
ADVOCATE ALLEY

Volume 2, Issue 3

March 2008

There are no seven wonders of the world in the eyes of a child. There are seven million. ~Walt Streightiff

CASA Corner

Greetings Advocates,

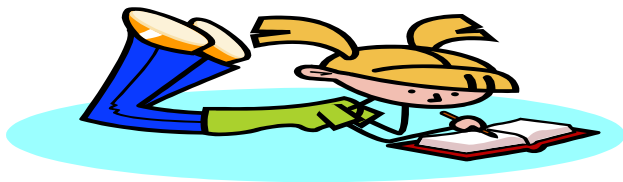
If you have been to court this year, you will have noticed that Judge Curtis is now the dependency court judge. On February 1st, Judge Richard Curtis swore in 2008's first class of volunteers. We have come full-circle with our judges: Judge Curtis is proud to have sworn-in our very first class of volunteers eleven years ago and we are delighted to have him back in dependency.

Judge Curtis was raised in Salinas and graduated from Salinas High School in 1963. He graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1967 and from the University of San Diego Law School in 1977.

Assistant Presiding Judge Adrienne Grover has moved to the felony criminal bench. We wish her the best of luck and appreciate her support of CASA.

Thank you for all you do!

Kylie Kelly, Advocate Coordinator



Full scholarships For Five Girls!

A new program starting at Pine Manor College in Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts, to create a supportive campus experience to help girls to go from foster care to college.

Academic instruction and support, mentors, clinical supports, laptops for each girl to take with them onto college, life skills, all dorm set-ups, and internships during the summer are included in the program. Each applicant must have a GED or high school diploma and a sincere interest in going to college by September with our help. They can be between the ages of 18-21 and should be former or current foster children, from anywhere in the U.S.

For more information on this special opportunity, contact: JoyceLeeTaylor@aol.com.



Q and A Blvd

with Mentor Mom Kim Batiste

Q: What is your role with the Mentor Moms/ Mentor Dads program?

A: I'm the coordinator. I meet the parents at the beginning of the dependency case and offer support. It is the first relationship of trust because of the history of the mentors. We've been through what they are going through. All the mentors have two years clean and have been successful through the reunification process.

Q: Why did you choose to become a part of this program?

A: I became interested when I realized there was a program being offered, when I didn't have that support. I didn't have that throughout the process and I became very passionate about the program. I started as a mentor in 2003 and became the coordinator in 2006.

Q: What should CASAs know about the program?

A: We support the relationship between the birth and foster parents to support a nurturing relationship because that is in the best interest of the child.

If you see Ms. Batiste in court, introduce yourself. The Mentor Moms/ Mentor Dads program, like CASA, is a friend of the court.

Reading Runway

As part of the Big Read of Ray Bradbury's Fahrenheit 451 led by the Steinbeck Center during March 2008, the Monterey County Free Libraries system invites children (2-12) and teens (13-18) to participate in a poster contest about Bradbury's book. Teens may opt to write an essay instead.

The contests begin on March 1st and end on March 22nd. Each branch will select a winner for display in the library.

These forms are available at all 17 branches of the Monterey County Free Libraries.

Students and faculty may download entry forms at:

www.co.monterey.ca.us/library/kids.html

www.co.monterey.ca.us/library/teens.html

If you would like further information, please call Ruth Paget, Youth Services Supervising Librarian at (831) 883-7542 or email her at pagetrl@co.monterey.ca.us.



Advocate Avenue



We would like to wish the following advocates a very happy birthday during the month of March...

Dee MacDonald	3/2
John Niblock	3/10
Kathy Manley-Coburn	3/11
Scott Koster	3/12
Shawnie McLaughlin	3/12
Lin Blaskovich	3/14
Bob Montgomery	3/15
Pete Boulais	3/18
Jo Davis	3/31
Donna Hagins	3/31
Alejandra Rubalcaba	3/31

THE MAGIC OF CASA OF MONTEREY COUNTY'S
LIGHTING THE WAY RETURNS

A Celebration of Child Advocacy

THE COTTON CLUB

The aristocrat of the nightclub scene... where legends of jazz will light up the night...

