

**Meet Our Member Training Team: Sandy Silas and Janet Noah**

***By Kim Gold***

Sandy Silas and Janet Noah developed and lead the ChaiVillageLA’s New Member Training and Orientation program. They discuss the structure of the village and apprise new members of the many and myriad educational, social and community services the village offers. The workshops provide important training for new members volunteering their services, such as listening skills, boundaries, confidentiality and what to do in emergencies. A number of these workshops have already taken place with positive feedback from villagers.

Both Sandy and Janet are members of Temple Emanuel and founding members of ChaiVillageLA. Both were newly retired and the idea of being part of a multi-temple community, meeting new people, and taking advantage of the many opportunities the village offered appealed to them.

Sandy has worked as a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist for over forty years. She has been in private practice, working with individuals and couples. Sandy has also served as Clinical Director of the Maple Counseling Center in Beverly Hills. Also, Sandy has been instrumental in teaching Human Development to girls in grades 4-8 at Independent Schools throughout Los Angeles. Says Sandy, “I have worked with over a thousand girls over a thirty year period. I feel very passionate about teaching young women to understand and be comfortable with changes in their own bodies.”

Sandy’s interests include flower arrangement, theater, movies and dance. She is an avid reader.

Sandy feels blessed with her family: her husband Perry, her two adult daughters, son-in-law, AND two beautiful grandchildren, a boy, 5 and a girl 2. Finally says Sandy, “it’s the grandchildren who bring me the greatest joy.” Grandchildren are the best!

Janet calls herself a “proud Midwesterner” hailing from Detroit. She is most proud of her wonderful husband, Mark, whom she met at Cedars-Sinai and two “incredible children.”

Janet was working at Duke University when she left to work at Cedars-Sinai in Los Angeles, where she worked for 30 years in multiple roles including Manager of Geriatrics, Manager of Endocrinology, and Special Projects for Academic Affairs (Research and Education).

Janet is an avid reader and has volunteered with reading programs Koreh LA and Reading Partners at her neighborhood school. She initiated the partnership between ChaiVillageLA and Playworks, working with students at recess and is also passionate about her work with Neema Namadamu, a visionary peace activist, on empowering women in the Congo.

Both Sandy and Janet are delighted to be a part of our Village.