



San Fernando Valley Woodworkers since 1988

<http://sfvw.org/>

Monthly Meetings

Our meetings are *normally* held on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7 PM, at the Balboa Park Sports Complex, Gym Building, at 17015 Burbank Blvd, Encino.

Meeting Minutes

by Eitan Ginsburg

SFVW – Minutes November 17, 2022, meeting

Club president Stefan Dusedau opened the meeting. He welcomed three new attendees, who introduced themselves. Sandy Huse was a prop carpenter and now makes kinetic wood sculptures. Luke Wyatt started woodworking on a few projects for the inside and outside of the house. Emily Lichtman started woodworking a few years ago, doing some home renovation, art projects, and woodturning.

Committee Reports and Club Business:

Finance: Jeff Bremer was absent from the meeting.

Toy Committee: Jim Kelly said most of the toy builds are progressing well. We are on track to produce 1400-1500 toys this year, and there is no need for a build day at El Camino

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Our President says...

by Stefan Dusedau

After months of turning pens, I was looking for a change. One thing that has always been in the back of my mind to try was to build a stringed instrument. A while back,

I had looked at several options to do this and never actually went ahead. This time I thought it would be great to build a Mandolin or some other small instrument.

One of the places I had looked at was MusicMakers.Com, and as it turned out, while I was contemplating what to do, they sent an email about a sale they were having. So, I looked at their site and decided to build a Strumbly, which is a relative of the Mandolin. There are a couple of options that they offer: a complete instrument, a kit that is pre-cut, and a set of plans for the instrument. Given that I hadn't made a stringed instrument before, I decided to get the pre-cut kit. The kit arrived within a week, and I was excited to open it and see what I had gotten.

The first thing I did was read the instructions and check the contents of the kit. The instructions said

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December Presentation:

The Return of The Non-potluck Potluck!

December's presentation will be everyone's picnic spread. As you are aware, because of Covid, we chose again not to have our annual banquet indoors. Instead, as we did last year, we are getting together at Jack and Lorene Robbin's big backyard

Also, as this is Lorene's Birthday, there will be cake for all. Otherwise, this will be a BYOE (Bring Your Own Everything). We have enough seating and tables for about 40, with several options for more seats and tables.

IMPORTANT: Please RSVP so we know how many are coming. If you plan on bringing your spouse (and please do), include them in your count. Just email who's coming to gscopyne@icloud.com

Our annual BYOE will be on Dec 10th at 12:30 at 20738 Bryant Street, Winnetka, 91309. Hope to see you there!

VACCINATIONS REQUIRED

Dues are now Due!

Dues are \$35 per year (\$15 for students) and if you're not currently a member, if you pay now, you're good through next year. Our esteemed Treasurer, Jeff Bremer, can take your dues via check, cash or Venmo.

If you plan on attending the Non-potluck Potluck, and wish to pay by cash or check, Jeff, can take your money during our get-together.

If you need to contact Jeff for any questions, his email and phone number or on the next page in the Club Officers.

Who We Are

The club was formed in 1988 for the purpose of enhancing skills, providing information and sharing the joys of working with wood. The membership reflects a cross section of woodworking interests and skill levels - both hobbyist and professionals. Annual dues are \$35. Full-time student dues are \$15.

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High School. Ed Sheanin sent out a survey to the agencies that receive our toys, asking about the toys they like, those they don't, etc. More complete results will be presented at the next meeting.

Presentations: The annual December holiday gathering will be a BYO lunch hosted at Loreen and Jack Robbins' home on December 10, starting at 12:30 pm. January's presentation will be by classic woodworker and furniture maker Stu Crick, the specific topic to be determined.



The February program will be a walk-through of a guitar-making shop. March will be on dust collection by Marc Collins.



There was a discussion about holding in-person meetings at the Rockler store in Pasadena. The consensus was to

try a meeting there in April and evaluate. They can set up live streaming from their shop so those who cannot attend in person can still participate. Members will coordinate carpools and a possible pre-meeting dinner.

