



*Motherless Daughters*  
of Orange County



# *Sisters at Heart* ©

A Publication of Motherless Daughters of Orange County, Inc.

Spring, 2010

Volume 6, Issue 4

## ***OUR FOURTEENTH ANNUAL LUNCHEON***

Please join the women of  
Motherless Daughters of Orange County  
for our Fourteenth Annual

### *Motherless Daughters Day Luncheon*

Saturday, May 8, 2010

11:30 to 2:30

Alta Vista Country Club

777 E Alta Vista Street

Placentia, California

R.S.V.P. by April 23rd ~\$30 After April 23-\$35

Reservation deadline April 26th

Juanita Driskell 714.772.9006

\*Teens be our guest

\*Reduced rate for college students

## ***MDOC PAYS TRIBUTE TO OUR DEPARTED SISTER, MARIA YOSS***

As you may know, Maria passed away on February 15 after a long battle with cancer. To honor her memory, here are some photos and memories.

From *Cami Black*— This is the first loss of one of our "sisters." For me, personally, it is the loss of a dear friend. My husband, Dave, and I always had fun when we were with Maria and her wonderful husband, Peter, whether it was attending an Angels baseball game, touring the Getty Museum, or just out to dinner, it warmed our hearts to be with them. Their support of me, attending almost all of my plays, driving 100 miles round trip to Hollywood on a work night to hear me sing, helping celebrate at an award ceremony of a short film I did, meant a great deal to me.

At Maria's memorial, which was a wonderful tribute to her life, her wide circle of friends and family, told about what they respected about Maria the most: her punctuality, her dependability, her loyalty. One thing stood out for me as I listened to these stories and reflected on her life. Maria always said, "Yes" to every opportunity that was presented to her. I think this was the gift that successfully battling breast cancer twenty years ago gave her. She never delayed or postponed an event, a chance to meet a friend, or just participate in life. As Peter said, whatever idea or scheme he came up with (and there were many!), Maria carried it out to perfection. We motherless daughters are at peace with the fact that we believe Maria will finally be with her mommy, who died in a home fire when Maria was three.

*Maria, in her own words*— I read a book titled "Las Mamis Favorite Latino Authors Remember Their Mothers". In this book one of the authors (Alba Ambert's), mother died when she was two. I could truly relate to her story. I would like to include the following quote since it was most poignant to me: "Having lost my mother, I've gone through life with the pain of an amputated limb. The pain of a limb that has been sawn off, but that remains in the severed nerve, in the scar tissue. A phantom pain. While my mother lived she held me down in a secure place where I could never float away and disappear. After she died, I was adrift and a familiar unreality settled in. The sense of disconnection and difference we motherless women feel throughout our lives is understandable, having had no mirrors to reflect ourselves as we would become." *Maria Elena Yoss*



*A life well lived and a dear friend who will be missed.*

A life well-lived  
is a precious gift  
of hope and strength and grace  
from someone who has made our world  
a brighter, better place.  
It's filled with moments sweet and sad,  
with smiles and sometimes tears,  
with friendships formed  
and good times shared  
and laughter through the years.



A life well –lived  
is a legacy  
of joy and pride and pleasure,  
a loving, lasting memory  
our grateful hearts will treasure.  
Cami Black



## *Message From Our President ~ Juanita Driskell*

Dear Sisters at Heart,

It is with mixed feelings that I write this letter to you because this is my last letter as your president. After three years, it is time for someone else to take over, and I am happy to announce that the board has voted to accept Karen Stoller as our new president with Valerie Hon as our new treasurer. Laura Gibson has also been voted in as a new board member to fill the seat of Maria Yoss after Maria's death in February. While no one can ever really replace Maria, we know that Laura will do an outstanding job for MDOC as she has in any of the other tasks that she has performed for us.

Our annual May luncheon is coming up on May 8, the day before Mother's Day, and I hope that lots of you will join us there. It will be held again this year at the Alta Vista Country Club in Placentia at 777 E Alta Vista Street from 11:30 until 2:30. The invitations will be mailed out soon to those on our mailing list, but if you aren't on our list and would still like to come, just e-mail me at [juanita@finewoodnthings.com](mailto:juanita@finewoodnthings.com) and give me your name and address and I will see that you get an invitation. The cost will be \$30 for members and \$35 for non-members with a reduced rate for college age students and free for high school girls and younger.

The luncheon is our biggest event of the year but this year on the first week-end of May, we will again be selling Bob's Old Fashioned Ice Cream at the Orange County Market Place the entire week-end with all of the proceeds going to MDOC. This is our big money raiser of the year, but it is also a chance to spread the word about our organization, so I hope to enlist several of you to come out and work the booth with me. I will be sending out an e-mail soon asking for volunteers.

As I said when I started this letter to you, my feelings about leaving the job of president are mixed. I have thoroughly enjoyed being your president and enjoyed working for MDOC. It has given me an opportunity to spread the word about Motherless Daughters while doing the every day grunt work of helping to run this worthwhile organization. I've also had the chance to meet so many of you and to hear your stories and I will continue to do that in the future. But, as I also said, it is time for someone else to take over. Three years doing this job is a long time and I am glad to step down and leave the work in the capable hands of Karen. I know she will do an excellent job because she is an excellent person.

