

The Arc.ives

Summer, 2016 edition

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Awards Banquet/Casino Night: A Winning Combination **Shannon Jurich Named Employee of the Year!**

Shannon Jurich, The Arc of Alameda County's Chief Compliance Officer, was named Employee of the Year at the annual "Achievement Awards Banquet" in June. (See all the photos in our [Yearbook](#).)

Jurich was selected because of her dedication to ensuring the Arc follows the ever changing rules and regulations imposed by the State of California.



Shannon honored

Shannon also devotes much of her spare time managing the Arc's art program - which gives our client-artists an opportunity to showcase their artistic abilities.

For the first time, the Awards Banquet also featured a Casino Night - which proved very popular with clients, their families and people from community organizations who were honored for their support.



Arc Board Chair Pastor Betty Clark

doubles down!

Here is the list of people honored that evening. **Learn more and see photos by clicking [here](#) and going to the "Yearbook" section of our website.**

Ilana Kaidor - Student of the Year, First Step Children's Center

Maria Trujillo-Teran - Client of the Year, Union City SCOPE

Kelly Palmer - Client of the Year, San Leandro SCOPE

Christine Pollard - Client of the Year, Union City AVP

Robert Virgilio - Client of the Year, Hayward AVP

Ka Yuen - Client of the Year, San Leandro AVP

Earnestine Morris - Client of the Year, Union City VDC

Graham Vaamonde - Client of the Year, San Leandro VDC

Rosalie Henley - Client of the Year, Livermore VDC

Allan Lai - Client of the Year, Community Services

Jeff DeBenedetti, Head Golf Pro, Las Positas Golf Course -
Organizational Support,

Heffernan Insurance Brokers, Organizational Support

CITY OF SAN LEANDRO, Dep't of Public Works - Business of the Year

Dr. Kris Palmer and Bonnie Candell, Bob Perrotti Volunteers of the Year

Miriam Schaeffer, The Placemaking Group - Public Information Award

Rob Bonta, Assembly Member - Legislator of the Year

Ms. Fernanda Martinho, Service Award

Mary Lim-Lampe, Genesis - Earl B Crusier Advocacy Award

Nominees for Employee of the Year were:

Sonnetta McCormack - Walpert AVP -- Sandra Fisher - Union City VDC -- Mariianella Winkle - Union City AVP -- Ronnie Spruill - Union City AVP --Shannon Jurich - Administration.

Shannon Jurich received the award!

Breaking News - Judge in the case filed by The Arc of San Diego and The Arc of California reverses his decision

The victory seemed clear - a judge ruled The State of California violated State and Federal law when making cuts to services for people with developmental disabilities during the recession.



Not so fast.

We learned on August 30, 2016 that the judge has reversed his decision - the case apparently will be reheard and the injunction removed.

Some of the dollars have been restored and the "forced holidays" have been eliminated (two of the big issues in the case) but without the court injunction, the state could implement such drastic measures again during the next recession.

More to come.

The Arc's New Website - More News, More Stories, More Value www.arcalameda.org

In our last edition, we told you that we hooked up with the website development group at The Arc of the United States to create a new, more robust website for The Arc of Alameda County. We're happy to report that site is more "alive" than it's ever been.

Check it out at www.arcalameda.org.

Public Information Director, Richard Fitzmaurice says, "the first thing you'll notice is our blog. It's the place for the latest information and our success stories. The Arc gets great results," he says, "and we're using the blog to tell people about them."

Another feature is called "Resources" - quick messages that appear in a box in the upper right corner with information about the Department of Developmental Services, The Regional Center of the East Bay, information available from The Arc of the US, or any number of other outside organizations that people browsing our site would want and need to know about.



Photo on the Arc's home page

A third feature is "Call to Action" - messages along the bottom of most pages calling on the reader to learn more about a particular subject, sign up for an event, or become a member of The Arc.

Fitzmaurice says the goal is to make the site a valued resource for clients, family members and the public at large. He adds that the Wordpress platform is easy to

use - "even I can do it," he says, which means website development is being shared: Fitzmaurice, Angie Tam and Gina Longmire all went through the training course and are able to keep the site much more current. Let us know what you think.

Adding a Voice - Arc Clients Advocate Persuasively

Jobs and Justice for People with Disabilities

Five clients from The Arc became staunch advocates at a special public hearing recently - and not just for people with disabilities but for Oakland's young people trying to get to school.

The definition of advocacy is "add a voice." The Arc's Victor A. definitely added his

when he stood up and joined a group from the group "Free Youth Bus Passes" and pressed for free rides to and from school to avoid missing classroom time. (There are no school buses in Oakland and a bus pass costs families \$50 per child.)

