

MEMBERS COLUMN

Members Helping Others: Halloween Read-In, October Fires and More

by Karin Wick

CASD members have been very busy helping their community even though we haven't reported on all of their activities. The October wildfires that devastated our community provided a concrete example of our members' generosity in action. A flurry of email messages on our list serve offered housing, food, transportation, special housing for pets and even horses and all manner of assistance to members of the community. An example was the message that read, "House now full, but we have a big yard where you can camp or leave your pets and we will care for them." Once again, CASD members showed that you "never stand alone."

A little over week after the devastating fires, CASD members once again participated in the "Halloween Read-In" event at Central Elementary in San Diego. CASD member **Michelle Macosky** organized this event for the 11th consecutive year as part of the Lawyer's Club Community Outreach Program. The Read-In remains the main Halloween celebration at Central Elementary which is located in a neighborhood where it is generally not safe to trick-or-treat. Despite the fires which had displaced some of the volunteers, most, if not all, of them still managed to attend to make this day special for the kids! The children are among the poorest in the school district and it really is a treat for them to have a chance to interact with professional adults. Many of them may not have thought about the importance of finishing high school, or going to college, or getting a professional job. Joining Michelle this year were CASD members **Elizabeth Banham, Kane Handel, Karin Wick**, and her secretary, **Samantha Yellen**. With the success of the Halloween Read-In, Central Elementary will also do a "Valentine's Read-In" this year as well -- yet another opportunity for CASD members to join in! Thank you, Michelle, for your tireless efforts in organizing this event each year!

Members also generously donated funds to help the family of Tom Varshock, a soils expert and friend of some CASD members. Tom was killed in the October wildfires and his 15-year-old son, Richard, suffered burns on more than 50% of his body. The family lost everything in the fire. A high school classmate of Richard's showed a slide presentation of pictures of Richard and his friends set to Richard's favorite music at the Trial Stars dinner. CASD members responded so generously that I was able to deliver a check for \$10,000 to Dianne and Richard Varshock. I will provide more details about this family in a future issue.

As a reminder, our CASD list serve is a terrific tool for members to keep fellow CASD members informed of charity events and/or organizations we are involved in that could use volunteers, donations, or fundraising efforts. You may also forward information about any such efforts to me directly: kwick@kwicklaw.com, or call at 619-544-9425.