

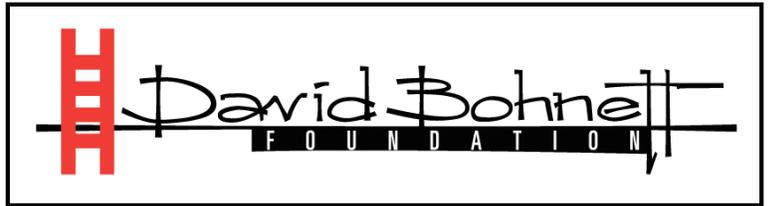


**WOMEN  
AGAINST  
GUN  
VIOLENCE**

# *The Activist*

## *Please Join us at our 17th Annual Courageous Leadership Awards Brunch: Sunday, May 22*

Jennifer Rivera and Lizza Monet Morales, Event Co-Chairs, and Mike Roos, Honorary Event Chair, invite you and your friends to join us for the Women Against Gun Violence 17th Annual Courageous Leadership Awards Brunch on Sunday, May 22nd at the Skirball Cultural Center. We know you will want to celebrate this year's Courageous Leaders: U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein, The David Bohnett Foundation and Walter Marks III, with Special Recognition to Lois Saffian. Laura Diaz, KCBS co-anchor, will encore as emcee.



We are fortunate to have U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein as our honoree. The Senator has been a leader in working for sensible gun laws and a long-time supporter of WAGV. Her focus on reducing gun violence began in November, 1978, when San Francisco Mayor George Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk were assassinated by a rival politician, and it was then-Supervisor Feinstein who announced the news to a stunned public. Once elected to the U.S. Senate, Feinstein continued her efforts with attempts to renew the Assault Weapons Ban and more recently on behalf of a ban on high-capacity ammunition magazines of the sort used in the Tucson shooting. Sen. Feinstein has been a long-time friend of WAGV – and a Courageous Leader committed to reducing gun violence in our Country.

The David Bohnett Foundation has been dedicated to improving society through social activism since its inception in 1999. The Foundation has focused its funding on four primary areas: the LGBT community; voting – including voter registration and education; animals – animal language research, service animals and the elimination of rare animal trade; and handgun control – the reduction and elimination of the manufacture and sale of handguns in the U.S.

**2011 Brunch Honorees Senator Dianne Feinstein, Walter Marks III and The David Bohnett Foundation. Special Recognition honoree, Lois Saffian (right).**



Women Against Gun Violence was an early recipient of a Bohnett Foundation grant in 2000 and the Foundation has continued to support our work. WAGV is proud to be part of the Foundation's focus on improving communities throughout the U.S.

Honoree, Walter Marks III, grew up in a home committed to social justice and charitable giving – his parents, Suzy and the late Wally Marks Jr., worked for those goals as did his grandparents before them. All were leaders in making Los Angeles a more livable and sustaining community. Walter Marks III has carried on this life-long commitment to improving the community, enhancing residents' quality of life and inspiring others to match his efforts. We thank the Marks' for their support of WAGV since its inception

*Brunch continued on page 4*

# Chair's Message

## Message from Executive Board Chair: Katherine Hennigan

The ensuing debate in the wake of the Tucson shooting tragedy finally provided a long overdue focus on common sense gun and ammunition control on a national level. This is not surprising, as is the case with most crises, when people witness a tragedy, they naturally seek to identify the contributing factors and explore potential solutions in order to avoid the situation from recurring in the future. This impetus for immediate change is fleeting, however, because the urgency of the moment “to do something” wanes with the media’s insatiable drive to cover new and sensational stories in a perpetual grab for higher ratings. The NRA’s media strategy is actually tailored to take advantage of this societal shortcoming whereby they muddy the debating waters just enough to cause confusion, call the situation an “aberration”, and wait it out until the media’s interest in the story recedes into oblivion. Unfortunately we saw this play out after the Tucson shooting, the national debate was short lived and failed to result in meaningful results, at least in the short term.

