

JVS At Work

Fall 2017

Building Better Lives. One Job At A Time.

5TH ANNUAL WLN CONFERENCE UNSTOPPABLE: THE POWER OF WOMEN



WLN Conference speakers Haifaa Al-Mansour, Barbara Morrison and Suze Yalof Schwartz

Raising the bar for the fifth year in a row, the JVS Women's Leadership Network will host its annual conference and networking event at the Skirball Cultural Center on November 14. Chaired by Barbara Leanse and Nancy Paul, the conference will feature three remarkable and highly accomplished speakers whose collective journeys have broken barriers, crushed stereotypes and launched groundbreaking careers despite overwhelming odds and obstacles.

Award-winning Saudi film director Haifaa Al-Mansour, renowned singer and recording artist Barbara Morrison and entrepreneur and fashion celebrity Suze Yalof Schwartz will share their powerful stories and engage in a lively question and answer session with the audience of over 500 women professionals, business owners and philanthropists. Award-winning actress Nikki Crawford will return for her second year as event host.



Kathy Suto, Vice President and General Manager of Bloomingdale's Century City, will receive the Inaugural WLN Women's Empowerment Award. She will be recognized for her dedicated volunteer

service to nonprofits, including the Downtown Women's Center, where she helped lead the development and expansion of DWC's successful programs serving homeless women on Skid Row.

The WLN conference has continued to build momentum, visibility and prestige with a wide array of speakers including New York Times bestselling author Lisa See, filmmaker Nancy Spielberg, conductor Rachael Worby, L.A. City Councilmember Nury Martinez, Oscar nominated producer Amy Ziering, and Ethel McGuire, a 23-year veteran of the FBI and Assistant Chief of Police for the Los Angeles World Airports.

Both a celebrated and highly controversial figure at home, Haifaa Al-Mansour is the first female Saudi *Continued on Page 6*

FIRST-EVER L.A. COUNTY VETERANS AMERICA'S JOB CENTER

Bob Hope Patriotic Hall in downtown Los Angeles is now home to a first of its kind comprehensive service center for veterans. JVS is honored to be operating the America's Job Center (AJCC) at the heart of this beautiful, historic building, dedicated entirely to meeting the needs of veterans. The AJCC staff will join a host of other veteran service providers, including



The imposing lobby of Bob Hope Patriotic Hall

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STRICTLY BUSINESS 20 YEARS AND GOING STRONG



JVS CEO Alan Levey, honorees Steven Hirsh and Patricia Will, JVS COO Claudia Finkel and honoree John Smith.

On June 7th, the 20th Annual Strictly Business L.A. Awards Luncheon brought together more than 400 business and community leaders at The Beverly Hilton to honor Belmont Village Senior Living and AvalonBay Communities for their exemplary support of the JVS HealthWorks® and ApartmentWorks® programs.

John Smith, AvalonBay Communities Senior Portfolio Maintenance Director, accepted the Corporate Partnership

Award for his tremendous volunteer engagement on behalf of the company.

Patricia G. Will, Founder and CEO of Belmont Village and recipient of the JVS Corporate Leadership Award shared the staggering statistic that an estimated one million new health care workers will be needed by the year 2025. "Where are all the pairs of hands going to come from to take care of the coming tsunami of elder adults?" she asked. "JVS HealthWorks is uniquely poised for that challenge by providing a platform that trains, coaches, mentors, grooms and prepares participants to meet and exceed expectations in the health care field."

Event Chair and JVS Past President Jim Hausberg presented the inaugural

Founder's Award to Steven Hirsh, who established the event two decades ago with the goal of expanding JVS partnerships within the business sector. "I thank JVS for this recognition, and I challenge each of us here to see what connectivity we can create that causes a positive impact on our community," said Hirsh.

Award-winning NBC4 weatherman Fritz Coleman returned for his fifth year as host. The event raised \$400,000 to support the agency's transformative work.



HealthWorks graduates Riza Villarez Wdowczak and Felicie Abner with Patricia Will and Fritz Coleman.

