

# The Spectrum

## Chair Chat: Cherie and Marti Welcome New Board Members

JSEI Affiliates Advisory Board Co-Chairs **Cherie Hubbell** and **Marti Oppenheimer** joined members in welcoming **Robyn Travis** and **Maude Feil** to the board. Said Marti Oppenheimer, "Both have a wealth of experience and enthusi-

asm and we are thrilled to have them with us."

### Robyn Travis

Robyn Travis grew up in Cape Town, South Africa, and graduated from the University of Cape Town with a bachelor's degree in sociology and psychology. In the late 1970s, she left South Africa, eventually journeying to Los Angeles where she met her husband, **Gabriel Travis**, then a resident in neurology at UCLA. Robyn and Gabriel later moved to La Jolla where Gabriel completed a post-doctoral fellowship in molecular neuroscience at Scripps Research Institute and Robyn began to study accounting.

In 1989, Robyn and Gabriel relocated to Dallas, where Gabriel accepted a faculty position at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. There, Robyn started her own accounting business and earned a second bachelor's degree from the University of Texas. They also welcomed a daughter, Chloe, into their lives, along with a German shepherd puppy.

The family moved back to Los An-



Robyn Travis (center) with husband Dr Gabriel Travis and daughter, Chloe Travis.

geles in 2001 when Gabriel was recruited to UCLA as the Charles Kenneth Feldman Professor of Ophthalmology. They are currently living in Pacific Palisades where Robyn has recently established a partnership with another accountant. Chloe is now nine years old and the puppy, Sunny, weighs in at 110 pounds!

Robyn also began to seriously pursue her life-long interest in writing fiction, focusing on her homeland, South Africa, during the apartheid period of her girlhood. Robyn brings to the Affiliates her interest in the human element of vision research and brings to the board a wealth of knowledge and enthusiasm.

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### Special points of interest:

- ? Need a last minute holiday gift?  
*Sponsor a Dr Teddy MD! See page 3.*
- ? Interested in joining the Affiliates or sending a friend registration information? Contact Teresa Closson at 310.825.4148.
- ? Interested in volunteering for an Affiliates community outreach program? Contact Patti Thayer at 310.206.7128.

## Chair Chat, continued

### Maude Feil

A native of Illinois, Maude Retchin-Feil grew up in Brentwood, California, and Rye, New York. Her mother was Pearl "Merv" Mervis and her father, Norman Retchin, a writer and producer. Maude attended the University of Illinois as well as New York University, and began her career in the entertainment industry by working for a film company in Aspen, Colorado. Maude later moved to Los Angeles, where she worked as a motion picture costumer.

After a long career in the entertainment industry, Maude recently began promoting a unique service: Offering treatments that utilize a mild hyper baric (oxygen) chamber. "It is all about anti-fatigue and anti-aging. I am very excited about how good it can make you feel," said Maude. In addition to helping make people feel good on the inside, Maude utilizes



New JSEI Affiliates Advisory Board Member, Maude Feil.

her flare for style to help private clients look good on the outside.

In addition to the JSEI Affiliates, Maude is a member of the Sandpiper organization; KIDS ON THE BLOCK, a puppet group that teaches children about children with disabilities in local schools; and the Los Angeles County Museum Association (LACMA) costume council.

Maude lives in Manhattan Beach with husband Gary Feil, an assistant director; daughter Lily, a student at the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising; and son Adam, working in the family business of film production.

Cherie and Marti join the Advisory Board in enthusiastically welcoming these two talented women and look forward to getting them involved in Institute programs.

## Affiliates Volunteers Support Camp Planet Hope

Camp Planet Hope is a non-profit summer camp that provides a five-day summer camp experience for children from various homeless shelters throughout southern California. The program gives kids the chance to experience a traditional summer camp with swimming, arts and crafts, sports and campfire stories, as well as much needed medical and dental care.

During the Camp's recent Health Fair Day, a team of 11 JSEI volunteers including two ophthalmologists,

provided eye screenings to 102 children. Of these, five needed a more detailed exam, which was given

by the volunteer ophthalmologists. All of the children and their families leave camp happy and hopeful with backpacks filled with back-to-school clothes and sneakers.



A special thank you to our volunteers who participated at Camp Planet Hope.

## “Make Surgery Bearable” Mother’s Day Campaign a Success

A special thanks to everyone who contributed to making the JSEI Affiliates Mother’s Day campaign the most successful ever!

