



## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

WISHING YOU PEACE,  
HAPPINESS, AND PROSPERITY  
THIS COMING YEAR.



Dr. Herbert Hatanaka,  
SSG Executive Director

Happy New Year Everyone! In reflecting on 2019 and our work as an organization I'm aware of the many challenges, some setbacks and of course an extraordinary set of accomplishments including the provision of life sustaining, life enhancing services to over 30,000 individuals and families. As we all know, any organization is only as good as the people in it and so the credit goes to the over 1,100 front line and administrative support staff who have worked tirelessly to ensure that our communities are provided with the highest quality services. I think we should all be tremendously proud that together we have made such an extraordinary impact on the communities that we've targeted.

Looking forward to the many priorities that we intend to address this New Year, I want you to know that there is none more important than the organization's investment in our staff and the organizational context where they practice. While we've made great strides in improving work place safety and security practices, professional and employee trainings, staff appreciation events, compensation and benefits, we all know there is always room for improvements. In the coming months, you will hear about some of our plans and you will have a chance to provide us with feedback on how SSG can be a more supportive employer. Stay tuned!

Sincerely,  
Herb



## DIVISION COLABORATION: APAIT & HOPICS

### SSG UNVEILS FIRST EVER BRIDGE HOUSING PROJECT FOR TRANS WOMEN



SSG received a commendation from the City of Los Angeles. Pictured from L to R: APAIT Director Jury Candelario, SSG Executive Director Herbert Hatanaka, HOPICS Director Veronica Lewis, LAHSA ED Peter Lynn, APAIT Health & Policy Coordinator Jazzmun Crayton, LA City Mayor Eric Garcetti, LA City Council President Herb Wesson (10th District), and Karina Samala, APAIT/SSG Advisory Board Member and Chair of the Los Angeles City Transgender Advisory Council

SSG is pleased to announce the opening of “Casa de Zulma,” the first ever publicly funded Enhanced Bridge Housing project for transgender women in Los Angeles County. A grand ribbon cutting ceremony recently took place on Thursday, November 14, 2019 at the location of the site: 1422 Wilton Place, Los Angeles, CA 90019.

Grown out of a division collaboration between HOPICS and APAIT and through ongoing advocacy, this project came to life with funding from the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA). The divisions worked together to form a program that met the evolving needs of the communities they both serve, while considering the social determinants that disproportionately affect transgender-identifying women in their health and mental wellness journeys. HOPICS Director Veronica Lewis stated, “We recognized early on that it is critical to provide safe spaces for vulnerable populations like the transgender community so we hope this is the first step to expanding purposeful and intentional efforts from the public sector.” Moreover, APAIT Director Jury Candelario added “transgender women may experience discrimination and violence when accessing shelters and programs that do not practice the cultural humility necessary to meet their unique needs, nor provide additional supportive services to end this cycle of homelessness.”



Casa de Zulma is named after former APAIT staff member and consumer Zulma Velasquez in honor of her enduring commitment to the community. She hosted weekly the “Cafecito with Zulma”, which represented a safe space for queer and trans community members to have a cup of coffee, build community and discuss the issues they face day-to-day. Zulma passed away in August 2019. The Casa already has many potential new residents to fill the 16 beds available and the divisions are working together to make the gender-affirming space a warm and supportive home with the goal of linkage to permanent supportive housing. HOPICS focuses on the shelter operations and logistics, as well as housing navigation support and APAIT provides onsite culturally responsive mental health, trauma and case management services.

This momentous event has garnered attention from local media outlets such as Spectrum News: [First-Ever Transgender Bridge Home Opens in LA County \[VIDEO\]](#) and Curbed LA: [In race to house homeless, LA makes space for transgender women](#). Many community leaders and speakers were in attendance including SSG Executive Director Herbert Hatanaka, Los Angeles (LA) City Mayor Eric Garcetti, LA City Council President Herb Wesson (10th District), LA City Council Member Mitch O’Farrell (13th District) and LA County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas (2nd District). Congratulations to HOPICS and APAIT on the grand opening of Casa de Zulma, and for expanding the ever growing services that SSG is dedicated to delivering to our most vulnerable communities.