But all is not lost. In fact, we are simply in the third inning of a nine inning game. While the crisis has come and gone, Women Against Gun Violence will continue to educate the public about gun violence and to pressure politicians to do what’s right in order to make our communities and families safe from the

devastating effects of firearms. We won’t forget about what happened in Tucson, nor will we forget about thousands of families across America who are first hand victims of gun-related incidents. But without actually taking a stand and speaking out, remembering what happened will have little consequence and will do nothing to prevent future Tucson-style massacres. **That is why we plead with you to join us in this effort. Let us not compound past tragedies with the tragedy of complacency.**

It is with this staunch determination and unbending resolve that WAGV confronts and will continue to confront the challenges that lay before us. In this spirit, we are pleased to welcome our newest Board Members: Cecilia Cabello, Monique Earl, Adrienne Fedrick, Hon. Lindsey Horvath, Kian Kaeni, L.A.P.D. Chief Debra McCarthy, Lizza Monet Morales, Jennifer Rivera, Hon. Mike Roos, Laurie Saffian, Sue Stengel Esq., and Sayre Weaver, Esq. I would also like to welcome new Advisory Board members Councilmen Eric Garcetti and Paul Koretz and Controller Wendy Greuel.

See you all at the 2011 Courageous Leadership Awards Brunch on May 22nd!



## *Holiday Gathering Soars to New Heights*

Up high in the beautiful Bradley Tower of City Hall, with splendid 360 degree views of Los Angeles, new members of WAGV’s Governing Board and Advisory Board met with longstanding members as we enjoyed a memorable luncheon. It was a wonderful opportunity to chat and get to know each other – and plan for 2011. We were fortunate to have L.A. City Council president Eric Garcetti as our keynote speaker.

**Top: Councilmember Eric Garcetti addresses WAGV; LAPD Chief Charlie Beck surrounded by WAGV leaders.**



# KCET and Union Bank Honors WAGV Local Heroes for Black History Month

**W**AGV Board Member Rhonda Foster and her husband, Pastor Ruett Foster, were honored by KCET and Union Bank as 2011 Local Heroes for Black History Month. The award is presented to local heroes for their dedication and commitment to enriching the lives of others. The Fosters are ardent public activists for violence prevention. They became advocates after the tragic and senseless loss of their seven-year old son, Evan, to gun violence in 1997. Young Evan was caught in gang crossfire — and killed — when he was walking into his neighborhood park office to pick up his sports trophy. Their son, Alec, then ten months old, also suffered a devastating injury to his left eye in the incident. For over ten years, the Fosters have been a part of the WAGV Speaker's Bureau, educating the youth and community members about the impact of gun violence and the necessity of sensible gun control legislation.

*“If I were President I would talk to those who cause harm to others and tell them to go to church”.*

*— Evan Foster*

In addition to volunteering for WAGV, the Fosters are working toward establishing a facility for the Evan Leigh Foster Foundation that will provide ministry, resources and services to incarcerated youth. This effort was inspired by Evan's own words that “if I were President I would talk to those who cause harm to others and tell them to go to church”.

Mr. Foster has been Pastor of Community Bible Church (CBC) of Culver City since June 2007. Mrs. Foster is Case Manager for Community Build, Inc. in the Gang Reduction Youth Development Program of the Los Angeles Mayor's office. She coordinates therapy, tutoring, sports, music, and art activities as well as personally providing life coaching for over sixty clients between the ages of 10 and 15.



**WAGV Board Member Rhonda Foster and Pastor Foster reach out to youth.**

Rhonda and Ruett have been honored by several entities in the last decade: 2007 Pitzer College Distinguished Alumni Finalists, 2007 Changing Lives Award from the Heman G. Stark Youth Correctional Facility, City Of Inglewood and City Of Los Angeles Commendation in 2005, 2003 Treasures of Los Angeles by the Central City Association of Los Angeles, Culver City Police Department Juvenile Diversion Program Award in 2003, selected as Inspirational Torch Bearers for the 2002 Olympics, in which Ruett represented them in carrying the torch, Humanitarian Award from the Fred C. Nelles California Youth Authority in 2001. The Fosters are truly a treasure for all the work they do for WAGV and our community — we thank them!