Saturday, April 5, 2008

Hyatt Regency Monterey

Featuring the Dynamic Sounds of Dennis Murphy and his 17-piece Big Band

Experience the Culinary Excellence of Mark Ayers Executive Chef of Hyatt Monterey

FOR ADVANCE RESERVATIONS CALL 831.455.6800

4th Annual Heroes for Kids Art Contest!!



The 4th Annual
Heroes for Kids Art Contest
is open to children in the
following four grade-level
categories:

K-3rd ~ 4th-6th
7th-9th ~ 10th-12th

**DEADLINE
FOR ENTRIES:
WEDNESDAY,
MARCH 12th!!!**

- ~ Artwork must be created on 8-1/2 x 11" paper
- ~ Technique: Drawing, Painting, Collage
- ~ Art Media: crayon, paint, pencil, pastel, marker, mixed media
- ~ Desired Criteria: Creativity, use of color, depiction of contest theme

**2008's
Heroes for Kids
Art Contest THEME:**

My Family!!!



Each Entry MUST:

- ~ Have a Release Form signed by the child's parent/guardian
- ~ Include complete, current, LEGIBLE contact information
- ~ Be received at PCA CA by the March 12th deadline. Mail/Deliver to:

**** Heroes for Kids Art Contest ****
Prevent Child Abuse California
4700 Roseville Road, Suite 101
North Highlands, CA 95660

**Winners will
be contacted by
March 21st!**

1st place winner in each age category will:

- Have his/her artwork framed and displayed at the State Capitol during our April 9th Kids' Day Event!
- Receive a framed copy of his/her artwork!
- Receive a \$100 gift certificate!
- Be acknowledged during the Kids' Day celebration in honor of Child Abuse Prevention Month!

Prevent Child Abuse California is a 501(c)3 non-profit dedicated to preventing abuse and neglect of California's children by building community resources, enhancing public awareness, developing and coordinating prevention programs and facilitating advocacy activities.

For more information:

Dani Mole
dmole@thecapcenter.org
(916) 244-1938

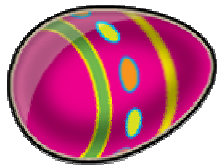


Theatre Tickets!



Treat yourself and your CASA child to a special trip to the theatre. Pacific Repertory Theatre's Golden Bough Playhouse (located on Monte Verde between 8th and 9th in downtown Carmel) has generously offered CASA advocates tickets to their latest musical **If Wishes Were Horses**, running April 17-27. Please contact Michelle as soon as possible if you are interested so that we can secure seats for you (limited number available)!

Annual Seaside Easter Egg Hunt & Egg Fest

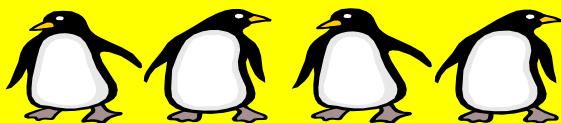


March 21st at 11am, Oldemeyer Center (Seaside)

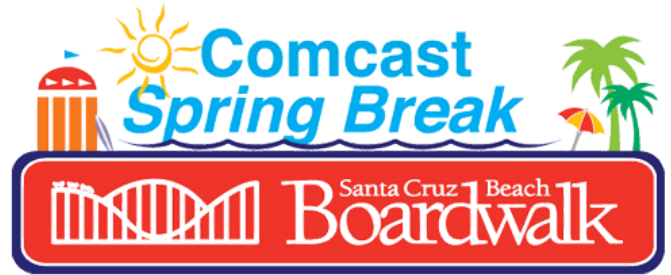
More than 5,000 eggs plus 12 baskets in three designated areas for children ages 12 and under.

Following the egg hunt will be bounce houses, a petting zoo, pony rides, a craft center and a visit from the Easter Bunny. FREE.

For more information, please call 899-6805.