Board elections: a formal pro-



Club Officers

President:	Stefan Dusedau
Program Chair:	Glen Dresser
Secretary:	Eitan Ginsburg
Treasurer:	Jeff Bremer.
Photographer	Calvin Sov
Publisher:	Gary Coyne
Librarian:	Grant Christensen
Web Master:	Ed Sheanin
Toy Chair:	Jim Kelly
Toy Distribution:	Sheila Rosenthal
Refreshments:	Open

cess wasn't prepared, but there was consensus to have the current officers continue in their positions for another year (President - Stefan Dusedau, Treasurer - Jeff Bremer, Secretary - Eitan Ginsburg). They were elected. Jim Baldrige was nominated and elected for Vice-President.

Ginger Gibson asked about opening up the club's Facebook group to non-members, making it non-private. After some discussion, it was agreed to do so and monitor non-members' behavior on the page. Ginger will work with the board members on developing rules for the page.

Announcements, Questions:

Lavon Goganian asked about replacing a drawer slide bracket on a face-frame kitchen cabi-



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Upcoming Wood-related Events & Important News

from Jim Kelly

The following items of potential interest were found in the November – December 2022 issue of Woodworker West.

Woodworker West is a great source of events, sources, and items of interest for woodworkers of all types and abilities focusing on places in the Western US. For more information go to <http://www.woodwest.com>.

Events

Now through January 9: The Norton Simon Museum in Pasadena presents Modernism in Miniature. The exhibit explores the use of small works of art from wooden toys and boxes to prints. More information at: <https://tinyurl.com/5b3zy2yy>

Now through February 5: The exhibit Scandinavian Design and the United States is at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. More information at: <https://tinyurl.com/j2hay66j>.

November 19: The San Diego Woodturners will have a hybrid demo by Stuart Batty. More information at: Calendar | San Diego Woodturners (sdwt.org).

November 19: Tool Swap Meet at Anderson Plywood. More information at: Old Tool Swap Meet | Anderson

Plywood. More info: <https://tinyurl.com/mr3rmv8y>

November 19 – October 3: The Maloof Historic Residence presents Larry White: Equilibrium, showing the work of Sam Maloof's long time assistant. More information at: Tours | Sam and Alfreda Maloof Foundation <https://www.malooffoundation.org>

December 1 – 31: The online gallery, Wood Symphony, presents Art of Giving, entry deadline November 15. More information at: www.woodsymphony.com.

January 11 : The Diablo Woodworkers will have virtual presentations by Greg Zall. More information at: <https://tinyurl.com/48ps64rs>.

January 13 – February 24: The Escondido Arts Partnership Gallery hosts the 13th annual Wood: A Furniture Show. More information at: <https://tinyurl.com/4c8trtcd>

April 13 – 15: The National Association of Music Merchants holds its 2023 NAMM Show at the Anaheim Convention Center. More information at: <https://tinyurl.com/yca3y6fa>

June 7 – July 4, 2023: The San Diego County Fair hosts the 40th annual Design in Wood exhibition. More information at: <https://tinyurl.com/4fwj58xh>

July 25 – 28, 2023: the Association of Woodworking and Furnishings Suppliers will host their AWFS Fair at the Las Vegas Convention Center. More information at: www.awfsfair.org.

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net. Suggestions included using a wooden spacer or rubber washer and attaching the slide to the cabinet side with a flat-head screw.

Levon also asked about recommendations for paint sprayers, either to use with an air compressor or self-contained ones. Gary Coyne suggested using an HVLP sprayer to minimize overspray and backsplash. Other members said electric sprayers, such as those made by Wagner, are OK for paint, especially if you thin the paint before spraying. Sherman-Williams carries paint designed for HVLP sprayers. Floetrol is a good thinner for paint.

Ginger said she is considering framing around her fireplace with 2 x 4s and creating a new surround and mantle rather than tearing out the existing stone façade. She asked if this would be fire safe. Jim Baldridge, a retired fireman, said it is safe. Several other members said they had done similar projects on their own fireplaces. Ron Sabatino showed the before and after results of his approach to this, which was excellent.