# SSG News

## & HIGHLIGHTS

### GRAND OPENING

#### EAST RANCHO APARTMENTS GRAND OPENING



Pictured L to R: Brenda Curry, Partner - Curtom Dunsmuir, John Perfitt, ED - RNLA, Emilio Salas, Acting ED- LA County Development Authority, Sara Silva, Co-ED - Compton YouthBuild, R&E Director Brian Hui, Sinetta Farley, VP - East Rancho Dominguez Neighborhood Assoc., Emma Sharif, Councilwoman, City of Compton, Tom De Simone, President GenesisLA, State Senator Steven Bradford, Ron Fisher, Deputy Sup Mark Ridley-Thomas 2nd District LA County, Dr. Herbert Hatanaka, SSG ED, Alex Clark, Architect - Lehrer Architects, Michael Lehrer, Principal - Lehrer Architects, Roger Fisher, Project Manager - Curtom-Dunsmuir

On December 18th, SSG celebrated the ribbon cutting of the East Rancho Apartments, a 10 bedroom residence for SSG clients. The shared living facility, to be operated by SSG Alliance, represents SSG's first ever effort at developing client housing from the ground-up. The residence represents a years long collaboration between SSG, RNLA, GenesisLA, Lehrer Architects, and Curtom-Dunsmuir Construction, and is the first completed project for this development team, which recently won \$10M in HHH Innovative housing funds to develop 100 additional units of small scale affordable and supportive housing in Los Angeles. Congratulations on the opening of another vital residential treatment program pioneered at SSG!



BEFORE



AFTER



### SSG ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### HOLIDAY TOY DONATION

SSG sends a huge thank you to our corporate sponsors **Steve Lee and Gallagher**. Their generous annual donation provides hundreds of gifts for children and their families across our organization. It truly makes the holidays just a little more special for our SSG programs and clients.



#### PARENTS NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH PROGRAM

SSG's long-time, grassroots program, Parents Neighborhood Youth Program (PNYP), was closed on Nov. 22, 2019. PNYP was created in 1985 by late founder Letitia E. Herrera. PNYP provided after-school programming for elementary school students at Norwood Elementary school just south of downtown Los Angeles. The program always prided itself on full bilingual (English/Spanish) and culturally appropriate activities with strong parent networking and support.

Unfortunately, the program was not able to stay in operation due to rising costs and unavailability of classroom space. In collaboration with school administration and parents, all students were transitioned to other local after-school programs. SSG remains inspired to pursue resources for the creation and development of appropriate school-based programs like PNYP in the future.

#### DECREASE IN THE MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT RATE

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) decreased the mileage reimbursement rate for privately owned automobiles from 58 cents in 2019 to 57.5 cents in 2020 for all business miles driven effective January 1, 2020.

Please note that effective January 1, 2020, any mileage incurred on SSG business on or after January 1st will be reimbursed at the 57.5 cents rate.





## SSG ANNOUNCEMENTS

### DO YOU KNOW ABOUT FSA?

#### EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

A health Flexible Spending Account (FSA) is a voluntary benefit that SSG provides to eligible staff. This plan lets you use pre-tax dollars to pay for eligible health care expenses for you, your spouse, and your eligible dependents.

Here's how a **Health FSA** works. Money is set aside from your paycheck before taxes are taken out. You can then use your pre-tax FSA dollars to pay for eligible health care expenses throughout the plan year. You save money on expenses you're already paying for, like doctors' visits, prescriptions, glasses, contacts, braces, or for dental work.

There is also the option for a **Dependents Care FSA** that allows you to use pre-tax dollars toward qualified dependent care. Care must be for a tax-dependent child under age 13 who lives with you, or a tax-dependent spouse or child who lives with you and is incapable of caring for themselves. Covered services include before- and after-school care, day care, and adult day care.

If you currently are enrolled in the Health or Dependents Care FSA plan, please remember that the renewal date is May 1st of each year, which means you only have a few months left to utilize your account balances. Please remember that April 30, 2019 is the absolute final day to incur FSA costs for the 2019-2020 FSA plan year.