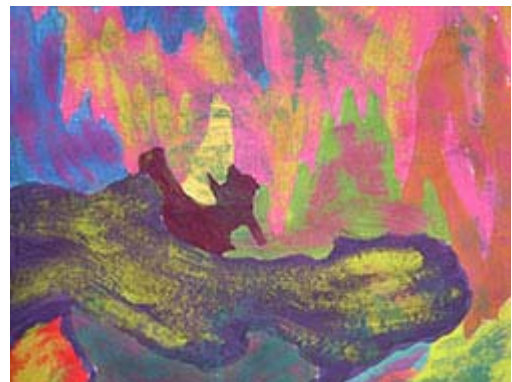
Monterey Bay Aquarium's Splash Zone: Ocean Homes Debuts on March 17th. Explore the aquarium's newly expanded Splash Zone exhibit – a great opportunity to use your Aquarium tickets. Contact Edna if you haven't picked yours up yet.



Rides Are Open EVERY DAY for Spring Break, March 15 – 30!

Enjoy Warm Sand, Cool Surf and Hot Rides during Boardwalk Spring Break, Live Music, Celebrities, Dance Parties, Contests, Food Fun, T-Shirt Give Aways, Fashion Makeovers and MORE! Free admission. Visit their website at www.beachboardwalk.com/springbreak for more information.

Any great activity ideas to share? Let us know of any upcoming events or great outings you and your CASA child have gone on lately. We'd love to share this information with all our advocates, as well as feature any stories and photos of you and your CASA child.



Cat on Blue Tide - Abigail Gonzalez

Local business celebrates California Youth Arts Month 2008 with innovative Exhibit Program.

Artistic HangUps

257 John Street, Salinas

Public reception Friday, March 7, 5pm-8pm

CASA of Monterey County
March Continuing Education Calendar

We Need Your Feedback!

We have some very exciting continuing education topics coming soon, but we need to know when to schedule them. Please read about the offerings below and let us know if they interest you:

*Habla Conmigo/Talk to Me**

Join us for this exciting four-part series that teaches us how to talk with children about sensitive issues. Maria from Strategic Health Communications will help us tackle the topic of sex and teens, and identify how we can become accessible to our CASA kids. This program will conclude with a joint advocate/CASA child session to practice some of the techniques we learn.

Dates: See below

Time: 6:00pm- 8:00pm

Location: CASA Office

RSVP: to Michelle at 455-6800 or
michelle@casamonterey.org

Our tentative class schedule is as follows:

Monday, March 17th 6pm to 8pm

Wednesday, March 19th 6pm to 8pm

Monday, March 24th 6pm to 8pm

Wednesday, March 26th 6pm to 8pm

***We got a lot of great feedback from the introductory session last month. Again, we encourage all of you working with children ages 12 and above to attend this valuable workshop.**

*The LONG AWAITED Conversational Spanish Class!!!**

How many of us can benefit from mastering basic conversational Spanish???

Join us and our facilitator from the Salinas Adult School one evening per week beginning on Tuesday, April 1st through Tuesday, June 17th as we tackle beginning Spanish.

Date: Every Tuesday

Time: 5:30pm- 8:30pm

Location: CASA Office

RSVP: to Michelle at 455-6800 or
michelle@casamonterey.org

***Please be advised that we need a minimum of 20 participants to make this class a reality and you will need to attend each week's session in order for us to keep this as a no-cost to you offering.**

Confirmed Continuing Education for March

Advocates Share Their Experience

w/our newest Advocate trainees (3 spots available!)

Date: Tuesday, March 11th

Time: 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Location: CASA Office

RSVP: to Michelle at 455-6800 or
michelle@casamonterey.org

Peer Review Session

w/Bree Nakashima

Topic: Identifying educational issues and resources for CASA children

Date: Wednesday, March 26th

Time: 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Location: CASA Office

RSVP: to Michelle at 455-6800 or
michelle@casamonterey.org

If you have any ideas, suggestions, etc regarding our continuing education program, please do not hesitate to provide feedback. Call or email Michelle and share your pearls of wisdom... We are here for you!