Luke Wyatt asked for suggestions about the lightweight shop-vac hose, as the Rockler hose (that can attach to a variety of connection sizes) is fairly heavy. Ed Sheanin suggested using a vacuum cleaner hose. Gary Coyne said he

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that there should be 3 strings included, and I only found 2, and the numbers that were supposed to be stamped on the neck to assist in playing were not there. I called the company, and they were very helpful and sent the missing string as well as another complete set. As far as the stamps on the neck were concerned, it turned out there was a whole run of necks missing the stamps. I asked how the numbers were supposed to be laid out and decided that the easiest thing to do was to use my own stamp set.

I have enjoyed working on this kit, and after building the Strumbly, I feel more confident about building a stringed instrument from a plan.

This was my first experience purchasing a kit. If you are looking to expand your woodworking knowledge and want to create something new, a kit may be the way to go.

Stay safe.

Happy woodworking,
Stefan



From the Web

📌 NEVER use this to make furniture
<https://tinyurl.com/5fsd7d79>

📌 Launder Your Sanding Belts
<https://tinyurl.com/55dj6v8j>

📌 Precision Drill Press Depth Gauge
<https://tinyurl.com/43wcn2f9>

📌 The strange reason you have to loosen a router bit TWICE!
<https://tinyurl.com/murj8m9r>

📌 How to cut EVERY ANGLE on your Miter Saw - Acute Angle Jig - Quick Tip
<https://tinyurl.com/3y2syxj4>

📌 Throw Out Your Thin-Rip Jig. Do THIS Instead.
<https://tinyurl.com/4kjtmbv>

📌 Woodturner Carves a Log Into a Vase From Start To Finish
<https://tinyurl.com/2p89uw69>

📌 Clever jig sharpens bandsaw blades in place
<https://tinyurl.com/evv3rum>

📌 You Probably Haven't Seen Clamps Stored Like THIS

<https://tinyurl.com/cpf9pffm>

📌 How To Make Drawers For Fine Furniture with Drawer Slips

<https://tinyurl.com/bp8y2b5p>

📌 A cheaper table saw that won't cut you! (And 8 other COOL tools!)

<https://tinyurl.com/mrpz4946>

📌 Making More Mallets (starting from the tree)

<https://tinyurl.com/3u4fz7uc>

📌 EASY Juice Grooves for ANY SHAPED Board / No CNC

<https://tinyurl.com/2m55dpjx>

📌 5 Quick Woodworking Tips You Won't Believe You're Not Doing Already

<https://tinyurl.com/y75ybmta>

📌 Miter Saw Dust Collection SOLVED!

<https://tinyurl.com/2p953hwp>

📌 Make Stronger Miters | The Ultimate Box Making Joint

<https://tinyurl.com/mp9svnuc>

My Continued Carvings

By Dave McClave



When one can see the Channel Islands off the coast of Oxnard, and now is a great time of year for it, three are quite prominent: from left to right, Anacapa, Santa Cruz, and Santa Rosa. From Boris Bernards, I got a handsome 48" redwood board, 5/4 x 6. I carved the three islands, and my friend Kathy supplied the fabric for the ocean. It fits nicely above the window in the apartment.

The Chumash tribe settled on the islands many, many moons ago and used boats which they called "tomols" to travel to and from the mainland. I had some nice scraps from the islands piece that I used for the mosaic. I didn't have enough, so as filler I used three plywood pieces. The chief and his rowers are etched in cedar scraps. As backing I used an old tabletop.

keeps a small block & tackle over his bench (for another purpose), but he says it works great for supporting the Rockler hose. Using it on his ROS is now a piece of cake.



Tips & Tricks:

Gary Coyne showed how to clean clogged sanding belts with burnt-in resin, in this case, from a wide-belt drum sander. He explained that soaking it for a few days in one of the environmentally safe blade cleaners will soften the gunk and make it easy to clean with a brass brush. You should only use this method with cloth-backed sandpaper, not paper-backed. To dry, roll it around any large diameter pipe such as large diameter PVC piping (say 3" – 5"). It may take several days to dry. Be sure to clamp the

ends, so they are sandwiched between two pieces of wood and dry flat, not curled. It is REALLY difficult to feed the curled ends into the ends of the drum sander.

Levon showed how he cut and saved the plastic packaging from a magnetic small-parts bowl and put it back inside the bowl to make lifting out parts easier.

