



AMERICAN
LEADERSHIP
FORUM

MOUNTAIN
VALLEY CHAPTER

Spring is here! Welcome to new beginnings

Read on to see what's new at ALF...



Greetings!,

As we wrap up the first quarter of our 20th Anniversary year, we are energized by the realization that ALF's Fellows Program and Senior Fellows network have transformed an entire generation of leaders, who are building a better future for our region. Your work inspires and drives us, and we could not have reached this milestone without the dynamism and grace of all of our Senior Fellows - so, thank you!



The network will expand this week as **Class XIX** joins the ranks of over 400 Sr. Fellows, and we look forward to celebrating their journey over the past year. [Come join us this Friday at their graduation.](#) With graduation comes a new class of leaders! Read through to see who will join us in **Class XX**.

We are also excited to announce the new **Ballast Series - facilitated by Kevin McCarthy**. Ballast is six sessions of high-level curriculum launching in June that address the specific experience of the C-suite leader. Read further for links to sign up and to find out what makes this so unique.

As always, we welcome you to get in touch us if we can be of service to you.

Thank you,



Bonnie Ferreira, CEO

Ballast Series begins June 24.... **Sign up today!**

Do you remember the network of support you experienced as an ALF First Year Fellow? The expertise, camaraderie, transformative relationships?

ALF's new Sr. Fellows program, the "**Ballast Series**," brings back that peer group of executive leaders like you - directly to you. The word "ballast" means the main centering point of a ship - it provides stability and control - and this program was specifically created to be your centering point.

Facilitated by **Kevin McCarthy**, Ballast is six sessions of high-level curriculum that address the specific experience of the C-suite leader. Curious what makes this so unique? Click [here](#). **We only have space for 30 Sr. Fellows so act now!**

You may also visit the [EventBrite page](#) with more details and links to the registration forms. Reach out to [Cara](#) with more questions at (916) 920-5669.

[<back to top>](#)

Big DoG is only 4 weeks away!

Last year, we nearly QUADRUPLED the amount raised on BIG Day of Giving.. thanks to you! We were one of the 529 participating nonprofit organizations in last year's Big Day of Giving and received over \$18,000 in donations.

...this year's goal: **\$40,000!**

BIG Day of Giving is a local initiative to increase philanthropy in the Greater Sacramento region. Brought to you by your local community foundations, Sacramento Region Community Foundation, Placer Community Foundation, and Yolo Community Foundation, the BIG Day of Giving will take place during a **24-hour period on Tuesday, May 3, 2016**. Starting at midnight, donations will be accepted through bigdayofgiving.org with a goal to inspire and unite our community in supporting hundreds of local nonprofits.

[<back to top>](#)



20th Anniversary Brunch

With **David Sobon (Class XVIII)**, **Griselda Barajas (Class V)**, and **Sandy Smoley (Class II)** hosting, you know it's going to be a good time, and our 20th Anniversary brunch in David's gorgeous yard on Sunday, April 3 was no exception! Thank you to all who attended! Check out [photos](#) on our Facebook page if you missed it.

[<back to top>](#)

Visiting a county near you...

March was an active month as we met with Senior Fellows across **Sacramento, El Dorado, Yolo and Placer Counties** for our quarterly county meetings. It was



great to see so many faces and hear what you see as exciting opportunities facing our region. There were a lot of synergies, too! Some ideas that came out of the meetings include All Access receptions convening regional arts organizations to talk about the value of arts initiatives in revitalizing our region, and another on rebranding the Greater Sacramento region to drive more tourism. Stay tuned in the coming weeks to find out how we will put these ideas into action.

[<back to top>](#)



Tables of 8 are back in full force!

The first one, hosted by **Shirlee Tully, Craig McNamara and Pat Fong-Kushida (Class IV)** ended up being more of a table of 14. We're thrilled so many of you are signing up to reconnect and enjoy the company of other Sr. Fellows over a good meal. We have a lot more coming up and we'll be spreading them all over the region, so look out for invites and sign up right away - spots are filling up quickly!

