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# LA Woman

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## Assistant City Librarian Kristina Morita Fulfills Personal Passion Through City Service

Kristina Morita grew up in the El Sereno section of East Los Angeles, long before the days of Nintendo Wii and Playstation 3.

As a child she loved to read and to visit her favorite place – the public library.

“I loved going to the library every week when I was a child. I always thought libraries had a huge treasure of information,” said Kristina.

Kristina graduated from UCLA with a B.A. in English and she also holds a Master’s of Library Science from USC. Initially, she wanted to be a social worker as a way of helping people, but found that field too depressing. So she decided to pursue a course that ended up leading her full circle – back to the library.

“I chose a career in librarianship

as another way of helping people,” said Kristina. “I learned



**Kristina Morita**

firsthand what a wonderful job librarians did by helping people find the information and resources they needed to enhance their lives. Now I get to see the sparkle in the eyes of people I help. It is really rewarding.”

Kristina has worked nearly 24

years with the Los Angeles Public Library in various positions. For the past three years she has served as Assistant City Librarian. In that time a lot has changed. The library that she once knew as a child “ain’t what it used to be.” It’s gone high tech, user friendly and community oriented with everything from paying your fines on-line to getting free homework assistance on-line and even providing resources for teens to help them navigate the myriad of obstacles they face growing up.

“Many of the new and innovative programs we provide are funded by the Library Foundation of Los Angeles,” said Kristina. “And through these programs, we are making a difference and changing lives, especially our youth.” Visit [www.lapl.org](http://www.lapl.org) today.

## Happy New Year Happy New Resolutions

The new year has begun and you’ve probably made a few resolutions. The top five resolutions people make each year are to lose unwanted pounds; exercise more regularly; quit smoking, drinking and using other addictive substances; get out of debt; and do more financial planning and investing.

Less than 40% of us manage to keep our resolutions on the first try, and 17% of us succeed only

after a half dozen attempts. Experts say that to increase your chances of success, consider doing the follow:

Be realistic and strive for a goal that is obtainable. Talk about your resolutions with family and friends who will support and motivate you. Track your progress and every small success toward your goal. Reward your successes with something that doesn’t contradict



your resolution. Don’t beat yourself up if you fall off the wagon, just get back on it. Stick to your resolution; it takes 21 days for a new activity to become a habit. Lastly, keep trying even if you run out of steam. There you have it. Happy New Year!

## YWAR Launches Teen Dating Violence Initiative



Independence High School Youth Advisory Board Students hard at work on final details of Teen Dating Violence Campaign

According to the California Women's Law Center, 1 in 3 teenagers will experience abuse in a dating relationship. To help teens understand the dynamics of relationship dating violence, the Young Women From Adversity to Resiliency Program Youth Advisory Board (YAB) created a Teen Dating Violence Initiative to educate their peers about teen dating violence.

Under the initiative, a peer-sponsored awareness campaign

was launched along with a series of peer-facilitated forum discussions which were conducted at local schools. Students learned about the serious issues surrounding violence in relationships. Students also produced a video dramatization on the realities of dating violence. In addition, YAB members conducted workshops at local middle schools.

Teen dating violence will also be a key topic during the 1<sup>st</sup> annual **Love Is Not Fear**

**Forum** scheduled for January 28, 2008, and hosted by YAB students at Independence High School. This event will provide students and faculty with a comprehensive understanding of the difference between domestic and teen-dating violence. In addition to the forum, the YAB will advocate for the implementation of a safety protocol at their schools to ensure that students involved in violent relationships have access to intervention resources.

## Commissioner Profile



Commissioner Liliana Pérez

Commissioner Liliana Pérez was appointed to the board in 2007 by Mayor Villaraigosa. She has been a long-time community activist in the Latino and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender community for over 10 years. Born in Guadalajara, Mexico, Liliana immigrated to Los Angeles in 1971. She was raised in the Pico-Union District of Los Angeles and attended California State University, Northridge.