Ron Sabatino said that he found good sources for 3D printed parts, in this case, for a vacuum hose patch to connect his DeWalt sander to his shop vac. You can go to Amazon/Tool Curve or Galactic Gadgets. Marc Collins said another source for 3D printing files is <https://tinyurl.com/25xnf57>

November Program: Member Show & Tell

Stefan Dusedau showed a folk instrument called a stromboli he made from a kit. It is a type of three-string mandolin. He is teaching himself to play it.

Gary Coyne showed toy buses, toy cars (shaped like frogs), and cars (with a flowing design made by Jim Cabernoch (who was not feeling well tonight)). The "frogs" had glued in google-eyes, and the rest had "ball" heads that



rotated around a dowel glued into the body. Gary and Greg Rogers helped Jim make the toys. Gary also showed work made by Mark Ashley, who could not attend tonight: a turned burl bowl and a doll-sized four-poster bed.

Jim Baldrige presented walking sticks he makes for retiring firefighter colleagues. He uses basswood for the helmet tops and walnut for the shafts, which include fire hose and nozzle sculpting.



Gary Hersch showed a 12-string guitar he made recently, which is a copy of a blues guitar played by the famous musician Lead Belly. The blues guitar has a thicker top (4mm vs. 2 mm) to hold up to greater string tension. It was made with spruce, mahogany, and ebony.

Marc Collins showed the "cheap and easy" router table he made to use with a trim router.



Ben Levinson showed a new front door that he finished and installed with a lockset, along with a backyard fence he put in. He also uses a simple router table and fence. He showed the router jig he used for making the hinge mortises for all the interior doors he replaced.

Bouncing Tigger — my part in getting a toy to the market

By Armen Danielian

Toys on shelves are very seldom accidental. In most cases, Wall Street investment firms work with big US corporations and retailers to develop products that fill the retailer's shelves. Bouncing Tigger was the result of such a business plan. In other words, there is no whim here; there is a business plan with a return-on-investment expectation behind each product.

This was a fabric product that looked like Tigger, the Disney character. A plastic inner core housed a mechanism and a small, printed circuit board with a very inexpensive integrated circuit (IC). All this was developed so that Tigger said something, bounced five times, said something else, and stopped. [Note: to see the toy before you read further, please check out this commercial from 1998 <https://tinyurl.com/2k53j5wk>]

Marketing wanted this product to be in a "Try-Me" package. (Products in "Try-Me" packages sell at a higher rate than products that don't have this feature.) They provide the retail buyer with a quick experience of how the product functions, which creates an emotional connection with it. This leads to a higher probability of making a sale.

I was the mechanical project engineer and project manager. This transpired while I was working for a Fortune 500 consumer product marketing company in the late 1990s. This was one of over 200 projects I engineered, developed, and managed during my tenure. I left this field in 2014.

In addition, there was a team that included marketing specialists, product designers, a CAD designer, and someone from the following engineering disciplines: costing, electronics, safety/reliability, textile, tooling, recording, packaging, and manufacturing. The services of accomplished model makers, machinists, recording technicians, and seamstresses were also involved.

My responsibility was to deliver a set of engineering drawings and a working model made to the engineering drawing specifications that met all the product requirements. This had to be done in 12 weeks. This model was built using mainly 3D modeled parts, some machined parts, and a few off-the-shelf purchased parts. The total time from initial ideation to the start of production was about 32 weeks. Besides the engineering time, these 32 weeks included time