- **Health FSA:** You can also use the funds to purchase a variety of items online through FSA-certified sources such as the FSA Store (<https://fsastore.com/>). You can view the full list of FSA-eligible items here: <https://fsastore.com/FSA-Eligibility-List.aspx>

- o **Important:** Keep all of your receipts! In the event that PayPro (administrator) needs to verify eligible expenses purchased with your card, it is important that all receipts are kept for the entire plan year.

- **Dependents care FSA:** Reimbursement requests go directly to PayPro. For convenience download the PayPro mobile app or use their online website.

Watch for details in upcoming staff notices regarding FSA's and all other health benefits offered by SSG.

### SSG's ANNUAL BENEFITS SURVEY

PLEASE PARTICIPATE – YOUR OPINION MATTERS  
DEADLINE FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 2020



It is time for SSG's annual group health plan survey. The survey (see link below) must be completed by Jan. 31, 2020. Your participation will help us to provide the best health plan possible for employees of SSG.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SSG2020>

This survey is open for all active SSG employees. All active staff will also receive an email with an invitation to participate.

If you have a specific question or problems about your health plan, you may contact SSG's Employee Benefits Support Center by phone at 855.670.2222 or by email at [LosAngeles.ESC@ajg.com](mailto:LosAngeles.ESC@ajg.com). Advocates are available Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

### SSG Employee Assistance Program (EAP) offered through Life Assistance Program



#### How to Access:

- By Phone: (800) 538-3543
- Online: [www.cignalap.com](http://www.cignalap.com)
- 

#### Benefits:

- Face-to-Face Assistance for you and your household member (3 sessions per situation)
- Support & Referral Services
- Discounts on Health & Wellness Services
- Confidential (information not shared with SSG)
- Available 24/7



# SSG News

## & HIGHLIGHTS

### APIFM

#### FIRECRACKER RUN 5/10K



The holidays came and went and we bet you and your family and friends have set some healthy intentions for the new year. Well, what better way to achieve a health and fitness goal than to join a 5k adventure through Historic Chinatown in Los Angeles! You will all be able to bond and move your bodies as you embark on the Firecracker 5/10k. The event kicks off with traditional lion dances and musical performances, and includes both longer races that earn you a complimentary medal at the end, or a Fun Walk that participants of all ages can enjoy!

Even more exciting - did you know that all proceeds of the Firecracker 5/10k goes to elementary schools and non-profits!? The run takes place on February 16th, 2020. By joining the "API Forward Movement" team when you register for the Chinatown Firecracker 5/10k, a portion of your registration fees is donated back to APIFM! This allows us to further our mission, empowering community members of all ages and ethnicities to live full and healthy lives. Help us give this year and sign up today! Go to [bit.ly/2020Firecracker](http://bit.ly/2020Firecracker) and register with the API Forward Movement team to join us!

#### APIFM HEALTH FACT OF THE MONTH

December's health fact of the month highlights our Vietnamese community! According to the National Center for Biotechnology Information, 68% of Vietnamese adults uphold lifetime abstinence from alcohol use, the highest percentage in the United States. While it is perfectly fine to drink responsibly, there are a lot of benefits from taking a break from alcohol. A study found that by just taking one month off of drinking led to a 20% reduction in liver fat, a 5% decrease in cholesterol levels, and an increase in sleep quality by 10%.



### P180

#### WILLIAM'S HOUSE NEW CLIENT HOUSING

SSG Project 180 proudly launched their 3rd interim housing site 'William's House' with capacity to house 20 forensic clients in a supportive homelike setting. The newly renovated duplex in South LA began housing operations 12/9/19. The site also includes on-site treatment and wraparound services for residents. For more information please contact Division Director Emily Bell at [ebell@project180la.com](mailto:ebell@project180la.com).

### APCTC

#### APCTC KNOWS HOW TO THROW A PARTY!

APCTC hosted its annual year-end celebration on December 13, 2019, at Golden Hibachi Restaurant in Alhambra. The APCTC team enjoyed an all-you-can-eat buffet, a game of Family Feud, karaoke, and a ton of amazing raffle prizes. Attendees could also capture the moment (and their ugly holiday sweaters!) at the photo booth, as well as spin a wheel to earn one of many gifts donated by Royal Business Bank. The party ended with a slideshow capturing the many milestones and achievements that APCTC experienced in 2019. Congratulations on a very successful year!





