

January 2023
Winter Issue



The Guild Gab



Janie Guthrie
President 2021 - 2023

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Chief Executive Officer
AMCS

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The Prez Sez

Happy New Year!

Last year, we were very proud to recognize our **60 years of financial support** for AMCS. What an achievement! Now, we commence 2023 continuing our mission through annual membership/supporter donations, tributes, and FUNdraisers. We cannot thank our supporters enough for all they do and the difference they make with mental health. Also, I cannot thank our Board Members enough for their hard work and dedication in creating and planning our FUNdraisers. It is amazing how strangers come together for a common cause and become friends. I am honored to be able to represent this group.

Some of our FUNdraisers last year included cooking and succulent demonstrations, a Cantalini's wine dinner, an evening of fashion hacks, and our 3rd Annual Holiday Lights Tour & Contest which is becoming a community tradition. Thank you to the homeowners for participating and the amazing transformation of your homes, and thank you to all those who purchased tickets.

We kick off 2023 with our **Annual Membership Meeting on January 25**. I am excited to be back in person and look forward to seeing everyone. Also our restaurant fundraiser is happening at **Tony P's on January 29** -

February 2, where they will contribute 20% of your purchase to WMHG. Please look for the required coupon in the newsletter or on our website. Planning is underway for our always popular **Spring Tea in March**.

Please look for our emails with all the upcoming events. If you are interested in joining the Board or have an idea for fundraising, please let me know at info@westchestermng.org.

Wishing everyone a healthy and happy 2023!

Janie

Eden's Epistle

Happy New Year!

It's hard to believe that 2023 is already upon us, and as the clinic gets ready for a new year that we all hope will bring us more success and give us the opportunity to help even more people throughout the community, I want to thank the Guild for its incredible support. At every turn, even in the midst of the pandemic, you have all risen to the occasion and been there to make sure AMCS can continue to flourish and fulfill its mission.

And, of course, we are asking for the Guild's help once again at our Spring Celebration - our biggest fundraising effort of the year!

The **18th Annual Spring into Well-Being Celebration will be held on Thursday, May 18** and will recognize LAWA Executive Director Justin Erbacci with our 2023 Community Builder Award. Justin has overseen the many amazing improvements underway at LAX, and we are

so excited to recognize him and his contributions to our community. Please mark your calendars!

Please know that everything we are able to accomplish is because of the incredible support we get from the Guild, and we are truly grateful for everything that the Guild has and continues to do for the clinic.

Here's looking forward to a fabulous 2023!

Meet a Member – Jill Knepper



A Chicago native, **Jill Knepper** moved to the west coast 14 years ago after graduating from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. In 2018, Jill and her husband Jason purchased a Westchester home, where they are raising two daughters. After a decade-long public relations career working for major consumer brands, she transitioned to a career in real estate, where she personally has sold nearly \$30 million in properties during the past year with the Stephanie Younger Group.

Jill’s first exposure to the Guild was as a docent for the Holiday Home Tour. Intrigued by the Guild’s work, she feels a passion to destigmatize mental health care because two of Jill’s five siblings have severe mental health disorders. As a natural-born problem solver experienced with helping her family navigate the intricacies of the mental health care system, Jill’s mission is to make mental health care more accessible to everyone who needs it. She hopes to help change mental health care legislation to

benefit patients in need of long-term care and alleviate some stress on them and their families.

In her spare time, Jill loves hiking on the Bluff Creek path, attending Pilates classes, traveling, snowboarding, going to the beach, snorkeling, scuba diving, and whale watching. She is excited to be a Guild Board Member, supporting the important cause of helping those in need in our community get support, while meeting new friends along the way. We are delighted to have her involved!

Meet a Member – Jordi Daley



Jordi Daley was born and raised in the Glendale area after her father was sent from Pittsburgh to California for basic training during WWII. After graduating from Pierce College, she moved to the west side and has lived in Playa del Rey for many years. She worked as an administrative assistant at Western Airlines and Northrop Electronics in Los Angeles. In 1993, she and her husband moved to the Seattle area where she worked for Weyerhaeuser

Company and lived near the Puget Sound close to Tacoma. She returned to Playa del Rey after her husband’s death in 2010. She has two step-daughters; one lives in Los Angeles and one lives in Oregon.

In 2012, Jordi joined the Guild in large part because of her mother, Pearl Raack, who was a long-time member of the Guild. Jordi enjoyed working at the Guilded Cage and soon joined the Board participating as a member of

several committees and as a Home Coordinator on the Holiday Home Tours. She finds volunteering rewarding in so many ways, especially the friendships that have developed over the years. Jordi’s passion is ballroom dancing and she also enjoys traveling, taking walks, music, book club and getting together with friends. Thank you, Jordi, for continuing to give invaluable service and support to the Guild and AMCS.

