

# ywca SAN GABRIEL VALLEY

# our voice



943 No. Grand Ave.  
Covina, CA 91724  
(626) 960-2995  
www.ywcasgv.org

SENIOR SERVICES  
YWCA Intervale  
24-Hour Message Line:  
(626) 214-9465

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
YWCA WINGS  
24-Hour Help Line:  
(626) 967-0658

## eliminating racism empowering women

## May 2011

**OUR MISSION** • *To eliminate racism, empower women, and promote peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all.*

**Elder Abuse Prevention Toolkit Now Available in English, Spanish, and Mandarin Chinese!**

Download your copy here from  
[www.ywcasgv.org](http://www.ywcasgv.org)

English  
Spanish  
Mandarin Chinese

Funded by a generous grant from the YWCA of the Mid-Peninsula Donor Advised Fund.

**38TH ANNUAL TENNIS CLASSIC FUNDRAISER  
MAY 6, 2011  
CLAREMONT CLUB**

Lunch festivities for non-players start at 11:30 am.  
Go to the YWCA SGV website ([www.ywcasgv.org](http://www.ywcasgv.org)) for more information.



**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LISA BRABO**

### Thank You Sponsors

The "Honoring Voice and Vision" Women of Achievement event, to be held May 19, 2011, is made possible through the generous support of sponsors. Thank you sponsors!!

- **Crown Sponsor:** Anonymous
- **Diamond Sponsor:** Edison International
- **Emerald Sponsor:** LA County Supervisor Don Knabe
- **Ruby Sponsors:** MillerCoors; Pacific Western Bank
- **Sapphire Sponsors:** Citrus Valley Health Partners; Crestwood Communities; La Rue Brewer; Soroptimist International Azusa-Glendora
- **Amethyst Sponsors:** Industry Manufacturer's Council; Foothill Transit; Kaiser Permanente; Langlois Fancy Frozen Foods; Longo Toyota-Scion-Lexus; Pat Serio; Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center; Suburban Water Systems; Unified Nutrimeals
- **Contributors:** City National Bank; Inter Valley Health Plan

Register online now at [www.ywcasgv.org](http://www.ywcasgv.org) or by calling 626-960-2995. ■



### Board President Advocates for YWCA in Washington

YWCA Board President Anita Ron and Executive Director Lisa Brabo recently met with U.S. Rep. Judy Chu and staff members of other Congressional members during a visit to Washington, DC for the 2011 YWCA National Conference.

The pair reinforced with key legislators the importance threatened community development grants are to the YWCA's efforts to empower domestic violence victims and educate the community about how to end intimate partner abuse.

"The bad economy has caused more stress in relationships, increasing the rate of domestic violence," says Anita. "We are also finding it challenging to meet increasing needs of senior citizens, who require more help due to higher costs in food and energy."

Anita says she was humbled to meet women leaders from across the nation who

*continued on next page*

## Angela Richardson to Emcee Women of Achievement Luncheon, May 19th, Diamond Bar Center



**A**ngela Richardson, an arts education/non profit consultant will act as Mistress of Ceremonies for the "Honoring Vision and Voice" Women of Achievement Awards Luncheon May 19 at the Diamond Bar Center.

She will be addressing hundreds at the YWCA's annual fundraiser, which honors ten outstanding women and two outstanding organizations in the San Gabriel Valley.

Like many of the women being honored, Angela's life journey has been full of challenges. As a young, single mother she was inspired by her young daughter to make a shift in her life. Angela earned a BA from Spelman College and a master's degree from Columbia University. She then became an arts administrator with organizations such as The Arts Literacy Project at Brown University in Rhode Island, and for groups in Brazil and Mexico.

But it wasn't until 2008 that Angela says she did her own "course correction" and found the balance she craved between career and family. She founded her own firm, Executive Arts Networking Consulting, which helps organizations and individuals with capacity building and increasing effectiveness.

"What I've learned is that I define and create my experience and business direction. This clarity of vision and commitment to the implementation is what I share in my coaching and mentoring work with young women of color and emerging women leaders," says Angela.

Today, Angela spends her time working with organizations in the non-profit sector including Pentacle's Help Desk/L.A., a dance service group and the Community Redevelopment Agency of Los Angeles. She says she also spends time with her 12-year old daughter, Ma'Kaya, an aspiring musician and mathematician. ■

are also advocating for underprivileged people. "I learned so much from hearing Dolores Huerta, the legendary farmworker leader, who spoke about how to organize peacefully," says Anita.

This was the first time Anita had represented the YWCA at the Capitol, although she has been a YWCA volunteer for a dozen years. As president and owner of Briteworks, a 14-year old commercial janitorial business employing 56 workers in West Covina, Anita says she was galvanized to start making a difference in her community when her 29-year old sister was murdered by her fiancé.