# WAGV Reaches Out

In 2010, WAGV conducted 37 *Keepin' Them Safe* presentations talking to more than 600 parents and/or guardians throughout Los Angeles County. During our one hour presentation parents learn the dangers of having a gun in the house, are encouraged to ask the adults of the homes their child visits if there is a gun at their home and learn how to talk to their children about preventing gun violence.

Role play is a key aspect of the *Keepin' Them Safe* program and it encourages parents to get comfortable about asking about the presence of guns in the homes their children visit – a question most parents confess they had never thought to ask. Many parents admit they would feel embarrassed and intimidated to ask another parent if they own a gun. Yet, according to a 2006 PAX study, 97% of parents who own a gun said they would not feel uncomfortable about being asked by another parent. Still, we know this is an uncomfortable question, so role play becomes an essential tool in our training.



**Gabby Torres, makes a *Keepin' Them Safe* presentation.**

*Keepin' Them Safe* has been successful at educating parents about preventing gun violence in their own homes and the homes their kids visit. Our surveys demonstrate that through our eye-opening presentations, parents have increased their overall knowledge of the issue. WAGV thanks our generous sponsors and supporters for helping us save lives!

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*Brunch, continued from page 1*

and Walter Marks III for his continued commitment to our cause.

Receiving Special Recognition at this year's event, Lois Saffian, is a long-time WAGV supporter and former WAGV Boardmember. It was Lois' participation in Robert Kennedy's presidential campaign that inspired her activism on the issue of guns. After years of circulating petitions without results, she helped found WAGV. During her time with WAGV, she created an LAUSD student poster contest, with the winning poster placed on donated billboards throughout Los Angeles. She shares in the organization's pride of helping achieve State and City gun safety laws. She is a supportive friend to the organization. Lois is most proud of raising two wonderful daughters, Laurie and Samara, and she adores her grandchildren, Noah and Isabella. WAGV is proud that Lois' daughter, Laurie, has joined our Board of Directors and continues to work in her mother's tradition.

If you are a friend, business associate or family member of one of our honorees – or a WAGV supporter – please

consider purchasing an ad in the event tribute book to show your appreciation for all their hard work and courageous leadership.

Each year our fabulous Silent Auction is a highlight of the event and this year will be no exception. Please bring your credit card or check, there will be lots of terrific items to bid on! Attendees at last year's brunch loved the opportunity to win visits by well-known authors to their book groups and we are fortunate to have some terrific authors again this year. Sports fans, golfers, fine dining connoisseurs – and folks who love to shop – will be jockeying to win these coveted items. If you would like to donate a tax-deductible gift to this year's auction, please call our office for details at 310-204-2348.



**Mike Roos is this year's Honorary Event Chair.**

We look forward to you and your friends joining us on Sunday, May 22nd from 11a.m. – 2 p.m. To purchase a ticket to the event, please go to [www.wagv.org](http://www.wagv.org) or call our office at (310) 204-2348.

How would you feel if you and your family sat down to dinner at a restaurant and saw that people at the table next to you had holstered handguns at their sides? How would you know if these guns were loaded or not? California law states that it is not illegal to carry an unloaded gun out in the open. However, many of these gun-toting individuals carry ammunition just inches from their unloaded gun. WAGV has joined other violence prevention organizations to fight the open carrying of firearms at local, state and national levels.

