



Los Angeles County Chapter

Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge

Editor – Tanya Caligiuri

July 2019

Across The President's Desk

Hi Everyone,

As my last posting as President, I want to thank you - our members - for all your wonderful work and support. It has been my honor to be your president. I couldn't be happier to turn over my gavel to Judith Mancini. She will be great and she brings a fresh perspective to Freedoms. I will always be here to work for her and the group.



On February 28th we had a general meeting at the Napa Valley Grille. We honored our George Washington Honor Medal Recipients. These winners were chosen by a group at Valley Forge. We had 4 winners:

A teacher, Mike Jones, who had been to Valley Forge in a teacher program and was a students' chaperone last year; Carolyn Blashek founder of Operation Gratitude; Mike Medlin, founder of Messages Matter; and a special treat, former tv show host Wink Martindale, who performed the Anthem that he has performed on tv and many other venues around the country. It was wonderful to honor these worthwhile winners. On top of that, Pete Peterson, Dean of the Pepperdine School of Public Policy, gave a great talk.

For March 13th Rosemary Licata and Bea Restifo organized a special tour and lunch at the Reagan Library to see the Pompei Exhibit. Then again on August 7th they will be doing a lunch and tour for the DaVinci exhibit at the Library.

As if we didn't have enough to do, our Wendy Dio and Karen Kennedy put on our big fundraiser March 23rd. It was at the Firefly restaurant in Studio City. The theme was a mystery theater dinner in the era of Sherlock Holmes. WHAT FUN! We got into the spirit by dressing in the period of Sherlock Holmes. While we had lunch, actors did a play about a murder that we were all involved

in. In fact our own Steve Nuccio, husband of Beverly, solved the mystery and received a prize. We all had a wonderful time - and raised money too.

April was Students month After much planning and the help of Claudette Lussier of City National Bank, we sent 19 students to Valley Forge. I can't thank Marilee Cherry, and Beverly and Steve Nuccio enough for all they did. Beverly and Steve were the chaperones along with Brandon France and Nick Kapp. Everything went well.

May 23rd at Maggianos restaurant we were all able to hear from the students, each of whom spoke on different topics of what they did on their journey to Valley Forge. Our speaker was Dr. Gordon Lloyd, who is a world authority on the Constitution.

On June 10th our new Board took over - and it will be a great rest of the year!

Judith Mancini, Elaine Bernard and I have already been planning our **Fundraiser on March 28, 2020**, with music and entertainment. **BUT WE NEED ALL YOUR HELP TO MAKE THIS A GREAT EVENT.** It's hard to follow Wendy Dio and Karen Kennedy, but we can do it if we all work together.

Gratefully now your ex-President,
Diane Deshong



Diane Deshong Passing the Gavel to Judith Mancini





**Freedoms Foundation Los Angeles Chapter
Board of Directors 2019-2020**

Congratulations!

