



RED CROSS LINKS

Southern California Unit

Spring 2019

Southern California Unit

Spring Meeting,

April 16, 2019

to be held at:

The Plum Tree Inn in Chinatown

913 N. Broadway

Los Angeles, Ca 90012

Come join us for an entertaining and informative meeting. Bid a fond farewell to our outgoing President John Pacheco and welcome our incoming President Al Panico and hear information on issues important to seniors.

Please call or email Marlene and plan to pay \$15 at the door.

Marlene Zweig

justcallmz@aol.com

515 S. Hudson Ave.

Los Angeles, CA 90020

323.997.2431 cell

323.933.0660 home

You MUST make a reservation so that we can let the restaurant know exactly how many are attending.



John and Marlene Zweig search Chinatown.

Chairman's Message

As the incoming chairman of the Southern California Unit of the American Red Cross Retirees Association, I am incredibly honored to represent such a generous and caring group. As someone who has spent the majority of my life (47 years) working for the Red Cross all over the World as a paid staff or volunteer, I am very happy to be back in Southern California and part of this group.

We are so fortunate to have an active regional group. I do not know what it is that gets people to come to our bi-annual luncheons and keeps you coming, but it is working! Certainly, Marlene Zweig our Group's Corresponding Secretary is one of the reasons. Her tireless work to keep the luncheon planning on track pulling us together every six months and her overall commitment is impressive! Several other regional groups are having a very difficult time of it but we seem to be holding our own. It must be this Southern California lifestyle we live!!

I want to take a moment and commend John Pacheco, the outgoing chairman for his enthusiasm and time which he has given to the Association. I hope to build on his ideas and work and perhaps add a few as we move forward.

As the new guy, "I am all ears" as it pertains to insight and feedback related to our Southern California Group and how we can keep it relevant and meaningful to our members. We share a lifetime of memories through our humanitarian work. ARCRA is one of the few outlets where we can share our memories as well as advocate for improved management and the financial security of our benefits system. And simply have a good time with old friends.

See you at our luncheon at the Plum Inn in Chinatown, Los Angeles.

Al Panico

Chairman



LINDA PELEGRINO HONORED WITH LEGACY AWARD

Linda Pelegrino, LA Chapter Director of Youth Services & Director of Training and Development recently received the Red Cross Legacy Award for service overseas.

Linda served in Korea and Vietnam in 1966-67. Upon returning from Vietnam she stayed with the Red Cross and served two years at Letterman Army hospital in San Francisco. She received a full Red Cross Fellowship to obtain her Master's Degree in Administration. Several years later she went to work for the LA chapter.

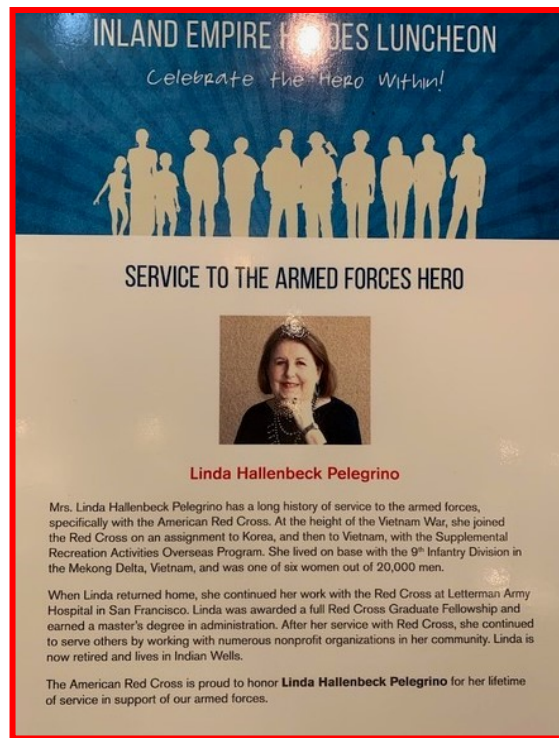
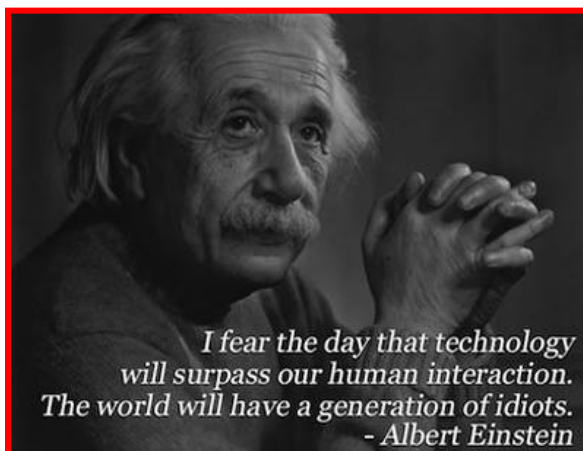
The Red Cross Legacy Award was presented at a Heroes luncheon that the Desert to the Sea region hosts at the Mission Inn every year.

Linda and her husband Don are retired in Indian Wells where they enjoy all the wonderful activities and the beauty of the desert.

This last year they traveled to New Orleans enjoying all it has to offer. They heard jazz at Preservation Hall, took bayou, plantation and cemetery tours. Ate at the best restaurants in New Orleans and started every morning with beignets and coffee. If you go to New Orleans, Linda highly recommends the World War II museum.

They also did a two week river cruise from Budapest to Amsterdam with stops in Hungary, Slovakia, Austria and Germany.

Linda still regularly sees her L. A. Red Cross Chapter friends.



WE REMEMBER...