Meet a Member – Candy Yip



Candy Yip was born in Salinas, CA and is a 4th generation Californian. Her family moved to LA where she attended public schools. She attended Dorsey High School where she met her future husband, Jeffrey Yip. Candy went on to UCLA while Jeffrey went to UC Berkeley. They got married when he started Loyola Law School. Candy worked for an in-house lawyer at an investment firm and later helped her husband in his private practice where he specializes in estate planning. They have one son,

Douglas, who lives in Culver City. When Douglas was 6, they moved to Westchester and found a great neighborhood. Candy loved participating in her son’s school activities and was active in PTA, Cub Scouts, and worked as a Teacher’s Aide tutoring students in English and Math.

Candy has been a member of the WMHG Board for 18 years. She has co-chaired the Holiday Home Tours, served in many offices and has been on many committees including publicity. She is

presently the Corresponding Secretary and Editor of the Guild Gab newsletter. Her greatest fulfillment as a WMHG volunteer is the friendships of wonderful people who share her passion for supporting mental health and giving back to the community. In her spare time, Candy enjoys cooking, gardening, traveling, helping neighbors and spending fun times with family and friends. Thank you, Candy, for your enthusiastic spirit and generous support to the Guild and AMCS.

Contest Lights Up the Community ★

Our **Third Annual Holiday Lights Tour & Contest** was another successful COVID-safe event. This year we had 24 homeowners in Westchester and Playa del Rey participating in the Tour.

Tour-goers selected the home of David and Nancy Voss at 370 Fowling Street, Playa del Rey as the **Fan Favorite**. The first runner-up was the Greenwald home at 6443 Riggs Place, and the second runner-up was the Jackson home at 7807 Cowan Avenue, both in Westchester.

Last year's Fan Favorite, the Westchester home of Jon and Tina Vanderjagt on West 78th Street, and the 2020 winning homes also were part of the Tour, but did not participate in the Contest.

We had seven generous sponsors for this year's Tour. Our **Diamond sponsors** were the Stephanie Younger Group, Playa Venice Sunrise Rotary, Jane St. John of ReMax Realty, Law Offices of Edgar Saenz, and the Woman's Club of Playa del Rey. Our **Jewel sponsors** were the Suarez Team, Otis College of Art & Design, and the *HomeTown News*. In addition, other financial support was received from Susan Zolla of the Inn at Playa del Rey.

With nearly **600 tickets sold**, the sponsors, and numerous additional donations, the Tour earned the Guild more than **\$15,000**, after expenses for the preparation of lighted signs for the homes on the Tour and prizes for the winners. Tour-goers paid \$10 for tickets, which gave them a list of addresses, maps of the homes and a chance to vote for their favorite.

We do not know yet whether we will host a Holiday Home Tour on November 5, 2023, or whether we will continue hosting the Holiday Lights Tour & Contest next December. If you have any suggestions or comments, would like to help plan our events, or know of any homeowners who would like to participate in either Tour next year, please let us know at info@westchestermhg.org.

Thank you to the homeowners, sponsors, tour-goers and all other donors and participants in our Third Holiday Lights Tour & Contest.

2022 FAN FAVORITE



Holiday Lights Tour voted ***FAVORITE*** Best Charity Nonprofit Event in the HomeTown News 2022 Readers' Poll

★ Wine Dinner FUNdraiser



The Guild turns sixty-one this year after a very successful 60th Anniversary year in 2022. This year will be **Sixty-one-derful!**

We've just finished our highly successful **3rd Annual Holiday Lights Tour** and have many events scheduled for 2023.

Up first in 2023 is our **Annual Membership Meeting**, to be held *in person* on **January 25, 2023**, at Covenant Presbyterian Church. We're happy to be back at our 'home' meeting location. We have a wonderful meeting planned and we will kick off our Membership/Support drive – our first fundraiser of the year.

Your Membership/Support is a fundamental part of supporting Airport Marina Counseling Service as they work to provide affordable mental health care and train mental health professionals. For 60 years the Westchester Mental Health Guild has been one of their primary funders.

We need your help. It's easy to show your wonderful support by joining the WMHG – use the attached envelope to send us a check, or scan the QR code if you would like to show your support via Paypal, credit card, Venmo or Zelle. Our **Jewel Supporter** level is only \$35, or you can be a **Diamond Supporter** (\$60) or a **Double Diamond Supporter** for \$120! Please help us make 2023 **Sixty-one-derful!**

We strive to plan successful FUNdraising events throughout the year, but your membership support at this time gives us a wonderful head start. We hope to see you and your friends at our Annual Membership Meeting on January 25. For additional information, please feel free to contact me at 310. 962. 9850 or robingadams01@gmail.com.