Next up: [April 18, hosted by Meg Arnold \(Class XVII\)](#) and [May 6, hosted by Tom Stallard \(Class VII\)](#).

[<back to top>](#)

Save the date... Exemplary Leaders Dinner

This year's Exemplary Leaders Awards is scheduled on **Saturday, October 22, 2016**. **Trish Rodriguez (Class XVI)** will be spearheading this year's efforts as committee chair. We're mixing it up this year in a lot of fun ways! If you're interested in joining Trish on the committee, let us know.



[<back to top>](#)

Who's your class steward?

David Hosley (Class VII), our outstanding "Steward of Stewards" has been hard at work bringing together volunteers across each class to serve as class stewards. We are so grateful to have a strong group of ALFers who want to be a touchpoint for us to stay connected and keep you updated on interesting news, events, programs and more. Find out who your class steward is by clicking [here](#). AND, if you notice your class doesn't have a steward yet and you are interested in jumping on board (or know of a class member who would be a good fit), email [Cara](#).



[<back to top>](#)

Announcing Class XXI!

Thank you to our Nominating Committee co-chairs, **Ed Phillips (Class V) and Pam Stewart (Class VIII)**, and the outstanding Senior Fellows' nominations we received. We welcome [28 new leaders](#) to our upcoming First Year Fellows Program. Stay tuned for details on their Welcome Reception on May 25.



[<back to top>](#)

Time to update our records...

If your contact and/or employment information has changed, please email the [ALF office](#) by **April 29** and we'll get ALF's Little Black Book updated and printed for you.

[<back to top>](#)

ALFers in Action

Impact

Deborah Ortiz (Class IV) stepped into the role of CEO of Opening Doors - a non-profit that provides help to refugees, immigrants and victims of trafficking - and has been busy in her new position helping the surge of refugees coming to the U.S. The organization helps those they serve achieve self-sufficiency by providing ESL classes, job training, access to health care, housing and legal services, and more for the first three months after they arrive in the region.

Much-needed conversations are happening about the need for more **diversity in leadership** positions in our region and Sr. Fellows are moving the dialogue forward in meaningful ways. **Four Sr. Fellows** were featured in last month's SBJ article on the topic.

[Read more here.](#)

Assemblymember **Kevin McCarty** and **Gail Johnson Vaughan (Families NOW), Class X**, have teamed up on legislation (AB1879) to make sure that children waiting for families in foster care get the services proven to be effective. This started as an idea Gail and Kevin pitched for their ALF class project back in 2007 and has since evolved into a broad-based effort to change legislation with the support of a wide swath of child welfare advocacy organizations, including: County Welfare Directors Association, the youth of the California Youth Connection, and more. To find out more, [click here.](#)

Kevin Kitrell Ross (Class XVII) is participating in a Peace Summit with The Pacifica Institute in Seoul Korea and Thailand, aimed at joining leaders from around the world and our region committed to building bridges of understanding, and religious and intercultural tolerance and acceptance. Kevin plans to bring books and other educational materials to share, and also film his journey to help educate youth in the region about the diverse cultures and faiths of the world. If you are interested in supporting his efforts, learn more [here.](#)

Awards & Features

Kudos to **Shirlee Tully (Class IV)** for receiving the "Chartered Advisor in Philanthropy" designation, further enhancing her tools and skillset to help clients reach their charitable giving objectives while also meeting estate planning and wealth management goals. More details are available [here.](#)

State Senator Lois Wolk named **Cass Sylvia (Class VIII)** as one of two Women of the Year for the 3rd Senate District covering Yolo, Solana and Napa. In honor of Women's History Month, Sylvia was honored for her service to the community. Congratulations!

On April 21, **Scott Syphax (Class VIII) and Kathy McKim (Class XII)** will be honored at the Greater Sacramento Urban League 2016 Unity Ball for their contribution to diversity and empowerment for our communities.

The Roberts Family Development Center, founded by **Derrell Roberts (Class X) and Tina Roberts (Class XVII)**, will receive the FBI's Community Leadership Award from FBI Director James Comey during a special ceremony held at FBI headquarters in Washington D.C. on April

15, 2016. Congratulations on this esteemed and very well-deserved honor! Read more [here](#).

