



# NGA

## Needlework Guild of America ~ Hancock Park Spring 2017 Newsletter

**Wrapping up the  
2016 - 2017 Season**

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# Letter From the President

Dear Wonderful Women of NGA Hancock Park,

First of all, you ARE wonderful! I am so PROUD of you and so HONORED to have had the privilege to serve this worthy cause alongside so many truly giving women. What an amazing year we've had and the hundreds of needy folks we've served by purchasing and delivering clothing, linens and personal care items. And lest we forget the CHART-TOPPING success of this year's CRYSTAL BALL where we smashed all previous fund-raising records in order to raise our level of support to all our worthy agencies.

NGA – Hancock Park is a very special charity. While our stated mission is to improve the quality of life for the economically disadvantaged in our community, we also have an unstated mission of creating community within our membership as we come together for a cause.

Reflecting on the highlights of the past year, a big A-HA moment came to me when I saw how so many more of you stepped up enthusiastically for the HANDS-ON opportunities at meetings such as wrapping and delivering the shopping requests. It so inspires me to see this desire to serve coming from your hearts.

Other highlights include:

- 1) The creation of the NGA SHOPPING CHEAT SHEET which streamlined and standardized the NGA purchasing experience. That was made possible by the tireless efforts Susan Kneafsey, Beverly Brown and Robin Chehrazi.
- 2) The success of the CRYSTAL BALL – We took a chance moving to a new location, having a paddle-raise and changing our sponsorship opportunities, but the results were record-breaking at more than \$64,000 and counting as more sign up for our hosted parties. It was such a pleasure to work with my Benefit Co-Chair Kiel FitzGerald who not only has a unique talent to produce events, but also the tenacity and juggling skills to see it all through.
- 3) Another successful PROM DAY – where 20 NGA members stepped up to aid the effort of the Assistance League as they gave the Cinderella treatment to more than 200 disadvantaged and homeless senior girls.

In this final letter of my presidency, I would also like to thank the rest of the NGA Board who for years have worked to make NGA the thriving organization that it is— Melanie Boettcher, Michaela Burschinger, Marion Plato, Pavlina Moskalykova and especially Shelagh Callahan who continues to do the work of 20 women year after year and on whom we all rely .

As we head to the end of the 2016 -2017 NGA season, I would like to encourage all of you to continue to step up to the call, perhaps even take a larger role in this wonderful charity. The rewards of serving are immeasurable.

Looking forward to seeing you soon!

Sincerely yours,

Mary Jaworski  
President – NGA Hancock Park



# SHOPPING UPDATE

Many hands make light work! On May 4th, at the lovely home of Michele Weiss, NGA members organized and assorted summer items for Imagine LA, Alexandria House, Good Shepherd and Hollygrove. Over 2,000 items were purchased, including beach totes, beach towels, sun hats, flip flops. A special, emergency request for a Hollygrove child who needed post-surgery clothing was also fulfilled. Shoppers included Stephanie Sourapas, Robin Chehrazi, Stephanie Johnson, Susan Kneafsey, Lisa Hutchins, Nichole Perkins, Shelagh Callahan and Marion Plato. Special thanks to Cassandra Lillard, June Bilgore and Robin Jameson for piling up their cars and delivering to the agencies!





# The Crystal Ball

The Crystal Ball raised \$64,156 to date. We expect to increase that number pending sales for the final hosted parties: Mexican Fiesta and Praguefest.



# Operation School Bell Prom Day

## ***What NGA-Hancock Park members have to say about Prom Day 2017:***

"I was in the Alterations Room both days. We had over 95 girls come through there. Five ladies working each day. Some needed just hems but that can take 15 minutes each. We worked our fingers to the bone and **loved every minute of it!** Next year we need hand sewers and cutters to help us. Tell all your friends! "

-- Marion Plato

"I must say that Prom day was **fabulous !!** I really enjoyed my day and the girls. They were really lovely and so sweet and appreciative. My only regret was that I wish I could have done more !! Everyday I am grateful for the opportunity to help and the NGA for being a great group of lovely kind giving women !!"

XOXO,  
Robin Chehrazi



Over two days, we dressed more than 200 girls for prom. Unfortunately it was scheduled over spring break so many who wanted to attend could not. Thank you to the following NGA members for participating!

