



Alive!



CULTURAL AFFAIRS

CURTAIN UP!

The performing arts in the City are alive again as the City relaunches its **Performing Arts Division**.

Read about the City's exciting plans
... and get to know its six theatres.

SEE
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24

Alive! photo by Summy Lam

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Los Angeles, CA 90012

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**0.25% APR loan discount valid 10/1/17-11/30/17. To qualify, members must purchase a new or used car through Autoland and finance it through WPCCU.

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A Message From the CEO

Great Arts for A Great City

by John Hawkins,
President and CEO, The Club

"There used to be a circus owned by the City," **Ben Johnson**, the City's new Director of Cultural Affairs' Performing Arts Division, told me. He mentioned this during our visit with him at the Barnsdall Gallery Theatre, one of the six that the City owns.

It takes an outsider – Johnson is from Minnesota, although he worked at UCLA before joining the City – to point out that Los Angeles once owned a circus.

Did you know that? I had no idea that the City owned six theatres, and still does. That's proof enough why Cultural Affairs' re-launch of its Performing Arts Initiative last year is such a good idea – to emphasize what we have in this City. How can we have a world-class City without world-class arts?



From left Deborah Hong and Lee Sweet of Cultural Affairs; Liz Schindler Johnson of Grand Vision; John Hawkins, Club CEO; and John Burnes, *Alive!* editor, in the mezzanine lobby of the Warner Grand Theatre.

I don't think it's a coincidence that we're featuring the Performing Arts Initiative in the same issue where we're continuing our small little series on those Club Members who received the awesome Club discount to *Hamilton* at the Pantages. No, *Hamilton* is not a City production, but the interest in performing arts is really intense now, and will only grow as the Olympics draws near. As Ben Johnson points out, artists from all over the world are flocking to LA now. We must take advantage. The arts are not cheap to produce and support, but we applaud Cultural Affairs and its General Manager, **Danielle Brazell**, for bringing performing arts back to life. Like the Club, the initiative celebrates the lives of City employees. Bravo!

Some random notes on this month's cover story:

- It was awesome to conduct both interviews on stages! If you've never set foot on a stage in an amazing theater, what are you waiting for?
- As far as the *Alive!* team can remember, this is the first time we've featured Cultural Affairs in our cover story. We've been widening our reach recently to get to more City departments.
- It's amazing that Ben Johnson went to school in Winona, Minn., where my great-great grandfather was from. We live in an amazingly small world, if only we ask enough to find out.

Moving on:

- Please read this year's installment of "Above and Beyond," the LAPD's annual event that honors its bravest. These stories never fail to make me grateful for the service the LAPD officers give to our City every day.
- It's a little sad – but also an important moment – to see that the last remaining Airport Safety Officers at Ontario International Airport have now left for good after 50 years of City ownership of that facility. Congratulations, gentlemen, and I'm glad to see the very good Airport Police welcome you in a professional and respectful way.
- Think about reserving your space to the upcoming Long-Term Care seminar this January, a first for the Club. Club Employees **Noelle Kauffman**, **Cheryl Martin** and **MaryAnn Urdiales** are ready to help you consider Long-Term Care. You really should think about having it; it's just smart. This seminar is another strong benefit of your Club Membership. Sign up!
- I send the Club's condolences to **Sarah Berman**, long-time Docent at the Zoo, on the death of her husband, world-famous comedian **Shelley Berman**, who died in September. Sarah was warm and welcoming to us a year ago when we chronicled the Zoo's 50th anniversary. You're in our thoughts, Sarah.
- We congratulate **Lennard Henkhaus**, who retired as Supervising Criminalist at the LAPD. Lennard was incredibly helpful to us as we chronicled the LAPD's crime lab in a series of cover stories over a few years. All the best, Lennard!

I mentioned gratitude a moment ago ... it's one of the keys to happiness. I am thankful for my friends, my family ... and all of you, Club Members.

Happy Thanksgiving, everyone.

JOHN

jhawkins@cityemployeesclub.com



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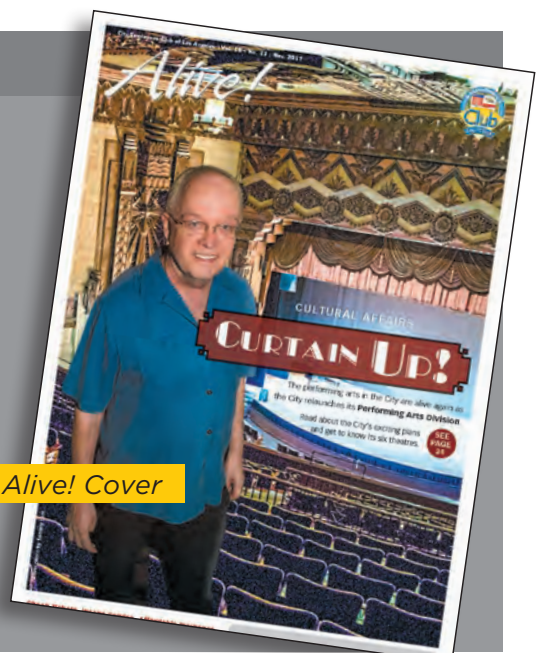
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Behind the Scenes



Club Director of Marketing Sammy Lam (left) photographs (from left) Club CEO John Hawkins; Liz Schindler Johnson of Grand Vision; and Lee Sweet and Deborah Hong of Cultural Affairs under the Warner Grand Theatre marquee.



Alive! Cover

IMPORTANT Telephone Numbers

The Club's Main Phone Number	(800) 464-0452
The Club's FAX Number	(213) 620-0398
City Bureau of Sanitation	(800) 773-2489
Bulky Item Pick-up & Recycling	(213) 978-1655
City Employees Benefit Office	(213) 978-7480
City Paymaster	(213) 978-1593
Commuter Services	(888) 457-9460
Deferred Compensation	(213) 580-1690
DWP Credit Union	or (800) 300-9728
DWP Employees Association	(213) 367-3146
DWP Health Plan & Medicare	(800) 831-4778
DWP Information	(213) 367-4211
DWP Intake Magazine	(213) 367-1361
DWP Paymaster	(213) 367-1106
DWP Personnel	(213) 367-1934
DWP Retirement Plan Office	(213) 367-1692
Engineers and Architects Association	(213) 620-6920
Fire and Police Pension System	(213) 978-4545
LACERS	(800) 779-8328
LA Federal Credit Union	(213) 485-5000
LA Firemen's Credit Union	(323) 254-1700
LA Fire Credit Union	or (800) 231-1626
LA Fire Department Museum	(323) 464-2727
LA Firemen's Relief Association	(213) 380-2900
LA Police Federal Credit Union	(800) 872-2843
LA Retired Fire and Police Association	(888) 288-5073
Local 721	(213) 482-6660
Local 3090	(213) 487-9887 ext. 340
Retired LA City Employees, Inc.	(800) 678-4145
Ticket Hotline	(888) 777-1744
Whistleblower/Complaint Program	(800) 824-4825
Worker Compensation	(213) 473-3400



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Alive!

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Rose Hyland
Office of the Controller, Retired

David Muraoka
LAPD, Retired

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Total claims paid to Club Members in the last 12 months:

\$4,785,040

Claims Paid

Your Club Insurance Dollars at Work:	Previous 12 Months
Life Insurance	\$1,894,773.31
Disability Insurance	\$1,633,640.01
Long-Term Care Insurance	\$866,176.97
Cancer and Critical Illness Insurance	\$390,450.00
Total claims paid to Club Members in the last 12 months:	\$4,785,040.29



Cecilia Talbot,
 Director of Claims,
 Member Advocate



Monica Zamudio,
 Claims Coordinator

You probably won't get to meet Cecilia Talbot and Monica Zamudio very often... until you really need them. That's when their service shines. So, to assure you that you are in good hands, from time to time *Alive!* will reprint letters commending the service given by Cecilia and her excellent staff. —Ed.



City Employees Club of Los Angeles

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- Identity Theft
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- Long-Term Care
- Legal Services
- Accident Insurance
- Cancer Insurance
- Auto Insurance
- Short-Term Disability

Club Members' Praise

The Club's claims service was "very good from start to finish. I was kept informed as to the insurance process. The Club provided necessary documentation, and payment was received. It was good."

– Dale Rogers, April 2017

"Every person I came in contact with was always polite and very helpful. One thing I appreciated was, before we discussed the reason for my call, they offered their condolences. It meant a lot to me. I loved the story [The Fall of Freddie the Leaf] about life and death. I will definitely share it with my granddaughter. I thank you."

– Carol Cohen, March 2017

The Club's claims service was "very good. The claim experience was effortless – I was paid right away. Thank you."

– Mildred Sims, March 2017

Meet the Club Team

These are the faces behind the Club. Our staff is dedicated to helping our members receive the maximum benefit from their membership. If you have questions, concerns or suggestions about your Club, our counselors are ready to help.

Email us at: info@cityemployeesclub.com

if you have an event you want covered in the *Alive!* or if you have questions about insurance. Or call us at: (800) 464-0452

Member Experience Team

 Noelle Kauffman Manager of Member Services Ext. 105	 Angel Gomez Mobile Man, Uniforms Guy agomez@cityemployeesclub.com	 Noah Badgett Club Mobile Team	 Noah Hawkins Club Mobile Team	 Gedina Bergstrom Member Services Counselor Ext. 107	 Dalila Vielma Member Services Counselor Ext. 137
 Jeanette Gadut Member Services Counselor Ext. 110	 Sophia Hawkins Member Services Intern Ext. 104	 Raul Miranda Salsodo Customer Service Representative	 Heidi Arnest Member Services Counselor	 Randy Budihas Member Services Counselor	 Josh Centers Member Service Counselor
 Steven Lambert Member Services Counselor	 Rick Lawrence Member Service Counselor	 JoAnn Ridens Policy Processing Manager	 Sheldon Sklar Member Services Counselor	 Mia Sulak Member Services Counselor	 Megan Smith Member Services Counselor
 Scott Sulak Member Services Counselor	 Charlotte Swanberg Member Services Counselor	 Kati Yniguez Member Services Counselor	 MaryAnn Urdiales Member Services Counselor Ext. 159	 Cheryl Martin Member Services Counselor Ext. 136	 Tiffany Sy Member Services Counselor Ext. 202

In-house Counselors

 Cheryl Martin Member Services Counselor Ext. 136
 Tiffany Sy Member Services Counselor Ext. 202
 MaryAnn Urdiales Member Services Counselor Ext. 159

Tickets and Retail Operations/Club Store

 Mariana Guevara Director of Tickets and Retail Operations	 Megan DeBolt Manager of Tickets and Retail Operations	 Guadalupe Lira Club Store Manager	 Mia Victoria Garcia Customer Service Associate	 Karina Lopez Customer Service Associate	 Dylan Noel Customer Service Associate	 Cristina Ramos Customer Service Associate
--	--	--	---	--	--	--

Marketing & Advertising

 Summy Lam Director of Marketing
--

Team Leaders

 John Hawkins President & CEO	 Brian Trent Chief Financial Officer	 Robert Larios Chief Operating Officer, "Discount King", "Sports Dude", and "Chef Larios"	 Arlene Herrero Director of Product Development
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Accounting

 Leigh Thompson Controller	 Trinh Pham Senior Accountant	 Clara Flores Accountant	 Yaress Raymundo Accounting Assistant
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Database Management / IT Team

 Hava Berman Director of Database Management	 Citlali G. Bon IT Coordinator	 Alan Bound Business Analyst	 Ronald Cortez Data Processing Coordinator	 Petros Khachatryan IT Developer	 John Monahan IT Developer	 Rebecca Platero Data Processing Coordinator	 Prathima Vaisya IT Developer
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Claims

 Cecilia Talbot Director of Claims, Member Advocate	 Monica Zamudio Claims Administrator
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City Employees:
Let's Talk

Clear advice from the Club's insurance experts.



