

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

February 2012

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

V-DAY EL MONTE
February 25 at 6:30pm
Madrid Middle School
3300 Gilman Road
El Monte, CA 91732

Proceeds benefit the
YWCA WINGS
Domestic Violence Program

The El Monte Coalition of Latino Professionals presents a Benefit Reading of *A Memory, A Monologue, a Rant and a Prayer: Writings to Stop Violence Against Women and Girls*. This is a groundbreaking collection of monologues by world-renowned authors and playwrights, edited by Eve Ensler and Mollie Doyle. This production is produced by Adam Carranza and directed by Lisette Mendez. Tickets are \$10.00 and are available online at

www.vdayelmonte.eventbrite.com



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LISA BRABO **February is Black History Month**

This year's theme "Black Women in American Culture and History" honors African American women and the myriad of roles they played in the shaping of our nation. The theme, chosen by the Association for the Study of African American Life and History urges all Americans to study and reflect on the value of their contribution to the nation.

There are those African American women who stand out in history; abolitionists Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth, civil rights activist Rosa Parks, author and poet Maya Angelou, philanthropist Oprah Winfrey, and many more, but what about all of others who have made an impact? Whether their name is in a history book, or it's an influential woman in our community, it is important that we acknowledge the heroic African American women throughout the years. February is an opportunity to honor both the epic advocates and the quiet heroes who have enriched the African American community and the Nation at large. (*ThinkTank Blog 2-14-12*).



YWCA SGV & Women at Work
Team Up with
AARP Foundation Funding

Every day approximately 20 million low-income older individuals struggle to secure their most basic needs in life—such as food or shelter—with limited or no financial resources. Over 3 million older adults are searching for work and many are dealing with the impact of long-term unemployment.

The YWCA San Gabriel Valley and Women At Work have teamed up to address this problem. With funding from the AARP Foundation we are working together to help hundreds of older workers move back into employment.

AARP Foundation recently awarded us a two-year grant to implement a unique model for providing a continuum of services to help adults age 50+ upgrade skills and obtain employment and have access to benefits, work supports and services that help protect themselves and their families from severe financial instability.

Lisa Brabo, Executive Director, YWCA San Gabriel Valley, observed, "So many adults who are 50 years of age and over are struggling in the workplace. Unemployment is the highest in those over 50. The YWCA has long been committed to working with

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SARAH LUDWICK
to be Honored
March 25
Covina Center for the
Performing Arts

Co-sponsored by the Covina Center for the Performing Arts and The Gas Company, the proceeds of the event will benefit the YWCA San Gabriel Valley's Intervale Senior Services Meals-on-Wheels Program and the WINGS Domestic Violence Program.

The event begins at 2:00pm with a Champagne Brunch with Sarah and Art Ludwick. Ticket prices are \$125 per person or \$800 for a table of eight people. These tickets include the champagne brunch, reception, and awards program.

At 3:00pm are the Reception and Awards Program. Ticket prices are \$40 per person or \$25 per person for YWCA SGV volunteers. These tickets include the reception (appetizers, a no-host bar, entertainment, a silent and live auction) and the awards program in which Sarah Ludwick will be honored.

Go to www.ywcasgv.org for more information.

View YWCA SGV's New Video on YouTube at www.youtube.com (search YWCA SGV).

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

community residents and helping them find both opportunities and a better future. Today's 50+ workers need help accessing financial support and re-entering the job market and this grant will allow us to focus resources on serving this population."

Finding employment for those 50 years plus is a challenge, as these workers are used to higher wages and more benefits compared with jobs in today's market, which frequently pay less and offer few if any benefits.

"So many of our clients have lost their jobs in recent months and have made it their New Year's resolution to find a job," explained Women At Work Executive Director Robin McCarthy. "Yet if they have not looked for a job in recent years they are simply not aware of the tremendous changes in the employment world. I recently had a client ask me how to upload a résumé to a website for a perspective employer. This is a skill young people know but many older individuals simply do not have this expertise."

The program elements will consist of helping 50+ families access financial support and employment. Employment assistance includes job matching, technology training, résumé building, and other job preparation skills focused on helping persons age 50+ find work. Both the YWCA and Women At Work will provide in-kind services to match the grant funds being provided.