Marion Plato, Shelagh Callahan,  
Flo Fowkes, Jennifer Shneiderman,  
Carrie Carr, Lacy Drissi, Mary Jaworski,  
Susan Kneafsey, Kiel FitzGerald,  
Robin Chehrazi, Cassandra Lillard,  
Leena Dunn, HJ Paik, Cathryne Macievic,  
Nichole Perkins, Michele Weiss &  
Mary Woodward





# Operation School Bell Spring Affaire

Assistance League of Los Angeles/Operation School Bell is one of the seven charities to which NGA donates and one to which 12 NGA members (and most NGA Board Members) are members of both organizations. We have donated over \$85,000 of shoes, uniforms and boxers to OSB in the past several years for LAUSD school children from kindergarten thru fifth grade living beneath the poverty line and often times homeless. OSB provides over 6,000 LAUSD children with white polo shirts and navy uniform bottoms, shoes, backpacks, jackets, socks, underwear, jeans and tops, as well as a book, toy, and grooming kit with soap, shampoo, toothbrush, toothpaste, and hairbrush. These are all luxuries to these children.



This year OSB was able to purchase a new trailer which provides services to 250 or more children in one day by going out to the eight LAUSD school districts and having several local schools bring children in need to the host school. The current trailer which was donated by Mervyn's 15 years ago was on its last legs and a critical service was in jeopardy. OSB raised \$250,000 for the trailer at their 2016 May fundraiser "A Spring Affaire" at the Four Seasons in Beverly Hills. NGA is a past Spring Affaire honoree for our participation as a donor/partner with OSB. This year's 2017 event on May 14 at the same venue had the theme "Let's Fill the Truck" referring to the new trailer that was being delivered in May that required new inventory. Given our mission to provide clothing to agencies in need, NGA was asked to participate in a challenge match at the event. For every dollar that was raised in the "Dress a Child" campaign during the luncheon portion of the event, NGA would match up to \$20,000 with gifts of uniforms and shoes. The crowd enthusiastically responded with envelope gifts totalling over \$30,000 so with NGA's match, the room raised over \$50,000. Accepting this challenge helped NGA double the amount were able to give to OSB. Our portion purchased 5,080 white polos for OSB.

Thank you to all the NGA members who attended the 2017 "A Spring Affaire", as well as those who participated in the OSB Prom Days in May and our November 2016 meeting where we helped dress OSB students, made grooming kits and prepped shoes for the shelves.



NGA was recognized at the May 25, 2017 OSB end-of-year meeting as a wonderful partner to their organization. The chairmanship of the organization transitioned from NGA member Flo Fowkes to NGA members as Co-Chairs Kiel Fitzgerald and Shelagh Callahan who were sworn in that night. Anyone who is interested in joining NGA, please contact NGA member and OSB membership chair Juliet Brumlik at [julietbrumlik@pacbell.net](mailto:julietbrumlik@pacbell.net).



# Beach Blanket Bingo



NGA members and friends, Robin Jameson, Carolyn Cole, Cathryne Macievic, Marion Plato, Shar Penfold, Robin Chehrazi, Kathleen Macomber, Kiel FitzGerald, Isabel Mayfield, Melanie Boettcher, Stephanie Ames & Sue Thalken were hosted by Shelagh Callahan, Beverly Brown and Juliet Brumlick at Shelagh's beautiful beachhouse on Faria Beach on Saturday, April 29th. Great food, perfect weather and wonderful company! What a glorious way to raise several thousand dollars for NGA!



# 2017 NGA Upcoming Events

## MEMBER APPRECIATION EVENT

You are appreciated! Let us tell you over dinner and drinks...

**Wednesday, June 7th, 2017** at 6:30pm at the home of Amy Savagian  
525 S Muirfield Road  
Significant others welcome.  
RSVP by June 3rd.

## MEXICAN FIESTA!

MEXICAN FIESTA FOR THE SUMMER SOLSTICE! – Come party South of the Border Style! A full spread of Mexican fare awaits –Tacos, Ceviche, Margaritas, and Craft Beer. And yes, there will be DANCING!  
Hosted by Jill and John Bauman.

**DATE - JUNE 24, 2017.**

TICKET COST: \$100 per guest

## PRAGUEFEST

BEER STEINS, BRATS AND KNEDILY! Join us for a night of merriment in the backyard of NGA's very own Prague celeb – Pavlina Moskalykova. A Jazz band, beer tasting, veproknedlozelo and men wearing prastenky are just a few of the highlights you can expect.

Sponsored by Pavlina Moskalykova, Juliet Brumlik and Robin Jameson.

**DATE - OCTOBER 6, 2017**

AT HOME OF PAVLINA AND MATT SOLO.

TICKET COST: \$100 per guest