Long-Term Care
Insurance

Long-Term Care Insurance protects your hard-earned retirement savings and assets from a long-term illness, injury, or difficulties due to aging.



Cheryl Martin
Club Counselor
cmartin@cityemployeesclub.com
Ext. 136



MaryAnn Urdiales
Club Counselor
murdiales@cityemployeesclub.com
Ext. 159



Tiffany Sy
Club Counselor
tsy@cityemployeesclub.com
Ext. 202

Contact the Club's Life Insurance experts for an application.
Phone appointments and walk-ins available.

(800) 464-0452

Don't forget these BENEFITS
(they're really important, too):

- Club Life Insurance
- Club Long-Term Disability Insurance
- Club Critical Illness Insurance



LACEA Insurance Services, Inc. ('City Employees Club of Los Angeles') is a licensed insurance agency offering insurance benefits to qualified Club members. The Club's CA DOI Lic. is #0B98000.

GET IT TODAY. Here's why:

- The average cost of care in a nursing home room tops \$80,000 a year, according to Genworth's 2016 Cost of Care Survey
- Only a small number of people who need long-term care services live in nursing homes; most live at home*
- Women are more likely to need long-term care services than men. One reason may be their longer life expectancy; at age 90 and over, women outnumber men by nearly three to one*
- Women develop chronic diseases, such as arthritis and osteoporosis, more often than men*

Did you know?

- Medical insurance and Medicare pay for specific care for an acute condition – not for long-term help with daily living
- In most cases, Medicaid would pay for long-term care only after assets were depleted to welfare levels.

- The plan pays a monthly benefit directly to you, as opposed to most other programs that pay out on a reimbursement schedule
- Multiple plans are available that include Long-Term Care Facility, Professional Home Care, Total Home Care, and simple inflation protection
- Coverage includes four-year nursing facility/eight years in home. Also, 10-year nursing facility/20 year in home
- Monthly benefit coverages are available from \$1,000 to \$5,000
- It's portable: If you leave the City for any reason, the coverage goes with you

With the Club's Long-Term Care Insurance:

- It's available to you, your spouse/ domestic partner, parents and grandparents
- Group rates are locked in at the age you apply

* A Consumer's Guide to Long-Term Care (California Department of Aging)

This month at the Club Store

120 West 2nd Street • Los Angeles, CA 90012

Get a FREE Quote on Auto and Homeowners Insurance

The United Agencies reps are appearing at the Club Store on select Thursdays:



Patty Pulido
Personal Insurance Agent
Nov. 9 & 30:
8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.



Rosa Calderon
Personal Insurance Agent
Nov. 16:
8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Get a FREE \$50 fuel card
when you sign up for a United Agencies policy!



Note: The Club Store will be closed Thursday and Friday, Nov. 23 and 24, in observance of Thanksgiving, and Friday, Nov. 10 for Veterans Day.

THIS MONTH AT THE

Griffith Observatory

Sunset Walk

Wed., Nov. 21
4:35 - 5:35 p.m.

The Observatory offers a sunset walk led by a Park Ranger and a museum guide. The easy walk starts on the Observatory's West Terrace, proceeds up the Charlie Turner trail to the Berlin Forest on the hill just north of the Observatory, and then returns to the West Terrace. The distance covered is about half a mile over the course of an hour at a very moderate pace with stops along the way to discuss the highlights and history of Griffith Park, and objects visible in the evening sky.

NOTE: The Charlie Turner trail is a moderately steep earthen trail. The Observatory recommends footwear appropriate for hiking.

FREE!

Information:
griffithobservatory.org

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Larios In the City

BY ROBERT LARIOS, Chief Operating Officer
rlarios@cityemployeesclub.com
TWITTER: @robertlarioscoo



Robert Larios, the Club's Chief Operating Officer, honors Club member with the coveted Club Retirement Plaque.

Congratulations!

Rosendo Orozco,
Retired from the DWP with 37 years of City service.



Constance E. Moore,
Retired from Airports with 33 years of City service.



Gilbert Cisneros,
Retired from the DWP with 22 years of City service.



Derek W. Jackson,
Retired from the LAPD with 25 years of City service.



THE CLUB

They Went to HAMILTON! Thanks to the Club!

In early August, the Club announced a great deal on tickets to Hamilton, the super-cool new musical at the Pantages. It's the hottest ticket in town, with tickets on the secondary market going for many hundreds of dollars each, if you can find them.

The Club secured some tickets and made them available to Club Members at an incredible price – but because of the very limited number available, the Club created an essay contest.

The response was overwhelming.

Here, we print another reaction of a winner of Club Hamilton tickets. Congratulations to the winners!



"I just wanted to say thanks! My daughter L-O-V-E-D it. Despite having very high expectations for Hamilton based on all the acclaim the musical has received, I was blown away by the multiple and interweaving storylines, the development and complexity of the characters, the

level of production, and, of course, the wonderful lyrics and music. It was an experience we will remember the rest of our lives! Thanks again."

**– Harold Fujita,
Rec and Parks,
with his daughter,
Cayla**



Letters to the Editor

Tell us what you think! talkback@cityemployeesclub.com

Here's the Story: Library Shipping Dept. Is Beloved

I just wanted to reach out and let you all know how much we love the current issue of *Alive!* As you know, we're so proud of our shipping team, and to have them celebrated and recognized in this wonderful way is so appreciated! Thank you so much! The piece is just fantastic!

— John F. Szabo, City Librarian



That Library story was one of the best I have ever read! You guys did an amazing job in helping us understand what the Library Dept. does for the public. It is such a finely tuned machine. That's a lot of work they do and mostly behind the scenes. Now, every time my daughter Lucy checks out a book, she asks what library the book was brought from. Based on that, I know she was listening to me when I read it to her. I am very appreciative as a City employee that the employees that make it all happen were given recognition by the *Alive!*

— Jim Gordon, DWP

'Picture Perfect' Winner Sends Prize To Family, Extending Club Benefit

I just wanted to let you know that I used the gift card [as "Picture Perfect" prize winner] to purchase two brace support gloves for my sister in México.

The value of being a Club Member transcended borders and touched my family in an unexpected, useful and healing way.

Thank you!

— Luis Aguilar, LAPD/Property Division



Jenna Kicks Off the Season Right With Club Halloween Specials

Halloween spells the start of the holiday season, and the Club helps make it affordable to hit all the Halloween and haunted venues. I took my kids to Knott's Scary Farm, Universal Horror Nights and Magic Mountain Fright Fest and saved big. It's funny that any time I buy tickets, my kids say, "Yay, you got them at the Club!" Have a great holiday season everyone!

— Jenna McMahon, General Services

Getting Club Polos to the Valley Is No Problem With Mobile Team

We work out here in the Valley area and we weren't sure how we could get an order for polo shirts for our department at Rec and Parks. All I did was send an email to uniforms@cityemployeesclub.com and within minutes, Angel Gomez of the Mobile Team sent me an email and said he would take my order and have it ready in just a few days.

Once I got them, I have to say that I was very impressed with the quality and customization. It's all done by hand at the Club as Angel told me. Needless to say, we are so very happy and wear them at work whenever we can.

— Kenny Polanka, Rec and Parks

Moving More Centrally, Club Softball Season Is Ready to Roll

I am so very excited for the next Club softball season! I saw the latest posts on Facebook and Instagram and decided it was my time to play. It is also closer to me since I work near LAX. I have always wanted to play but felt it was too far for me with the games played around Downtown LA. I hear this league is fun and filled with cool employees from the City of LA, DWP, LAUSD, County and State! Thank you for the opportunity.

— Nanette Jordan, Airports

Well, Now We Know Why You Call Him 'Pepper'

When we saw one-year-old "Pepper" at the Humane Society in Pomona in March, it was love at the first bite. Pepper just gripped our fingers with his teeth and would not let us go. We paid the adoption fee and took Pepper home from the pound the same day.

Pepper is a very smart little boy. When he is told something that he can "smell" trouble, he would close one of his ears.

Pepper's favorite food is (bell) peppers.

— Thuthuy Nguyen, DWP



Hi Thuthuy, thanks for sending in the photo of Pepper! We know you sent it in for our column "My Pet and Me." Although we haven't run that column in many years, we're happy to publish it here. Hello to Pepper! — Ed.

Mural on Side of Club Store Is About History, Draws Tourists

I want to make it known how much I love that new mural on the wall at the alley by the Club Store. That is beautiful! It's the El Pueblo de Nuestra Señora de Los Angeles de Porciuncula — "The Town of Our Lady of the Angels of Porciuncula," the City's original name. This is going to be a new tourist destination — no doubt in my mind. I bet it is going to be hard to get in the store with all the car and foot traffic as soon as the word gets out to the masses. I love it nonetheless!

— Linda Gomez, LAPD

Rest Insured

BY JEFF GELINEAU
Retired Vice President of United Agencies,
The Club's Auto and Home Insurance Partner



The Dilemma In Renting a Car

One of the most common questions I get asked is: "Should I buy the insurance from the rental car company when I rent a car?"

The Insurance Information Institute agrees that properly insuring a rental car can be confusing, frustrating and downright daunting. Unfortunately, many consumers do not even think about car rental insurance until they get to the counter, which can result in costly mistakes — either wasting money by purchasing unnecessary coverage or having dangerous gaps in coverage.

Before renting a car, they suggest that you make two phone calls — one to your insurance agent or company representative and another to the credit card company you will be using to pay for the rental car.

When calling your insurance agent:

Find out how much coverage you have on your own car. In most cases, whatever coverage and deductibles you have on your own car would apply when you rent a car, providing you are using the car for recreation and not for business.

If you have dropped either comprehensive or collision on your own car as a way to reduce costs, you will not be covered if your rental car is stolen or damaged in an accident.

Check to see whether your insurance company pays for administrative fees, loss of use or towing charges. Some companies may provide an insurance rider to cover some of these costs, which would make it less expensive than purchasing coverage through the rental car company. Keep in mind, however, that in most states, diminished value is not covered by insurers.

When calling your credit card company:

Insurance benefits offered by credit card companies differ by both the company and/or the bank that issues the card, as well as by the level of credit card used. For instance, a platinum card may offer more insurance coverage than a gold card.

Credit cards usually cover only damage to or loss of the rented vehicle, not for other cars, personal belongings or the property of others. There may be no personal liability coverage for bodily injury or death claims. Some credit card companies will provide coverage for towing, but many may not provide for diminished value or administrative fees. Some credit card companies have changed their policies, too, so you may not have as much coverage as you thought.

To know exactly what type of insurance you have, call the toll-free number

on the back of the card you will be using to rent the car. If you are depending on a credit card for insurance protection, ask the credit card company or bank to send you their coverage information in writing. In most cases, credit card benefits are secondary to either your personal insurance protection or the insurance offered by the rental car company.

If you have more than one credit card, consider calling each one to see which offers the best insurance protection.

Other things to consider:

States have minimum age requirements for renting a car, and most major rental car companies refuse to rent a car to someone who is under 21 and in some cases under 25. In addition, some rental car companies now investigate your driving record and/or credit history, so check with the rental car company before picking up the car.

If you are planning to rent a car outside of the United States, contact both your insurance agent and travel agent to find out what you need to do to be properly insured. Those driving a rental car from the United States into Mexico may find it progressively more difficult to rent a car, as U.S. rental car companies are increasingly concerned about the rising crime rates in that country. The minimum required insurance coverage to drive in Mexico is civil liability insurance, which covers you in case you cause injury or damage. Your American liability insurance is not valid in Mexico for bodily injury, though some American insurance policies will cover you for physical damage — check with your agent or insurance company representative. You can also buy Mexican car insurance in several American border towns; there are generally several storefronts selling Mexican car insurance near the border.

About United Agencies

United Agencies is the Club's Partner in helping members with their home and car insurance, and related products. Feel free to call us with any questions about rental cars, auto insurance, or any other topic. We specialize in creating personal relationships with our customers, and

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Check out the City Employees Club page on the United Agencies Website: www.ua-insurance.com/city-club

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For all the holiday details, go to www.cityemployeesclub.com

CLUB SPORTS

News from Sports Leagues sponsored by the City Employees Club of Los Angeles • Oct. 2017



Softball Season Starts!

