

UPDATE

Week of January 23, 2012

www.aalausd.com

JACK SILAS, AN APPRECIATION

Jack Silas, longtime AALA staff member, is retiring this week for the second time (see *Update*, week of January 23, 2012, Page 7). He first retired from LAUSD in 1990 after a long and illustrious career as a teacher and administrator. He got his start in 1954 as a Youth Services Playground Director while finishing his B.A. at Los Angeles State College (remember when it was called that?).

Jack's first teaching assignment was in January 1956 at Pacoima Elementary School. He also served as a teacher at 118th Street School, Towne Avenue and Century Park. He became a Community Relations Expert and Community Relations Specialist in the Office of Urban Affairs between 1966 and 1969. His career as an administrator began in 1969 and he served with distinction as an Assistant Principal, Principal and Director until he retired as Principal of Rosewood Avenue School in 1990.

While Jack's breadth and depth of experience are important, they don't tell the entire story of the man. Jack is and has been an advocate for social justice his entire career. He is a living historian who possesses the gifts of being both a great listener and storyteller. More than once he artfully has persuaded challenging opponents to stop, calm down and work together to resolve issues. He has told AALA staff members, for example, how during the 1960s, he worked with members of the Black Panther Party as well as **Dr. Maulana Karenga's** organization (US) to support students. These organizations had fundamental disagreements with each other as well as with the powers-that-be at the time. He currently serves as a mediator for members of his church denomination.

Jack is a gentleman, a lifelong humanist and a Bruin (and Trojan) fan. He will be missed. Because of who he is and all he has done over the past 56+ years for students, their communities and, most recently, for AALA, we will be naming a scholarship in his honor. The first **Jack H. Silas Social Justice Scholarship** will be awarded to a deserving student on May 23, 2012, during AALA's Scholarship and Community Awards Banquet at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel (see Page 4 articles). We have invited Jack and his wife, Vergie, to join us at this inspirational event and to attend every year, so long as they wish.

As we said in last week's *Update*, AALA does not say, "Goodbye!" We do say, "Farewell, Jack!" We are grateful for all your years of service and look forward to hearing about your future travels.

THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

AALA wishes to thank Carmela Sainz-Anderson, Early Education Center Principal, for contributing to this article.

Numerous research studies demonstrate that high-quality early childhood education (ECE) programs make a dramatic difference in the lives of low-income children, their families and the community at large (see previous issues of *Update*, weeks of December 19, 2011, and January 23, 2012). Many AALA members know from personal experience the joy young children experience through playing, expressing their innate curiosity and learning about the world. We are aware of the social, developmental and academic benefits of early learning. We fully understand that many learning windows are narrow; the earlier children acquire communication skills, for example, the better.

For these reasons, AALA believes that as a State and as a District, we cannot afford to balance the budget at the expense of our youngest and most vulnerable students, those attending early childhood education programs. If anything, those programs need to be expanded.

However, according to Preschool California (www.preschoolcalifornia.org), the Governor's January 5, 2012, budget proposal calls for \$517 million in cuts to childcare and development programs, which will affect 62,000 low-income children. In the past three years, these programs already suffered close to \$1 billion in reductions, which eliminated over 100,000 low-income children from early childhood programs.

The human development aspects of ECE have a significant economic impact on California. Studies of the costs and long-term benefits of high-quality programs have consistently found substantial savings derived over many years from a reduced need for remedial and special education, reduced incarceration rates, lower rates of teen pregnancy and many other factors. Analyses of the costs and benefits have found impressive returns on investment to the public, ranging from \$2.69 to \$7.16 per dollar invested. Quality ECE can help foster the development of a productive workforce to meet the future needs of California, given our state's changing economy and shifting demographics.

Since 2009, California has experienced double-digit unemployment rates (California Employment Development Department, 2011), and unemployment is expected to remain high through 2012. Every dollar spent on early childhood education yields two dollars in economic output for California. Spending on ECE supports nearly 200,000 jobs, both direct education positions and jobs in educational supplies, food, health care, and related industries, and also results in more than half a billion dollars in state and local tax revenue.

Early childhood education is a necessity, not a luxury, especially now. AALA urges the State to provide funds for early childhood education. If not, the long-term damage will be incalculable statewide and, undoubtedly, will negatively affect the quality of life in the greater Los Angeles community.

