

2007 HONOREES



Antonio Villaraigosa
Mayor, City of Los Angeles

Antonio R. Villaraigosa is the 41st mayor of Los Angeles. He is known for his exceptional skill at building broad bi-partisan coalitions and is considered one of the leading progressive voices in the United States.

Mayor Villaraigosa has earned a reputation as a national leader for his bold programs to address education, public safety, transportation and other issues facing Los Angeles. He was named one of "America's Best Leaders" by U.S. News and World Report, has been featured on the cover of Newsweek and named one of the 25 most influential Latinos by Time Magazine.

He has taken unprecedented steps to expand affordable housing and address homelessness in Los Angeles. The Mayor funded the Affordable Housing Trust Fund with \$100 million for the first time ever and has done so for two consecutive years. He also established a sub-section of the Trust Fund, called the Permanent Supportive Housing Initiative funded at \$100 million and secured funding for 2,000 housing assistance vouchers in order to house the homeless. The total investment leveraged from the Trust Fund passed the \$1 billion mark in September 2006, which has helped to build nearly 5,000 affordable housing units in the City of Los Angeles.

Mayor Villaraigosa is the first Latino mayor of Los Angeles since 1872. He is married to the former Corina Raigosa, an educator (Villaraigosa is a combination of the surnames) and is the father of four children.

JWCH Institute is honoring Mayor Villaraigosa because of his strong leadership in marshalling resources to solve the problem of homeless in Skid Row and in recognition of making affordable housing and other homeless services one of his top priorities.

KAISER PERMANENTE
community benefit



Kaiser Permanente
Community Benefit Program

Improving the health of the communities Kaiser Permanente serves is core to who they are as an organization. Kaiser Permanente has been fostering the improved health of the communities they serve since their inception more than 60 years ago. Kaiser Permanente keeps that tradition alive by focusing on four broad areas of work: care and coverage for vulnerable populations; community health initiatives for healthy eating, active living; health care safety net partnerships; developing and disseminating health knowledge. In all of Kaiser Permanente's work, they are concerned with racial and ethnic health disparities.

Kaiser Permanente Southern California is responding to our diverse population and their needs through its culturally responsive care programs and its Community Benefit Program. Their grants and volunteer programs, which provided \$302 million to support community programs in 2006, are their cornerstones.

To further this mission, Kaiser Permanente extends its clinical care and total health focus through extensive medical and health services research programs and generous grants and services aimed at providing health care for vulnerable populations.

Founded in 1945, Kaiser Permanente is America's leading integrated health plan and is a nonprofit, group practice prepayment program with headquarters in Oakland, California. Kaiser Permanente serves the health care needs of 8.7 million members in nine states and the District of Columbia.

JWCH Institute is honoring Kaiser Permanente and its Community Benefit Program because of their strong leadership in marshalling resources to address critical public health issues and health protection programs for underserved California residents and their partnership with JWCH Institute.

Irv Cohen has over 30 years of service in the health care field, with the County of Los Angeles – Department of Health Services (DHS). The last nine years of his service with DHS was as Assistant Director of Health Services, Finance and Administration. He was responsible for financial management and administrative services including the development and control of a \$2.2 billion budget.

Over his many years at DHS, Irv was the number one finance person at Harbor/UCLA Medical Center, Coastal Health Services Region, and John Wesley County Hospital and served in special assignments at LAC/USC Medical Center and Martin Luther King, Jr. Medical Center. Irv's claim to fame was that when Proposition 13 passed in 1978 limiting property taxes, which resulted in cuts to local government budgets, he convinced the County Board of Supervisors to authorize an additional 700 positions to improve patient care revenue. This resulted in an increase of revenue exceeding \$100 million per year, thus stabilizing the DHS budget for that period.



Irving H. & Cecilia Cohen

Irv's affiliation and friendship with the founding fathers of JWCH Institute began in 1965 when he began to work at John Wesley County Hospital. He has been a member of the Board of Directors at JWCH Institute, Inc. for the last ten years.

Irv graduated from the Bentley School of Accounting in Boston, MA and while he was the Chief Financial Officer at Harbor/UCLA Medical Center, he earned his MBA from Cal State University, Dominguez Hills.

Cecilia worked as Payroll Clerk for the John Wesley County Hospital from 1962 to 1966. It was during this time that she developed a close relationship with some of the Founding Fathers of JWCH Institute, Inc., also known as The Attending Staff Association of John Wesley County Hospital. A few years later, Cecilia returned as Manager of the John Wesley County Hospital Federal Credit Union.

In October 1972, when Board members of the Attending Staff Association of John Wesley County Hospital, Inc. were looking for a part-time bookkeeper, Cecilia was unanimously appointed. This led to a full-time job and to major expansion of the corporation.

Because this was a fledgling organization, Cecilia wore many hats over the 21 years of service. She acted as the Executive Director, Personnel Officer, Accounting Officer, Payroll Officer, Purchasing Agent, and Negotiator. She also created various forms, assisted in the development of Policies and Procedures manuals, and performed other duties all the time reporting to the Board of Directors. As the need of the organization demanded, more personnel were hired in the Business and Administrative offices.

Cecilia retired in 1993 as Director of Finance, but continued to offer her services to the JWCH Institute, Inc. until this year. She is currently VP Co-Chair of Special Events for the Brandeis University National Women's Committee – Desert Chapter.

Irv and Cecilia just celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary. They have one son.

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Jack Plimpton
Episcopal AIDS Ministry

After the death of his partner, the Rev. Robert Kettelhack, an Episcopal priest, who succumbed to the AIDS virus in 1989, Jack Plimpton was appointed by Bishop The Rt. Rev. Frederick H. Borsch to Missioner of AIDS Ministries in the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles, known also as the Episcopal AIDS Commission.

The AIDS Commission developed programs including HIV/AIDS masses, conferences, and peace walks, as well as the Latino AIDS Prevention Project, and the African American AIDS Task Force. The Commission interfaces with numerous local and National HIV/AIDS agencies and is involved in a lunch program at the Los Angeles County USC Medical Center AIDS clinic, P521. This program involves 20 Episcopal churches, 14 Jewish synagogues, a Methodist and a Lutheran church.

Jack spearheaded a response to the housing and employment needs of those living with HIV/AIDS by developing Project New Hope, which provides low-income housing for HIV/AIDS individuals and families. Project New Hope has independent living apartment buildings housing over 500 individuals and families at sites in San Pedro, Silver Lake, Santa Monica, MacArthur Park, Hollywood, and South LA.

Jack also helped develop the New Hope Learning Center, where persons living with HIV/AIDS can be retrained in computer literacy to upgrade their employable skills and find new hope in their future. The Center is a cooperative venture with the Adult Division of the Los Angeles Unified School District, and the State Department of Rehabilitation.

Jack was also a teacher, psychologist, and an administrator in the Los Angeles School District for 32 years. He was Dean of Students at the University of Chicago Laboratory Schools. He holds a Masters in EdD from the University of Chicago.