Twelve outstanding local women will be inducted into the Alameda County Women’s Hall of Fame at the program’s annual luncheon on March 19. This year’s inductees are:

- **Victoria Jones**, Business and Professions. Victoria is a Vice President with Clorox Corporation who guides the Clorox Foundation’s grant-making to support strong, healthy communities.
- **Suzanne Barba**, Community Service. Suzanne is a longtime community activist who supports important causes including good schools, healthy neighborhoods and first-rate health care in the County’s unincorporated areas.
- **Sarah Crowell**, Culture and Art. Sarah is Artistic Director of Oakland’s Destiny Arts Center, which provides dance, theater and martial arts training to young people and aims to end isolation and violence in their lives.
- **Stephanie Couch**, Education. Stephanie is Executive Director of the Institute for STEM Education at Cal State East Bay who works to improve education in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math provided to youth across the region.
- **Leora Feeney**, Environment. Leora’s efforts to save Alameda’s tiniest endangered bird – the California Least Tern – convinced three federal agencies to create a wildlife reserve at the former Alameda Naval Air Station.

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New Permit Portal Eases Process for Residents, Business

Alameda County has launched its exciting new Permit Portal, a one-stop online guide that helps residents through the permitting process to complete major property upgrades, start businesses or undertake many other tasks. Available at http://permit.acgov.org, the Alameda County Permit Portal simplifies the permit process by allowing individuals and business operators to search based on address or need, to browse permits by category and view the most popular permits issued locally. The portal provides information about all locally issued permits – not just those required by Alameda County, but by cities and special districts as well. It’s the first new tool to result from Alameda County’s groundbreaking partnership with technology-giant Google through company’s Government Innovation Labs project last year.

Innovative Tax Assistance Program Honored

The Alameda County Board of Supervisors on January 26 issued a proclamation honoring the Social Service Agency’s Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program for its 15 years of providing no-cost income tax preparation assistance to low- and middle-income residents. By doing so, the program helps taxpayers to receive larger refunds and build better financial futures. Since 2002, VITA has maintained a team of volunteers who help eligible residents receive larger tax refunds by claiming the credits they have earned. As the countdown begins toward the annual income tax filing deadline in April, VITA is once again offering its services to residents whose 2015 household income was $54,000 or less. Approximately 150 volunteers - each of whom has completed training to obtain IRS certification - are participating this year and enabling the program to offer no-cost services at four locations each Monday and Wednesday evening, and for seven hours every Saturday, through April 18.

Volunteer Tax Assistance Program
Hours Through April 18

- Mondays and Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
- Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Locations:
- Social Services Agency (SSA), 2000 San Pablo Avenue, Oakland
- SSA’s Enterprise Office, 8477 Enterprise Way, Oakland
- SSA’s Eden Office, 24100 Amador Street, Hayward
- Office of Supervisor Wilma Chan, 15903 Hesperian Boulevard, San Lorenzo
- For more information, go to vita.eitc@acgov.org.
Disaster Relief Fund Reactivated to Support San Bernardino

Alameda County has reactivated its Disaster Relief Fund to enable people in the community to voluntarily donate funds to benefit the victims of the horrific shooting on December 2nd in San Bernardino in which 14 people were killed and 21 others were injured. It is the first time in a decade that the Fund has been activated in response to a domestic tragedy. The Fund facilitates local contributions to help the families of those killed in the shooting and those recovering from their injuries. Some County employees also can donate up to five days of their accrued vacation time, compensatory time and/or holiday in-lieu time. The Alameda County Disaster Relief Fund was initially established in response to the September 11, 2001 attacks in the United States. The fund was reactivated for the South Asia Tsunami/Earthquake in 2004, Hurricane Katrina in 2005, earthquakes in Haiti and Chile in 2010, the Northern Japan Earthquake/Tsunami in 2011, Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines in 2013 and the massive earthquake in Nepal in April 2015. All local contributions will go directly to a relief fund jointly established by the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors and the Arrowhead United Way. Cash and online donations are accepted.

Go to http://acgov.org/government/news/disaster.htm to donate or to obtain additional information.

Check out the latest installment of WE ARE AC! This month, we feature a video about the new San Lorenzo Library, a state-of-the-art facility that is a hub of activity in the unincorporated community. https://www.acgov.org/about/weareac/