

For Immediate Release

Contact: Janet Harrison

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New Founder's Day Celebration – Winter Wonderland All-League Fundraising Event
Champagne Reception, Boutiques, Luncheon and
Guest Speaker Tom Sitton, Author of *Grand Ventures*

Assistance League of Southern California's Founder's Day will take place on Wednesday, January 25, from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the League's Anne Banning Community House, 1370 North St. Andrews Place in Hollywood.

The Champagne Reception begins at 10 a.m., which will be followed by a buffet lunch and guest speaker Tom Sitton, author of *Grand Ventures* - The Banning Family and the Shaping of Southern California.

The boutiques will open at 10 a.m. and will remain open throughout the day. Ever-popular boutiques will sell purses, women's clothing, home accessories and jewelry and include:

- **Ronelle Designs** - antique and contemporary jewelry for all ages
- **The Treasured Accessory** - jewelry for travel; contemporary styles-silver and gold
- **Moonlite** - silk and wool wraps and lounging pajamas
- **Suzy O** - latest styles in purses
- **Pegboard Highway** - beautiful yet practical gifts for all ages
- **Designs by Georgina** - fine gold and silver jewelry; gemstones and pearl jewels
- **Shelley's Fashions** - latest looks in sweaters
- **Jacqueline B** - trendy yet stylish t-shirts for ladies
- **Jackeez & Nicolz** - trendy ladies fashions for the young at heart
- **BToffee** - the *best* toffee in the world for your Valentine!
- **Brentwood General Store** - home accessories and gifts for all occasions
- **Somper** - Fun furs in all colors; fur accessories

Founder's Day is held at Assistance League each year to honor founder Anne Banning. Assistance League of Southern California (ALSC), a nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation founded in 1919, provides vital resources to nearly 100,000 individuals each year. For more information, call 323-469-1973, ext. 239.

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**NINE O’CLOCK PLAYERS
*JACK AND THE GIANT***

Written by Vera Morris
Music and Lyrics by Bill Francoeur
Directed by Todd Nielson
Musical Direction by Dean Mora

Opens Sunday, November 6th

Beans, beans, everywhere beans, and then..... a giant fell from the sky! A musical re-telling of the delightful English folktale, *Jack and the Giant* is a charming story of imagination, courage, and the belief in possibilities. An evil Giant threatens a small village, demanding an unreasonable ransom for the village’s beloved queen. While the villagers cower in fear, Jack faces down the evil Giant by following his heart, proving that there is a hero in all of us.

Performance Information

Nine O’Clock Players Theatre for Children
Assistance League of Southern California
1367 North St. Andrews Place, Hollywood, CA 90028

Saturdays: December 3, 10
Sundays: November 6, 13, 20 and December 4, 11
All performances are at 2 p.m.
Tickets: \$12

Tickets available by calling 323-469-1970 or online at www.nineoclockplayers.com.

Jack and the Giant’s Award-Winning Design Team

Set design is by Adam Flemming. Lighting design is by Jeremy Pivnick. Costume design is by Carol Onofrio.

Todd Nielsen – Director/Choreographer

Todd is celebrating his eleventh show with Nine O’Clock Players! Recent NOP productions include *Velveteen Rabbit*, *Pinocchio*, *Charlotte’s Web*, *Beauty and the Beast* and *The Dangerous Christmas of Red Riding Hood*. Most recently Todd directed *The Robber Bridegroom* for International City Theatre in Long Beach, *Urinetown* for Chapman University, *1776* for Glendale Centre Theatre and *Little Me* for Musical Theatre Guild. Past directing assignments include *White Christmas* for Cabrillo Music Theatre, *Godspell* and *Lend Me a Tenor* for Chapman University, *Phantom* for Moonlight Stage Productions in Vista and *No Sex Please, We’re British* for the Norris Theatre in Palos Verdes. Todd also acted as Resident Director for the National

Tour of Disney's *The Lion King*. He has won awards, nominations and Critic's Choice status for several productions including *On The Twentieth Century*, *City of Angeles*, *Rags*, *The Diviners*, *Working*, *A New Brain*, *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*, *King of Hearts*, *The Robber Bridegroom*, *The Skin of Our Teeth* and *The Matchmaker*.