AND NOW FOR SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT

In a complete break from past Gala tradition, JVS offered longtime donors and new supporters an exclusive evening at Madame Tussauds on September 16, culminating in dinner under the stars on the rooftop terrace, overlooking the lights of Hollywood Boulevard. Guests came in costume, cocktail or casual attire - setting the tone for an evening of fun and

surprises. The true highlight, however, was hearing the personal stories of two former JVS clients during the brief program.

Rasika Flores explained the impact of the JVS Youth Services team in her life. After enduring multiple periods of homelessness with her family, she is now working and attending Santa Monica Community College. The first person in her family to ever attend college, she is now well on her way to building a promising future. Rasika closed with a quote from author Ben Okri, 'The most authentic thing about us is our capacity to create, to overcome, to endure, to transform, to love, and to

be greater than our suffering.' "With the help of JVS and all of you," she said, "I've started to become greater than mine."

Navy veteran Alex Tapanya was deployed with the Marines as a combat medic. After his discharge, having exhausted his GI Bill benefits without a clear career path, he found JVS Veterans First. The program paid for advanced training in cybersecurity and led to a position with great potential for growth. "JVS Veterans First was the lynchpin," he said, "not only for funding but for the compassionate support and understanding of my fellow veterans."

Event proceeds will benefit JVS programs serving at risk, foster and probation youth and support JVS Veterans First.



Co-chair Matt Winnick, Alan Levey, Deborah Levey, Harris Smith, co-chairs Adam Abramowitz, Heidi Levyn and Steve Seigel with Rasika Flores.

JVS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM SCHOLARSHIP RECEPTION STANDOUTS



Students, alumni, family and friends joined JVS Board members and donors for the 45th Annual JVS Scholarship Awards Reception held on July 27 at Sinai Temple. This year the program set a new record, awarding \$694,105 in need-based scholarships to 220 deserving recipients. The evening was a heartfelt celebration and an opportunity for recipients to meet their donors and personally express their deep appreciation.

Benjamin Straus, a freshman and first-year beneficiary, who has been playing the piano since the third grade, performed a beautiful piece and set the tone for the evening. Straus, who has found a connection to the 'mathematics' of music, will be attending Johns Hopkins University as an engineering major, allowing him to pursue his multiple academic interests, participate fully in extracurricular activity and remain engaged in volunteer activities.

"We love to see students who are well-rounded and who are committed to giving service in their communities while they enjoy their academic journey," said Scholarship Program Co-Chair Matthew Paul.

One of the most meaningful traditions at the annual reception is the Tzedakah Box Project, now in its seventh year. It was created by a long-time donor to provide an opportunity for students and their families, as well as alumni to begin paying it forward. To date, the project has raised over \$150,000, resulting in 69 scholarships. This year was no exception, with donations totalling \$20,000 that will fund 15 additional JVS Tzedakah Community Scholarships next year. This total includes a matching gift given in loving memory of Ben and Sarah Baran.

For the fourth year in a row, ten medical school students were awarded scholarships of \$10,000 each, thanks to a very generous \$100,000 gift from the Dr. William and Leah Molle Foundation and the enthusiastic support of Trustee Susan Howard.

Since the JVS Scholarship Program began in 1972 it has awarded over \$8.5 million to more than 4,600 outstanding local Jewish students. It remains the largest need-based scholarship program serving Jewish students within the Los Angeles community.

JOIN US FOR THE 2018 LA BIG 5K - GO TEAM JVS!

For the first time this year, JVS participated in the LA BIG 5K at Dodger Stadium. Eleven Scholarship Committee members, their families and JVS staff — ran, walked and wound their way through Elysian Park raising \$90,000 for the JVS Scholarship Endowment Fund.

Next year, join Team JVS at Dodger Stadium on March 17. The run begins at 8am and is open to people of all ages and abilities including runners, walkers and even strollers.

THREE WAYS YOU CAN HELP:

1. Make a donation and be a virtual walker
2. Run or walk with us on March 17, 2018
3. Create your own team (We'll help!)

