



# MESSAGE (from the Chair

One of the most important lessons that I learned through my ALF experience is that leadership is action. The Cambridge Dictionary states that an action is "the process of doing something, especially when dealing with a problem or difficulty." What this says to me is that we can only make progress by taking action and through these actions we can change results.

ALF is definitely where the action is! Throughout 2019 the American Leadership Forum worked tirelessly to create opportunities and provide venues for our 1,400 Fellows and Senior Fellows to explore critical issues and uncover opportunities to affect change across our region. Our Second

Friday Breakfast dialogues created connections and asked powerful questions fostering innovative partnerships and approaches to issues. Our Senior Fellows Retreat focused on the importance of self-knowledge in the practice of servant leadership essential to inspire others to action. I am also very proud of the Political Perspectives Study Circles we offered that created a space for Senior Fellows to practice holding productive, respectful and curious conversations across ideological differences. These actions reverberate across our entire community as ALF members use these skills and demonstrate these leadership practices in their organizations and communities.

I am immensely proud of ALF's service to the community over the past year. I would like to personally thank each ALF Fellow, Senior Fellow, board member, committee member, volunteer and generous donor as well as our talented staff team and Program Consultants for turning your leadership into action in 2019. Your support of ALF's mission of joining and strengthening diverse leaders to serve the common good demonstrates a deep commitment to go beyond the theory of leadership to the active practice of leadership.

RANDY SIM (Class XXX)

Board Chair, American Leadership Forum

President, Satsun Corporation

# MESSAGE



# President

Maya Angelou wisely observed, "Nothing will work unless you do." For nearly four decades, the American Leadership Forum (ALF) has been working to enhance the civic leadership capacity of the Houston/Gulf Coast region by empowering Senior Fellows to take coordinated action.

Throughout the past year our communities have been enriched by the action that Senior Fellows have individually and collectively taken to address some of our most pressing issues. In 2019, three new cadres of leaders completed their ALF classes equipped with tools, resources and relationships to enhance their service to our region. Our signature Fellows Program guided them through a curriculum that not only allows for the exploration of differences with respect, openness and curiosity, but that also facilitates the possibility for co-creation of new ideas and innovative ways to address challenges together.



ALF provided Senior Fellows the opportunity to engage in dialogue around a number of important topics throughout the year including: managing the healthcare of aging family members, gender equity in the workplace, maternal birth mortality, densification in Houston, how we select judges, and more. ALF Senior Fellows who participated in these dialogues were inspired to action and shared examples of their commitments to:

- "Continue the dialogue with a panel of companies that has successfully created ways to support women in leadership."
- "Network with March of Dimes on this important issue to seek collaboration opportunities."
- "Connect those who are doing the same work, but not in coordination with each other."
- "Continue advocating for sensible walkable development and conservation of older inner city areas."

I am very proud to share this Annual Report with you highlighting some of our incredibly important actions and accomplishments in 2019. I join Randy in thanking each of you for making these actions possible and invite you to continue affecting change and working to address community issues with us *throughout 2020*.

As William James reminds us, "Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does." This is our call to action.

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**DANIEL W. SNARE** (Medical Community Class 5) President, American Leadership Forum

Fellows trained: 142

In Classes XLIV, XLV, XLVI, XLVII, XLVIII and XLIX





**Hours of Curriculum** provided: 567 hours



Hours in Dialogue: 107 hours







# **Total Fundraising Dollars:**

\$422,982 Joseph Jaworski Leadership

Award Dinner - \$264,000 Alumni Giving - \$120,000

Grants - \$40,000



**Leaders Engaged in ALF Events:** 

1,428

# Senior Fellows Turning Their LEADERSHIP into ACTION

# Class XLIII Turned Their Leadership Into Action



Chris Greeley, Class XLIII, Professor of Pediatrics, Texas Children's Hospital & Baylor College of Medicine, and his classmates turned their class inquiry and dialogue into action for children with incarcerated parents. He explained, "With input from our ALF class conversations, Texas Children's produced the first ever needs assessment on children with incarcerated parents in Harris County. Now we know that 92,000 children in Harris County, or 7% of children in the county, have a parent spending at least one night in a Harris County jail. Immediately, this

unknown disease started to be notable and nameable. We now have data on this disease including the age and race of children affected and the zip codes in which they live. We're also working on scholarly peer review manuscripts, so others can learn from what we've found. In addition to the report that we authored, several legislative bills have been filed that relate to children of incarcerated parents."

All of these amazing outcomes were made possible in 2019 from the great work that began in 2018. Dr. Greeley added, "My classmates and I graduated from ALF in in May of 2018 and new questions that we developed for Harris County jail intake were included in their questionnaire in August of 2018. From that new data, we now have a better sense of this disease that no one had ever done any significant work on before. This is one of the things that I'm most proud of. Now we are able to shift our focus a bit more on how we can help these children. That to me is a really incredible place to be, compared to a year ago."