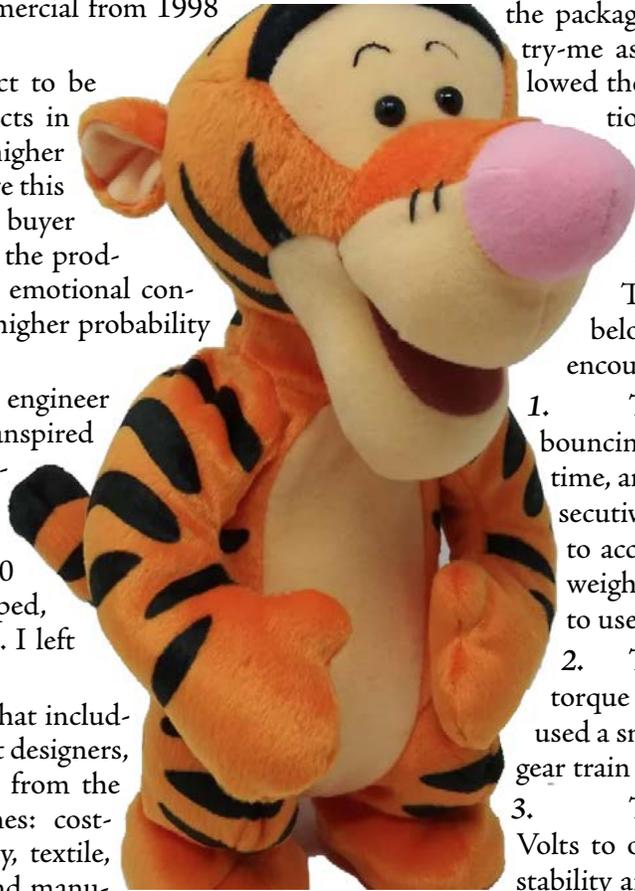
to refine the product concept, build the injection molding tools, and the time to prepare for the start of production.

When Tigger was pushed down by the user, the mechanism latched in the squat position and activated a switch that woke up the IC which started the following countdown. At this point, the IC played a voiced statement through the speaker, then started the motor, which released the latch with a cam. Then it made the product go through five bounce cycles (while keeping count) and finished with a closing voiced statement.

At the end of the play cycle detailed above, the IC went into a "deep sleep mode" with an extremely minimal current draw. I got a patent on the design of this mechanism, and the packaging engineer got a patent on the try-me aspect of the packaging, which allowed the consumer to try the jumping action while the product was fastened in the individual product package. (I have a total of 11 US patents and a couple of new potential ones brewing in the works.)

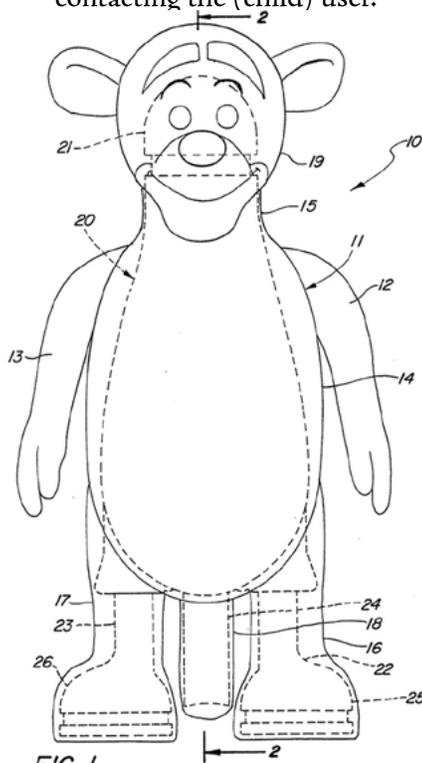
This product had many challenges; below are some of the major ones we encountered.

1. **The mechanism** had to release the bouncing energy in a very short period of time, and it had to do this five times consecutively. There were a variety of ways to accomplish this, but most were cost, weight, and/or size prohibitive. I chose to use an extension spring.
2. **The system** had to provide enough torque and power to extend the spring. I used a small efficient motor and designed a gear train to do this work.
3. **The motor** and IC required 4.5 Volts to operate. After considering weight, stability and performance, I settled on three AA batteries. The next larger size made the system unstable.
4. **The batteries** had to yield an acceptable number of play cycles. This was accomplished by minimizing the weight and friction in the system.
5. **The toy** had to be stable. We figured an acceptable failure rate would be one topple for every ten plays. So, a low center of gravity and a hard tail to prevent backward falling were utilized for this goal.
6. **The (fabric) skin** had to work with, but not against,



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the hopping mechanism so as not to create undue resistance. The fabric was attached at both feet and the neck. These were held with cable ties and were cut and then flame-treated to prevent sharp edges from contacting the (child) user.



As you would guess, it was manufactured in China. Despite the electronics in this toy, no cell phones deliveries were delayed by manufacturing them. Rather, they were made by manufacturers who specialize in these kinds of consumer products. I got to know many of the factories very well, as I had been in and out of China nearly 50 times and lived there for 3.5 years.