HEALTH BENEFITS FAQ

PRESCRIPTION BENEFITS AT-A-GLANCE

Prescribed medications may have up to four levels of copayments, depending on your plan’s formulary. A formulary is a list of both generic and brand name drugs that are preferred by your health plan. Except for home delivery, or mail order, copayments cover a 30 or 31-day supply. Mail order amounts are shown in the following order: generic/preferred brand or brand name/nonpreferred brand or nonformulary, as applicable.

| Plan Name | Generic | Preferred Brand or Brand Name | Non-Preferred Brand or Non-Formulary | Mail Order |
|--|---------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Anthem Blue Cross Select HMO - CVS Caremark | \$5 | \$25 | \$45 | \$10/\$50/\$90 ¹ |
| Anthem Blue Cross EPO – CVS Caremark | \$10 | \$30 | \$50 | \$20/\$60/\$100 ¹ |
| Health Net HMO | \$5 | \$25 | \$45 | \$10/\$50/\$90 ¹ |
| Health Net Seniority Plus | \$5 | \$7.50 | \$7.50 | \$10 ² |
| Kaiser Permanente HMO | \$10 | \$25 | -- | Generic: \$10 (30d)/\$20 (31-100d); Brand Name: \$25 (30d)/\$50 (31-100d) |
| Kaiser Senior Advantage | \$10 | \$25 | -- | Generic: \$10 (30d)/\$20 (31-100d); Brand Name: \$25 (30d)/\$50 (31-100d) |
| UnitedHealthCare® Medicare Advantage HMO (formerly known as Secure Horizons) | \$5 Non-CA - \$5 | \$7.50 Non-CA-\$20 | -- Non-CA-\$40 ³ | \$10 (up to 90d) Non-CA - \$10/\$40/\$80 ³ |

Notes

¹ Mandatory up to 90-day supply of maintenance medications either through CVS Caremark Mail Service Pharmacy or a 90-day mandatory supply at local CVS/pharmacy store after the second fill at a retail pharmacy

² Up to 90-day supply/formulary applies

³ Same amount for specialty drug

Please note that some plans may have additional options for copayments and supply amounts. For full information, check with your plan's pharmacy.

Explore AALA’s Website at www.aalausd.com. – *In the News*

This week, we share the *In the News* section right in the middle of the homepage. Knowing your busy schedule, we have done the legwork for you of searching for educational news, including the most widely read blogs, to bring you information from across the country. And, the good part is that they don't disappear after one day; we keep them up for at least a week, so you won't miss something important. Just click on what interests you, and you have access to the entire article. This is a great time saver, if you want to keep tabs on education beyond LAUSD borders and keep abreast of what's happening.

AALA SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Last week, AALA scholarship applications were e-mailed to administrators at comprehensive high schools, options schools and adult schools. Also, the application was posted on the AALA website, www.aalausd.com. Please let your students know of this scholarship opportunity and encourage them to apply. The deadline date for submission of an application with all of the required attachments is **Wednesday, March 7, 2012**. This year we will be awarding \$1,000 scholarships to twelve (12) comprehensive high school seniors, two (2) options school seniors (pending number in applicant pool) and two (2) community adult school graduating students (pending number in applicant pool). The number awarded may increase based on the success of the **Friends of AALA**, our 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, fundraising campaign, which will be launched soon.

All eligible students are encouraged to apply for the AALA scholarship awards. A selection committee will review the applications received, and the selected recipients will be notified in April and honored at the Scholarship and Community Awards Banquet on Wednesday, May 23, 2012, at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel. Should you have any questions regarding the scholarship program, please contact **Gema Pivaral**, in the AALA office, at 213.484.2226.

AALA COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER AWARD APPLICATIONS

It is time to nominate those wonderful individuals and groups who dedicate their time and effort to enrich the educational experiences of our students and school communities for an AALA Community Volunteer Award. Help us recognize these deserving individuals and groups by nominating them for an award. It is easy to do. Just log on to the AALA website at www.aalausd.com, click on Community Volunteer Nomination, complete the one-page form and submit it for consideration. If you prefer, the form can be downloaded, completed and mailed (1910 W. Sunset Blvd. Suite 850, Los Angeles 90026) or faxed (213.484.0201) to AALA. Deadline for receipt of all nomination forms is **Wednesday, March 7, 2012**. Note: A nominee cannot be an employee of LAUSD.

A selection committee will review all applications received and identify the 2012 honorees. The awards will be presented at the AALA Scholarship and Community Awards Banquet on Wednesday, May 23, 2012, at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel. The recipients will be the guests of AALA at the banquet. Should you have any questions regarding the Community Volunteer Award, please contact **Gema Pivaral**, in the AALA office, at 213.484.2226.