Dean Mora - Music Director/Pianist

Dean is happy to be back with the Nine O'Clock Players for the 10th time! His previous productions with this company include *Charlotte's Web*, *The Enchantment of Beauty and the Beast*, *Peter Pan*, *Enchanted Sleeping Beauty*, *Jack and the Giant*, *Happily Ever After*, *The Velveteen Rabbit*, and *The Wizard of Oz*. Other productions as Musical Director include: *The Threepenny Opera*, *Side By Side By Sondheim*, *Lady Macbeth Sings The Blues* (2004 Ovation Award winner, Best Musical Direction), *Jacques Brel is Alive...*, *The World Goes 'Round*, *A Little Night Music*, *Pump Boys and Dinettes*, *City of Angels*, *Man of La Mancha*, *Ain't Misbehavin'*, *Forever Plaid*, *The Sound of Music*, *Quilters*, *The Boyfriend*, *A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum* and *The Fantasticks*. Outside of the musical theatre world, Dean leads his own 1930s/1940s big band, and is also a noted silent movie accompanist (www.deanmora.com).

NINE O'CLOCK PLAYERS INFORMATION

NINE O'CLOCK PLAYERS THEATRE FOR CHILDREN, founded in 1929 by a group of Assistance League of Southern California members led by Mrs. Walter P. Story, is one of the oldest theatres for children in the country. Nine O'Clock Players have never missed a season in its 82-year history and has brought live theatre to hundreds of thousands of children and their families over the years. Plays are staged in the 329-seat Walter Lantz Theatre, an architectural treasure designed by famed Los Angeles architect Stiles O. Clements in a style reminiscent of summer stock theatres on the East Coast.

Today, Nine O'Clock Players Theatre for Children is one of eight services of Assistance League of Southern California, a nonprofit social service organization that serves children, families, individuals and seniors with critical needs. The Theatre is operated and supported entirely by a group of dedicated volunteers who present two full-scale musicals based upon classic children's literature in the fall and spring of each year. Plays are performed for nearly 13,000 children annually -- a third of whom are disadvantaged. Nine O'Clock Players provide their admission and transportation free of charge; for many, this is their first exposure to music, theatre and art.

Weekly performances are also staged for groups of Los Angeles area school children at a reduced price. These children are provided with free educational kits to enhance their musical theatre experience. On weekends, the general public can enjoy the productions for \$12 per ticket. Nine O'Clock Players Theatre for Children's focus is on enriching the cultural lives of children.

Many people ask about the origin of the name. Beginning in 1929, members of Assistance League of Southern California would meet for dinner in private homes and afterwards be transported to the Wilshire Ebell, the Biltmore or the Ambassador theatres to enjoy a play produced and performed by the Nine O'Clock Players of Assistance League. The curtain time was 9 o'clock, thus the name Nine O'Clock Players. Today, the members of Nine O'Clock Players continue the tradition of producing and performing all the shows themselves.

For further information on the Nine O’Clock Players Theatre for Children including tickets and show details, please visit www.nineoclockplayers.com. For more information on Assistance League of Southern California and its programs and services, visit www.assistanceleague.net. The Nine O’Clock Players and Assistance League of Southern California are also on Facebook.

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Homeless Children Received School Clothes And a Day at Universal Studios Hollywood on November 10

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On Thursday, November 10, Universal Studios Hollywood and Operation School Bell on Wheels treated 150 homeless children to clothing and a day at the theme park. Universal Studios Hollywood employees volunteered throughout the day as part of the theme park’s annual “Day of Giving” community outreach program.