New season began Oct. 26, runs through Jan. 25.



Welcome to the 2017 season of Club softball! Games have started, and will run through Jan. 25, with time off for the holidays.

New Season, New Location

The Club has chosen a more central location for this year's Club Softball League:

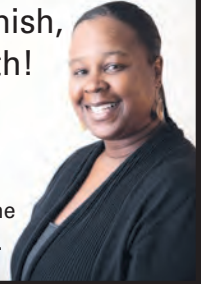
**Ed Vincent Park in Inglewood,
700 Warren Lane, diamonds 1 and 2**

Cheer on your fellow department-mates as the season rolls into great, fun competition! We'll have more information and photos next month.

RETURNING FOR 2017:

The Commish,
Lady Smith!

Read Lady's comments each month in *Alive!* during the softball season.



Share Your Photos!

Hey Club Softball League players and fans, we know you take photos at the games. Share them on social media!



HERE'S HOW:

Take your photos. When you post to Facebook, Twitter or Instagram, add any of the following hashtags:



#clubsports

#clubsoftball

#cityemployeesclub

That's it! Enjoy the games!

Hoops, Bowling, Softball: Club Sports on the Horizon

The Club Sports Office welcomes all individual players to inquire about the Club's sports leagues. Currently, the Club is coordinating efforts for basketball, bowling and softball. Please contact rlarios@cityemployeesclub.com or call the Club at (800) 464-0452 to be placed as a free agent and for more information.

Visit the Club's Facebook, Instagram and Twitter accounts for highlights, updates and other Club Sports news.

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Councilmember David E. Ryu officially launched the Give to LA annual charitable campaign at the Council meeting on Sept. 6.

CITYWIDE

Give to LA

City's annual unified fundraiser helps a number of causes.
Deadline: Nov. 17.

For more than 20 years, the City's annual charitable campaign has pooled the efforts of many of the most respected and successful fundraising organizations into a single fundraising endeavor. The participating charitable organizations are Asian Pacific Community Fund, Brotherhood Crusade, Community Health Charities, City of Hope, EarthShare California, Los Angeles Foundation on Aging, The Los Angeles Trust for Children's Health, United Latinx Fund, UNCF, United Way of Greater Los Angeles, and Variety.

The campaign runs through Nov. 17. The main goal of this effort is to improve the quality of life for all Angelenos by addressing challenges including aging, education, environment, disability, health and homelessness. City employees are offered the opportunity to contribute, and the Give to LA

campaign provides a convenient and efficient opportunity for City employees to give to the charity of their choice.

Mayor Eric Garcetti says, "The monumental challenge of creating a better tomorrow is a team effort. And with every City department partnering with the philanthropic community, we can maximize the impact of our collective good..

People can donate by payroll deduction, cash or check. Check with your workplace ambassador or go to www.givetola.org. On the Website, City employees can learn more about the participating charities and their track record of bettering the lives of Angelenos.

GIVE TO LA

COMBINED CHARITABLE CAMPAIGN

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 Caring Souls and Growing a Strong Community

the **MIRACLE**
 of **SCIENCE**
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COMMUNITY HEALTH CHARITIES

EarthShare
 California

LA FA Los Angeles Foundation On Aging

UNITED LATINX FUND

UNCF
 A mind is a terrible thing to waste

United Way

The L.A. Trust
 STUDENT HEALTH • STUDENT SUCCESS

variety
 the children's charity

Examples of what your donation supports per pay period
 \$2 can pay for home energy conservation materials for three low-income families.
 \$5 provides five students with a new toothbrush and an oral health-coloring book.
 \$7 pays for a home-delivered hot meal delivered to a frail senior.
 \$10 funds research and helps to pioneer robotic surgery.
 \$20 will help provide a grocery gift card for a family in crisis.
 \$30 helps provide essential student aid to cover college expenses.
 \$50 shelters a homeless mother and child for a night.
 \$100 can buy a wig for cancer patients dealing with physical side effects of radiation therapy.

OCTOBER 2 - NOVEMBER 17, 2017
 For more information visit www.GivetoLA.org



Alive! AROUND THE WORLD



Croatia



Ashley Vidovic, Airports, recently traveled to Plitvice Lakes National Park in Croatia.

European Cruise



"On a cruise with friends reading *Alive!*"

Leonor Garcia, DWP, and her boyfriend, Mike Safaie, recently took a trip and cruise that included the Greek Isles, Croatia, the Netherlands, Iceland and Paris.



Iceland.



Leonor and Mike in Amsterdam's Red Light District.



Leonor and Mike in Croatia.



Leonor and Mike in Mykonos, Greece.



Leonor and Mike in Paris.



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Alive! AROUND THE WORLD



Inter-Europe Short Hop

By Michael Barnes, Harbor

Traveler Michael Barnes visits Florence, Italy, and Budapest, Hungary.

We rented an apartment in Florence and arranged to meet up with fellow Port employee John Radovcich and his lovely wife.

During this visit we managed to see Michelangelo's *David* (not much left to the imagination there!), to visit the Hard Rock Cafe for an icy cold adult beverage, and to take a double photo of John and myself holding different editions of the employee newspapers.

Florence is a great city to explore as there is always something new to discover. This year we uncovered information about the secret passage above the Ponte Vecchio Bridge; unfortunately it was not open to the public due to damage caused by a bomb attack. Folklore has it that Adolph Hitler, who visited the bridge in the 1940s, spared the Ponte Vecchio Bridge from destruction by the German Army upon retreat.

Being so close to Hungary and having heard so many good things about its capital city, Budapest, we decided that it was about time to pay it a visit.

Flying from Florence airport to any European destination is quite expensive; fortunately just a short bus ride away is the lovely Tuscan town of Pisa, which has cleverly taken advantage of this fact and plays host to a variety of budget airlines. Therefore it should be no surprise that we took advantage of this and flew with Ryan Air to Budapest from there.

Budapest is known lovingly as the Queen of the Danube and is steeped in much history, culture and natural beauty, being originally occupied by Celtic people until forced out by the Romans in around AD 100. The Romans then built the fortress town of Aquincum, along with its many bathing pools fed by local hot springs. The Romans pulled out when attacked by Attila the Hun, whose tribe then occupied the area on and off till sometime in the ninth century.

With the Hungarian tribes conquest of the Carpathian Basin, the Kingdom of Hungary was established in 1,000. Buda and Pest were thriving independent towns populated by French, Walloon and German settlers until they were all butchered by the Mongol invasion in 1241. The city was rebuilt by the Austrians, occupied by French and Italians and in 1526 invading by the Turks, led by Suleiman the Magnificent, who incorporated it into the Ottoman Empire. Then after another siege and battle for Buda, the city returned to the Hungarians under control from Hapsburgs. Budapest was officially created on Nov. 17, 1873 by the merger of the neighboring cities of Buda and Pest.

At the end of World War II, the retreating German forces blew up all the bridges over the Danube to try and stop the Russian Red Army from advancing. A terrible two-month-long siege followed with most of the Castle area being reduced to rubble; people were forced to survive by eating dead horses found in the streets. Slowly under Communist rule, the city returned to life but not until after the revolution of 1989 and the end of Soviet occupation in Hungary did Budapest become itself again.

Most of the historic buildings damaged in World War II have been restored. For an independent traveler, early in the morning is the best time to visit the likes of Roman Aquincum Museum, Heroes' Square, the 300-foot dome of St. Stephen's Basilica, and of course the Castel and Royal Palace on the Hill. Later in the day you run the risk of running into the hoards of tourists from the Danube River boat tours on their one-day visit to everything. Being a boat captain myself, I had the opportunity to talk to one of these riverboat captains – a really interesting man, telling stories of wild parties and such goings on – not – more like bumping walkers and rattling oxygen bottles. In the late afternoon it's a good time to visit one of the many city spas, like the Szechenyi Spa or the 16th-century Turkish Rudas pool/spa with its beautiful Ottoman architecture.

For evening dining, a great area to taste Hungarian food with dishes including oxtail and lamb's knuckle or duck leg, is in the Jewish quarter, with its synagogues and dozens of small restaurants. I can highly recommend the popular Spinoza Cafe – not only is the food good but they have a great piano player. *Note: When ordering goulash, remember it's soup, not stew.*

For those of you with limited time, I would suggest buying a two-day pass for the red Hop-On Hop-Off bus, as it visits all the sights and gives ample time to get off and check out one at leisure. If you have more time to explore, then go look for the Ronald Reagan or the short round Kaiser statues. I think just boarding any tram or bus and riding it to the end and back is fun; it's amazing what you find at the end of the ride in the distant city suburbs. Do not try to read the language – it's impossible. Finland has the nearest European comparison.

Tip: Take just carry-on luggage; it makes traveling so much easier. For the cost of checked baggage, you can buy a new skirt or pair of shoes anywhere.



A view of the Danube River.



Michael with the statue of Ronald Reagan.



Captain to captain.



The Buda Eye.



Michael and the Kaiser statue.



Michael Barnes and John Radovcich in the Hard Rock Café in Florence.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

From The Club

Thanksgiving reminds us of the importance of family.

...reminds us of the importance of friends.

...reminds us that working hands have dignity.

...reminds us to be grateful for our blessings.

...reminds us we are all part of the human family.

...reminds us how grateful we are for you.



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Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. (RLACEI)



Ed Harding, RLACEI President
www.rlacei.com
Contact him: (800) 678-4145 Ext. 703
E-mail: edwardjharding@rlacei.com

Change of Address?

If you change your address, notify Cliff Cannon, Membership Chair, at (800) 678-4145, x725, or cell: (310) 218-6646. Or write to Cliff: 1942 Radlett Ave., Carson, CA 90746.

Have News About Yourself?

Contact Mary Beetz, call (800) 678-4145 Ext. 711

Three Retirees Groups Hold Events; Make Sure You're at the Right One

RESERVATION LINES:

RLACEI events: (800) 678-4145, Ext. 701

DWP events: (949) 388-1206 (Dolores Foley)

LARFPA events: (888) 288-5063

DEC. 7:

RLACEI holiday party and board meeting, Grace E. Simons Lodge, 12 noon.

DEC. 10:

LARFPA Christmas party

RLACEI Website

Hal Danowitz asks you to visit the RLACEI Website at www.rlacei.com to find the latest retirement news. If you find it helpful, or have suggestions for improvement, call Hal at (800) 678-4145 Ext. 707.

Contact the LA City Employees' Retirement System

The Los Angeles City Employees' Retirement System is at 202 W. First Street, Suite 500, (LA Times Building), Los Angeles, CA 90012. Hours: 8AM-5PM. Phone (213) 473-7200 or (800) 779-8328. Contact them to arrange direct deposit of your retirement checks, change your tax withholding or beneficiary, or for questions about your health plans. www.lacers.org

DWP Retirees Association



Dolores Foley, President
Phone: (949) 388-1206
E-mail: vincedolores@gmail.com
www.dwpretirees.org

Los Angeles Retired Fire and Police Association (LARFPA)



Robert L. Olsen, President
Phone: (323) 283-4441
Fax: (626) 285-1461
9521 Las Tunas Dr. #4,
Temple City, CA 91780
www.larfpa.org

Association Staff Out in Force At Open Enrollment Meetings

RLACEI

2010 Club Excellence Award Recipient



Ed Harding

President's Report By Edward J. Harding President, RLACEI

I hope everyone has a Happy Thanksgiving. Christmas seems to come faster every year, and I know you will enjoy our holiday party this year, planned for noon Dec. 7. More door prizes and a new holiday surprise menu are planned by Americo Garza and his entertainment committee.

Some of our directors and I attended all of LACERS' Open Enrollment meetings held in Los Angeles Endowment Center, Ventura, Ontario, San Pedro and Las Vegas. I wish to thank Hal Danowitz,

Neil Ricci, Mary Beetz, Phil Orland, Cliff Cannon and Americo and his wife, Shirley. A special thanks goes to Shirley for willing to assist us at these busy events.