Rene Aguilera (Class X) was named one of the "Top 25 Most Influential Latinos" in the Sacramento Region in Sacramento Bee's "[Vida en el Valle](#)" edition. Aguilera is from Placer County and has served as a local Roseville School Board Trustee for the last fourteen years. Aguilera also serves as the founder and Co-Coordinator of the Cesar Chavez Youth Leadership Conference and Celebration scheduled for this Saturday, April 9, at UC Davis. It will feature keynote speaker Antonio Villaraigosa, 2018 gubernatorial candidate and the former mayor of LA.

Celia McAdam (Class XI) was inducted into the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) College of Fellows on April 3 during the American Planning Association National Planning Conference in Arizona. Fellows of AICP are honored for achieving excellence in professional practice, teaching and mentoring, research, public and community service, and leadership.

Through her work as president of the International Women's Coffee Alliance, **Mery Santos (Class XVI)** was featured in an [article](#) talking about how her organization is helping women worldwide succeed in coffee farming. Keep up the inspiring work, Mery!

Does the man ever sleep? It's hard to believe! **David Sobon's (Class XVIII)** never-ending exuberance and expert fundraising skills were highlighted in a recent SBJ profile. Catch it [here](#). Congratulations, David!

Social Venture Partners of Sacramento's 2016 Fast Pitch event was an inspiring evening filled with stories from different nonprofits who took the stage to pitch their impact and innovation to a crowd of 250 attendees. Many Sr. Fellows and their organizations participated, with **Jim Tabuchi's (Class XIX)** Sacramento Mandarins taking home the Random Act of Kindness Award. Congratulations to all of the finalists and semi-finalists! Read more about the amazing work they are doing [here](#) and watch some of the [compelling pitch videos](#).

Sr. Fellows on the Move

ALF-MVC founding member **Betsy Marchand** recently started her role as the new Chair of the Dignity Woodland Healthcare Community Board, which is the governing board for Dignity Healthcare Woodland.

Rick Jennings II (Class II) was appointed Vice Mayor of the City of Sacramento.

David Hosley (Class VII) is co-executive producer of Changing Season: On the Masumoto Family Farm. The hour-long documentary will air on KVIE at 10 p.m. on Monday, May 2, as well as being distributed nationally.

Allen Warren (Class VII) is seeking re-election to the Sacramento City Council.

Tom Cosgrove (Class VIII) took over as CEO of the Lincoln Area Chamber of Commerce.

Cecilia Aguiar-Curry (Class XIII), current Mayor of Winters, announced that she will run for California State Assembly, to represent District 4. Read more about her campaign [here](#).

David DeLuz (Class XV) announced he is running for an open seat on the Natomas School Board in the November election and is excited about the possibility of continuing his public service.

Julie Hirota (Class XVII) will leave her post as CEO of Blue Line Arts to start a new role as the Executive Director of California CareForce, an organization dedicated to providing free health, dental and vision services to residents throughout California.

Donald Terry (Class XIX) was appointed Vice Mayor of the City of Rancho Cordova.

Family

Even if you move out of the area, we still like to know what's going on in your life!

Seth Merewitz (Class XIV) says he and his family miss Sacramento, but the move to Los Angeles has been fruitful. Seth's oldest, Aviva Chenya, just turned four and he and his wife, Tali, celebrated their fifth wedding anniversary. Glad life is well!

Arts & Literature

Felicenne Ramey (Class II) published her second book titled, "GREATS" - featuring photographs of African American great grandparents and their great grandchildren, as well as important advice they would give to their younger family members. The book is available for

purchase [here](#).

A Final Note...

If you're reading this, you must love Sr. Fellows' news as much as we do. And, we love to hear what's going on in your world whether or not it is newsletter season. We are always looking for ways to highlight your successes and share in your excitement, in the newsletter, on social media, and beyond. So please don't be shy to share things with us as they happen!