## PALS

### TIS' THE SEASON



The PALS for Health staff enjoying their holiday lunch at Fogo de Chão in celebration of another successful year.



The PALS for Health Annual Consultant Appreciation Luncheon. Interpreters and Translators were celebrated and given thanks for another successful year. A presentation on stress management and wellness was provided offering 2 hours of CE credit as well as a nice lunch from New Moon.

## OTTP-LA

### OTTP'S GOT TALENT

OTTP's holiday party was filled with fun, laughter, cheer and lots of activities! OTTP staff participated in a team building activity, photo booth, dessert contest, dancing, and OTTP's Got Talent. Thank you to all of the OTTP staff who made 2019 a very special year! Thank you for all the amazing you do for our clients and families!



### OTTP YOUTH CENTER RECEIVES A GENEROUS DONATION



OTTP-LA was recently the beneficiary of a holiday fundraiser led by one of its very own staff member's foundation. Kasey Phillips Brown, LCSW is a clinical supervisor II who has worked at SSG's Occupational Therapy Training Program (OTTP) since August 7, 2000. Kasey is also the CEO of The Nan Washington Global Wellness Foundation (TNWGWF). TNWGWF completed their first annual holiday fundraiser and it was a great success providing funding to enhance the OTTP Youth Center. The fund donated to OTTP were used to purchase an electronic basketball court, air hockey table, a sensory crash pad and sensory Body Sock. The remainder of the donations raised at the event will be used to fund TNWGWF's 2020 initiatives. TNWGWF was created by Kasey Phillips Brown, LCSW in honor of her grandmother Nannetta Joyce Washington who was affectionately known as Nan. Nan came to the United States from Canada and raised her family in Northern California. She didn't travel but she had a generous heart. Through TNWGWF Kasey travels around the world taking healthy equipment and supplies in her grandmother's name. Thank you to Kasey and TNWGWF!



# SSG News

## & HIGHLIGHTS

### SSG CORE HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

The SSG Core holiday party has always been a wonderful celebration that has been hosted by the Human Resources (HR) Department for the past few years. The staff from HR have always gone above and beyond and never failed to transform the office into a winter wonderland. This past 2019 holiday season, the Development Team stepped up and hosted the end of year holiday party, creating a Candy Land themed soirée. The luncheon was filled with all kinds of sweet treats, colorful decorations and silly games. The food was delicious as always, some friendly competition went down, trivia and ring toss games were played and prizes were won. While the Core staff are usually a busy bunch of bees all through the year, the holidays always bring all the departments together for some bonding time and fun!



### APIDC

Asians and Pacific Islanders with Disabilities of California (APIDC) celebrated its 20th Anniversary on November 17, 2019 with a festive holiday Gala. SSG is a longtime community partner with APIDC and was proud to be one of their sponsors. The special Gala opened with welcome remarks by over a dozen graduates of APIDC's unique Youth Leadership Institute, an annual program in which college students from throughout the state receive training in resume writing, job interview skills, public speaking tips, the history of the Asian American and disability rights movements, coalition building and conflict resolution. The graduates shared with the Gala attendees their successes and challenges, and hope for the future. The corporate honoree was Microsoft, in recognition of its leadership in making its products accessible, and for its innovative programs in hiring, training and promoting employees with disabilities. APIDC also unveiled the Pilot Project which it is commencing this year as a partner with SSG. The over 300 Gala attendees included SSG staff Development Director Elizabeth Berger, CARF Coordinator Peter Wong and intern Vanessa Gallardo.



Pictured 3rd from the left - Jennifer Kumiyama performed a lovely ball at the gala.