"I realized then that domestic violence can happen to anybody, regardless of social status, income, race, or ethnicity," says Anita. "I am committed to help ensure that others will not have to go through the same loss—this cause is personal." ■



## Lina Ledford Honored By Assemblymember

**Y**WCA SGV Finance Committee member Lina Ledford was recently honored by Assemblymember Roger Hernandez for her community service in education, human services, and the performing arts.

Born and raised in Manila, Philippines, Lina came to California in 1972, after having earned a bachelor's degree in accounting/business administration from the University of the Philippines. She then earned her CPA license and practiced for 26 years as a partner in a regional firm located in West Covina, before starting her own business in 2006.

Lina's firm, located in Covina, assists small businesses, nonprofit organizations, professionals and individuals by providing accounting, tax compliance and business consulting services.

A member of the American Institute of CPA's, California Society of CPA's, and the Covina Chamber of Commerce, Lina has volunteered with the Covina Rotary, Mt. San Antonio College Citizens' Oversight Committee for Measure R Bond Program, Covina Unified School District, the Covina Center for the Performing Arts, and the City of Covina Financial Stability Committee.

"I believe in giving back to the community because I have received so much from my adopted country," says Lina. "It's a privilege to be able to help make our schools and cities better."

Lina lives with her husband, Hugh, in Covina. They have three married daughters and one grandson. ■



## Glen Pierce Honored for Older Americans Month

**G**len Pierce says he has been so blessed in his life, he wants to give back to his community. For nearly 30 years, he has done just that. The 71-year old retiree is being honored this month as an outstanding volunteer during Older Americans Month.

*continued on next page*

## YWCA SGV New Video!

View it on YouTube at  
[www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)  
(search YWCA SGV).

Visit our [facebook](#) page and  
become a fan of the YWCA SGV!



## YWCA SGV Programs

**Services for Domestic Violence Victims:** Shelter and support services so that adults and children can be safe, healthy, and lead violence-free lives. **24-Hour Helpline 626-967-0658**

**Teen Education Program:** Presentations in schools about healthy relationships to prevent teen dating violence and provide assistance to teens in need.

**Services for Seniors:** Nutritious meals and care management so that elders can live in their own homes with independence and quality of life. **24-Hour Message Line 626-214-9465**

**Leadership Development Opportunities** for women, girls and older adults

If you'd like to help the YWCA SGV save money and communicate more efficiently with you, please sign up (via one of the three options below) for our free email newsletter.

Sign up instantly at  
[www.ywcasgv.org](http://www.ywcasgv.org)

Email us at [info@ywcasgv.org](mailto:info@ywcasgv.org)

Give us a call at (626) 214-9440

He started volunteering with the American Red Cross in the 1980's while he was the plant manager at Cutter Labs in Covina. By the mid-1980's he was not only serving on the board of directors but also regularly delivering meals to home-bound seniors. When he retired in 1999, he increased his meal delivery shifts after the YWCA SGV took over the Meals on Wheels program from the Red Cross.

Today, Glen also interviews potential home meal delivery clients and maintains the computer database for daily deliveries, spending about 40 hours a month as a volunteer with the YWCA's Senior Services program.

In addition, he also serves on the board of the SoCal Blood Region of the American Red Cross and on the personnel advisory board for the City of Covina. With his wife, Cathie, of 49 years, Glen has two grown sons and four grandsons. He says he is an avid electronic reader of mysteries and Civil War books, and finds time to walk daily with his faithful dog, Lizzie.

Glen's advice for other older Americans is to keep active. "You can't play golf every day—I tried it, and it gets boring," he notes. "Besides, they've found that people who retire and have nothing to do only live 18 months after retirement, and I plan to live a lot longer than that." ■



## YWCA Staffer Speaks Out for Children in Need

As a YWCA domestic violence children's advocate, April Williams had never visited Sacramento. But in the last three months, she has not only gone twice to the state capital, but both times, has represented disenfranchised people in front of state legislators.

April, a young single mother, first volunteered to speak to a legislative panel to advocate for children's health insurance. Her daughter, Amaya, has been receiving childcare through the state-funded program, but with recent budget cuts, the program is now threatened.

"I was nervous of course, but I knew I had to speak up because the children who need this childcare could not do it for themselves," says April.

Only a couple of months later, April represented the YWCA SGV with Board Member Helen Redondo on its annual advocacy trip to Sacramento. Meeting with representatives of elected officials, April and Helen spoke about the victims of domestic violence she works with daily. "I know that by putting a personal story in front of the lawmakers, I was able to help them see why our programs need their support," says April.

The experience of speaking out for others has taught April some things about herself. "I never knew how strong I could be and how much impact I could have on others," she says. "It's gratifying and humbling at the same time." ■