So, I look forward to seeing you at the OC Market Place to sell ice cream and, most importantly, at the luncheon in May.

*Juanita Driskell*  
MDOC President



### **Board of Directors**

**Juanita Driskell**  
**Casey Enda**  
**Mary Felix**  
**Laura Gibson**  
**Antonietta Treacy**

### **MDOC Officers**

**Karen Stoller, President**  
**Kimberly Martin, Secretary**  
**Valerie Hon, Treasurer**

### **Sisters at Heart Newsletter**

**Linda Mantarakis, Editor**  
**mdocnews@yahoo.com**

***This newsletter can also be viewed on our website:***

***In love and remembrance:***

# Members' Corner

We acknowledge each Sister at Heart as she remembers the anniversary month she lost her mom and their age at the time.

January

Mother

Joann Cohen

Lillian

Valerie Hon

McCabe

February

Emma Rottmann

Frances

Virginia Kennedy

Frances

March

Joan Brooks

Petronella

April

Juanita Driskoll

Clara

May

Laura Gibson

Nancy

# Birthday Wishes

January

22 Amalia Wasserman

March

2 Joan Brooks

4 Virginia Kennedy

April

5 Cindy Hallgren

10 Karen Stoller

10 Mary Hartman

15 Linda Mantarakis

24 Valerie Hon

May

10 Joann Cohen

## Book Corner

*Here are some recent publications you might want to curl up with:*

**The Possibility of Everything** by Hope Edelman. "My mother's absence during my early parenting years is a big part of the story, and the trip to Central America reunites me with her and her strong sense of faith at the end of the book."

**Passings: Death Dying and Unexplained Phenomena** by Carole A. Travis-Heinkoff. The interesting thing about this book is that after various different religious leaders read the book, there was nothing that offended their religion.

**Good Grief: Healing through the Shadow of Loss** by Deborah Morris Coryell. Recommended by a therapist who had a lot of losses in her life.

**Eating Pomegranates: A Memoir of Mothers, Daughters, and the BRCA Gene** by Sarah Gabriel. Gabriel shares an estimable gift for memoir and introspection in this forceful account of the breast cancer caused by a potentially fatal inheritance, the BRCA Gene, from her mother and her mother's mother before her and so on.

### Quotable:

**Mariska Hargitay**, star of *Law & Order: SVU*,

whose famous mother, Jayne Mansfield, died when Mariska was three, is quoted in February's issue of *MORE Magazine*. "Children, when they lose their mother, have a different antenna: 'When will I be safe? When will I be home? I lost my home too early, but I'm getting it back through Peter and August' (her husband and son).

Regarding her mom, she says, "She's definitely always with me," acknowledging that she's spent endless amounts of time wondering, "why, why, why?" and talking through the loss in therapy. But now, she adds, she can take pleasure in hearing stories about her mom. "I love it when people say 'She had such a great laugh, and so do you!' When I find similarities, it gives me so much peace."



# Motherless Daughters of Orange County Membership Form

Please print and complete all items

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

- \$20.00 Annual Membership (See member benefits below)
- \$15.00 Student Rate: Eighteen (18) years of age and younger
- Other:\$\_\_\_\_\_ MDOC appreciates any other tax-deductible donation you care to make and will provide you with a letter for tax purposes.

- I have enclosed my company's matching gift form.
- Please contact me regarding volunteer opportunities.

Membership donations pay for the printing of *Sisters at Heart* Newsletter for those professional therapists on our courtesy lists, mailings, local organizer support, and administrative costs. This information is strictly for the purpose of maintaining our database. Motherless Daughters of Orange County does not sell or exchange its member information with any person or organization.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_ Your Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Mother's age at time of loss: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have children?  Yes  No  
 If so, how many? Boys: \_\_\_\_\_ Girls: \_\_\_\_\_ Your age at time of loss: \_\_\_\_\_

Month/Day you lost your mom: \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about Motherless Daughters of Orange County (MDOC)? \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check or money order payable to: Motherless Daughters of Orange County **or** MDOC

Mail to: Karen Stoller, 3352 Corte Del Cruce, Carlsbad, CA 92009

## MEMBER BENEFITS

Your annual membership to Motherless Daughters of Orange County will provide you with the following benefits for one year:

- Invitations to special events and social events for motherless women.
- Notices about local workshops and seminars that relate to early mother loss and/or grieving.
- Remembrances on your birthday and the anniversary of your mother's death
- Discounts to members for all MDOC-sponsored events that include the public.

**Motherless Daughters of Orange County, Inc.**  
**Mission Statement**

Motherless Daughters of Orange County was formed to provide support, community and resources to women and girls who have experienced early mother loss (birth to 21 years of age). We are committed to bringing together motherless daughters, otherwise isolated, to encourage healing among them and to promote awareness about the long-lasting effects of such a loss.

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