ACADEMIC DECATHLON VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Volunteers are still needed for the Academic Decathlon competition on Saturday, January 28, 2012, and Saturday, February 4, 2012, at Roybal Learning Center, 1200 West Colton Street, Los Angeles 90026. On January 28, Speech and Interview Judges are especially needed. If you are able to help on this day, come to Roybal by 7:30 a.m. for an assignment. On February 4, volunteers are needed in the morning at Roybal to proctor the written examinations and in the afternoon to proctor the oral Super Quiz. If you can help on February 4 in the morning, come to Roybal by 7:30 a.m. and you will receive an assignment. If you can assist in the afternoon, come to the Roybal Gymnasium by 2:30 p.m. for a Super Quiz assignment. Contact **Cliff Ker**, Academic Events Coordinator, at 213.241.3503 or at cliff.ker@lausd.net if you have any questions.

Special Request for Retired Administrators to Volunteer: In addition to needing your assistance on the two dates at Roybal, there is a special need for readers to score student essays on Wednesday, February 1, 2012, from 7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Beaudry, 2nd Floor, Conference Room 202. If you can help read essays, please contact Cliff Ker at the numbers above. Validated parking will be available in the Beaudry II structure, Beaudry Avenue and Miramar Street.

RESOLUTION TO REMOVE BOUNDARIES AMENDED AND PASSED

On Tuesday, January 17, 2012, the Board of Education passed an amended *Resolution to Examine Increasing Choice and Removing Boundaries for Neighborhood Schools* by a 4 to 3 vote. Board members **Mónica García, Steve Zimmer, Nury Martinez** and **Tamar Galatzan** voted in favor of the resolution, while **Dr. Richard Vladovic, Marguerite LaMotte** and **Bennett Kayser** opposed. AALA particularly appreciated the pragmatic comments in opposition to the resolution both by Ms. LaMotte and Mr. Zimmer. The amended Resolution states:

***Resolved**, That the governing Board of the Los Angeles Unified School District instructs the Superintendent to study and issue a report which would indicate the advantages and risks of removing boundaries for schools in order to give parents the flexibility for their children to take advantage of all seats in high-performing schools, and, be it finally **Resolved**, That the Superintendent will return to the Board within 90 days with alternatives and recommendations for a new Open Enrollment Policy that will serve all students Districtwide and will allow all students and their families to select the school that best meets students' educational needs.*

AALA questions the wisdom of removing school boundaries, given the facts that the District must address a \$540 million deficit for the 2012-2013 school year, reorganize, provide additional support to schools for the first year of the Districtwide early start calendar and persuade the greater Los Angeles community to support one or more initiatives on the November 2012 ballot while simultaneously promoting its own parcel tax measure. AALA's recommendations to the Superintendent include:

- Determine the potential chaos of opening the 2012-2013 school year if hundreds of families
- attempt to enroll their children at nonneighborhood schools.
- Review the types of permits currently offered, including open enrollment permits.
- Seek principals' input regarding an improved permit process.
- Develop a plan to expand the number of magnet schools and centers.
- Review the District's budget ability to provide transportation for students wishing to attend other neighborhood schools.
- Improve communication with parents to inform them of their options.
- Strengthen the neighborhood school concept as a pillar of pride and community identity.

AALA has additional suggestions and will be pleased to provide them to senior staff as the Board resolution receives further study. We will keep you informed via *Update*.

AP, EIS POSITION, A CLARIFICATION

*Persistent rumors that the AP, EIS position will be eliminated next year have prompted AALA staff once again to request clarification from **Sharyn Howell**, Executive Director, Division of Special Education. Here are her comments.*

The EIS position is a requirement of the *Modified Consent Decree (MCD)*. The general requirement, duties and qualifications for this position were agreed upon by the District and the Plaintiffs with the approval of the Independent Monitor. Changes to the position would require negotiation and agreement of the parties to the MCD. At this time, there have been no negotiations regarding the AP, EIS position or personnel allocations.

WE GET LETTERS. . . FROM DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

January 20, 2012

Dr. John Deasy
Superintendent
Los Angeles Unified School District
333 S. Beaudry Avenue, 24th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Dear Dr. Deasy:

I am dismayed, disappointed, disturbed by your recommendation to terminate the Adult Education Program! It is unbelievable you would propose to deny (current enrollment – 347,000) adults an opportunity to take classes in:

- Citizenship Preparation
- English as a Second Language
- Parent Education
- High School Graduation
- Elementary School Graduation
- Occupational Programs Leading to Employment, Careers, Jobs, etc.
- Lectures on Current Issues & Topics

You have navigated the good ship LAUSD aground! If this proposal is approved, we are sinking! I assume you will be the captain to first leave our ship!

I think of your predecessors as Superintendents, as School Board Members, who have endorsed the value of Adult Education for many, many decades, providing the building, the bonding of our diverse communities, programs providing information, knowledge and skills for a viable society.