For more information visit www.jvsla.org/teamjvs



EXPANDING VETERAN SERVICES

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the L.A. County Department of Military and Veteran Affairs.

The Veterans AJCC Manager is new JVS recruit Marine Corps veteran John Gutierrez, whose staff will include a team from the award-winning JVS Veterans First program. Veterans First has earned the Seal of Distinction from the Call of Duty Endowment, a nationally respected leader in the field of veteran employment.

The iconic 10-story Patriotic Hall was built on land donated by Civil War veterans and dedicated in 1925 by the L.A. County Board of Supervisors to serve veterans of the Spanish-American War and WWI. It was rededicated in 2004 in honor of Bob Hope and his legendary service to the USO.

Bob Hope Patriotic Hall is located at 1816 S. Figueroa Street, within easy access of public transportation, providing centralized access to a range of critical services and is an invaluable asset to the veteran community.

VETERAN SERVICE PROVIDERS AT BOB HOPE PATRIOTIC HALL

Department of Human Resources helps veterans navigate employment opportunities in the County such as the Veteran Intern Program.

Department of Mental Health – Veterans and Loved Ones Recovery (VALOR) provides mental health intervention and prevention services to veterans and their families regardless of Veterans Administration eligibility status and military discharge.

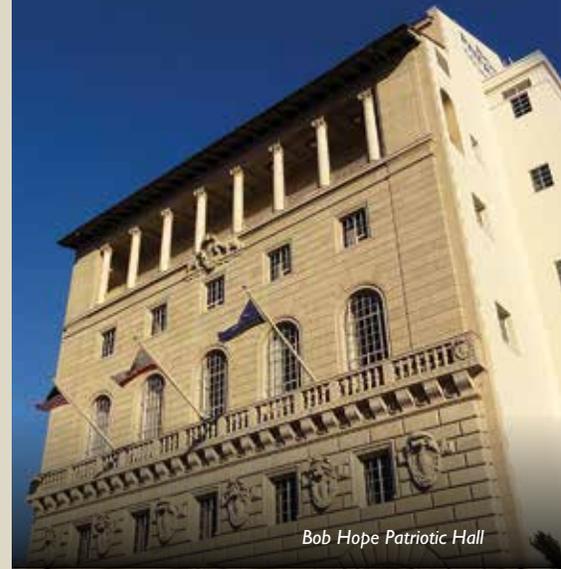
Department of Public Social Services offers help obtaining benefits.

Los Angeles Bar Association provides pro bono legal services for veterans (tickets and warrants).

Public Library provides veterans with a library card and library information.

Superior Court of Los Angeles provides legal self-help clinics for veterans and families.

LA County Veterans America's Job Center of California



Bob Hope Patriotic Hall

Tuskegee Airmen Scholarship Foundation provides educational and charitable services for the purposes of honoring living and deceased members of the Tuskegee Airmen.

U.S. Vets offers a wide range of programs designed specifically to address the unique needs of veterans including housing, counseling, legal, career development and comprehensive support.

!JUNTOS PARA UN FUTURO BRILLANTE! TOGETHER FOR A BRIGHT FUTURE!

Hispanic media giants join in spreading the message of hope and opportunity

JVS has been expanding its reach into the Latino community by building relationships with Hispanic broadcast networks Univision and Telemundo to promote the JVSWorks® Career Training



Programs. With news coverage and participation in high-profile community events, more Latinos are now aware of

the benefits and opportunities offered by JVS. Popular newspaper *Hoy (Today)* also participated in spreading the word with a spotlight on a JVS graduate. The message was simple: the JVS BankWorks® program is giving new hope to those determined to reinvent their futures in the financial arena.

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The article highlighted 26-year old Judy Olivares' struggles working to support her family. For Judy, becoming a bank manager was only a dream, until she found the JVS BankWorks program on the internet. That day changed her life. After graduation, she had not one, but three job offers from local banks. "Every day I am closer to my dream, thanks to this program" said Olivares, who is rapidly advancing in her career at Wells Fargo.