# And ALF is in Action in the Supreme Court

Brett Busby, Class XXXVIII, Justice, Supreme Court of Texas, explained,

As a career appellate specialist, this opportunity to serve on the Supreme Court of Texas is a dream come true for me. I am so humbled and delighted by the Governor's appointment, and I am honored to bring my ALF experiences with me to this position.

The Supreme Court of Texas is a nine-member body, always working together to reach decisions in each case. My ALF experiences with dialogue and collaboration will help me hear and understand each of my colleague's views on a case and engage them in productive discussion.



My ALF experience will help me be an effective leader on the Access to Justice Commission, Children's Commission, the Mental Health Commission and other policy issues. Using ALF practices and techniques, I can help ensure that we are building relationships with different stakeholders, incorporating a variety of views, and engaging in dialogue to identify the best way to address the issues."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> This report was partially funded by the Texas Medical Center Health Policy Institute.



Roger Adamson - CEO, The George Foundation

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Bakeyah Nelson - Executive Director, Air Alliance Houston

Robert Anthony Ochoa Jr., MD - Surgical Critical Care, General Surgery, Houston Methodist Surgical Associates

Shital M. Patel, MD - Assistant Professor, Baylor College of Medicine

Arun S. Rajan, MD - Assistant Vice President, Baylor Global Health, Baylor College of Medicine

Gwen Sims - Division Director, Nutrition & Chronic Disease Prevention, Harris County Public Health

Michael Tucker - Practice Leader, Health & Benefits, Willis Towers Watson

Jeanette Valdivieso, DO - Chief Operating Officer, Legacy Community Health

Allison N. Winnike, JD - President and CEO, The Immunization Partnership

Kelly Young - CEO, Career and Recovery Resources, Inc.

# DIALOGUES



# **➡** Second Friday Breakfasts and Dialogues

- Are Political Parties Tearing Us Apart? Is There a Better Way Forward?
- ▶ Prepare to Care--Managing the Healthcare of Aging Family Members
- ▶ What Might Houston Become with Gender Equity in the Workplace?
- What if Harris County and the State of Texas Did Not Lead the Nation in Maternal Birth Mortality?
- What is the Impact of Densification in Houston?
- ► Growing Up in Houston--How Are Our Children Doing?
- Personal Lessons Learned: Looking Back, Looking Ahead with Annise Parker
- ▶ An Update from the Texas Education Agency with A.J. Crabill
- **▶** 3-part series on Election Reform:
  - Money and Politics
  - Selection of Judges
  - Voting
- → Political Perspectives Study Circles

  NEW THIS YEAR
- **→ COPE Monthly Lunch Conversations**
- → Chez ALF dinners
  - ► Topics included:
    - The Role of Social Media has in Shaping Political Preferences
    - Embracing Effort as Opposed to Results
    - America: Who Are We in 2019?
- Reservations for Six events with geographic diversity and "Foodie" theme
- → Implicit Bias Training for Judges

  NEW THIS YEAR
- **→** Inaugural Class Reunion Week

2019



# FORUMS

# and

# Fellows Classes XLIV, XLV and Class XLVI - Healthcare graduated

- ► Class XLIV Fellows convened a community dialogue focusing on "The Untold Stories of Houston's DACA and Undocumented Communities."
- Class XLV Fellows engaged in a deep learning journey around the powerful question, "What is my individual and/or collective responsibility to solve political polarization?"
- ► Class XLVI engaged in a series of dialogues with leaders, experts and stakeholders in the area of human trafficking.
- → Classes XLVII, XLVIII, and XLIX were launched
- The 2019 Bank of America Leadership Symposium coordinated by Nonprofit Leadership Collaborative

featuring **Francesca Gino**, Professor of Business Administration at Harvard University, discussing her book *Rebel Talent* 

- Annual Meeting hosted by Amegy Bank
- → Class Experiences and Curriculum
  - Orientation Retreat—Camp Allen, Navasota, TX
  - Transformational Dialogue
  - Wilderness Experience—Florissant, Colorado
  - Experience as Other
  - Leading is Convening
  - ► Taking Stock Retreat
  - Engaging Across Idealogical Differences
  - ► Houston Area Survey with Stephen Klineberg, PhD
  - Commencement
  - Debrief Reunion

## Senior Fellows Retreat

### Continuing the Leader's Journey

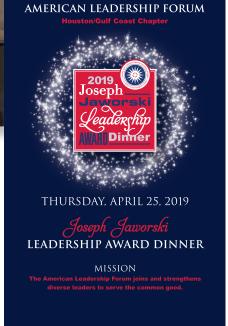
The overnight getaway provided Fellows and Senior Fellows opportunities to reflect on their personal leadership journey and to reconnect with ALF's core value of inner reflection and personal growth.