I hope that all Retirees were able to attend an Open Enrollment meeting as they are very important. It is important that you learn first-hand of any changes to LACERS' health plans for the 2018 plan year.

Reminder: Please start making you reservations for our holiday party planned for Dec. 7 at the Friendship Hall, 3201 Riverside Dr. Call (800) 678-4145, ext. 701.

Happy Holidays! Love you all. ■

LACERS Sets New Investment Assumptions



Michael R. Wilkinson

LACERS Board Update, By Michael R. Wilkinson

One of the most important responsibilities for LACERS and the Board is to make sure that enough money is set aside to provide current Retirees and active employees pensions and health benefits.

As I have written in previous articles, the basic financial math of a successful pension plan is simple – the money going in from employees and the employer (here, LA City) and investment returns must match the money going out in benefits (pension checks and health benefit costs) plus administrative and investment expenses.

The neat trick is budgeting for these expenses so that we put in money over employee's working careers so that those contributions plus the investment returns cover all the costs of employee's pensions over the course of retirement.

The LACERS Board considered changing one of the big components to this budgeting process, fixing the assumed rate of investment return. This is a very difficult feat requiring the Board to determine the average investment return for the next 30 to 50 years!

If we choose a figure that is too low, we risk unreasonably burdening the City for higher con-

tributions that are not needed. However, the more serious problem is picking a number that is too high, meaning that we predict and plan for high investment returns when investments make less money than expected. If this happens, then the City would have to make up the shortfall later when there may not be enough money to pay for it.

I view this whole process as acting like the wise squirrel that is careful to put away enough acorns for the long winter.

Several options were recently presented to the board for changing our current assumed rate of return of 7.5 percent to either 7.25 percent or 7 percent. I argued that 7 percent was a better approach. The 7 percent figure is in line with what some other plans such as the California Public Employees System (CalPERS) and the state teachers plan (CalSTRS) are taking.

There was a concern that the City budget would take a hit if the lower assumption was used. However, I argued that it would be dangerous to underfund the plan by putting away less money now by assuming that the fund would earn unreasonably high investment returns going forward. The Board rejected my motion and then approved a change to 7.25 percent with an order that the assumption be reviewed again next year, rather than the normal three- to four-year time period before reevaluation. ■

Reactions to the Government Accounting Standards Changes



Michael Karsch

Legislative Report: Pension Law and Policy, By Michael Karsch

Reactions to the Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) changes imposed on government units like states, cities, counties and others continue to reverberate among pension systems. The reporting change requires agencies to make more conservative assumptions on the returns they expect from the investments that fund their pension system. Minnesota pensions face a funding crisis due to this new reporting format.

Bloomberg reported that Minnesota, along with Texas, Kentucky and New Jersey, face budget demands to bridge the gap created by lower discount rates that these states will have to follow to make up larger funding ratios. Just two years ago Minnesota reported its pensions were 80 percent

funded, but in the last two years this had fallen to 53 percent. In this writer's home state of Missouri, the Columbia *Daily Tribune* reported that their state employee pension system was only 60 percent funded, with the unfunded amount at \$5 billion. The State Treasurer also noted that the increasing longevity of retirees was also a heavy demand on the pension system. As with many states, Missouri used to do well, but the stagnant investment market fell to less than 1 percent over the last three years.

Two more small agencies in California face their loss of pensions due to their agencies dropping out of CalPERS. One is Trinity County Waterworks District 1; the other is Niland Sanitary District in Imperial County. The number of pensioners affected is small, ten between the two, but those individuals will suffer significant losses in their pensions. The other two towns to have similar losses are Loyalton in Sierra County and the east San

Continues next page

Reactions to the Government (continued)

Gabriel Valley Health consortium.

At CalPERS recently, Orange County State Sen. John Moorlach asked the agency to estimate how much money it could save by temporarily suspending cost-of-living adjustments for retirees. CalPERS has different COLAs for different groups of retirees ranging from 2 percent to 5 percent. Moorlach also asked about moving newly retired employees into less generous plans being offered since 2013, the pension reform law signed by Gov. Jerry Brown. CalPERS has looked in the past to the impact of suspending COLAs; a freeze would improve pension plans by up to 15 percent for non-safety employees. CalPERS took no action on Moorlach's suggestions.

Going overseas to Switzerland, the Swiss voted 52.7 percent against a proposal to reform that country's pension system by increasing taxes and increas-

ing the retirement age for women (to the same age as men, 64). Problems cited were demographic changes, meaning more people are retiring; also, the low interest rate environment has shot most expected revenues into the investment funds.

As October began, the *Wall Street Journal* noted in its Market section that there is a "gust of optimism" in the market system that is "more upbeat ... in recent weeks, pointing to a likely Federal Reserve Board rate hike as well as share price increases ... [due to] faster economic growth." The point here is that interest rate increases by the Fed may be the way to go. All pension funds tend to have a lot of their money in interest rate related instruments; while the status quo enjoys low interest rates for borrowers, there are benefits for all with modest increases. ■

Last Open Enrollment Meeting Set for November 9

LACERS



Mary Beetz

LACERS has scheduled its annual meetings in anticipation of the open enrollment period for choosing insurance.

This year, LACERS' 2018 Open Enrollment period will be from Oct. 15 through Nov. 15. During this time, those in the LACERS system may attend an Open Enrollment meeting and learn about any changes to LACERS health plans for the 2018 plan year. The last enrollment meeting on November 9 in Las Vegas, will provide attendees an opportunity to talk to health plan representatives. Also, LACERS staff will be available to answer any health plan questions and assist with the enrollment process.

Las Vegas

Thursday, Nov. 9, 10 a.m.
The Orleans Hotel
4500 West Tropicana Ave.
Las Vegas, NV 89103

Those wishing to attend can make reservations to attend the Open Enrollment meeting by reserving online at www.LACERS.org/retired or calling LACERS at (800) 779-8328, TDD (888) 349-3996, Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Voicemail or email messages will

not be accepted as reservations. Reservations will be accepted for one Retiree and one guest.

Think Green and Opt Out

To reduce the use of resources, LACERS members can opt out of receiving a printed copy of LACERS Health Benefits Guide and Open Enrollment Overview each year.

Instead, here are two choices:

- Have links to the Open Enrollment Overview and Health Benefits Guide sent directly to an email address; or Opt out of receiving the Open Enrollment Overview and Health Benefits Guide altogether and just view/download them from the LACERS website (www.LACERS.org).

- If you choose to opt out of receiving printed copies of these Open Enrollment materials, simply complete an online LACERS Opt-Out Form. The form is located in the "I Want To" section of the LACERS Retired Member home page (www.LACERS.org/retired), or you can contact LACERS at (800) 779-8328, TDD (888) 349-3996, for assistance. ■

For Retired Club Members

The Best Years

CONTACT THE CLUB:



Tiffany Sy
Club Member Services Counselor, In-house
(800) 464-0452, Ext. 202

TSy@cityemployeesclub.com
www.cityemployeesclub.com

RETIREMENT HELPLINE

Who to call? Call the Helpline and reach the officers of the Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. If you move or change your address, contact Cliff Cannon. Also notify LACERS, ACEBSA and LAFUCU. For information on problems, activities, meetings or membership. Each officer's extension is listed below.

Los Angeles City Employees' Retirement System: (800) 779-8328

RLACEI Retirement Counselors and Retiree Helplines (800) 678-4145

- Mary Beetz Ext. 711
- Cliff Cannon (membership) Ext. 715
- Hal Danowitz Ext. 707
- Americo Garza Ext. 710
- Edward Harding Ext. 703
- Michael Karsch Ext. 704
- Gary Mattingly Ext. 702
- Phillip Orland Ext. 709
- Neil Ricci Ext. 714
- Helen Salgado Ext. 713
- Michael A. Perez Ext. 705
- Tom Stemnock Ext. 708
- Michael Wilkinson Ext. 712

Questions: Ext. 0

RSVP: Ext. 701

DWP Retirement Plan Office (213) 367-1722

RLACEI:

Officers

Edward Harding: President
Tom Stemnock: First Vice President
Phillip Orland: Second Vice President
Hal Danowitz: Secretary/Treasurer

Committee Chairpersons

Mary Beetz: Publicity
Cliff Cannon: Membership
Hal Danowitz: Finance
Americo Garza: Picnic, Holiday Party and Installation
Neil Ricci: Health and Nominating
Michael R. Wilkinson, Legal and Legislative
Tom Stemnock: Audit and Golf

Directors

Mary Beetz
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Gary Mattingly
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Here Comes the
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December 7, 2017
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Los Angeles, CA 90012
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Reservations: (800) 678-4145, ext. 701.

Directions: 5 Freeway traveling north: Exit Stadium Way. Turn left on Riverside Drive. Turn left on Stadium Way. Turn right at the top of the hill to Elysian Park Drive. The lodge is at the end on the right.

Directions: 5 Freeway traveling south: Exit Stadium Way. Turn left on Stadium Way. Turn right at the top of the hill at Elysian Park Drive. The Lodge is at the end on the right.

The Best Years

For Retired Club Members

On the Road Through the Southwest



Hal and Evelyn postpone a trip to Cabo and take a road trip from New Orleans instead. **Conclusion.**

2013 Club Excellence Award Recipient



By Hal Danowitz, Secretary, RLACEI

On May 19, Hal's birthday, Hal and Evelyn flew from LAX to New Orleans to begin their two-week-plus road trip adventure. This was an alternative trip because of Hurricane Odile in Cabo San Lucas in September 2014, when they were scheduled to spend a week in Cabo. Their trip was canceled because of the damage done to the area. Their timeshare resort allowed them to bank the week for use later. Two years later, they remembered that they had not used the week and decided to go to New Orleans and then drive back to Los Angeles. They spent five days in NOLA (New Orleans, La.), picking up a car and driving back to L.A. by way of Natchez and Vicksburg, Miss.; Dallas and San Antonio, Tex.; Las Cruces, N.M.; the Grand Canyon, Ariz.; a stop in Las Vegas; and then home. The road trip took around 17 days. They had not been to NOLA since Hurricane Katrina.

As we pick up the story on May 29, we left the hotel in San Antonio. It was raining "cats and dogs," but we made it to the Starbucks in the River Walk Mall. On the way I spied a donut shop and got a jelly donut for 79 cents; how's that for a bargain? We hung out at Starbucks with a whole lot of people until the rain let up some and then walked to the Alamo about a block and a half away. By the time we got to the Alamo the rain had almost stopped, and we could see the sun was trying to break through the clouds. There was no line to enter the Alamo, so we started our tour. There was no charge to enter the Alamo, although they did offer guided tours for \$15 per person and an audio tour for \$7. We found the exhibits to be well explained. There was also a 17-minute film that outlined the 300-year history of the Alamo. It was the primary mission in the area until the early 1800s; after that it was a military installation occupied by the Mexicans, Texans, the Confederacy and then the U.S. Army. The siege and the battle of the Alamo began on Feb. 23, 1836 and ended on March 6, when the nearly 200 defenders were overrun by the Mexican troops of Gen. Santa Anna. The Alamo was commanded by William B. Travis and assisted by James Bowie (of knife fame) and David Crockett, the real life famous frontiersman and statesman. You may remember a TV show in the 1950s or early '60s with Fess Parker playing Crockett.

Santa Anna did not take any prisoners but did allow the women, children and Joe, the freed black slave of Travis, to survive to tell the story of the battle. "Remember the Alamo" was used as a rallying cry by Gen. Sam Houston, who later defeated Santa Anna and declared Texas an independent country until 1846, when it joined the United States. Evelyn and I spent about two hours walking the grounds. By this time the sun was shining and the line to enter was very long.