**ACTION: Led by the Brady campaign, volunteer activists are encouraged to contact restaurant owners where the “Open Carriers” are planning to dine to let them know they would not patronize a place that allows people to come in openly wearing firearms. Violence prevention volunteers have been successful with some establishments – Peets Coffee and California Pizza Kitchen have stood firm against guns. But, Starbucks allows guns on their premises. Join a protest! Help in advocating for legislation that prevents the open carry of guns!**

Also on the local level, Los Angeles City Council President Eric Garcetti and Councilmember Paul Koretz introduced motions directing the City Attorney to explore the legality of a ban on the “open carry” of handguns in the City of Los Angeles and determine what other ordinances could be approved by Council to regulate guns and ammunitions.

**ACTION: Watch for progress in the City Council and, if action is needed, WAGV will alert you.**

On the State level, Assemblymember Anthony Portantino (D-La Cañada Flintridge) has introduced legislation to ban this “open carry” of unloaded handguns in California with AB144. This is the second time for this bill which WAGV supported vigorously in 2010. Last year’s bill, AB 1934 by Assemblymember Lori Saldana, made it through the legislature but failed to get to the Governor’s desk when the legislative session adjourned at midnight before the bill could be approved. With the retirement of Saldana, Portantino took up the cause and has worked with law enforcement to re-introduce the “open carry” ban. AB144 will make it illegal to carry an unloaded handgun in any public place or street. Law enforcement personnel are exempt as are hunters and others carrying unloaded weapons under

specific licensed circumstances. California is one of several states that allow “open carry” which gives gun owners the right to display weapons, though in California those guns must be unloaded.

**ACTION: Contact your Assemblymember and State Senator to ask for their support of AB144.**

Also on the State level, Assemblymember Mike Feuer is proposing AB 809, the Crime Gun Tracing Improvement Act. When an individual buys a handgun, they fill out a Dealer’s Record of Sale (DROS). The DROS information goes into a database to track the ownership of that gun. Currently, a database such as this does not exist for purchasers of long guns (rifles and shotguns). The purchaser of a long gun fills out a DROS, but long gun transfer records are destroyed. Under AB 809, the Department of Justice (DOJ) will no longer be forced to destroy copies of long gun transfer forms. The DOJ would instead input these records into the Automated Firearm System, as it currently does for handgun records. Long guns play a significant role in our gun violence epidemic.

**ACTION: Contact your Assemblymember and Senator and ask them to support AB 809.**

On the Federal level, Representative Carolyn McCarthy and Senator Frank Lautenberg introduced HR 308 and S32, the Large Capacity Ammunition Feeding Device Act. This resolution would prohibit civilians from possessing military style gun magazines. Large capacity magazines can be used to kill massive numbers of people in seconds. They were used in Tucson, at Virginia Tech, and at Columbine. Currently, only six states including California and Washington D.C. limit the capacity of magazines. The Act would ban large capacity ammunition magazines holding more than 10 rounds of ammunition.

**ACTION: Contact your Congressman to ask for their support.**

We need your help to fight these legislative battles; please send us your email address so we can keep you in the loop. You may be asked to contact your legislator, join in a protest or write a letter. We want to win these battles, please join us. Send your contact information to [wagv@wagv.org](mailto:wagv@wagv.org).

## Tragedy in Arizona Hits Home

Tragedy hit on January 8th as a gunman opened fire outside a supermarket while Arizona Representative, Dem. Gabrielle Giffords, was holding a meet and greet with constituents. In the attack, the gunman killed six people and wounded fourteen. Among the dead was nine year old Christina Green — daughter of L.A. Dodgers scouting supervisor, John Green. Christina's grandfather was longtime baseball manager, Dallas Green.

Dodger owner, Frank McCourt, stated "we have lost a member of the Dodger family". The Dodgers created an e-mail address (greenfamily@dodgers.com) through which friends and members of the community can share thoughts and feelings about the tragedy. Comments

will be compiled in a memory book for the family.