A college education fair, Feria de Educacion, sponsored by Wells Fargo and hosted by Univision on the CSUN campus, was attended by thousands of Latino college students, job-seekers and families. Invited to speak on a panel, BankWorks graduate Osiris Peralta was

warmly received when she shared her experience in the program and how it helped her gain the skills she needed to break into the financial field.

Amelia Macchiavello, L.A. correspondent for Telemundo's national morning show *Al Amanecer*, introduced the BankWorks program to a national television audience. Amelia visited the Vivian B. Seigel Education Center at our La Cienega training site where she met with staff and former students, including recent BanksWorks graduate Nancy Santacruz: "The day after I graduated, I got the job offer from Bank of America. Now that I'm working, I am going to give it all I've got to move ahead."



JVS Bankworks graduate Judy Olivares interviews with bank recruiters at the private job fair following the ceremony.

By expanding program awareness in the Hispanic community through key partnerships like these, JVS can continue to influence individuals in need, offering opportunities that can have a transformational effect in their lives.

MAKING OUR CASE ON PUBLIC POLICY

This summer we welcomed Government Relations Director Mark Edwards to the JVS team. Mark is a veteran of the Marine Corps and began his career serving as Senior Field Deputy for Councilwoman Cindy Miscikowski. He went on to become an active member of the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority team that completed the 10-year Strategic Plan to End Homelessness. Mark effectively lobbied the City and County to preserve or gain nearly \$250,000,000 worth of contracts for his clients when he worked for a leading lobbying firm.

The new JVS strategic plan clearly mandates an increase in advocacy efforts that will impact the viability of our mission and the lives of our clients.

We hit the ground running by taking an active role in opposing Assembly Bill 1250 (Jones-Sawyer), a de facto ban on nonprofits contracting with counties to provide vital services to their constituents. JVS currently contracts with the County of L.A. to deliver welfare to work and employment services, from Palmdale to South L.A.

The good news is that we are part of a statewide coalition. JVS submitted a formal letter of opposition to Senator Pro Tem Kevin de Leon and to Senators Ben Allen and Henry Stern, following up

with one-on-one conversations with lawmakers.

The coalition's effort paid off and the bill did not pass the State Senate before the end of the 2017 legislative session, though its proponents still have a chance to pass it during the 2018 session, which begins in January.

I will be working to strengthen regional opposition to AB1250, as well as exploring new opportunities for strategic partnerships as JVS expands its impact throughout Southern California and look forward to providing regular updates. *I can be reached at medwards@jvsla.org.*



BE INSPIRED AT THE 5TH ANNUAL WOMAN TO WOMAN CONFERENCE

Continued From Page 1 filmmaker. Her feature directorial debut was the acclaimed "Wadjda," which became the first ever submission to the Academy Awards from Saudi Arabia. Haifaa, whose work has triggered social and political advances for women, will return to Saudi Arabia in 2018 to begin production on her next feature, "The Perfect Candidate".

Originally from Detroit, Barbara Morrison has performed all over the world with music legends from Ray Charles and Dizzy Gillespie to Tony Bennett and Stevie Wonder in the course of her 20-year career and has graced iconic stages from Carnegie Hall to the Sydney Opera House. She also established the Barbara Morrison Performing Arts Center, a jazz venue and community arts center.

Suze Yalof Schwartz is the founder and CEO of Unplug Meditation, the world's first secular drop-in meditation studio. She began her career in the fashion industry, becoming Executive Fashion Editor at Large for Glamour Magazine and a popular and widely recognized voice in the

media for fashion and red carpet trends. She has appeared frequently on CNN, *The Today Show*, *Good Morning America*, *The Early Show*, and *The Oprah Winfrey Show*.

As JVS Womentoring graduate and entrepreneur Nicole Johnson said at last year's conference, "A woman on a mission may be inspiring, but a woman with a plan is unstoppable."

The JVS Women's Leadership Network (WLN) is a membership organization dedicated to serving women in career crisis or transition. For 2017 conference ticket and sponsorship information or to learn more the WLN visit www.jvsla.org/wln or contact Mary Koenig at (323) 761-8888 mkoenig@jvsla.org.