Mrs. Ray Meyers died in November. Her son, Neil, said, "She was a big part of the Red Cross while I was there and knew how to get things done. She was an excellent event planner and missed few, if any details. She knew what she wanted to do and confidently carried out her tasks. She could take two dozen pictures/plaques and flawlessly arrange them on a wall. I always remember her being impeccably dressed. She taught me how to take the dead parts off a plant and keep it alive. I am sorry she is gone but memories live on.

My mother was dedicated to both her family and job. Through her example, she enriched my life more than I can say."

.Unfortunately, Ray is not the only one we have lost. Five other colleagues also have passed. They are: Sue Banman, John Charnay, Jim McColm, Mary Ahern, and Mary Norvell's husband, Bob.

Some Parting Thoughts from John Pacheco

It has been a genuine honor to have served as your Chair for the last three years. Having the opportunity to reconnect with colleagues and friends from my Red Cross days, as well as getting to know some new friends made this assignment a lot easier. The support I received from board members as well as our membership certainly made this a much more enjoyable experience. I know that our new Chairman, Al Panico will also be able to count on your support in the coming months.

As some of you know I was recently elected to the national ARCRA board and am currently serving on the Membership Committee. One of the first things that I've learned is how fortunate we are here in Southern California to have a very viable retiree group. That's not true for all retiree units around the country. Membership in local and even the National Association has been falling over the last few years.

Changes in the pension system, including reduction of benefits for more recent employees, buy-outs along with more staff changeover is reducing the potential pool of new retiree associates. The nature of employment has also changed. Long time employment of 15 or more years is being replaced by younger employees who may have several careers during their working days. Many staff leaving the Red Cross go on to other careers afterward. Their connection to the organization is not as direct as it is for many of our current retirees. Attracting these more recent retirees to become part of our association is clearly the challenge facing all of our units over the coming years.

New ways of looking at our association including, re-defining or updating our programs to encompass services or activities you might find in an "Alumni Association" is one possibility and so is looking for new ways to offer value to more recent retirees. These efforts are an important part of the effort that's on going as we look at keeping membership growing both at the local and national retiree levels.

Your input and thoughts on responding to this challenge is not only welcomed but really needed if we we're to keep our Retirees Association a viable and rewarding experience for all current and potential members. I encourage all of our retirees to share their thoughts and ideas with us about how we can make our efforts more successful and inclusive to more retirees.

John M Pacheco
Retired Chair
ARCRA So Cal Unit

DID YOU KNOW. . .

When it came to sharing fake news on Facebook during the 2016 election, no age group was quite as active as those aged 65 and older, according to a new study.

On average, American Facebook users aged 65 and older posted seven times as many articles from fake news websites as adults 29 and younger, according to a study recently published in [Science Advances](#). And that was true regardless of ideology, education level or political affiliation: Older users just tended to share misinformation more.

The Facebook and survey data came from a group of about 3,500 people whom the authors tracked during the 2016 election in order to better understand the role social media played in political discourse.

But before you blame America's seniors for distorting political discourse, note the study's main findings. "It seemed to have been driven by a relatively small number of people and overall this was just rare," said Andrew Guess, a professor of politics and public affairs at Princeton University and the lead author of the report.



New Regional Headquarters

The American Red Cross Los Angeles Region is relocating our headquarters to downtown Los Angeles this spring.

Visitors will be welcomed at the new location by a beautiful Mosaic Wall as they enter the building. Donors who have made an cumulative annual contribution of \$2,500 or greater to the Red Cross in calendar year 2018 or before June 30, 2019 will be acknowledged with digital signage next to the mosaic wall for years to come.

TRIBUTE TO BLOOD SERVICES NURSE

By Dan Ahern

I would like to say a few words about Bette Juneau, who passed away in 2008.

Bette was one of the most caring, kind, compassionate people I had the good fortune to know in my lifetime. She treated me like I was a fragile piece of glass that her mission was to protect from being shattered.

When I called Bette from North Dakota almost in tears, I was undecided as to whether I should quit Red Cross. Bette said to me, "I want whatever you want." Bette would never admit it, but I believe she, without doing it on purpose, was a major reason Sung, my wife, were together.

Many other times I needed a shoulder to cry on. Bette was always there for me and lift up my spirits.

When I missed a bar code, Bette came to counsel me. Instead of coming down hard on me, Bette said, "You're not going to miss another one." And I never did miss another bar code.

Bette had nothing to gain by helping me. In fact, if I had made major errors, it could have hurt her reputation.

Several years after leaving the Red Cross, Sung and I had the pleasure to visit Bette in Phoenix a couple of times. Bette used an electric chair to assist with mobility. Bette never complained.

I will be forever grateful that God placed this saintly woman in my life. All of our lives were enriched from having Bette touch our lives.

When you say your prayers, please remember our good friend, BETTE.

You Can Create a Legacy of Compassion Through the American Red Cross

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Legacy Society

Legacy Society members are a special group of people who have chosen to include the Red Cross in their will, trust or other estate plans to ensure our humanitarian work continues for future generations.

To honor this commitment and their spirit of philanthropy, Los Angeles Region Legacy Society members are also entitled to receive complimentary recognition on the digital signage next to the wall.

Your Will

Being prepared is a key principle of the American Red Cross and your will is one of the most personal and important financial documents in your life. Without a legitimate will, the government — not you — will decide how your affairs and assets are handled.

If you need to create or update your will, the Red Cross has free resources to help you! www.freewill/redcross.com is a secure online site where you can **create and download your will for free**. If you have a simple estate, you can print your legal Will to be signed and witnessed.

If you have a more complex estate, the same tools will help you document your wishes and help find a qualified attorney near you to finalize your plans.

For more information, contact Patti Hartmann at pat-tihartmann@redcross.org or call her at (310) 650-2865.