We walked the short distance to the River Walk and took the 30-minute boat ride on the San Antonio River. The regular price was \$10, but just \$7 for seniors. The ride provided a nice overview of the shops and various res-

taurants on the river. After the ride we decided to walk and stopped for ice cream instead of lunch. Evelyn, who eats her salads with the dressing on the side, loses all her normal eating habits while traveling.

It was starting to get hot and muggy, but being next to the river did provide some relief. That day was Memorial Day, so we saw many families. The River Walk meandered for about two miles with shops, restaurants, bars and hotels lining a path on both sides of the river. It was very pleasant but could get crowded. It was probably the biggest attraction in San Antonio except for the Alamo.

Dinner that night was at the Italian restaurant in the hotel, which was rated number



The "Thing" stop.

one on TripAdvisor. The restaurant, Zocca, was very nice and the service was great.

The next day, May 30, we began the long drive to Las Cruces, N.M., almost 600 miles. We got an early start and were out of the hotel before 8 a.m. to stop at Starbucks before jumping on I-10 for the drive west. I knew where the Starbucks was – we were there the day before, but driving is different than walking, and the one-way streets didn't help. I went the wrong way only once but had to use Google Maps to get us there. After that it was just a straight shot on I-10 west. At one point the speed limit sign was 80 mph; I have never seen that before. We hit heavy rain at Sonora, Tex.; it was really coming down hard. We stopped to use the facilities and get a sandwich for lunch. The rain didn't slow the traffic much, but the traffic was light. Evelyn and I shared the driving; I napped while she drove because she says I make her nervous. The landscape changed from flat to hilly to mountains to desert as we approached El Paso. Las Cruces is about 30 or so miles past El Paso. We were staying at a Comfort Suites. It was quite nice, and it came with breakfast. The next day we were to stop in Tucson, a 275-mile drive. We hoped to find some place to visit along the way. We were close to the White Sands National Monument and the White Sands Missile Museum.

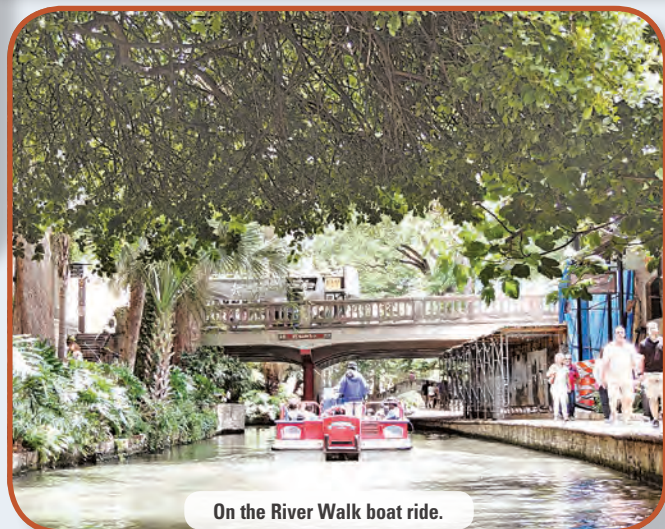
In Las Cruces, we had dinner at Zeffiro Pizzeria Napoletana (136 N Water St.) – excellent pizza, but the crust could have been baked a little longer. Zeffiro's was also an artisan bakery with bread and rolls for sale. The area was expecting a storm, and you could smell the rain in the air. Just after we reached the hotel the lightning show started, and it poured and hailed; luckily the hail was small.

We decided to see if we could find something on the way to Tucson to see, as we didn't want to take the extra time to visit White Sands. It was out of the way.

The next day, May 31, we skipped the hotel breakfast except for some yogurt for me and a banana for Evelyn. We stopped at Starbucks and then got on the I-10, which took us right to Tucson. We stopped on the



Evelyn at the Grand Canyon.



On the River Walk boat ride.

highway at a Jerky and Nut Store to get some jerky and discovered the owner was from Bakersfield and made the jerky there. We also stopped at a survivor store to see the "Thing," which turned out to be a mummified Indian. But they did have many old relics and cars. Admission cost only a dollar. With the time change we got to the Comfort Suites in Tucson by 1 p.m.

We had dinner at PY Steakhouse at the Casino del Sol Resort. It was as good as any restaurant where we ate in New Orleans. The service was the best we had had on this trip. The food was excellent and priced about the same as an upscale L.A. restaurant. Evelyn really liked the wine pour.

The next day, June 1, we were on our way to Kingman, Ariz. We left Tucson about 8:30 a.m. and after a stop for coffee and a gas stop we got on I-10 heading for Phoenix. Since we left New Orleans, the gas prices had been between \$2 and \$2.50 per gallon, the highest being near the California border. At Phoenix we left the interstate and headed north on US60 and then US93. We stopped in Wickenburg, Ariz. for lunch at the Horseshoe Cafe. The road wasn't bad, a combination of two and four lanes. There was a lot of pretty country to see. We got to the hotel about 2 p.m. We stayed at the Best Western Plus, a Wayfarer Inn and Suites in Kingman, just off I-40.

We drove old Route 66 to El Palacio (401 E. Andy Devine Ave.), an excellent Mexican restaurant for dinner. It was busy for a Thursday evening. We stopped in Kingman instead of our house in Las Vegas because we planned to go to Grand Canyon West see the Grand Canyon from the Hualapai Indian Skywalk the next day.

We got an early start June 2 on the 75-mile drive to Grand Canyon West. You drive north on US93 toward Hoover Dam for about 40 miles and about 35 more on two-lane roads. Once you get off US 93, the ride is very scenic with many Joshua trees, I even saw a family of deer next to the road. We got to the

welcome center just before 10 a.m., and there were very few visitors. I had purchased our tickets online and took the Legacy Gold Package: a shuttle to the two viewpoints, photo opportunities, Skywalk ticket, lunch or dinner and a Hualapai visitation certificate for \$82.37 per person. At both view areas we received a great view of the canyon and the Colorado River. At the Skywalk you walk on a bridge that has a glass walkway that allows you to see the canyon floor. You are not allowed to bring a camera or cell phone on to the bridge, but there was a photographer to take your picture, which was available for purchase. We had lunch at the second viewpoint. We spent about two hours on our visit. If you want to spend big, you can take a helicopter tours for \$145 to \$263.

We planned to stop in Las Vegas for one night before coming home. On this trip we used both Google Maps and Waze for direction, and we think Waze was better. With that said, you need to do your own research because we would have missed the Natchez Trace just relying on Google. I would suggest using the Auto Club State travel book to see what attractions are on your route.

Altogether, we traveled about 2,700 miles and had a drive time of just more than 50 hours. In general, the driving was easy, with good roads and cheap gas. We started out in New Orleans at just over \$2 per gallon and ended up in Nevada at about \$2.50. We didn't see many Teslas or Volts or hybrids of any kind, but we did see all kinds of pickups and SUVs.

This was our first road trip since 2008, and we both really enjoyed the drive. It was a great way to see the country and see how diverse we are as a nation. ■

RETIREES AROUND THE WORLD



European Capitals



Richard Radmacher, Retired, DWP, traveled to England, Paris and Rome. He's pictured here at Stonehenge in England; at the Eiffel Tower in Paris; and at the Coliseum in Rome. He also rode the Chunnel, the 150-mph train under the English Channel.

"Stonehenge was built in 3,000 B.C., 500 years before the pyramids of Egypt. As an engineer, I have traveled the world to see man's greatest monuments."



Monterey, Calif.



Al Hinton, Retired, Building and Safety, and his wife, Mary, jazzed it up at the 60th annual Jazz Festival in Monterey, Calif.

Dominican Republic



"I had the privilege to celebrate a cousin-in-law's 67th birthday with my sister and first cousin in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, at the Royalton Resort. The trip was awesome."
— **Linda Richardson, Retired, Public Works/Engineering, 32 years of City service**



**Take the Club with you,
wherever you go!**

Bring your recent copy of *Alive!* with you. Snap a **high resolution** photo with you **holding a copy**, send it in, and we'll publish it. **Send to:** talkback@cityemployeesclub.com



Show Us Your Grandkids!

RETIREES:
Alive! wants to show off your grandkids! So send in those photos!

Here's how:

1. **Make sure to have the permission from their parents.** If you send in a photo, *Alive!* assumes you have already received that permission.
2. Photos with you in them are better, but if not, that's okay, too.
3. Make sure you list the names of your grandkids.
4. Tell us, in a sentence or two, a little bit about them – their school, their accomplishments, what they love to do, how proud you are of them, etc.
5. Digital photos are best! Send them

to: talkback@cityemployeesclub.com

Send Prints To:
Grandkids
City Employees Club of
Los Angeles
120 W. 2nd St., Los Angeles, CA 90012
(800) 464-0452

If you want the print photo returned, make sure you write your name and phone number on the back.

Life after Retirement

Stay Connected

- If you have news about yourself, family or other retirees that you would like to share with our readers, send it and we will publish it.
- If you would like to contact a former City Employee that you met or worked with, send your contact information and we will publish it so they can contact you.

If you are a Retiree and have interesting news or updates about yourself, your family or other retirees, or would like to connect with coworkers, send information to mbeetz@4841@aol.com, or mail to **Mary Beetz:** 137 Westmont Drive, Alhambra, CA 91801

NOTE: Due to our confidentiality policy, we do not give out any information without authorization.



The Best Years

For Retired Club Members

Retirements

Here's a listing of all those who retired from the City this month. To all we say, welcome to the Best Years!