Graduates of APIDC Youth Leadership Institute



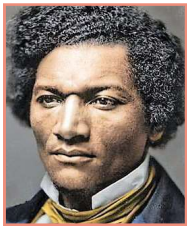
Pictured L to R - Elizabeth Berger, Anne Manalili, Deana Chuang

# SSG News

## & HIGHLIGHTS

### BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The story of Black History Month begins in 1915, half a century after the Thirteenth Amendment abolished slavery in the United States. That September, the Harvard-trained historian Carter G. Woodson and the prominent minister Jesse E. Moorland founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH), an organization dedicated to researching and promoting achievements by black Americans and other peoples of African descent. Known today as the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), the group sponsored a national Negro History week in 1926, choosing the second week of February to coincide with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. President Gerald Ford officially recognized Black History Month in 1976, calling upon the public to “seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history.”



Frederick Douglass

Since 1976, every American president has designated February as Black History Month and endorsed a specific theme. The Black History Month 2020 theme



Sojourner Truth

“African Americans and the Vote” is in honor of the centennial anniversary of the Nineteenth Amendment (1920) granting women’s suffrage and the sesquicentennial of the Fifteenth Amendment (1870) giving black men the right to vote. In the Radical Reconstruction period that followed the Civil War, newly freed black men made great political gains, winning office in Southern state legislatures and Congress. The Southern backlash was swift and marked by the passage of “black codes” designed to intimidate black voters, prompting a call for formal, national legislation on the right to vote. The women’s rights movement grew out of the abolitionist movement, with activists like Sojourner Truth and Frederick Douglas who worked alongside Elizabeth Cady Stanton to secure the right to vote for all. That goal was reached with the passage of the nineteenth amendment in 1920. Currently, there are a record number of 49 African American men and women serving in the 115th Congress as a result of the 2018 election. In the words of Sojourner, “Life is a hard battle anyway. If we laugh and sing a little as we fight the good fight of freedom, it makes it all go easier. I will not allow my life’s light to be determined by the darkness around me.”

### THE MORE YOU KNOW

## VOTING IN 2020

The California Presidential Primary Election is taking place on Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, this will be the first election since the Voters Choice Act passed in 2016. Here are some key things to know about the Voters Choice Act and how the changes may affect you this year:

### VOTE CENTERS

Polling places will be replaced by Vote Centers. Voters will have the freedom to cast a ballot in-person at any vote center in their county instead of being tied to a single polling location. At any vote center in a participating county, a voter may:

Vote in-person

Drop off their ballot

Get a replacement ballot

Register to vote or update voter registration

Get help and voting material in multiple languages



### VOTE-BY-MAIL BALLOTS

Every registered voter in participating counties will be delivered a ballot 28 days before Election Day. Voters will have three ways to return their ballot:

Mail the ballot

Visit any vote center in the county

Drop the ballot in a secure county ballot box



### NO PARTY PREFERENCE VOTERS

If you are registered as a “No Party Preference” voter, and you want to vote for a presidential candidate from one of the parties, you will need to do one of the following:

For Democratic, Libertarian and American Independent Parties:

Return the postcard you receive from the County, contact the Registrar’s office to request a ballot for that party, or request a ballot for that party when you go to a Vote Center.

For Republican, Green, and Peace and Freedom Parties:

Re-register as a member of that party in order to receive a ballot with their presidential candidates. You can do so online until February 18<sup>th</sup>, as well as at a Vote Center or a County election office.

To check your registration status visit: [voterstatus.sos.ca.gov](https://voterstatus.sos.ca.gov)

If you have more questions visit: [Howtovoteforpresident.sos.ca.gov](https://Howtovoteforpresident.sos.ca.gov)





## LUNAR NEW YEAR



Celebrating Lunar New Year Gives You Another Chance For A Fresh Start! The Lunar New Year is one of the biggest celebrations in many Asian cultures. It is a long celebration that lasts for 15 days. Each year, as you probably know, this celebration has a specific zodiac animal on the lunar calendar, as well as a feng shui element associated with it. This determines the quality of energy in the New Year. 2020 is the Year of the Metal Rat and starts on January 25th.