"In these tough economic times, helping older Americans meet their basic needs is critical," said AARP Foundation president, Jo Ann Jenkins. "This grant program will help build our knowledge base, conquer these solvable issues and ultimately help older people who are struggling to achieve their best life."

Overall, the \$3.7 million awarded by AARP Foundation is combined with additional funds contributed by the grantees, thus creating an opportunity for even greater impact for those served by the programs.

"The current economic uncertainty has left many older Americans concerned about making ends meet," said Phyllis L. Kim, AARP Foundation senior vice president, Office of Grants Administration.

"AARP Foundation is already in communities across the country helping vulnerable Americans with direct services, but we believe strongly that we must also invest in long-term solutions. We look forward to working with our innovative grantees who share our goals so that together, we can seed hope for older Americans who are struggling."

The grant was awarded in response to a request from the AARP Foundation. AARP Foundation is working to win back opportunity for struggling Americans 50+ by being a force for change on the most serious issues they face today: housing, hunger, income and isolation. By coordinating responses to these issues on all four fronts at once, and supporting them with vigorous legal advocacy, the Foundation serves the unique needs of those 50+ while working with local organizations nationwide to reach more people and make resources go further. AARP Foundation is a charitable affiliate of AARP. Learn more at www.aarpfoundation.org.

To access services contact Stella Zarate, project coordinator at the YWCA at 626 214 9471 or Perla Bernal, job developer at Women At Work at 626 796 6870. ■



Maria-Inez Perez and daughter Ruby

BOARD MEMBER PROFILE

Maria-Inez Perez Advocates for Children's Safety & Environment

Although her parents were not well educated, Maria-Inez Perez says they instilled in her the importance of higher education and the pursuit of one's own dreams. That's why she is dedicating her life to educating others

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**39th Annual Tennis Classic
May 4 from 8am to 2pm
The Claremont Club**

An event not to be missed, this tennis fundraiser supports the WINGS Domestic Violence Program. If you would like to participate please download...

1. Registration form for tennis players.
(http://ywcasgv.org/tennis_2012.pdf)
2. Silent Auction donation letter
(www.ywcasgv.org/tennis2012.pdf)

For more information,
contact the Chair, Ann Baker, at
annbaker@cox.net or (858) 481-1011.

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 Services:

1) Healthy Relationships Education Program for Teens to prevent teen dating violence and provide assistance for those already experiencing violence.

2) Respect for All Anti-Bullying Project that uses award-winning films and discussions to reduce prejudice & bullying.

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
Email us at info@ywcasgv.org
Give us a call at (626) 214-9440**

about the importance of child safety and community-building. The new YWCA SGV board member was born in Mexico and grew up in City Terrace, a largely immigrant neighborhood in East Los Angeles.

"My mother never went to school until she was in her teens when she spent a couple of months in a classroom to learn to read and write," says Maria-Inez. "My father, with only a sixth grade education, diligently worked for years in maintenance and now supervises a hospital waste removal program using robots to handle hazardous materials."

The single mother of two, Ruby, 12, and Abraham, 9, put herself through college, earning a sociology degree from UC Santa Cruz. Now a resident of West Covina, Maria-Inez is an independent contractor on an urban renewal grant program in the City of Azusa. "The goal of the grant is to encourage a 'complete street policy' --the idea that communities need not only streets for cars, but sidewalks for pedestrians and bike paths for cyclists," she notes. "Our project seeks to educate planners about the need to address concerns such as creating safe routes for school children and park-like areas to exercise and walk." She adds that she is working with YWCA SGV Board member Miki Carpenter to start a non-profit group, Healthy Azusa, to continue the work of making the city healthier after the grant ends.

Maria-Inez also volunteers as a safety technician to educate parents, caregivers and others about the importance of proper installation and use of child safety seats. "We know that nine out of ten car safety seats are improperly installed," she notes. "Proper installation and use can reduce the number one cause of preventable child deaths—fatal car accidents."

By supporting the mission of the YWCA to eliminate racism and empower women and girls, Maria-Inez says she hopes to expand her network and her contributions to the community in which she lives. ■

**Women in U.S. Armed Forces
Sought as Award Nominees**

At its annual Women of Achievement Awards this June, the YWCA SGV will be honoring outstanding women in the U.S. armed forces.

Each year, for 27 years, outstanding women in fields such as business, education, and law enforcement have been honored, but this is the first year women in the military will be the primary focus of the awards.

