



JULIE WALLACH

Victims Advocate and Survivor

Julie Nicole Wallach is a mother, speaker, author, coach, and storyteller dedicated to reducing the stigma of shame and aiding in the healing of sexual assault survivors. She was a leading member and spokesperson in the landmark \$243.6 million lawsuit against UCLA involving gynecological oncologist Dr. James Heaps. Wallach has supported trauma survivors for the past 20 years.



GEOVANNY RAGSDALE

CEO, Boys & Girls Club of the West Valley

Geovanny Ragsdale is the Chief Executive Officer of the Boys & Girls Club of the West Valley. She has extensive experience in community relations and non-profit management, having led teams and organizations worldwide. Geovanny, a Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE), has advanced educational programs in entrepreneurship and the free enterprise system in 11 countries and has led fundraising initiatives in higher education and healthcare for over 20 years. She is trilingual, speaking Spanish, English, and French.



RENAY GRACE RODRIGUEZ

President, Stonewall Democratic Club

Renay Grace Rodriguez is a dedicated attorney based in Chatsworth, California. She is known for her compassionate, client-focused approach and her active involvement in community advocacy. Recently, Renay has been involved in various political and social causes, working to improve the lives of those in her community through her legal expertise and activism. She draws from her personal experiences of overcoming homelessness and addiction to fuel her commitment to social justice. She currently serves as the President of the Stonewall Democratic Club.



ROSEMARY ALLISON

Philanthropist

Known for her philanthropy and business acumen, she sees the needs of our community and organizes a plan to fund the solution. This quest to make things better began in 1978 when California voters approved Proposition 13. The City of Thousand Oaks announced that they would not hold the 4th of July Fireworks show due to the reduced revenue from County Property Taxes. Rosemary took it upon herself to go door to door soliciting donations from businesses to raise the funds needed. The City of Thousand Oaks commemorated her for her willingness to step up to the plate and save the beloved holiday display. Since then, Rosemary escalated her involvement by chairing large scale events to raise funds for the American Cancer Society, YMCA and our local charity, For The Troops.



DEBORAH HOWARD

Founder & President, CAPS

Deborah Howard is the founder and president of the Companion Animal Protection (CAPS) Society. Founded in 1992, CAPS is the only national nonprofit dedicated exclusively to protecting companion animals from cruelty in pet shops and puppy/kitten mills. CAPS addresses animal suffering through investigations, outreach, legislation, legal advocacy, consumer assistance, rescue, and shelter reform.



PASTOR KATHY HUCK

Executive Director, About My Father's Business

Pastor Kathy, dedicates countless hours to organizing supplies for individuals facing homelessness and regularly visits those living in encampments, vehicles, and RVs. Collaborating with Hope The Mission, she works closely with local leaders and organizations to provide high-quality essentials, treating the unhoused with the care and respect she would want for herself. A U.S. Air Force veteran, Kathy advocates for giving those experiencing homelessness a voice in decision-making and approaches her work with compassion and inclusivity, aiming to support all community members.



PASTOR APRIL BELT

Director, New Friends Homeless Center

Pastor April Belt has always had a heart for those who are in unfortunate situations, which has led her to travel the world visiting third-world countries to bring hope and a positive message as a keynote speaker at conventions, workshops, women's conferences, churches, and bringing in much-needed supplies to remote villages. In SD27 Pastor Belt is the Director of New Friends Homeless Center which provides meals three days a week for unhoused community members and her center will soon offer shelter, hygiene, rehabilitation, and vocational training.



CHELSIE HILL

Founder and CEO, Rollettes

Chelsie Hill is a professional dancer, content creator, and the Founder/CEO of the Rollettes, a groundbreaking wheelchair dance team empowering women with disabilities. After a spinal cord injury at 17, she founded the Rollettes, leading a global movement for inclusivity and shattering stereotypes in the dance world. Featured on platforms like Good Morning America and Forbes, Chelsie continues to champion diversity through initiatives like the Rollettes Experience and Boundless Babe Society, leaving a significant impact on the world.



DIANA WEYNAND

Founder, Climate Reality Project SFV

Diana Weynand is the chair and founder of the Climate Reality Project's San Fernando Valley chapter. She led nine climate activists in 2018 to grow into a 1,350-member chapter focused on environmental stewardship. Diana excels at networking and empowering others, recently leading an 80-organization coalition for nature-based solutions in the Sepulveda Basin. Prior to her climate work, she earned an Emmy nomination as a producer and director in the film and television industry and authored over 20 books.