**Feng Shui in the New Year** - For the traditional feng shui practitioners and enthusiasts, it is also the time to adjust the annual feng shui cures to get rid of bad energy. Feng shui is about creating strong auspicious energy that attracts the best possible things into your life. How can you best celebrate the New Year? It is always helpful to clean your home thoroughly and de-clutter to assure the feng shui energy in your home is clear and fresh. Be sure to do all the cleaning before the New Year's Day and refrain from cleaning in the first few days of the New Year, as this is considered bad luck.

**What to Wear** - Most people will also wear new clothes for the New Year celebration to honor the birth of fresh, new energy. The auspiciousness of red and gold colors are always welcomed at the Lunar New Year celebration and can be incorporated as accessories or clothing details.

**Food** - The big dinner is an important part of this beautiful celebration, and there is a variety of traditional dishes that are prepared specifically for the New Year. Many of these dishes are served because of their meaning and association with specific energies, as well as on specific days of this long celebration. For example "fish" in Cantonese sounds like "abundance". Uncut noodles symbolize long life, while the many sweet dishes are expressions of hope for sweetness in the New Year. Mandarin oranges are a must because they are symbol of good luck, also called golden luck.

**Social Customs** - The morning after the New Year's Day many traditional red envelopes with a bit of money in them, are given to children and friends. This symbolizes a helping hand from the older generation to the younger one, as well as wishes for prosperity and financial well-being. Lion dances and firecrackers are used to evict and neutralize all negative energy from the previous year.

What matters the most is that you genuinely celebrate a New Year, be it in a traditional Asian way or not. Being genuine and sincere always wins the favor of the Gods!

### Personality and Characteristics of People Born in the Year of the Rat



Optimistic and energetic, people born in the Rat year are likable by all. They are sensitive to other's emotions but are stubborn with their opinion. Their personality is kind, but due to weak communication skills, their words may seem impolite and rude. On the financial side, they like saving and can be stingy. However, their love for hoarding will sometimes cause them to waste money on unnecessary things.



Here are some traditional characteristics that you may recognize within yourself if you were born in the Year of the Rat. Some born under this sign may be very clever and adapt quickly to new environments. They are very good at taking advantage of opportunities available to them. However, they sometimes lack the courage to do so. Although they have great ideas, they might not be suitable for leadership positions. Others born in the Rat year may take on more traditional characteristics. They love keeping things organized and place great value on family. Everything is taken care of by them and there is no need for others to worry. Outside of home, they're also someone with a strong sense of responsibility for themselves and others. What a mix of personality traits! Happy New Year!



### The Development Team

## GROWING SSG

### Connecting Your Vision to Fundraising

**Giving Tuesday raised record-breaking donations internationally in 2019!**

According to reports, \$511 million was donated online in the US alone on that day, and this figure doesn't include all the gifts of goods and volunteer service that were also made. Several SSG divisions participated this time around, and here are highlights about the Wish Lists we posted, asking supporters to purchase desperately needed items for clients.

🌐 APCTC's campaign for blankets and pillows garnered 24 pillows and 42 blankets for children & families.

🌐 SILVER received 100 bed pads for seniors who struggle to afford something so essential to living with dignity.

🌐 APAIT received \$650 worth of donated goods to help furnish the new Casa de Zulma (see also the front page).

🌐 HOPICS received \$184 worth of tarps, sleeping bags and blankets for homeless individuals who are unsheltered.



**Congratulations to everyone who joined in! Looking forward to even greater success in 2020.**

### Grant Announcements

From Nov 1, 2019 to Dec 31, 2019, SSG has been recommended for the following grants:

Funder	Program	Division
The Jewish Community Foundation	General Operating	HOPICS
Kaiser West Los Angeles	HERO	HOPICS
California Community Foundation	Substance Use Prevention Services	WEBER
California Community Foundation	San Gabriel Mountains Forever	APIFM
Southern California Edison	Environmental Justice Summer Institute	APIFM
LA County Department of Public Health	Community Engagement	SSG
LA County Department of Public Health	As-Needed Language Assist Services	PALS







## SAFETY

### HEATING SAFETY: BE WARM AND SAFE THIS WINTER

There is something about the winter months and curling up with a good book by the fireplace. But did you know that heating equipment is one of the leading causes of home fire deaths? According to the National Fire Protection Association, half of home heating fires are reported during the months of December, January and February.