**Christina Green**

In California, a child or a teen is killed by gunfire every 19 hours. Although we work to educate people that having a gun in the home is more dangerous than not possessing a gun, we recognize that many people own firearms. For those folks who do keep a gun in their home: please help protect your children by keeping the gun in a locked case with the bullets stored separately. And, if your child knows someone who brings a gun to school, teach them tell to their teacher. Your child could help save the lives of others.

## *We Would Like to Thank Our 2010 Donors*

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The California Wellness Foundation  
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## Ways You Can Help WAGV

### WAGV is now a member of RALPHS' COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION PROGRAM.

Follow these simple steps to benefit WAGV every time you shop at Ralphs. NOTE: *Even if you have already registered, you need to re-register each year.*

1. Pick up a Ralphs Reward card at any participating Ralphs store (or use your existing one).
2. Register your card online at [www.ralphs.com](http://www.ralphs.com) (use the Ralphs Reward button at the top). If you use your phone number at the register, call 800-660-9003 to get your REWARDS card number.
3. After you register your card, you'll get a confirmation email. Click on the link in the email and then click on "Community Rewards." You will be asked to select an organization to sponsor.

That's it! Swipe your registered card (or use your phone number) every time you shop at Ralphs, and help WAGV. REMEMBER, your purchases will not count for WAGV until after you register your card.

If you have any questions or have trouble registering, please call Ralphs at 1-800-443-4438 for assistance.

You can help WAGV save money on printing and postage of this newsletter and other mailings by sending your email address to [wagv@wagv.org](mailto:wagv@wagv.org) and requesting that we email you future newsletters. We can also keep you informed about important gun and ammunition legislation. We respect your privacy and will never sell or rent your contact information.

### Connect with WAGV via Facebook and Twitter

Get up-to-the moment updates by going to [WAGV.org](http://WAGV.org) and clicking on the Facebook and Twitter icons. By reposting on your Facebook or re-tweeting our status updates, you will help spread news and current events about WAGV.

### Consider Including Women Against Gun Violence in your Will

Donors may wish to make a charitable gift by naming Women Against Gun Violence as a beneficiary in their wills. The federal government encourages these gifts or bequests, by allowing an estate tax charitable deduction. In addition, a charitable bequest may place your estate in a lower estate tax bracket.

## WAGV Members Aid New State Attorney General

State Attorney General Kamala Harris has created a series of task forces to give her guidance as she develops her strategies, especially for the reduction of crime. Staffing a task force on Gangs, Gun Crimes and Organized Crime is WAGV Board member Sue Stengel. Chair Emeritus Ann Reiss Lane was invited to suggest some legislation which the AG should consider supporting.

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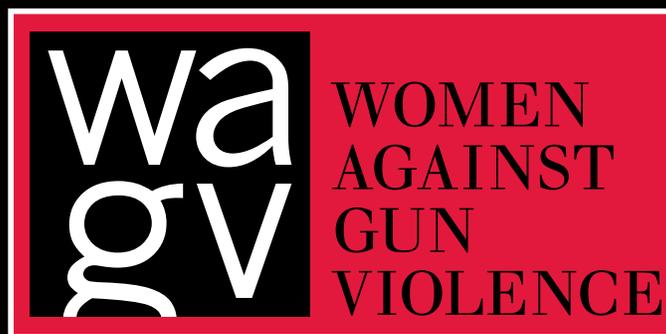
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## Women Against Gun Violence Mission Statement

*To prevent gun violence by educating the public, policymakers and the media about the human, financial and public health consequences of this epidemic and to mobilize communities to take decisive action against the dangers of firearms.*

9 kids a day are killed by gunfire in the United States...

... Our goal is 0



### SAVE THE DATE

17th Annual Courageous Leadership Awards Brunch

Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2011

Skirball Cultural Center

Honorees: U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein, The David Bohnett Foundation, Walter Marks III  
Special Recognition: Lois Saffian; Honorary Chair: Mike Roos; Emcee: Laura Diaz, Co-Anchor KCBS-2