



## Celebrating Five Years of the Village ~ Ann Riordan



On the soft, summery evening of October 13, Village members and supporters attended "Shine on Harvest Moon" to celebrate the Pasadena Village's first five years and honor founding President Mike Babcock. At the Polytechnic School's library, attendees enjoyed a light supper while the Top Notch Quartet serenaded the crowd with popular songs of the '40s and '50s. Master of Ceremonies Bob Carlson introduced the guests of honor, each of whom praised the Pasadena Village's accomplishments and place in the wider community: U.S. Congresswoman Judy Chu, Pasadena Mayor Terry Tornek, Episcopal Communities

and Services' Susan Hixon, and Caring with a Passion's Lorraine Cummings. Afterwards, several Village members performed "Mike's Song," written by Larry Morrison and Fritzie Culick, to cap off the festive gathering.



*Friends surround Mike & Carole Babcock (center)*



*Bob Carlson introduces  
Congresswoman Judy Chu*

## It Takes a Village Plus!

Our first benefit was more successful than we anticipated because of the many members and friends who gave so generously. The Village raised \$36,000 — well exceeding our goal! 140 guests attended, 60 of whom were non-members. We love all of our great supporters and wouldn't be here without you. The following names reflect benefactors of the Village who were not listed in the evening's program.

My sincere thanks to everyone,

*Peggy*

Laura & John Babcock  
Priscilla Battelle  
Lisa Davis  
Catherine & Jim Dillavou  
Marianne & Frank Dryden  
Nancy & Dick Esbenshade  
Kimball Firestone  
Carole Grant

Monica & Tom Hubbard  
Betty Ann & Bruce Jansson  
Donna Johnson  
Judy & Steve McDonald  
Mijares Mexican Restaurant  
Jennifer Murphy  
Mae Powell  
Paula Rao

Deborah Reed  
Lois Russell  
Elsie Sadler  
Dr. Anthony Shaw  
Sally Shaw  
Bob Snodgrass  
Lynne & John Tuite  
Belinda & Jack Walker



---

## New Faces in the Village Office

Two staff members now share the role of Program Manager at the Village office: Donna Scarantino and Belinda Vidaurri.



Donna Scarantino

Donna has been a resident of Pasadena since 1964, where she still resides with her husband and two cats (Tinker and Bell). Her career in business administration has kept her close to home, spanning over forty years with several of the larger companies in the area, such as JPL and ARCO/Parsons. Donna's love affair with non-profits was sparked by her twelve-year tenure at Ability First, which provides programs and services for children and adults with disabilities. "I am privileged to be part of the Pasadena Village, and hope to bring my talent and skills to support the members and the organization by bringing creative ideas to help continue to enhance the quality of life in our community," Donna wrote in a letter to Village members. In her free time, Donna serves as President of Theatre Americana, an all-volunteer theatre company comprised of vibrant and talented seniors who perform throughout the San Gabriel Valley.

Belinda comes to the Pasadena Village with an extensive background in office administration, having worked in the private sector as well as the television and film industry, public rela-

tions and non-profit organizations, providing assistance to the underserved community of Los Angeles and to the patients and families at the USC Medical Center. She is also an accomplished writer and journalist, having published human interest stories on assignment for the Hawaii Newspaper Agency. Raised in the San Gabriel Valley, as an adult Belinda has lived in various areas of Los Angeles and Hawaii. But for the past 16 years she has called both South Pasadena and Pasadena home. Her love of travel recently took her on a three-month sojourn in France, where she continued to work on a novel and her language proficiency.

Sharing administrative responsibilities and coordinating Village programs with Peggy and the new interns is no easy feat, but it's one Donna and Belinda have tackled eagerly as a team. In addition to their staff position, they share a similar confidence in the Pasadena Village. "I'm excited to be a part of this wonderful organization, and feel very welcome in my new position as a part-time Program Manager," says Donna. Belinda is also "thrilled to be a part of this wonderful organization dedicated with a passionate commitment to enriching the quality of life for independent older adults."



Belinda Vidaurri



---

## Meet our Interns ~ Sue Kujawa

This year Pasadena Village is fortunate to have two exceptional Social Work interns who will add to our services and programs while they gain real life work experience. Interns have become a reliable source of support to the Village, each giving a unique gift through their training and talents and leaving with fond lasting memories of our community.

Claudia Chavez comes to us from Azusa Pacific University. She has her undergraduate degree in Human Services from Cal State Fullerton and is now pursuing her Master's degree in Social Work. Prior to starting her Social Work program, Claudia worked for 10 years for the U. S. Army, helping military families who were being relocated or deployed to service. Working out of Fort Irwin in Barstow, Claudia helped families navigate the military bureaucracy and get the benefits and advice they needed during these difficult transitions. During her 10 months with Pasadena Village, Claudia will be working with Executive Director Peggy, as well as Volunteer committee chair Natalie Cohen, to advance the long-term sustainability of this critical committee.

Our second intern, Laura Tovar, is a graduate of USC with a BA in Sociology. After graduating from college she worked as a legal assistant, managing cases involving personal injury. Laura enjoyed the case management so much that she was motivated to pursue her Master's degree in Social Work. Laura is a life-long resident of Glendale and a loyal USC football fan. She has a special interest in older adults because she was fortunate enough to know, and be close to, all four of her grandparents. She is especially interested in hospice care and has deep compassion for those in their later years. Laura will play a key role in our upcoming Transportation Initiative (*see page 3*), which will help Village members learn to use modes of transportation other than driving.