NAME	TITLE	DEPT.	YEARS	NAME	TITLE	DEPT.	YEARS	NAME	TITLE	DEPT.	YEARS
Abolhosn, Wajdi Samah	Civil Engin. Associate	Public Works	31	Garcia, Chester R.	Sr. Detention Officer	LAPD	30	Pineda, Richard T.	Emerg. Prepare. Coord.	Airports	27
Andalon, Loretta Perez	Sr. Personnel Analyst	Personnel	36	Gillman, Bruce L.	Public Info. Director	Transportation	13	Ramirez, Yolanda	Payroll Supervisor	Airports	34
Andalon, Robert	Chief Manage. Analyst	Transportation	37	Greene, Maxine C.	Admin. Assistant	Harbor	10	Reddish, Timothy	Refuse Coll. Truck Op.	Public Works	32
Barajas, Maria E.	Admin. Clerk	Gen. Services	26	Henkhaus, Lennard J.	Supervising Criminalist	LAPD	33	Rice, Julie E.	Sr. Traffic Supervisor	Transportation	35
Benitez, Genaro	Auto Body Builder	LAPD	18	Horvath, Robert I.	Wastewater Treat. Mech.	Public Works	16	Richard, Carolyn R.	Admin. Clerk	Econ./Workforce Dev.	34
Biag, Flora G.	Workers Comp. Claims Asst.	Personnel	33	Hwang, Sindia	Systems Analyst	Bldg. & Safety	17	Robertson, Stephan S.	Refuse Coll. Truck Op.	Public Works	34
Braithwaite, Myrna E.	Secretary	Public Works	34	Jackson, Renea E.	Police Service Rep.	LAPD	33	Robertson, Teresa L.	Librarian	Library	12
Brandt, Thomas	Comm. Elect. Supv.	LAPD	18	Johansen, Kjehl	Deputy City Attorney	City Attorney	32	Saenz, Rosario	Recreation Assistant	Rec and Parks	3
Brock, Lillian C.	Sr. Police Service Rep.	LAPD	37	Johnson, Glenn A.	Criminalist	LAPD	17	Sagles, Rene M.	Sr. Manage. Analyst	Transportation	24
Brooks, Evelyn D.	Sr. Systems Analyst	Airports	33	Jordan, Ralph A.	Sr. Recreation Dir.	Rec and Parks	42	Salazar, Ana M.	Special Programs Asst.	Rec and Parks	3
Bundridge, Darryl S.	Detention Officer	LAPD	36	Kimble, Margie R.	Pr. Comm. Op.	Airports	12	Sanchez, Guadalupe	Messenger Clerk	Library	10
Caire, Serda C.	Admin. Clerk	LAPD	13	Kirby, Kelton L.	Civil Engin. Associate	Public Works	32	Sanchez, Manuel A.	Traffic Officer	Transportation	27
Campbell, Melody L.	Sr. Personnel Analyst	Personnel	23	Kramer, Scott A.	Traffic Painter Sign Post	Transportation	32	Shih, Cheng Tzu	Programmer Analyst	ITA	17
Captain, David L.	Building Mech. Insp.	Bldg. & Safety	22	Kramer, Steven B.	Sr. Roofer	Gen. Services	31	Shoemaker, Timothy J.	Gardener Caretaker	Rec and Parks	27
Chan, Charlene	Sr. Admin. Clerk	Econ./Workforce Dev.	16	Krytzer, Angelina T.	Sr. Admin. Clerk	Personnel	28	Smith, Cecelia M.	Police Service Rep	LAPD	35
Chang, Bill C.	City Att. Syst. Analyst	City Attorney	5	Laborte, Marino	Sr. Construction Insp.	Public Works	32	Smith, Kory R.	Finance Develop. Off.	Housing	31
Chavez, Armando	Refuse Coll. Truck Op.	Public Works	22	Leifeste, Jeffrey S.	Systems Programmer	ITA	30	Tabangin, Maria Nina	Accountant	Fire/Police Pens.	31
Chew, Hansen Mark	Sr. Systems Analyst	Transportation	37	Lepore, Carmella	Admin. Clerk	Rec and Parks	23	Thomas, Thurman	Custodian	Airports	27
Chuatoco, Francis Yip	Warehouse Worker	LAPD	18	Levy, David	Management Analyst	Housing	7	Thomas Perkins, Sheryl L.	Sr. Manage. Analyst	Airports	26
Chuatoco, Rosalina Cueto	Management Analyst	Airports	29	Lin, Joyce Huichen	Database Architect	ITA	32	Tran, Lieu B.	Accounting Clerk	Airports	32
Cohen, Jack	Structural Engin. Ass.	Bldg. & Safety	8	Lindsey, Steve R.	Wastewater Treat. Mech.	Public Works	30	Tropet, Arnetta M.	Recreation Coord.	Rec and Parks	11
Corlett, Michael F.	Superintendent of Ops.	Airports	27	Logan, Barry	Equipment Operator	Public Works	36	Tsai, Chuison	Carpenter	Public Works	17
Cormier, Daniel B.	Librarian	Library	10	Lowery, Julie A.	Accounting Rec. Super.	Controller's Off.	33	Wallace, Jerrilyn Y.	Chief Custodian Super.	Gen. Services	27
Corral, Rudy	Security Officer	Airports	26	Lyles, Paul E.	Customer Supervisor	Airports	23	Walker, Michael E.	Equipment Operator	Public Works	31
Curcio, Rick Vincent	Dep. City Attorney	City Attorney	12	Maese, Anita Ruth	Admin. Clerk	Rec and Parks	6	West, Laurie D.	City Attorney Admin. Coord.	City Attorney	37
Daub, Reid Orel	Sr. Building Inspector	Bldg. & Safety	28	Manaois, Leonardo Carrillo	Detention Officer	LAPD	15	Williams, Aubrey	Wastewater Treat. Op.	Public Works	29
Davenport, Patricia I.	Admin. Clerk	Gen. Services	20	Maya, Richard	Electrician	Gen. Services	32	Williams, Diana C.	Exec. Admin. Assist.	Public Works	30
Diaz, Martha A.	Admin. Clerk	LAPD	33	Mayer, Mark W.	Wastewater Treat. Op.	Public Works	34	Williams, Royna	Sr. Manage. Analyst	Harbor	31
Diberardino, Nick J.	Signal Sys. Elect.	Transportation	30	McCall, Bruce R.	Security Officer	Harbor	11	Wilson, Janet Gail	Personnel Records Super.	Public Works	38
Doby, Randy D.	Refuse Coll. Truck Op.	Public Works	30	McNeil, Stephanie K.	Crime Intell. Analyst	LAPD	18	Won, Karen So Ming	Admin. Clerk	Rec and Parks	6
Doucette, Michael J.	Chief Airport Planning	Airports	11	Meuser, Suzanne M.	Sr. Admin. Clerk	LAPD	21	Word, Walter Jr.	Admin. Clerk	Public Works	16
Dulac, Richard	Electrical Cond. Mech.	ITA	7	Miranda, Nelly M.	Custodian	Airports	12	Yeo, Veronica Lim	Pr. Accountant	LAPD	16
Elam Collins, Cheryl D.	Heavy Duty Truck Op.	Public Works	36	Montemayor, Jesse R.	Wastewater Treat. Mech.	Public Works	26	Yoneda, Robert M.	Rec Facility Director	Rec and Parks	27
Elliott, Gyl J.	Public Info. Director	Public Works	10	Myles, John T.	Drill Rig Operator	Gen. Services	42	Yoshihara, Lakshmi	Info. Systems Mgr.	ITA	32
Faelnar, Arthur C.	Sr. Tax Auditor	Finance	19	Najar, Gilbert Mario	Police Service Rep	LAPD	29	Yorita, Toshio	Equipment Mechanic	Gen. Services	17
Fenell, Timothy A.	Recreation Assistant	Rec and Parks	1	O'Neill, Lawrence P.	Sr. Police Service Rep	LAPD	19	Zermeno, Marlinda M.	Sr. Admin. Clerk	Gen. Services	34
Fernan, Janet Marie	Management Analyst	Harbor	30	Ocamb, James R.	Real Estate Officer	Gen. Services	20	Zuniga, Joel G.	Solid Resources Super.	Public Works	31
Fernandez, Evelyn B. Melone	Sr. Tax Auditor	Finance	28	Olekszyk, Anna	Risk Manag./Prev. Prog. Spec.	LAFD	30				
Flores, Leo	Wastewater Treat. Op.	Public Works	30	Orton, Dean J.	Sr. Admin. Clerk	CAO	29				
Foston, Janette P.	Secretary	Airports	24	Palencia, Magdalena	Custodian	Airports	11				

Healthy Holiday Eating for Diabetics

Although the name implies an expression of gratitude, Thanksgiving is notorious for being more about celebrating delicious food! But if you are one of the 29.1 million Americans with diabetes, you may feel anything but appreciative of the extra steps needed to be mindful of healthy eating this time of year. So to help guide you, whether you have diabetes or not, here are some great tips from the American Association of Diabetes Educators (AADE) to keep your health in check and your holiday worth celebrating.

- Don't skip meals or snacks earlier in the day to "save" calories and carbs for the Thanksgiving feast. If you skip meals, it may be harder to manage your blood sugar.
- Be sure to eat breakfast, and if your main meal is later in the day, eat a small snack or meal at midday so that your blood sugar will remain more stable.
- Take a look at the food on the whole table before you take any. Use the Thanksgiving Plate (see illustration) as a guide for choosing the foods you will eat.
- Limit the number of grains (starches) on your plate. It might be tempting to have some mashed potatoes, sweet potato casserole and stuffing — however, limit them to one-quarter of your plate.
- Choose raw fruits and vegetables. Avoid vegetables in creams, gravies and butter.
- Stick to calorie-free drinks, such as water, tea, seltzer or diet sodas, instead of punch or mixed drinks.
- Have a dessert, but take a small portion, eat slowly, and enjoy the taste.
- To avoid snacking after the meal, try not to hang out near the food. Find a comfortable spot across the room and focus on socializing instead of eating.
- After your meal, take a walk with family and friends. Exercise will get you moving, keep you focused on your goals, and give you a break from being surrounded by food. Exercise is also a great way to lower blood sugar levels.
- If you eat too much on Thanksgiving, don't beat yourself up. Don't think you have failed, just make a plan to get back on track.
- Make a "Healthy Eating Contract" with yourself to set goals for your Thanksgiving meal. Clearly state how you will approach eating during the day, and what you want to accomplish. Be sure to sign and date this contract so that it's official.

VEGETABLES

- Fill 1/2 of your plate with vegetables, such as carrots and green beans.
- Avoid casseroles or dishes that have heavy creams, sauces, butter or crusts.
- Other vegetables to consider include: broccoli, salad, brussel sprouts, or asparagus.
- If your table is low on vegetables, consider adding fruit to this half of your plate. Cranberries, baked apples, and pears are all good options.

GRAINS

- Fill 1/4 of your plate with starches such as stuffing and sweet potatoes.
- Other choices for this section may include: mashed or baked potatoes, rice pilaf, or corn pudding.
- Skip the bread or rolls!

PROTEIN

- Fill 1/4 of your plate with lean turkey slices (approx. 3-4oz).
- Avoid dark meat (including drumsticks!).
- Remove the skin from the turkey before eating.
- Instead of gravy, use a fruit-based relish for a special kick.

Healthy Thanksgiving Plate: This visual guide is based on the Idaho Plate Method. See www.platemethod.com for more information.
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To receive a copy of a "Healthy Eating Contract", call or email Tara Miller, RD/N at (213) 978-6843 or lacerswell@LACERS.org



Monthly Griffith Park Hike:

With Commissioner Cynthia Ruiz and LACERS Well

- First Friday of every month
- 8:30 a.m. – 10 a.m.



Monthly Easy-Paced Bike Ride

- Dock 52, Marina del Rey
- 3rd Wednesday of the month
- 11 a.m.
- Contact Ron Skarin for location updates and to RSVP at ronskarin@sbc-global.net

Seniors: Take a (Healthy) Walk!

The LACERS Well program sponsors walking/social events that are perfect for helping you keep in shape and take care of your health. And they're open to all fitness levels. For outside walks and events, make sure to bring comfortable shoes, sunblock, sunglasses and water.

For more information on LACERS Well events: Tara Miller, LACERS Well coordinator: (213) 978-6843 Or LACERS.org/lacerswell

West Covina Mall Walk and Stretch

- West Covina Mall, West Covina
- Every Wednesday, 8:30-10 a.m.
- Contact Pablo and Vivian Cortez at pabcr6@aol.com

Lakewood Center Mall Walk and Stretch

- Lakewood Center Mall, Lakewood
- Every Monday, 8 a.m.
- Contact Beverly Anderson at the.andersons@verizon.net

Pathfinder Park Walk and Stretch

- Rowland Heights
- Every Wednesday, 9 a.m.
- Contact Joyce Kawai at jkawai@gmail.com

Madrugada Trail Hike and Stretch

- Chino Hills
- Every Sunday, 4-6:30 p.m.
- Contact Eugene Mandelcorn at eman-delcorn@ymail.com

Ontario Mills Mall Walk and Stretch

- Ontario Mills Mall, Ontario
- 1st Saturday of the month, 9 - 11 a.m.
- Contact Eugene Mandelcorn at eman-delcorn@ymail.com

Ontario Mills Mall Walk and Stretch

- Ontario Mills Mall, Ontario
- 1st Saturday of the month, 9-11 a.m.
- Contact Eugene Mandelcorn at eman-delcorn@ymail.com

Ontario Mills Mall Walk and Stretch

- Ontario Mills Mall, Ontario
- Every Sunday, 10:30 a.m. - noon
- Contact Eugene Mandelcorn at eman-delcorn@ymail.com

Chino Hills Senior Center Workout and Stretch

- Chino Hills Senior Center, Chino Hills
- Every Saturday, 4-6 p.m.
- Contact Eugene Mandelcorn at eman-delcorn@ymail.com

Buddy Walk for Life

- Kaiser Baldwin Park
- 1st Friday of the month, 8-10 a.m.
- Contact Mariam Galang at mariam-galang@gmail.com

Playa del Rey Beach Walk & Stretch

- Playa del Rey
- Every Friday, 8:30 a.m.
- Contact Frankie Gallagher at Frankiequeenofhearts@yahoo.com

Rueben Ingold Park Walk and Stretch

- View Park, Windsor Hills
- Every Thursday, 11 a.m.
- Contact Avis Ridley-Thomas at avis-ridleythomas@me.com

Van Nuys Sherman Oaks Park Walk and Stretch

- Sherman Oaks
- 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month, 9 a.m.
- Contact Debby Rolland at debbylr22@gmail.com

El Cariso Park Walk and Stretch

- Sylmar
- Every Monday, 8:30 a.m.
- Contact Irene Galvan at ronnie-20dav@gmail.com

Manhattan Beach Pier Walk

- Manhattan Beach
- 1st Saturday of the month, 9-11 a.m.
- Contact Cyrous Adami at Cyrous13@yahoo.com

Stay in Touch With LACERS

LACERS requires all plan members to have your physical address on file. Has your address changed? Use this form to update your information.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS REQUEST - All Members

Please provide your new address information below. LACERS requires all plan members to have physical address on file. Pursuant to Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Publication 575, failure to provide a physical address will result in the change of your Federal Tax Withholding to married with three withholding exemptions.