SPECIAL INVITATION TO SHOP FOR A CAUSE AND SUPPORT THE WLN



Thursday, November 16th

5:30pm

Champagne Reception
with Lite Bites from Eataly

6pm

Private Sneak Peek:
The 10 Best Gifts for your
Holiday Checklist

6:30-9pm

All store shopping + a special savings
offer with **10%** of tracked sales
donated to the WLN

RSVPCenturyCity@bloomingdales.com

AN EXCITING TIME OF GROWTH & OPPORTUNITY

IN OUR OPINION

This is a time of unparalleled growth for JVS. We are now poised to serve more clients than at any other time in our 86-year history. Having been awarded three additional contracts to serve more veterans, more youth and more people desperate to transform their lives and start anew, this is truly an exciting time for our organization.

As a result of this growth, we will see an immediate 10% increase in the number of people served, taking the total amount to 33,000 this year. Additional expansion and impact will occur through our custom job training programs, further enhancing the value of the JVS experience for the people who turn to us for help.

Through decades of empowering Angelenos to lift themselves out of poverty, JVS has been at the forefront of innovative workforce development programming. We have developed a proven end-to-end solution that has been recognized by the industry sectors we serve. Our innovative model for aligning and leveraging private-public-philanthropic funding attracts government, corporate, foundation and individual support, delivering immediate and sustainable results for our clients.

But we could not do this without our donor partners who believe in our mission and know we operate each day as efficiently and effectively as possible, while we carefully steward their gifts to make the greatest possible impact.

Please know how thankful we are to you and to all of our contributors. If you would like to see the impact of your philanthropy first-hand, please contact me. It would be my pleasure to take you on a tour of one of our WorkSource Centers, invite you to a JVSWorks program graduation or just meet for coffee and share more about JVS and how we change lives - one person, one family, one job at a time.

With gratitude,

(323) 761-8598 rlapin@jvsla.org



Randy H. Lapin
Chief Philanthropy Officer

2017 has been a year of tremendous growth and expansion for JVS as we continue the implementation of our new strategic plan - the blueprint for an even stronger and more effective organization.



Alan S. Levey
CEO

Harris Smith
Board President

One of the core initiatives of the plan is to increase the agency's advocacy work on public policy issues that impact the clients we serve, many of whom live in poverty or lack the skills to move ahead in the workplace. To spearhead those efforts, we welcomed Government Relations Director Mark Edwards, a former Corporal in the Marine Corps Reserves, with a wealth of government, advocacy and community relations experience.

And in the spirit of Semper Fidelis, we are pleased to announce that the new Veterans America's Job Center at the Bob Hope Patriotic Hall in downtown L.A. is being led by another distinguished Marine Corps veteran who has joined the JVS team. John Gutierrez has dedicated both his military and civilian careers to the service of others and received multiple awards for his dedication to excellence, including Navy and Marine Corps Commendation and Achievement Medals.

JVS is expanding its geographic reach with the Antelope Valley America's Job Center and joining our longtime partners Archdiocesan Youth Employment in the operation of the South L.A. America's Job Center, on the campus of Southwest L.A. Community College. In addition, the West L.A. America's Job Center will be moving from its longtime home in Marina del Rey to a beautiful new building in Culver City, offering enhanced opportunities to serve jobseekers on the westside.

The JVSWorks Career Training Programs continue to change lives and create new careers, with the support of our employer partners. HealthWorks graduate Felicia Cates said it best: "I thank all of you wonderful donors out there who reached out to strangers you didn't even know."

We simply could not do this work without your continued support and we thank you.



America's **JobCenter**
of California™



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JVS

At Work

Fall Newsletter 2016



JOIN US AND BE INSPIRED!

The JVS Women's Leadership Network
presents

5TH ANNUAL WLN CONFERENCE
UNSTOPPABLE: THE POWER OF WOMEN

November 14, 2017

8am Breakfast Networking Reception
9am-1pm Program and Luncheon

Skirball Cultural Center