We hope Village members will welcome Claudia and Laura's support and feel free to call upon them with questions, concerns, or just to say hello. Finally, our intern program would not be possible without the dedicated expertise of Esther Gillies, Village member and Social Worker who volunteers hours of her time to supervise and guide the interns. Thank you, Esther!



---

## Transportation Initiative ~ Sue Kujawa & Laura Tovar

The Pasadena Village wants to help its members stay connected to family and friends, and we also want to help members accomplish the day to day errands and tasks that are a part of everyone's daily lives. We are very fortunate to have many wonderful volunteers who are happy to drive members to doctors' appointments, the Post Office, or to one of our many Village events. These volunteer drivers are key partners in helping Pasadena Village members stay connected.

Now we are looking at other ways the Pasadena Village can help its members remain "on the move." To that end we are embarking on a Transportation Initiative that will help *all* Pasadena Village members become better acquainted with, and more comfortable using, the various forms of getting around the Pasadena area.

In the coming months, you will be invited to attend presentations on resources such as Dial-A-Ride, Access, Go Go Grandparent, the Metro system, and our local Pasadena ARTS bus system. Those who are still driving will be invited to attend the AARP Safe Driving course. And we'll be looking at ways our volunteer drivers can be even more helpful to members.

As an important introduction to our Transportation Initiative, Social Work intern Laura Tovar has created a short survey. The purpose of the survey is to learn what members want and need to support them in safely and easily navigating the daily activities of their very busy lives. We hope to hear from *everyone* – members who are not driving and those who are. How can the Pasadena Village support you as you transition from a driver to someone who is still "on the move," but not driving?

**Members should be on the lookout for this important survey in their email.** Please fill it out (you can do it anonymously), and return it to Laura at the Pasadena Village. You'll be glad you did.



*We've all heard the compelling evidence that pets have a positive impact on our wellbeing. Countless Village members have taken this to heart and proudly include pets in their families. Over the summer, a dozen members gathered for brunch with their canine companions, giving humans and animals alike the opportunity to socialize. (Pictured: Jimmy Warner-Davis & Gabby Stowitts.)*

---

## Aging & Alzheimer's Research ~ Ann Riordan

In September, Dr. Michael Harrington spoke to Village members and friends about dementia, its forms, and the research he is doing to understand brain disorders. As the Director of Neurosciences at Huntington Medical Research Institutes (HMRI) in Pasadena, Dr. Harrington studies healthy people at risk for migraine or Alzheimer's disease (AD). Brain autopsies of people who suffered from AD have changes in a protein called beta-amyloid that clumps together and forms "plaques." Dr. Harrington's research suggests that as we age, there is slow damage to brain cell membranes; the altered membranes can damage the amyloid protein and also lead to characteristic features of neurodegeneration and AD: loss of signaling along and between neurons, with their eventual death. Later changes include "tangles" of a protein called tau that disrupt the transport system in brain cells, preventing delivery of nutrients and other essentials.

As people age, they naturally become more forgetful. We might not remember a name, an appointment, today's date, or where we last put our keys. But we often remember those answers later. AD symptoms include similar types of

short term memory frustrations, but with subtle differences, such as asking the same question every few minutes when there is no distracting explanation; making inappropriate decisions; difficulty balancing a checkbook or giving away money out of character; losing the way while driving to work; or forgetting the names of close relatives. Forgetting where we left our car keys is not uncommon as we age, but not knowing what they are used for may be an AD problem!

Using treatment trials, Dr. Harrington and his group at HMRI are trying to determine the fundamental cause of AD, as well as effective early diagnosis tests. He needs help from volunteers from 60 years and older, mainly recruiting people before memories are lost! The only exclusions are when individuals have pacemakers or take strong anticoagulants. Volunteers return every two years for testing. HMRI does not charge for any of the testing, and they share results with participants throughout the study. Two members of the Village have already enrolled in these studies.

*If you are interested in participating, please contact Betty Chung, Administrative Assistant, 626-795-4343, or [chung@hmri.org](mailto:chung@hmri.org).*

THE PASADENA VILLAGE

236 W. Mountain St., Suite 104

Pasadena, CA 91103

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NONPROFIT  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PASADENA, CA  
PERMIT NO. 627

**ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS**

*Unless otherwise noted, all events take place at the Village office and are open to the public. Hope to see you soon!*

**Meet Me at the Village!** Join us for coffee and conversation the third Friday of the month. 10:00 a.m.  
**November 17    December 15    January 19**

***The Village office will be closed for holidays on the following dates:***

**November 23 & 24  
December 25 & 26  
January 1**

***Welcome New Members!***

**August**

Patricia McClland

Donna Mabry

France Meindl

**October**

Leonora Edminston

Gabrielle McClain

Dorsey Lawson

**September**

Gaye Shepard

*Dr. Sonia Singla with  
Benefit Co-  
Chairs Alison Voors &  
Michelle McConville*



***Thank you to our Founding Sponsor:***



**EPISCOPAL COMMUNITIES & SERVICES**

*The art of creating community*

**You can support the growth of our  
caring community by visiting  
[pasadenavillage.org/donate](http://pasadenavillage.org/donate)**

**THE PASADENA VILLAGE**

236 W. Mountain St., Suite 104

Pasadena, CA 91103

(626) 765-6037

[www.pasadenavillage.org](http://www.pasadenavillage.org)

[Facebook.com/ThePasadenaVillage](https://www.facebook.com/ThePasadenaVillage)

Twitter: [@pasadenavillage](https://twitter.com/pasadenavillage)