Liliana has worked in various leadership capacities in organizations such as El Centro de Amistad and the National

Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO). Her career in public service has been illustrious serving as assistant to Assembly Speaker Emeritus, Antonio Villaraigosa for five years, and Special Assistant & Spanish Language Media Liaison for Governor Gray Davis.

The United Way of Greater Los Angeles tapped her skills and expertise, and Liliana joined the organization as a Community Investment Officer focusing on the needs of populations served by United Way's many projects.

In 2001, a chance to work on a historic campaign, Liliana became Director of Volunteer Outreach and Special Projects for Villaraigosa for Mayor, Los Angeles. She established "Friends of Antonio - LGBT Committee.

Liliana also represents Speaker Núñez as the State-wide Liaison to the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender communities. In this role she is able to continue her work to further the civil rights for all LGBT Californians.

## Community Corner - Events and Resources

**Girls Going Places** Scholarship is designed to reward the enterprising spirit of girls ages 12 to 18. Scholarships will be awarded to 15 girls who demonstrate budding entrepreneurship. Prizes totaling \$30,000 are granted to three top winners and 12 finalists each year, to further their entrepreneurial pursuits or

save for college. Application deadline is February 15, 2008. For details visit; [http://www.guardianlife.com/womens\\_channel/girls\\_going\\_places/girls\\_going\\_places.html](http://www.guardianlife.com/womens_channel/girls_going_places/girls_going_places.html).

**Make Mine a Million Business Seminar, January 23, 2008.** This event will feature inspirational speakers, practical workshops for women

business owners and business tips from experts. Local women business owners are encouraged to attend and learn from other women entrepreneurs who are on the road to and beyond the million dollar milestone. To receive a \$20 discount, use the code OUTREACH when you register. For more information visit [www.makemineamillion.org](http://www.makemineamillion.org).

If you have a story idea or an event you'd like to submit, email us at [laccsw@lacity.org](mailto:laccsw@lacity.org) or call (213) 978-0300

# Community Spotlight: Jenesse Center, Inc



**Karen Earl, Executive Director**  
Visit [www.jenesse.org](http://www.jenesse.org)

Jenesse Center, Inc. is the oldest domestic violence intervention program in South Los Angeles. The Center was founded in 1980 by five African-American women who were survivors of domestic vio-

lence. Karen Earl is the Executive Director.

The mission of the Jenesse Center is to provide victims of domestic violence with a comprehensive, centralized base of support to assist them in addressing their immediate crisis and changing the patterns of their lives. The Jenesse Center provides drop-in services to women still living with their batterer, however want a connection with Jenesse; and women who have safe residency but need resources other than shelter such as vocational training, mental health services, legal services, health care referrals, tutoring and education

enrichment services for children, just to mention a few.

The Jenesse Center also provides emergency shelter for women who have left their batterer. Each year, over 500 women and their children enter the doors of the center's 30-day Emergency Shelter Program through their intake office. Transitional facilities, that allow women to stay up to one year, are provided as well.

"Domestic violence is a problem that impacts everyone's life," said Karen. "We believe the cycle of violence can be broken through a cohesive strategy of education and services."

*Very often, one or more violent incidents are accompanied by an array of these types of abuse.*

## Just The Facts - Cycle of Domestic Violence

Researchers have found that domestic violence involves three cyclical phases better known as the "Cycle of Violence." Those phases are:

**Tension building** - tension begins to build in the batterer due to unrelated factors which they attribute in some way to their intimate partner.

**Explosion** - batterer enacts physical and even sexual assault against intimate partner.

**Honeymoon** - batterer apologizes for violent behavior and goes through great lengths to convince victim that the assault was unintended and offers promises that it will never happen again.

Unfortunately, it does happen again. And the duration of each phase is unpredictable, lasting a few hours, a day, a few weeks, a month or until the next phase of the cycle begins again.

Domestic violence is about power and control. Why victims stay in violent relationships is best explained by the power and control wheel, developed in 1988 by the Duluth Domestic Abuse Intervention Project in Minnesota.

The Power & Control diagram depicts the pattern of abusive and violent behaviors used by a batterer to establish and maintain control over their partner. The control and violence can only end if and when the victim ends it.



