn Fletcher

PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Delores Ausbon, Gloria Collado, Priscilla L. Gunning-Miles

SHERIFF: Derry L. Benedict, Allen M. Broge, Charles P. Carroll, Jr., Carol S. Doore, Thomas J. Toner

SUPERIOR COURTS: William A. Fee



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SEND US...
YOUR COMMENTS, STORY IDEAS OR QUESTIONS!

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COUNTY DIGEST

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