**Diane Deshong
has been named to the
National Board of Directors**

Welcome New Members

Victoria Billings

David Gibson

Suzanne Marx

Allie Selkirk

Calendar

August 7th

**Ronald Reagan Library
Luncheon
Followed by a Private
Tour of the
DaVinci Exhibit**

October 24th

**General Meeting
Lakeside Country Club**

December 15th

**Noel Luncheon
Peninsula Hotel
Beverly Hills**

**General Meeting
Napa Valley Grille
February 28, 2019**



**Honoring Our
George Washington
Honor Medal
Recipient
Wink Martindale**

Jacquie Heebner, Sandi and Wink Martindale, Elaine Bernard



Leonore Deshong, Claudette Laussier, Trish Bowe, Elaine Bernard, Gloria Dahl



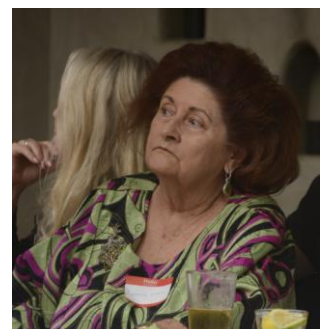
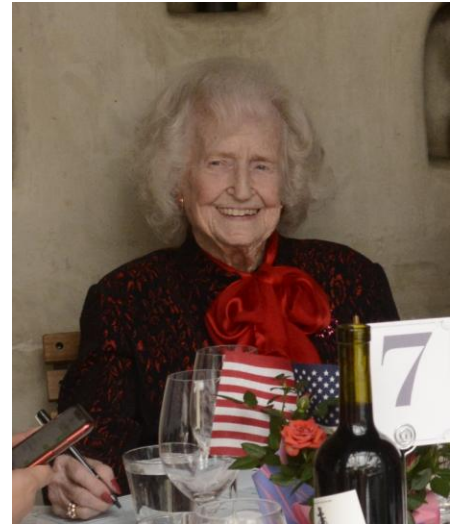
Fundraiser at Firefly March 23, 2019



Director and Hostess Wendy Dio,
President Diane Deshong









**Our Hostesses Karen Kennedy and Wendy Dio,
with the Cast of the Murder Mystery**



**Firefly Photos
by P.G.Brunelli
and
Elaine Bernard**



**General Meeting
May 23, 2019
Honoring our Students
Maggiano's Little Italy**



The Students with Chaperones Beverly and Steve Nuccio



President Diane Deshong with Student Daniella Thomas who sang God Bless America



President-Elect Judith Mancini



**Tanya Caligiuri presenting the new
Slate of Officers**



Excerpts from Letters from the Students

"Thank you so much for sponsoring all the Los Angeles students, including myself, and allowing us the privilege to attend this program and, as a result, opening us to the opportunities our world can offer. Thought this weekend I have found a new source of respect for my country and in doing so, have made new friends and lasting memories along the way."

"I learned so much about our nation's history and founders. I will never forget this amazing experience."

"I am very grateful and honored to have the opportunity to have participated in this great experience. Going on this trip has helped me so much, not only by learning more about our country, but it has helped me to get out of my comfort zone to meet new people."

"I just wanted to thank you all for allowing me to come on this amazing experience. I learned not only about the history and culture of our country, but about its people as well, which for me was most important part about the trip."

"Thank you for providing the funds for me to join a great leadership program. Throughout the four days, I learned to appreciate the privilege of being a US citizen, I got to meet and connected with many great people. I am grateful for this unique opportunity."

"I have learned so much here, and at the same time had so much fun. I truly appreciate how much work you put in to be able to send students like me to Philadelphia. I have been taught many life lessons that will be of service to me throughout my life."



Message from the National President

We are definitely non-partisan ... but that doesn't mean we're non-ideological.

Our ideology is the ideology of the American Founding! We stand four-square for the principles elucidated in the Declaration of Independence and implemented via the Constitution and Bill of Rights.

Freedom of conscience is the FIRST freedom, set forth in the FIRST Amendment to the Constitution. Freedom of conscience without freedom of expression is meaningless. That's why the First Amendment guarantees not just the free exercise of religion, but freedom of SPEECH---and of the press, and the right to peaceably assemble, and so on.

Freedoms Foundation was established precisely to create and build an understanding of those freedoms, along with the others recognized by the Bill of Rights.

Keep up the good work!

**David Harmer, President & CEO
Freedoms Foundation at Valley
Forge**



In Memoriam

Peter Bernard

Ivy May Enderwood

Evelyn Hanson



Peter Bernard was an extraordinary man who loved God, his family and America. He passed away on February 14, 2019. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.



It is with deepest sorrow that I inform you of the passing of our beloved Ivy May Enderwood, who was a founding member of Freedoms Foundation Los Angeles Chapter. Ivy was also an ARCS Member since 1989. Ivy May passed away on June 22, 2019 after a long illness.