Mail to: Los Angeles City Employees' Retirement System (LACERS)
202 W. First Street, Suite 500
Los Angeles, CA 90012-4401
Attn: Membership Processing Unit

FAX to: (213) 473-7202 – Attention: Membership Processing Unit

Member's Name		Social Security Number	
Address	City	State	Zip Code
C/O Trustee		Effective Date	
Telephone		Email	
Please check the box if you would like your 1099-R mailed to your home address.			
CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (If different from home address)			
Address	City	State	Zip Code
C/O Trustee			
Please check the box if you would like your 1099-R mailed to your correspondence address.			
Member's Signature		Date	

Retirees Holiday Parties in Dec.

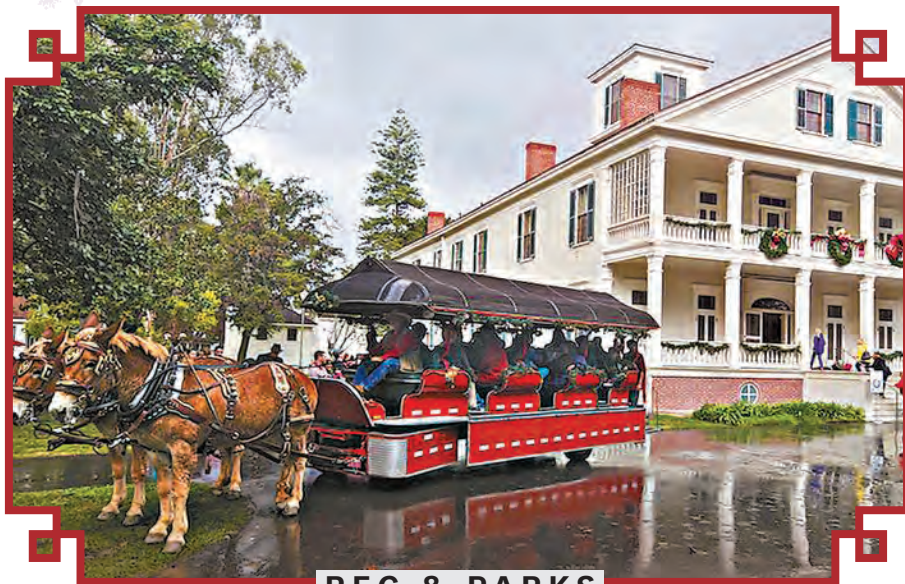
Don't forget to attend a retiree party this holiday season!

RLACEI: The RLACEI's annual Christmas Party and Installation of Officers event is scheduled for noon Thursday, Dec. 7 at the Grace E. Simons Lodge, 1025 Elysian Park Dr., Los Angeles. Lunch will be served, and there will be entertainment and valuable door prizes. Please make reservations at least a week ahead: (800) 678-4145, x701. Guests welcome. Call one of the officers on the Retirees Helplines.

LARFPA: For Retired Fire and Police, your Christmas party is scheduled for 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 10, at Sportsmen's Lodge, 12833 Ventura Blvd., Studio City. Contact LARFPA for more information.



Holiday Happenings



REC & PARKS

AN OLD-TIME CHRISTMAS AT BANNING

The Banning Museum to host annual Victorian Christmas celebration.

The community is invited to welcome the holiday season at the Banning Museum's Annual Victorian Christmas Celebration and Open House, scheduled from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 2-3 at the Banning Museum, 401 E. "M" St., in Wilmington.

This free event is open to the public and promises to be a weekend to remember. Visitors will enjoy period entertainment, tours of the museum decorated in holiday splendor, refreshments, a children's craft and a horse-drawn trolley ride between the Banning Museum and Drum Barracks Civil War Museum, which is also presenting a Christmas event that weekend.

Victorian Christmas at the Banning Museum has been an annual holiday tradition in the greater Los Angeles area for more than 30 years. The museum grounds are transformed into a Christmas Festival featuring Victorian-period entertainment, walk-through tours of the festively decorated Banning Mansion, blacksmith demonstrations, refreshments, family holiday crafts, a bake sale, local food vendors and handmade crafts by area artisans, and Jolly Old St. Nick himself will pose for photos with the little ones in an historic carriage. The visitor center will feature a new special exhibit, "The California Column to 900 Miles to Battle," based on the Civil War. The exhibit includes countless impressive artifacts.

Also, the annual Victorian Christmas luncheon is scheduled to take place Friday, Dec. 1, in the Banning Museum Stagecoach Barn and feature special live holiday entertainment. Those attending enjoy an elegant plated lunch, a special sneak preview of the Banning

Museum decorated for a Victorian Christmas, a tour of the Transportation Exhibition and a special exhibit in our Visitor Center. This event has limited seating and sells out quickly. Reservations are being taken now. Tickets for the special luncheon are \$95 for non-members and \$85 for Friends of Banning Museum Members. Information: (310) 548-2005.

The Banning Museum is a Rec and Parks facility, operated in cooperation with Friends of Banning Museum, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to "Preserve History, Promote Education, and Inspire Entrepreneurial Spirit."

Banning Museum Victorian Christmas

When: Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 2-3
Hours: 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Where: The Banning Museum, 401 E. "M" St., Wilmington
Cost: Free admission

Regular museum tours:

Dates: Throughout November and December: Tues. – Thurs.: 12:30, 1:30 and 2:30 p.m.; Sat. – Sun.: 12:30, 1:30, 2:30 and 3:30 p.m.
 Closed Christmas Day
Cost (regular tours): \$5 (suggested donation; \$1 for children)
Info: (310) 548-2005 or www.thebanningmuseum.org

ZOO

Holiday Lights, More Nights

Holiday Lights is back for its fourth award-winning

L.A. Zoo Lights, named one of the "Best Zoo Lights 2016" by USA Today's Readers' Choice travel awards, returns with its expanded schedule (one again starting before Thanksgiving) to illuminate a dazzling wonderland at the Los Angeles Zoo from Friday, Nov. 17, through Sunday, Jan. 7.

The after-hours attraction, which requires a separate ticket from the Zoo's regular day hours, sets the Zoo's environment aglow with displays, among them tens of thousands of LED lights, flurries of illuminated snowflakes, 3-D animated projections, a musical light-and-water show and glittering light tunnels. A fanciful menagerie of shimmering animal characters brought to "life" include mischievous animated monkeys, a gigantic glowing snake coiled on a roof, animated elephants and much more.

L.A. Zoo Lights creates an atmosphere of wonder and delight unlike anything seen in L.A. before, captivating guests with photo ops galore for an ideal family outing, meet-up with friends or date night.

A self-guided 60- to 90-minute walking tour through select areas of the Zoo – while most L.A. Zoo animal residents are asleep – offers a unique experience that features the only opportunity in Los Angeles to see real reindeer; visits with Santa Claus on select dates; and steaming hot chocolate, irresistible churros and other holiday treats and goodies for sale.

L.A. Zoo Lights was established in 2014 by the private, nonprofit Greater Los Angeles Zoo Association (GLAZA) as a festive tradition to put a new spin on holiday lights in Griffith Park. The attraction is open every night from 6 to 10 p.m. except Thanksgiving (Nov. 23), and Christmas Eve and Christmas Day (Dec. 24-25). Tickets are available at www.lazoolights.org/

L.A. Zoo Lights has been developed in collaboration with art director Gregg Lacy and Bionic League, entertainment-industry partners renowned for remarkable large-scale installations for festivals, stadiums, arenas, clubs, and artists like Daft Punk, Kanye West and many others.



LA Zoo Lights

What: L.A. Zoo Lights, an immersive display lights that guests walk through
When: Nightly Nov. 17 – Jan. 7 (nightly except Thanksgiving; Christmas Eve; closed Christmas)
Time: 6 to 10 p.m.
Cost: Requires a separate admission: Prices not announced yet for 2017 (Last Years: \$14 for adults/seniors and \$11 for children 2-12; children under age two are free. Premium night prices higher.)
Tickets Available: Online: LAZoolights.org
Location: LA Zoo and Botanical Gardens, Griffith Park, 5355 Zoo Dr.
Parking: Free
Info: (323) 644-6042 or www.lazoo.org

REC & PARKS

A Wonderland Train Ride

Griffith Park children's railroad offers a holiday-themed experience.

The Griffith Park and Southern Railroad is back to offering its Holiday Light Festival train rides.

Starting the day after Thanksgiving, families are invited for an evening train ride around the festively decorated one mile of track. Magical scenes and tens of thousands of lights are set to captivate families and set the mood for a wonderful holiday season.

The ride begins at 5 p.m. Friday, Nov. 24 and continues every night until Dec. 23. The holiday rides resume from Dec. 26 – 30, weather permitting. The trains do not operate in the rain.

The first train will leave at 5 p.m. every day. The last train leaves at 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 9 p.m. Friday - Sunday.

This event requires separate tickets that can be bought at the ticket booth in advance or the day of the ride, if available. Tickets, at \$4 per person, are not available online. 18 months and under ride free. Limited tickets will be sold for each evening.

The Griffith Park Railroad is different from Train Town, which used to offer holiday-themed rides as well.

The Griffith Park and Southern Railroad

What: Evening train ride around one mile of track decorated with holiday themes
Where: 4400 Crystal Springs Dr., Griffith Park
For Whom: Adults and children
When: 5 – 8 p.m. nightly, Nov. 24- Dec 23, Dec. 26-30
Tickets: \$4 each; free for children 18 months and under
Information: (323) 662-9678, www.griffithparktrainrides.com

Holiday Happenings



Donate to the Toy Drive!

As part of its Club Angels program, the Club is gearing up its annual Holiday Toy Drive, held in conjunction with Public Works/Sanitation's West Valley Yard; *Alive!* told you about the yard's incredible toy drive program last year. Drop off your unwrapped toys to the Club Store soon – by the first week of December -- and we'll take it from there!

It's best to bring an unwrapped toy that's not fragile.

Please be generous!

Bring your donations to:

City Employees Club of Los Angeles
120 West 2nd Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
(888) 777-1744



The Club Store Is Holiday Headquarters!

Great gifts.

The Club Toy Drive for the needy.

They're all available at the Club Store this Christmas season.

A Club Holiday Hit: Club Movie Ticket Packs!

Beautifully wrapped bundles of movie tickets, wrapped and ready to go, at the great Club discount. As always, they're the cheapest in the state: Regal movie packs for \$26, and AMC movie packs for \$33.

Also at the Club Store for your holiday shopping:

- ❖ **Gift Central:** Buy fantastic Club merchandise that will be great under your tree. Returning this year: Free holiday gift boxes and bags, with the purchase of select items.
- ❖ **Great deals** on See's Candy and Honeybaked Hams.

Start your holidays at the Club Store!

Returning this year:
Free holiday gift boxes and bags, with the purchase of select items.



The Club Store is located at:
120 West 2nd Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012



Holiday Happenings



Be a Holiday Angel

This Christmas, help Club Angels bring goods to those in need.

Christmas is the time of giving. Remember those all around us in need by giving to Club Angels.

Club Angels is the Club's umbrella organization that supports the Club's charitable outreach and includes the Buckets and Blankets program, the Club Holiday Toy Drive, and other initiatives.