PAULA CRACIUM

Director of Engagement, Shepherd Church

Paula Cracium, has been integral to Shepherd Church in Porter Ranch, CA for over three decades, coordinating campus expansion and large events, including a 50,000-attendee Fourth of July Spectacular. As Director of Local Engagement, she launched ShepherdGO.com to mobilize church members in community service, focusing on homeless and foster care youth, and collaborates with the entertainment industry through the Open Your Doors Initiatives. Paula and her husband of over 40 years, Paul, have two married sons and two granddaughters.



WENDI GLADSTONE

President, Santa Susana Mountains Park Assoc.

Wendi Gladstone has been a key figure in Chatsworth's volunteer scene since 2012, actively participating in various environmental and community organizations. She is currently the President of the Santa Susana Mountain Park Association and serves on the Board of the Foundation for the Preservation of the Santa Susana Mountains. Wendi co-founded Sky Valley Volunteers, a project dedicated to propagating and maintaining oak saplings in the West Valley hills. Additionally, she is the Vice President of Save Chatsworth, Inc.



KATHLEEN STERLING

Journalist

Kathleen Sterling is an award-winning journalist and publisher of five community weeklies in the west San Fernando Valley, including the Warner Center News, which she founded in 1982 at age 22. Dedicated to community service, she has received numerous awards and actively supports local nonprofits through her newspapers, donating ad space and editorial content to promote their programs and events.



LEORA RAIKIN

Executive Director, David Labkovski Project

Leora Raikin is an international speaker, artist, and co-founder of the David Labkovski Project (DLP). In 2023, she was honored by the California State Legislature for her work in Holocaust education. DLP's curriculum combines art and history, empowering students to become curators and docents, fostering empathy and tolerance to combat discrimination and antisemitism.



DR. CHANDER ARORA

Director of Biotechnology, LA Mission College

Dr. Chander Arora is a healthcare professional with over two decades of experience and currently serves as the Program Director of Biotechnology at LA Mission College. She played a pivotal role in securing a biomanufacturing grant for LA Valley College, leading to the approval of a Bachelor of Science degree in Biomanufacturing. Dr. Arora has contributed to global women's health initiatives with the WHO and developed key biotechnology education programs, earning recognition for her expertise and dedication.



JENNA HAUSS

CEO, ONEGeneration

Jenna has spent the past 15 years working with older adults, dedicated to enhancing community-based services and promoting healthy aging through intergenerational connections. Now President and CEO of ONEgeneration, she brings extensive experience and a comprehensive understanding of supporting vulnerable communities. Additionally, she serves on the Accreditation Board for the National Council on Aging and represents California in the statewide leadership collaborative with the National Institute of Senior Centers.



LEEANN BLOSSOM

Teacher, LAUSD

Leeann Blossom is a wife, mother of two teenage boys, and a 20 year public high school teacher educating teens in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. She moved to Encino in 2017 and her journey continued in LAUSD at the Valley Academy of Arts and Sciences. While at VAAS, she was able to participate in the David Labkovski Project, an arts based program teaching tolerance and acceptance. Leeann is committed to enriching her community through language arts, and continuing to cultivate an atmosphere of equality and diversity in the classroom.



COMMANDER ELAINE MORALES

Commander, LAPD

Commander Elaine Morales is a 36-year veteran of the Los Angeles Police Department. She grew up in Rosemead, California, began her law enforcement career as a young Police Explorer and joined the Los Angeles Police Department in 1988. Commander Morales is a member of various professional organizations including Police Executive Research Forum, International Association of Chiefs of Police, FBI National Academy Associates, the Los Angeles Women Peace Officers and Associates Organization and the Latin American Law Enforcement Association.



SHELLEY RIVLIN

Community Organizer

Shelley, known as “Bubbie” to her grandchildren, is a retired educator and community activist. She spent her career as a bilingual teacher, administrator, and reading coach, and continues to serve on the District’s Human Relations Commission and Housing Stability Task Force. Shelley is active on the Regional Board of AJC, the ADL’s Regional Board and National Commission, and was awarded the 2024 Earl Raab Award for Community Activism by JPAC. For fun, she also hosts Policy Salons with concerned citizens and officials.



JUDITH HIRSHBERG

Member, NWPC SFV

Judith was born and raised in Columbus, Ohio, and graduated with a degree in music from Goucher College. After marrying Arthur Hirshberg and raising three children in New England, she moved to Los Angeles in 1974. In Los Angeles, working for Mayor Tom Bradley and later for City Councilman Marvin Braude until his retirement in 1997. For 20 years Judy has volunteered for various organizations, founding the NWPC San Fernando Valley Chapter, and holding several leadership positions within the National Women’s Political Caucus. Judith has since retired from most organizations but stays engaged with NWPC SFV.