



Dear Friends, Supporters and Community Members:

As many of you know, our Founder, Janet Witkin, passed away earlier this year. For more than 30 years Janet's vision, leadership and inspiration revolutionized housing and social service opportunities for older Angelenos. Her crusade to promote shared and cooperative living for seniors forged a national movement that has the potential to benefit millions of aging baby-boomers. Janet was one-of-a-kind and irreplaceable.

It has therefore been a challenge, to say the least, to identify a new leader with the foresight, talent and passion to lead Alternative Living for the Aging. Our Board of Directors sought out to find someone who will be sensitive to, honor and respect our Founder's legacy and also nurture and grow our organization to meet the burgeoning housing and support needs of our aging population. We are confident that we have found such an individual with the right character to serve as our new Executive Director -- David Grunwald.

For more than two decades David has committed himself to improving the health and welfare of people living in high-need communities. He began his commitment to public service in 1988 as a volunteer Big Brother and as a pro bono lawyer representing scores of homeless clients and disadvantaged children and families. In 1994 David accepted a one-year USAID-funded appointment in Phnom Penh, Cambodia to monitor, detail and help establish human and labor rights policies for factory workers, women and children. Upon his return to Los Angeles David served as Associate Director of Programs at the Weingart Homeless Service Center where he directed social service programs for homeless individuals on Skid Row. David was subsequently recruited to serve as the Founding Director of the HIV & AIDS Legal Services Alliance for the purpose of forming a single legal service consortium of the five leading HIV agencies in Los Angeles County.

In 2000 David was appointed President and Chief Executive Officer of LA Family Housing -- one of LA's premiere community-based organizations. At LA Family Housing David oversaw the development and provision of emergency, transitional and permanent housing and social services at 21 facilities to more than 17,000 individuals annually throughout Los Angeles. In 2006 former HUD Secretary Henry Cisneros recruited David to launch American Sunrise Communities. This national initiative catalyzes national builders, investment banks and local governments to create large scale affordable housing in urban centers throughout the United States. David is co-founder and co-chair of the annual Mayoral Housing Summit which has been held at UCLA's Anderson School of Business since 2000. Prior to his public service positions, David worked as lawyer specializing in litigation and employment law.

David received a law degree from Loyola Law School, a Masters in Public Policy degree from Duke University and a Bachelors degree in Economics from Denver University. David lives in Mar Vista and is married to Dr. Tiffany Grunwald, a cancer reconstructive surgeon affiliated with St John's Hospital in Santa Monica. They have two children, Samson (age 11) and Sidney (age 5).

Please join us in welcoming David to the ALA family. We are excited that David has joined us to nurture the legacy that our amazing founder created. We are quite confident that David will help us thoughtfully build on Janet's revolutionary vision to give seniors better options for living.