The campaign raised enough money to sponsor over 150 new Dr Teddy MD teddy bears for future pediatric patients and helped raise awareness, campus wide, about the *Make Surgery Bearable* program.

Donors sponsored a Dr Teddy MD in honor of their mother, grandmother or special woman in their lives. A child facing surgery then received a Dr Teddy MD with a tag “bearing” the name of the loved one. In addition, a Mother’s Day card was sent

out to Mom acknowledging the gift. A Dr Teddy MD sponsorship provides pleasure and smiles to three people- the donor, the honoree, and the child who receives the teddy bear.

**Need a last minute holiday gift? Sponsor a Dr Teddy MD for that special someone! Contact the JSEI Affiliates at 310.825.4148 or visit our website to obtain a sponsorship form at [www.jseiassociates.com](http://www.jseiassociates.com). Order now!**

If you are interested in sponsoring a Dr Teddy MD for a future event – birthday, anniversary or upcoming holiday celebration – contact the JSEI Affiliates at 310.825.4148 or visit our website at [www.jseiassociates.com](http://www.jseiassociates.com) to obtain a sponsorship form. Donations to the *Make Surgery Bearable* program are accepted year-round!

## JSEI Vision Rehabilitation Center Receives Funding from JSEI Affiliates

The JSEI Affiliates recently gave a sizable grant to the Jules Stein Eye Institute’s Vision Rehabilitation Center. The grant was used to purchase four state-of-the-art, low-vision aids for the center’s lending library.

Under the direction of **Dr Melissa Chun**, patients can borrow vision aids from the center on a trial basis before purchasing them. Ranging from specialized, spectacle-mounted telescopes to binocular telescopes, the vision aids help patients with macular degeneration or other low-vision problems perform day-to-day tasks, such as reading the newspaper or watching television. *MagniVision* volunteers help support the Vision Rehabilitation Center staff who assist patients in choosing the best vision aid to meet the patient’s needs.

In addition to *MagniVision*, the Affiliates sponsor a program entitled **Shared Vision**, which collects used eyeglasses for refurbishment and distribution to those who cannot afford to buy them.

If you are interested in volunteering to support the *MagniVision* program or would like to donate used eyeglasses, please contact the Patti Thayer at 310.206.7128.



Dr Melissa Chun, Director of the Vision Rehabilitation Center, demonstrates a magnifying reading device called Vis-Able Image for low-vision patients.

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Supporting the programs of the Jules Stein Eye Institute through vision education and patient services.

**We're on the Web!**  
[www.jseiassociates.com](http://www.jseiassociates.com)



JSEI Affiliates

## Volunteers Power Our Programs

We are proud of our accomplishments promoting vision education and patient care in the schools and community and would like to share the following updates from the two most successful Affiliates programs—Preschool Vision Screening and VISION In-School.

### Preschool Vision Screening

Volunteers, under the supervision of an orthoptist, visit local preschools to screen three- to-five-year-old children. The team uses a variety of tests designed specifically for preschoolers to screen for simple refractive errors and eye muscle problems.

- ❑ Number of children screened over the last year: 971
- ❑ Average number seen per session: 31
- ❑ Number of children referred to physician for further examination: 68 or 7% of all children screened

### VISION In-School

Volunteers visit fourth-to-sixth-grade classrooms presenting a fun, interactive program that covers eye anatomy, eye

The JSEI Affiliates is a broad-based volunteer network created to support the faculty, staff and programs of Jules Stein Eye Institute. The Affiliates provide outreach to the Greater Los Angeles community through vision science education and patient services. For more information on joining the Affiliates contact Teresa Closson at 310.825.4148. For information on volunteer opportunities with our community outreach programs, contact Patti Thayer at 310.206-7128.

problems, and emphasizes eye safety/injury prevention in hopes of inspiring children to protect their precious gift of vision. In the United States, eye injuries are the leading cause of blindness in children.

- ❑ Number of presentations during past season: 24
- ❑ Number of participating children: 588
- ❑ Number of participating volunteers: 10

### Planet Hope

This Camp provides a 5-day summer camp experience for children from various homeless shelters (see inside story). On the Camp's Health Fair Day, a team of 11 JSEI volunteers including 2 ophthalmologists, provided eye screenings to 102 children over the course of the weekend. Of these, five needed a more detailed exam, which was provided by the volunteer ophthalmologists.

If you have an interest in volunteering for one of these worthwhile programs, please contact Patti Thayer at 310.206.7128.



Vision In-School Volunteer Dr. Jeffrey Zhang