Your recommendation fails to meet the basic needs of the greater Los Angeles community.

Very truly yours,



Dr. William Johnston
Former LAUSD Superintendent, 1971-1981
Assistant Superintendent, Adult Education 1966-1971

C: Board Members
Selected Retired School Board Members
L.A. Times
Selected Retired Administrators

WE GET MORE LETTERS. . .

*In last week's Update (week of January 23, 2012), we ran information provided by **Deborah Ernst**, Director, Federal and State Education Programs Branch, explaining why 23 schools were cut as recipients of Title I funding. **Harold Boger**, Principal of LACES, sent the following letter to **Donna Muncey**, Chief of Intensive Support and Intervention. We appreciate his giving AALA permission to publish it.*

TO: Donna Muncey
Chief of Intensive Support and Intervention

DATE: January 23, 2012

FROM: Harold Boger, Principal
LACES Magnet

SUBJECT: TITLE I FUNDS – ELIGIBILITY RANKING

If given a choice, would you allocate School A \$450,000 and School B \$0 in supplemental funding or would you allocate School A \$445,000 and School B \$209,000? Your recommendation to the Board regarding raising the Title I Ranking to 50% effectively does the former leaving School B without any supplemental funding.

You have recommended raising the Title I Ranking to 50%. With the reduction in federal funding, you have determined that this will result in a loss of \$100 to \$130 per student for schools above the 50% level with the needed elimination of funding for schools between 40% and 50%.

Let's suppose that both schools have 1000 Title I students. This year School A would have received approximately \$550* per student or \$550,000 in funding. Next year that school is projected to receive \$450 per student (\$450,000 total). However School B will receive no funding.

The District could choose to fund School A at \$445 per student. School A would then receive \$5000 less in funding (\$445,000). However, since there are approximately 418,000 Title I students at schools above the 50% poverty level, decreasing funding by \$5 per student would generate \$2,090,000 (\$5 from each of the 418,000 students). If this amount is allocated to the approximately 10,000 students who attend schools which are between 40% and 50% eligibility, then School B would receive \$209 per student (\$209,000) as opposed to nothing.

School B would face a reduction of more than twice as much as School A and yet still would receive some funding. Given this analysis, the choice seems obvious. Why would one not choose to fund both schools?

Cc: Board Members
J. Aquino

*This is an approximate average of the different level of funding for different tiers.

USL MASTER SCHEDULE INSTITUTE

California State University, Dominguez Hills, LAUSD and AALA invite you to apply for a professional development opportunity this spring. Applications are now being accepted for the Master Schedule Institute, a hybrid seminar, consisting of nine sessions of online and face-to-face course sessions.

- Learn how to build a master schedule specifically designed for high school or middle school, under the direction of an experienced school-site administrator.

Questions? Contact: **Judy Radeke** at jaradeke@csudh.edu or 310.243.3524. For details and application go to the LINK for the flyer at:

<http://www.aala.us/docs/2012/01/USLMasterScheduleInstitute4.pdf>

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Minimum Qualifications: Candidates are responsible for making sure all the District requirements have been met. Do not contact AALA for information regarding positions. Use the listed contact phone number. The following positions are available to view in their entirety by going to http://certificated.lausd.k12.ca.us/admin_vacancies. Select School-Based and Non-School-Based positions and click on any position to view the specific flyer.

CLASSIFIED POSITION

INSPECTOR GENERAL (Salary: \$163,000/year)

This is a Senior Management position serving LAUSD. Interested persons should contact **Katie Wong**, Human Resources Specialist, at katie.wong@lausd.net or 213.241.5549, or contact **Anna Forsberg** at anna.forsberg@lausd.net.

INSTRUCTIONAL SPECIALIST

West Adams Preparatory HS (LA's Promise) MST 40, 1500 West Washington Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90007
West Adams is a B Basis school. For information and application procedures contact **Liliana Vasquez**, at 213.745.4928 or careers@laspromise.org. **Filing deadline is Friday, February 3, 2012, or Until Filled.**

CERTIFICATED POSITIONS

| POSITION | LOCATION | CONTACT | DEADLINE |
|-----------------------------|-------------|--------------|----------|
| Principal, Secondary | Crenshaw HS | 213.241.7000 | 01/31/12 |

| POSITION | DEADLINE |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPECIALIST, Pre-K – 12 ENGLISH LEARNER PROGRAM, MST 38 (Temp. Adv.), B Basis, Office of Curriculum and Instruction. Contact Ana Estevez, Coordinator, at 213.241.5582. | 5:00 p.m. Tue., January 31, 2012 |