With a few simple safety tips and precautions you can prevent most heating fires from happening:

- Keep anything that can burn at least three-feet away from heating equipment, like the furnace, fireplace, woodstove, or portable space heater.
- Have a three-foot “kid-free zone” around open fires and space heaters.
- Never use your oven to heat your home.
- Have a qualified professional install stationary space heating equipment, water heaters or central heating equipment according to the local codes and manufacturer’s instructions.
- Have heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional.
- Remember to turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Always use the right kind of fuel, specified by the manufacturer, for fuel burning space heaters.
- Make sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room. Ashes should be cool before putting them in a metal container. Keep the container a safe distance away from your home.
- Test smoke alarms at least once a month.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CONDOLENCES

Deepest condolences to Dr. Trang Hoang (Alliance) and family on the loss of her mom Maria Pham Thi Suu who passed away on 12/20/19 surrounded by her children and grandchildren. Services were held at Christ Church, Garden Grove on 12/27/19.

### CONDOLENCES

Deepest condolences to Emily Bell (Project 180) and family on the loss of her stepmother Bonnie Bonetti-Bell who passed away on 11/20/19 surrounded by her husband and stepchildren. Services will be held at the Cathedral of Christ the Light in Oakland on 2/14/2020.



### YOUR NAME OR PICTURE MAY APPEAR IN SSG'S NEWSLETTER AND WEBSITE

If you participate in an agency event and an article or picture from that event is submitted for publication, your name and/or picture may be included. If you do not approve of this, then please refrain from being photographed at events and let your supervisor know not to include your name in articles. You may also contact Tonie Diaz in the HR Dept. at [adiaz@ssg.org](mailto:adiaz@ssg.org) or Leah McGowan for newsletter publishing inquiries at [lmcgowan@ssg.org](mailto:lmcgowan@ssg.org).

# 2020

## Resolutions

ONE

TWO

THREE



## ANNOUNCEMENTS



### WEDDING BELLS RING!

APAIT's Abigail Radaza married Kevin Proff on their 5-year anniversary on November 3, 2019, at the Historic Chapel of Orange in Orange, CA. This Orange County location held great significant in their lives because that is where the pair originally met as students at UC Irvine. Congrats!



### WE GOT HITHCED!

SSG's Brianna Villa and Edward Torres were recently married on December 14, 2019 at the Wayfer's Chapel in Rancho Palos Verde , CA. Congratulations and well wishes from your SSG family!



## SSG NEWSLETTER SCAVENGER HUNT

Hi SSG family! Here is the July-August 2019 Connecting the Dots - SSG Newsletter Scavenger Hunt. Are you ready to win some prizes?! The multiple choice challenge will be hosted on an online game app called Kahoot! The scavenger hunt will begin as soon as the SSG newsletter is emailed out - be sure to read this newsletter first. The first 4 SSG employees to answer all 4 questions in the challenge quickly and most accurately will each win a \$25 gift card! If you've won 2 consecutive times you must sit out the next round.

**Instructions:** Please visit: <https://www.kahoot.com> on your smart phone, click on "Play!" at the top and enter the following game pin# **0367825** to access the challenge. You will need to download the free app. When the game begins it will ask you to create a "nickname". Be sure to use your SSG employee number listed in ADP. The **timed** challenge will begin as soon as you click "Ok, go!". You'll need to be fast! Members of the SSG Newsletter Committee are not eligible. The quiz will be open until **February 7th at noon** and the winners will be notified by February 10th.



Happy reading & Good luck!

## SOME DATES TO REMEMBER

### JANUARY - FEBRUARY

1/4	Trivia Day	2/2	Groundhog Day
1/8	National Take the Stairs Day	2/4	Rosa Parks Day
1/15	National Bagel Day	2/9	National Pizza Day
1/20	Martin Luther King Day (SSG Holiday)	2/14	Valentine's Day
1/25	Lunar New Year	2/17	President's Day (SSG Holiday)
1/27	International Holocaust Remembrance Day	2/29	Leap Day