# Joseph Jaworski Leadership Award Dinner

Alan and Renee Helfman were presented with the Joseph Jaworski Leadership Award and Jonathan Brinsden and Brad Freels received the 2019 ALF Public Service Award on behalf of Midway on Thursday, April 25, 2019 at the Houstonian Hotel, Club & Spa. The event, attended by more than 400 people, raised \$264,000 to support the American Leadership Forum's mission of joining and strengthening diverse leaders to serve the common good.



## --- Alumni Giving Campaign---

Melanie Gray, Class XXVI, Retired - Partner, Winston & Strawn LLP, served as the Inaugural Chair for ALF's 2019 Alumni Giving Campaign. Under her leadership, the campaign raised \$120,000 to support ALF's mission. Melanie explained her motivation to support ALF and to take on this leadership role. She said, "I understand that not all current or future leaders of our community can afford the tuition to participate in ALF. Without the philanthropic support and investments of Senior Fellows who give back, ALF would only be an amazing opportunity for those who have a certain financial wherewithal. But that would truly be antithetical to ALF's mission of bringing together diverse leaders. Ultimately, I hope to support opportunities for ALL those with talent in the greater Houston area, to nurture and foster the leaders of tomorrow, regardless of their ability to pay to participate in ALF's program." That is leadership in action.



All contributions made to ALF in 2019 to support our mission of joining and strengthening diverse leaders to serve the common good are greatly appreciated. ALF would like to acknowledge donors who have made significant contributions in support of our programming and scholarships in 2019 through Grants, the Alumni Giving Campaign, Joseph Jaworski Leadership Award Dinner, and Endowed Scholarship Funds.

#### \$40,000+

**American Express** 

#### \$20,000+

Arturo Chavez / PAGE Melanie Gray & Mark Wawro Randy & Sue Sim

#### \$10,000+

H-F-B

Alan & Renee Helfman Midway Foundation Susan & Fayez Sarofim Leticia & Stephen Trauber

#### \$5,000+

ALLY

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#### \$1,000-\$2,499

Sofia Adrogué August Al-Uqdah

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Randy Velarde

Hoang Vu

Harriet Wasserstrum Robert Wimpelberg

Shaukat Zakaria

### \$500-\$999

Jagdip Ahluwalia

Armando's Mexican Restaurant

Paula Arnold

Baccarat River Oaks District

Minnette Boesel Leslie Bourne Chree Boydstun Jo Ann Burbridge Magali Candler Cherri Carbonara

Gina Carroll Les Cave

Donna Cole

Hiram Contreras Irma Diaz-Gonzalez Dee Dee Dochen Diane Englet Gayle Fallon Abdel Fustok Roland Garcia **George Greanias** Bonnie Hellums Ann Hollingsworth

Holocaust Museum Houston

Kimberly House Craig Jackson Laura Jaramillo John Johnson Suzette Jones Stephen Klineberg

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Jerry Nevlud Elexa Orrange-Allen **Sharon Owens** Kathleen Ownby Sue Page

Maxie Patterson

Michael Pearson **Umit Pecen** Susan Pennebaker

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Arun Rajan J. Howard Rambin

Ray Reiner

River Oaks Chamber Orchestra

Judson Robinson John Rolfe David Roschke Alan Rosen Steve Rosencranz

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# In-Kind Support

Amegy Bank - Host of the 2019 Annual Meeting and Reunion

Amegy Bank Officer Development Program - Volunteers at the Joseph Jaworski Leadership Award Dinner

CenterPoint Energy - Donor of in-kind printing services

The Council on Recovery - Host of numerous dialogues and class sessions

Sean Fitzpatrick, Class XXXIX, Executive Director, The Jung Center - Senior Fellows Retreat Facilitator

Houston Business Journal - Media Partner for the Joseph Jaworski Leadership Award Dinner

For 2019 ALF had revenues of \$899,636 and expenses of \$905,824. At year end ALF had investment assets of \$3.056 million of which \$1.854 million is in our Endowed Scholarship Fund. Investments 8% Grants 2019 Revenues 5% \$899,636 **Alumni Giving 12%** Tuition and Earned Income 49% 2019 Joseph Jaworski Leadership in **Award Dinner** 26% Administration 12% **Fundraising** 11% 2019 Expenses **Fellows Program** 55% \$905,824 **Senior Fellows Programming** 22%

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#### Mission Statement

The American Leadership Forum (ALF) is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to join and strengthen diverse leaders to serve the common good.

#### **ALF's Core Values:**

- Primacy of relationship
- Appreciation, exploration and inclusion of diversity
- ▶ Dialogue and collaboration
- Service to the common good
- Inner reflection and personal growth

Generously underwritten by



### **American Leadership Forum**

Houston/Gulf Coast Chapter

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