All plastic parts were injection molded, and when possible, parts of similar size and thickness were grouped in the same injection molding tool. Each tool had to produce enough parts to assemble 18 to 20 thousand toys per week. The total cost of tooling was about 160 thousand dollars.

An injection molding tool of this quality produces from 250,000 to 400,000 complete molding cycles. As the product's popularity increased, we made several additional sets of tools to increase the weekly production quantity to meet the higher demand.

Each toy cost \$12 at the factory door packed full in a shipping container. The cost of trucking to the port in China, then shipping to the LA harbor, and then trucking to the retailers or distribution centers in the US were paid for by the US corporation. The product was then sold to retailers (~wholesale price) for \$21/each. Retailers sold them for \$29.99 to \$39.99/each.

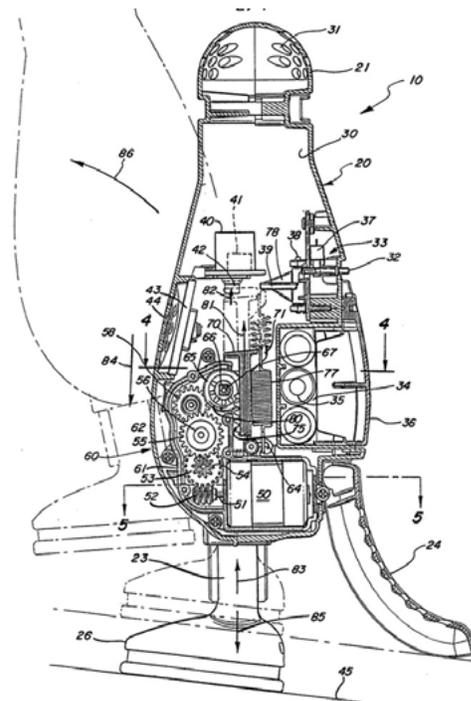
The original production quantity was 250,000 toys, but as the toy gained popularity, the sales quantity went up to 3 million pieces at \$21/each for a total gross revenue of \$63 million dollars. This quantity was sold over a three-year period.

This toy won two national awards. Disney was so pleased by its performance, a few of their executives took the whole development team to a five-star restaurant and gifted each

one of us with a small collectible porcelain Tigger figurine.

Developing a toy may look like fun to an outsider. Though it had many fun moments, it was serious work because of the challenges as it related to the price, functional performance, safety, quality, and time constraints.

There is a lot more to product development than mentioned in this very short article. I could write a thick book about it, but hopefully, this write-up conveys some of the major steps and issues involved.



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Sammy Azaren showed a marquetry pattern he recently finished.



Brian Oken showed a few projects he's completed in recent years, including turned bowls, cabinets, a fence topper, cutting boards, and a cabinet to display his turned pens.

Eitan Ginsburg showed a shadow box made from maple to display his wife's collection of enamel lapel pins.

Emily Lichtman showed turned bottle openers made from olive and rosewood, as well as a pen, turned from tortoiseshell acrylic.

Luke Wyatt showed a recording studio desk he made from poplar. He also showed a refinished chair, Adiron-

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dack chairs, and a wine rack.

Sandy Huse showed a few of her kinetic sculptures that incorporate wood and other materials, a crack mechanism, and pyrography (decorative wood burning).



Ron Sabatino showed a recent home bar installation he made from oak. The challenge was to design this whole thing to fit over an extension from the wall into the room. As the photos showed, the final project gave no hint of what was hidden inside.



The First Set of Gifts

by Sheila Rosenthal

Here are 36 dolls in cradles, along with the quilts. They are going to be delivered to Alexandria House. The Granada Hills Women's Club has made their own dolls to go into the cradles. They have been delivering our cradles to the Alexandria House for over 10 years.

This year, we are also very pleased to provide Alexandria House with our other toys directly from us.

Alexandria House, located in downtown Los Angeles, has been providing housing and support to women and children since 1996. They work with the immediate community around them as well, providing food and toys during the holiday season.

I am very proud of our organization for supporting this group. They are doing tremendous work for many people who have challenges many of us have never faced.