Jennifer D. asked for more jobs for people with developmental and other disabilities. And then asked Assembly Member Rob Bonta's staff if the legislator would hire a person with a developmental disability - the answer was "yes" and the crowd erupted into cheers. Go Jennifer!

Transportation officials announced a pilot program to start this school year that will provide free passes to Oakland students.

The public hearing at Fremont High School in Oakland and attracted over 100 people. It was orchestrated by Genesis - a community of member organizations working together for access to opportunity, health and quality education for people throughout the Bay Area. By unifying its member congregations and institutions - a one-for all/all for one philosophy - Genesis has advanced significant public policy initiatives to secure jobs in communities of color and for low income families. It has also secured funding for public transportation.



The group from the Arc joins Genesis for a successful advocacy campaign

In Memoriam

The Arc of Alameda County extends its deepest sympathies to the friends and family of Barbara Maizie the long-time Executive Director of Contra Costa ARC. Barbara passed away on August 13, 2016.

"She was a colleague I depended on most," said Arc of

Alameda County's CEO Ron Luter, "her depth of knowledge about our business of helping people with intellectual and developmental disabilities was remarkable. She will be missed."

Contra Costa ARC Board President John Rumsey said in a statement, "Barbara celebrated the value and richness of every moment she lived. She was unique in her many talents, abilities, and her deep commitment to enable and enhance the lives of the thousands of people we have served under her guidance and leadership..."



Barbara Maizie speaking at a rally in Oakland last November

Friends, family and Arc management and staff from all over the state attended a reception in Barbara's honor on September 1st.

"Like" Us - Really "Like" Us

Lets Go Viral!

Wouldn't it be **GREAT** if the whole world knew about The Arc of Alameda County, its programs and the people it serves?

It could happen thru social media - you know, Facebook, Twitter, InstaGram, LinkedIn, etc.?

But one thing at a time.

Let's focus on **Facebook**. If you haven't "liked" The Arc of Alameda County's Facebook page, please do so right now. Click [here](#) to go to our page and look for the "like" button located just under the left hand lower corner of the photo.

OK? From now on you will see our posts on your news feed when you visit Facebook. When you see a message from us that you think your friends would enjoy reading, please click "share." You can also attach your own note to the shared post - like "Great story from an organization I support."

Hopefully your friends will share it as well so their friends see it and poof we're almost as well known as the Kardashians!

Here's why: The Arc has 370 people who see our posts. If all 370 have 100 friends each and those friends all share with their friends, we have reached 37,000 people!! Then if just half of the 37,000 people elected to donate \$5 per month for a year, that would be \$1,110,000. See where we're going on this?



New Plan for Recycling Program

Sell it ourselves at a rummage sale - first one: October 15th

Man, we are getting some NICE items donated to our recycling program. You'd think that the

donated items would often be ripped, torn and otherwise used but for the most part, that's just not the case.

Currently, we are collecting the clothing (and small household appliance) and selling the goods to a company that supplies thrift stores.



Given the quality of the merchandise we think we can conduct a community "yard" or "rummage" sale ourselves and get double, maybe triple the money to put back into our programs.

We're planning the first one for October 15, 2016 at our parking lot in San Leandro at 14700 Doolittle Drive. Mark it on your calendar. We'll send details when they become available.

We could use **volunteers** to help us get the clothing ready for the rummage sale. A few hours would help a lot. Contact [Judy Vierra](mailto:judy.vierra@thearc.org) by email to get your name on the list. Thanks in advance for any help you can give!

Meantime, watch for our door-hangers placed in your neighborhood and donate your gently used merchandise!

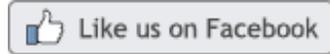
Three Dot Quickies

(Yes, we're old enough to remember Herb Caen)

Thanks to [Comerica Bank](#) for the \$2500 donation. Much appreciated...While we on the subject of givers, thanks also to Mean Well USA for its monthly donation...We love the [Livermore Police Department](#), find out why...Not only do we know how to spell "graffiti," we know how to remove it. Check that story on our Blog by clicking [here](#)...A brand new program called LEAP (Life skills, Employment, Access and Partnerships) comes to Union City on October 1. Shannon Jurich is busy molding the program for our other sites. LEAP is designed to replace the workshops which are no longer being funded adequately...As President of the Board of The Arc of California, our Richard Fitzmaurice recently led a meeting to develop the 2016-17 work plan. He thought it was safe to cross-off "manage statewide lawsuit" from the to-do list - but with the judge's decision (see story above) he sez we need to push the "undo" button.The Arc of California is the advocacy arm of the 22 Arc chapters in California and is based in Sacramento...Sania Saifi came to The Arc of Alameda County as an intern from Cal State East Bay about a year ago. She loved working with our clients and wanted to stay. Good news! She was recently hired full-time to work in our AVP Program in San Leandro. Our clients are our best recruitment tool...



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