Women represent more than 14 percent of active duty force, 18 percent of the National Guard and Reserve Forces, and 20 percent of new military recruits, according to government data.

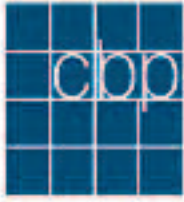
February 20 is the nomination deadline for the 2012 Women of Achievement Awards event, which will be held June 21 at the Pavilion in the Industry Hills Expo Center, 16200 Temple Ave. in the City of Industry.

To submit a nomination, go to http://www.ywcasgv.org/woa_nomination.pdf.

YWCA SGV is linked with a nation-wide YWCA effort to end discrimination and sexual assault of women in the armed forces, and to support America's military families by participating in the White House's "Joining Forces" Initiative on the web at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/joiningforces>.

YWCA's national interim CEO Gloria Lau says of women in uniform, "The sad





CALIFORNIA BUDGET PROJECT

Women and Their Families Falling Behind

A new report by the California Budget Project shows that women and their families are feeling the brunt of the pain from the state's economic downturn. Released this month, the report *Falling Behind: The Impact of the Great Recession and the Budget Crisis on California's Women and Their Families*, details the devastating impact of funding cuts to programs serving low-income women and single mothers.

Major spending reductions to CalWORKs as well as to child care, Medi-Cal, in-home care have resulted in higher unemployment during the past three years when the share of single mothers with jobs fell by more than 10 percentage points to 59 percent.

"This is the lowest point in almost 15 years, for single mothers" says Lisa Brabo, executive director of YWCA SGV. "Losing jobs means more poverty, so we have seen a jump in poverty in the same period."

According to Lisa, the YWCA has stepped up to fill some of the gaps left by reduced programs, but she concurs with the report's conclusion that: While the latest job numbers show some modest growth overall, "the prospects for California's women are more tentative. Women have been slow to re-enter the workforce and wage growth will likely remain modest until unemployment drops to a normal level."

The report challenges the state to reverse its policy of reducing services to women and children. It also warns "While the cost of something is significant, the cost of doing nothing is far greater."

truth is that they don't get a sheroe's treatment. While serving, they are more likely to suffer sexual abuse and less likely to report it. When they return, they are more likely than non-veterans to face homelessness, unemployment and poverty."

(<http://www.ywca.org/site/c.ckLRK7OQLoKaE/b.7515287/k.BF24/Home.htm>)

"Many seek the services of a YWCA in their own community. We've launched an online campaign to recognize these women, and ask for your support. Yesterday's YWCA fought to have women admitted to the armed forces during the First World War – it didn't happen, although 30,000 served without recognition," she adds. ■

Beverly Speak 2011 WOMAN OF ACHIEVEMENT



Overt racism and a legacy of legal segregation. This was the prevailing mindset in North Carolina and Georgia of the 1970s and '80s. In this environment, Beverly Speak took her first step down a lifelong path of nullifying prejudice, empowering women, and promoting health. She became a teacher in the first voluntarily integrated preschool in the college town of Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

After completing her graduate education in public health, Speak created an exemplary program at a rural North Carolina health center. Here, African American teen mothers learned parenting skills, nutrition, and substance abuse prevention.

As a Planned Parenthood volunteer, Speak developed a collaborative program to help adolescent girls and their mothers address the challenges of being female in a traditionally male-dominated society. She promoted integration and leadership development among women and girls of color through Girl Scouts and served as Executive Director for the YWCA, confronting and working to overcome racism in Augusta, Georgia.

After moving to California, she focused on education, prevention, intervention, and healthy choices for battered women and their children as Executive Director of Alternatives to Domestic Violence in Riverside.

Most recently, Speak focused her considerable experience on the Kids Come First Community Clinic. She turned this small non-profit health center, which was started as a satellite of Pomona Valley Hospital, into an independent thriving model health care program that serves thousands of uninsured and underinsured children throughout the region. Add to all of this, thirty years of teaching college-level courses in health, child development, and non-profit management.

Perhaps her own family best reflects her ability to change lives and instill competence, caring, and productivity. Speak and her husband adopted and raised three multi-racial daughters. They are now adults pursuing their own talents and working toward professions in child development, the culinary arts, and the law. ■