Westchester Mental Health Guild voted
FAVORITE
Best Membership Organization
in the HomeTown News
2022 Readers' Poll



Quick and Easy Recipe

Candy's Sun Dried Tomato Dip with Brie Cheese and Crackers

Ingredients:

- 2 jars of sun dried tomatoes with olive oil (purchase at Trader Joe's)
- 2 or 3 pieces of garlic from a whole garlic clove (peel the skin off)
- 8 to 10 leaves of fresh basil
- A large piece of Brie cheese (soften to room temperature before serving)
- Crackers

Empty the 2 jars of sun dried tomatoes with olive oil, pieces of garlic and fresh basil leaves in a blender and pulse until everything is mixed. The mixture will be thick. You can make this ahead and store the mixture in the 2 empty jars or other containers in the refrigerator.

When you are ready to serve the dip, place the Brie cheese on a serving plate and spoon the dip over the cheese or you can serve the dip separately in a small bowl. Place the crackers all around the cheese with a serving knife. This is a delicious appetizer.



Annual Membership Meeting and Luncheon

Returns to Covenant Presbyterian Church
After Three Years

The Guild is excited to invite its members and the community to attend the **Annual Membership Meeting Wednesday, January 25, 2023, at 11am at the Covenant Presbyterian Church Social Hall** located at 6323 West 80th Street in Westchester. Join us for lunch and hear what our guest speaker **Mishele Vieira, CPO®**, a Certified Professional Organizer and owner of *Away with Chaos*, has to say about the topic 'Get Organized – Clear Out The Clutter.'



Her advice is just in time as we begin the new year to help us clean out the clutter and organize our spaces. If you are ready to do something to gain control of your stuff, you will want to hear Ms. Vieira and learn how to avoid that overwhelming feeling of where to start with the chaos.

We are grateful that the **Covenant Presbyterian Church**, after three years of uncertainty, is graciously opening its doors again for our Annual Membership Meeting and Luncheon. Not only will you learn about what good things the Guild plans for 2023 to support good mental health through the Airport Marina Counseling Service, you will have an opportunity to shop for handcrafted items at the **Guild Crafters boutique**, try your luck at a **raffle** and pay your membership dues starting in January at the meeting.

Please join us and bring any friends who may want to learn more about the Guild. We would love for them to become new members! Please be sure to make a **reservation** by contacting info@westchestermhg.org by **January 23** and leave your name, contact information, and the number of people attending with you. Also, let us know if you would like to help. A **complimentary Cantalini's lunch will be served.**





Succulent FUNdraiser



Crafters Enjoy Continued Success

Our Guild Crafters group has been more productive than ever lately. The group recently has developed some new handmade items to sell, including insulated casserole caddies, microwave popcorn bags, and reusable snack bags. In addition, the Crafters have continued their production of long-time favorites: crocheted hanging kitchen towels, microwave bowl caddies, cork trivets, and knit hats and blankets.

All of the Crafter items are made from donated materials and all of their labor is volunteered. All of the prices customers pay include California sales tax.

The Crafters have been very successful in selling their creations at the **Westchester Arts & Music Festival** in September, the **October Guild Board meeting**, and **St. Jerome's Craft Faire** in November. For the second half of 2022, the Crafters have sold **\$2193** in merchandise.

The next opportunity to purchase Crafters' items will be at the **Annual Membership Meeting January 25**, where they expect to offer some additional new items. In the meantime, if you are in need of any of the Crafters' handmade items, please contact Annika Backman at dabackman@yahoo.com.



Wednesday	Jan 25	Annual Meeting and Luncheon
Sunday - Thursday	Jan 29 - Feb 2	Tony P's Dining FUNdraiser - Coupon on back page
Saturday	March 25	Spring Tea
Thursday	May 18	AMCS 'Spring into Well-Being' Celebration
Thursday - Saturday	July 13 - 15	Music West Production of <i>The Music Man</i>

CALENDAR

Check westchestermhg.org for updates * Events are subject to change.



Westchester
Mental Health Guild

c/o Airport Marina
Counseling Service
7891 La Tijera Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90045

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Westchester
Mental Health Guild
and Airport Marina
Counseling Service



Visit our website
www.westchestermhg.org

Contact Us
info@westchestermhg.org



4445 Admiralty Way • Marina del Rey
(310) 823-4534 Fax: (310) 822-4901

Dockside Dollars Fundraiser

0129

**WESTCHESTER MENTAL HEALTH GUILD
JANUARY 29 – FEBRUARY 2, 2023**

Present this coupon to your server and Tony P's
will donate 20% to your organization!
Not valid with any other promotions

Additional Coupons may also be found on our website: www.westchestermhg.org

**ENJOY
11:30am - 9:00pm**

**Sunday, Jan 29 through
Thursday, Feb 2, 2023**

**Takeout Orders and
Patio/Outdoor Dining
Available**

www.tonyp.com

Welcome New Board Members

*"There is real magic
in enthusiasm.
It spells the
difference between
mediocrity and
accomplishment."*

Norman Vincent Peale



Gayle Love, Jill Knepper and Nancy Virts

Westchester Mental Health Guild
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