**Power and Control Wheel**

## Department of Animal Services Completes Human Trafficking Training

On April 23, 2004, a motion was introduced by Councilmember Cardenas and subsequently approved by the City Council mandating that all City employees be trained on identifying the signs of human trafficking. The Commission developed a partnership with the LAPD Metropolitan Task Force on Human Trafficking and the Coalition to Abolish Slavery & Trafficking (CAST) and began training City

employees.

Last month, the Commission concluded six Human Trafficking awareness training sessions for 80 employees in the Personnel section of the Department of Animal Services. The trainings were organized by Sr. Human Trafficking Project Coordinator Anne Dunn in conjunction with LAPD.

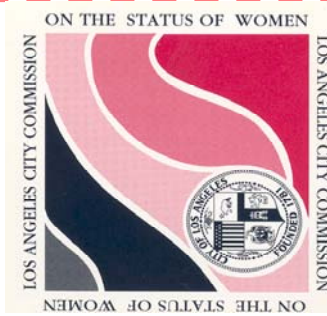
Those trained included a Director of Field Operations, Senior and

lower level Animal Control Officers, and Animal License Canvassers. An animal activist organization provided employees with critical information on other signs to look for during routine calls and inspections.

If you want to schedule training or learn more about human trafficking, please contact Ms. Dunn, at the Commission office at (213) 978-0300.

*Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery. Approximately 14,500 and 17,500 victims are trafficked into the U.S., according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services*

LA Woman



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**Next Board Meeting January 10, 2008**  
**6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

**Location:** Marvin Braude Constituent Service Center, 6262 Van Nuys Boulevard, Room 3B, Van Nuys, CA 91401

The Los Angeles City Commission on the Status of Women was established by ordinance by the City Council and Mayor in 1975. In 1980, the Commission was made a permanent department of City government.

The Commission assists in assuring to all women the opportunity for full and equal participation in the affairs of City government and promotes the general welfare of women in the Los Angeles community. The Commission is authorized to:

**INFORM AND ADVISE** the Mayor and City Council of the needs and problems of women in the City of Los Angeles, with special emphasis given to women in City government

**INVESTIGATE** problems and conditions affecting women adversely, and

**RECOMMEND** programs which offer to women in the City of Los Angeles, a greater opportunity and ability to pursue life choices without discrimination

**PROPOSE** methods of alleviating inequities in pay and job opportunities between men and women

**PROMOTE** awareness of changing life patterns, opportunities and responsibilities of women

**MAINTAIN** an active liaison with citizen groups concerned about identifying and removing obstacles to the development of a woman's full potential.



## Join the Commission on the Status of Women in Supporting City's HIV/AIDS Testing Initiative

December 1, 2007 marked the 19<sup>th</sup> observance of World AIDS Day. In honor of that observance Mayor Villaraigosa kicked off a Citywide HIV Testing Initiative to encourage 1 million Angelenos to get tested for HIV/AIDS by 2011. This is the largest community-based HIV Testing drive in America.

To ensure that women and girls have access to HIV/AIDS education, testing, counseling, and treatment, the Commission on the Status of Women has launched a special on-line petition to increase the City's outreach efforts to every community and every neighborhood.

We are asking community based organizations and civic-minded community members to join forces with

the City to support the HIV/AIDS Testing Initiative by signing on to the initiative on-line. By taking this simple step, you can help us reach women and girls through a myriad of ways such as promoting awareness and education through your organizations, to helping us determine locations where programs and services can be better funded and allocated.

Underserved areas and those disproportionately impacted by HIV/AIDS such as African-American and Latino communities are particularly critical to reach because they delay getting tested, preventing early detection and treatment.

Sign on at: <http://www.thepetitionsite.com/1/join-city-of-los-angeles-hivaids-testing---help-women-and-girls-get-tested>.

Remember, our goal is to get 1 million Angelenos tested by 2011. We can't do it without you.



**HELP US GET THE WORD OUT  
AND STOP THE SPREAD OF  
HIV/AIDS**