Operation School Bell on Wheels, a 53-foot traveling closet, was parked at Universal Studios Hollywood to provide each of the 150 homeless children with a week’s worth of clothing— school uniforms, a backpack, a jacket, underwear and socks, athletic shoes, a personal grooming kit, a book and a toy. Operation School Bell, one of eight services of Assistance League of Southern California (ALSC), serves more than 5,400 LAUSD students from low-income families each year.

As part of the day’s activities, the children were treated to an afternoon of fun at Universal Studios Hollywood. Face painting and other entertainment was provided by Universal Studios Hollywood.

Anne Banning Auxiliary members who operate Operation School Bell helped the children select the clothing items. Los Angeles Unified School Police Explorers worked as volunteers throughout the day, and counselors/chaperones and Universal Studios Hollywood volunteers accompanied the children into the theme park.

Operation School Bell, one of eight services of Assistance League of Southern California (ALSC), serves more than 5,400 LAUSD students from low-income families each year. ALSC, founded in 1919, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that provides comprehensive social services to nearly 100,000 children, families and seniors in need each year. To learn more about Operation School Bell go to www.operationschoolbell.org and Assistance League of Southern California at www.assistanceleague.net.

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Brand New Volunteer Los Angeles Unveiled at LA Live

Assistance League of Southern California's (ALSC) Volunteer Los Angeles unveiled its new look and new strategic direction at a cocktail reception at LA Live's Club Nokia VIP Room. Nancy Olson, Volunteer LA's Executive Director, presented the agency to hundreds of well-wishers who explored the interactive new website and learned about the agency's long-standing programs as well as exciting new initiatives.

Volunteer Los Angeles continues its tradition of promoting volunteerism to support the large network of nonprofits in Los Angeles, which began in 1951. Once known as the Volunteer Center of San Fernando Valley, Volunteer LA fits well into the lineup of ALSC services, as Assistance League members have been fulfilling its mission through hands on volunteering and financial support since 1919.

Every year, Volunteer LA links some 80,000 volunteers to 800+ nonprofits and public agencies to build opportunity for struggling children and adults, create environmental impact, support schools and government services and keep neighborhoods safe. Volunteer LA believes that human capital is as important as financial capital. Research shows that organizations that involve volunteers are as effective as their counterparts – at half the cost.

Volunteer Los Angeles Programs

HandsOn Volunteers offers volunteer opportunities for a few hours, a few days or several months that best fits a volunteer's interests, abilities and availability. One of the newest ways is for volunteers to invest skills through ultra-short-term, virtual opportunities by **MicroVolunteering**. It's for those who want to volunteer from the comfort of their couch—some call it volunteering for the Facebook generation.

Disaster Volunteering provides critically needed volunteers through two programs. **Disaster Healthcare Volunteers** is a Los Angeles County-wide initiative to register and credential medical, health, mental-health and traditional volunteers in advance of a large scale disaster or public health emergency. **Disaster Response Volunteers** provides a go-to system for non-medical volunteers who want to help, and for nonprofits and government agencies that need additional volunteer assistance.

Court Referred Community Service gives courts, probation departments and judicial officials a viable option of community service as an alternative to fines and incarceration for adults and youth. Through meaningful service, CRCS clients have a chance to make restitution to their community.

Senior Corps channels seniors' rich experience, skills and talents in the three distinct programs of **Retired and Senior Volunteers (RSVP)**, **Foster Grandparents** and **Senior Companions** where they can be companions to their peers, tutor and mentor troubled youth or participate in other projects that fit their interests.

Business Volunteering enables businesses with corporate social responsibility programs to find done-in-a-day or long-term projects. Volunteer L.A. actively partners with businesses to help them create community impact through the investment of their employees' time and talents.

Agency Partnerships and Training looks for new ways of helping through the strategic investment of "human capital" and volunteer management training.

Volunteer Los Angeles
1370 North Saint Andrews Place, Los Angeles, CA 90028
323-450-5080 / www.VolunteerLosAngeles.org

Volunteer Los Angeles is a service of Assistance League of Southern California, a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit corporation founded in 1919 that provides vital resources to children, families and seniors through a network of comprehensive social services.

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