For more information, see the Club Angels story on page 37.

Club Store Holiday Schedule

Make your plans now to visit the Club Store for all your holiday shopping and end-of-year insurance needs!

Club Store Hours

The Club Store will be open Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. with the following exceptions:

- Nov. 10 (Friday): closed in observance of Veterans Day
- Nov. 23-24 (Thursday and Friday): closed for Thanksgiving
- Dec. 25 (Monday): closed for Christmas
- Dec. 26 (Tuesday): open beginning at noon
- Jan. 1 (Monday): closed for New Year's Day
- Jan. 2-3 (Tuesday and Wednesday): open beginning at noon

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from the Club Store!

Club Webstore

The Club Webstore will be open 24/7 online, but fulfillment of some orders will be processed according to the above schedule.

Shipping

If you want your Club Webstore order to arrive by Christmas, the Club recommends you order by the close of business Monday, Dec. 11. Don't wait!

Members can order from the Club Webstore at:
www.cityemployeesclub.com



The Club Store
120 West 2nd Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012



HARBOR

Christmas by the Sea

Port celebrates the season with two events Dec. 2

On Dec. 2, the Port is hosting an event – Wilmington Winter Wonderland – and sponsoring a second one, the LA Holiday Harbor Afloat Parade.



The Wilmington Winter Wonderland.

Wilmington Winter Wonderland

You'll believe it can snow in the Port during the Wilmington Winter Wonderland. Bring the family and let the kids play in the snow at Wilmington Waterfront Park, 1004 W. C Street in Wilmington. This free event, scheduled from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m., is hosted by the Harbor.

Los Angeles Holiday Harbor Afloat Parade

Join harbor community members for this free and festive boat parade on the LA Waterfront, sponsored by the Port. Enjoy the sparkling spectacular parade of boats and celebrate the nation's busiest international trade gateway. Before the parade, at 4 p.m., viewers are invited to enjoy holiday festivities at Banning's Landing Community Center in Wilmington. 6-9 p.m. For more information, visit <http://www.laharborholidayafloat.org/>



A previous Holiday Harbor Afloat Parade.

Holidays by the Sea

What: Two holiday-themed events
When: Sat., Dec. 2
11 a.m. – 2 p.m.; 6 – 9 p.m.
Cost: Free
Info: www.portofla.org

COUNCIL

Christmas On Parade

City's holiday parade is set for Nov. 26.

The annual Hollywood Christmas Parade, sponsored by the City, scheduled for 5 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 26, in Hollywood.

The parade, an American tradition for 86 years, is held traditionally the Sunday after Thanksgiving and telecast locally and throughout the nation during December. This year's broadcast partners again are the CW network and the Hallmark Channel. Check local listings. As last year, the co-hosts are expected to be television personalities Laura McKenzie and Erik Estrada, and Dean Cain and Montel Williams.

A special concert performance is expected to be held at 5 p.m. Performers for the concert, as well as other participating celebrities, have not yet been announced. See the Website for details.

The parade had been known by that name for decades. But when it looked likely to die seven years ago, the City – notably then-Councilman Eric Garcetti and then-Councilman, Mr. LA. Tom LaBonge, Club Member – took charge and restored the parade. The name was then changed to Santa's Hollywood Parade. The original name reverted back seven years ago.

As in recent years, the parade plans to work with the Marine Toys for Tots campaign.

The Hollywood Christmas Parade

When: 5 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 26
Where: Hollywood, starting at Hollywood Boulevard and Orange Street. See route, above.
Cost: Free; grandstand reserved seating is available ranging from \$25 to \$85.
Parking: Hollywood and Highland Center (fee)
Metro: Red Line station, Hollywood and Highland.
Info: (866) PARADE-1, or www.thehollywoodchristmasparade.com

The parade will feature entertainers, celebrities, marching bands, floats, equestrian units, food and some reserved grandstand seats, which range from \$25 to \$85. General admission is free.

The parade starts on Hollywood Boulevard at Orange Street. The U-shaped route follows east to Vine Street, south to Sunset Boulevard and west back to Orange.



At a previous Hollywood Christmas Parade.



Holiday Happenings

Photos by Jamie Pham, L.A. Zoo

ZOO

Moose on the Loose

Zoo brings back annual reindeer romp.



Reindeer in LA for the holidays.

Reindeer Romp

What: Reindeer Romp, Los Angeles Zoo: reindeer, holiday fun, visits from Santa Claus

When: Nov. 17 – Jan. 8 (daily except Thanksgiving and Christmas Day)

Time: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Cost: Free (except Santa photos) with paid Zoo admission (\$21 for general admission, 13 to 61; \$18 for seniors 62-plus), and \$16 for children 2 to 12). No ticket is required for children under age two. Admission for Zoo Association members is free.

Location: LA Zoo and Botanical Gardens, Griffith Park, 5355 Zoo Dr.

Parking: Free.

Information: (323) 644-6042 or www.lazoo.org

In addition to its big holiday lights festival, the Zoo also offers holiday fun during the day with its annual Reindeer Romp, the only opportunity to see real reindeer in Los Angeles, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily from Nov. 17 to Jan. 7 (except Thanksgiving and Christmas Day). Guests are invited to make the most of the season with a full day of adventure highlighted by the sight of four wintry visitors – two adults and two adorable youngsters – in their Reindeer Village home. A flurry of other fun on weekends includes holiday crafts for youngsters and more. All Reindeer Romp activities, except Santa photos, are free with paid Zoo admission, which is \$21 for general admission (ages 13 to 61); \$18 for seniors (ages 62+), and 16 for children (ages 2 to 12). No ticket is required for children under 2. Zoo admission for Greater Los Angeles Zoo Association members is free.



REC & PARKS

A Civil War Christmas

Drum Barracks Museum in Wilmington recalls the holidays of yesteryear.

The community is invited to welcome the holiday season by traveling back in time at the Drum Barracks Museum, the City's only surviving Civil War-era military structure. Experience the holiday as it was celebrated in the Civil War era.

A Civil War Christmas

Dates: Special event: Dec. 2-3
Regular hours: Tues.-Thurs., and Sat.-Sun.
Closed Christmas Day.

Tickets: Free for special event (tickets for regular tours: \$5 suggested donation)

Address: 1052 Banning Blvd., Wilmington

Info: (310) 548-7509 or www.drumbarracks.org

The 17th annual "A Civil War Christmas" is scheduled for 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 2-3. Guests can travel in the height of style on the popular horse-drawn, holiday-red trolley. Music will fill the rooms of the Drum Barracks with joyous sounds, and bell ringing will occur. An encampment will be set up on the museum grounds – visit the camp, and learn how Civil War soldiers and their families celebrated the holidays. Arts and crafts of the era will be taught during the weekend, including the decorating of a soldier's Christmas tree. Admission to Drum Barracks is free for this special event.

Drum Barracks Museum is a Rec and Parks facility.

Be a Part of a Club Holiday Tradition

It's Party Pix Time

We want to print pictures from your holiday office party in *Alive!*

Is your office having a holiday party? Here are two ways to get your holiday office party pictures into the January Alive!:

Take the photos yourself:

Take the photos yourself, and send them in as soon as you can. Digital photos are always best. And make sure you give us a description of the party: when it was, where it was, and if something significant happened, let us know that, too. Email the photos to: talkback@cityemployeesclub.com. If there are a lot, it's best to send them in on a thumb drive; put 'em up on Dropbox, Box, or some other cloud service; or deliver (or mail) a CD or DVD to the Club. The address is on the inside front cover. Make sure the photos are as high resolution as you can make them.

We'll take your holiday photos for you:

Let us know when your holiday party is, and we'll try to send a Club Counselor. Please note: There are more City holiday parties than we can cover, but we will try. That's why it's best to send in your own photos. If you want us to cover your party, talk to your Club Rep (Arlene Herrero, Angel Gomez, Gedina Bergstrom, Dalila Vielma, Jeanette Gadut, Tiffany Sy, MaryAnn Urdiales, Cheryl Martin or Noelle Kauffman) or email Robert Larios, Club Vice President of Operations, at rlarios@cityemployeesclub.com. We'll do our best to get to as many parties as we can, but we can't guarantee it. Let us know.



See you at the party!





Holiday Happenings



EL PUEBLO

Story and photos courtesy El Pueblo Historical Monument

Christmas on Olvera Street

El Pueblo Historical Monument celebrates with Holiday Tree Lighting.

El Pueblo Historical Monument – Olvera Street – plans to kick off its Christmas season from 5 to 9 p.m. Dec. 1 by lighting its public Christmas tree.

The event included food, mariachi music, dancing, costumes and of course officials throwing the switch to illuminate the tree on Los Angeles' historic district.

Olvera Street Tree Lighting

When: 5-9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 1
Where: Olvera Street, Downtown
Including: Entertainment for the family, food, costumes, etc.
Cost: Free admission
Info: www.elpueblo.lacity.org



Mariachis Divas de Cindy Shea performed at the tree lighting in 2014.

Holiday Newsbrief

El Pueblo Historical Monument

Las Posadas on Olvera Street

Mexican Christmas tradition begins again Dec. 16-24.

Las Posadas, a Mexican tradition that's one of the City's oldest Christmas events, returns to Olvera Street Dec. 16-24. Each night's festivities run from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

The Las Posadas celebration commemorates what Christians believe was the journey of Mary and Joseph from Nazareth to Bethlehem and their search for shelter in preparation for to Jesus' birth.

Las Posadas has been played out in Mexico for centuries. The tradition goes back to 1538, when Jesuit priests came to New Spain to convert the natives to Roman Catholicism. At the time, the natives celebrated a nine-day feast honoring the coming of an Aztec sun god. The missionaries used the nine-day framework and adapted it to Christianity. The tradition has thrived for nearly six centuries in Mexico and throughout Latin American.

On Olvera Street, the event will feature a candlelight procession starting at the historic Avila Adobe at approximately 7 p.m. The leaders of the march, usually children, will be dressed as shepherds, angels, and Mary and Joseph. They will be followed by dozens of other worshipers. The public is invited to join in or merely observe.

The procession will run up and down Olvera Street with the group singing songs in English and Spanish. They will make stops requesting lodging at designated points ("posadas," or stores), but will be denied, usually in song. Eventually they will be admitted. Complimentary *champurrado* (a Mexican hot beverage) and *pan dulce* (sweet bread) will be served, and *piñatas* will burst.

For more information: (213) 628-1274.



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AMC	CINEMARK <small>CENTURY THEATRES CinéArts Tinseltown rave</small>	REGAL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP <small>REGAL CINEMAS UNITED ARTISTS THEATRES EDWARDS THEATRES</small>
\$10 ²⁵	\$8 ²⁵	\$8 ⁵⁰
CLUB MEMBER	CLUB MEMBER	CLUB MEMBER
REG \$14 ⁰⁰	REG \$12 ⁷⁵	REG \$14 ⁷⁵
COSTCO \$10 ⁷⁵ MUST BUY 4	COSTCO \$8 ⁵⁰ MUST BUY 4	COSTCO \$10 ⁰⁰ MUST BUY 4
AAA \$10 ⁷³	AAA \$8 ⁴⁹	AAA \$9 ⁹⁹



THE CLUB DOES NOT CHARGE ANY PROCESSING OR HANDLING FEES!



CityEmployeesClub.com



Holiday Happenings

REC & PARKS

20 Years of Ice Skating Downtown

The Holiday Ice Rink Pershing Square returns downtown Nov. 16 through Jan. 15. The beloved recreational landmark will kick off its 20th anniversary season with a festive series of free community and special events, including its Ice Breaker: Opening Celebration and Birthday Party, DJ Spotlights, Learn to Curl, Silent Skate Party, and Polar Bear Skate: The LA Edition.

For 20 years, the Holiday Ice Rink Pershing Square has brought winter fun to sunny Los Angeles. At 7,200 square feet, it is the city's largest outdoor rink, offering visitors professional-quality real ice for skating and entertainment. This year's sponsors and media partners will include Bai, Eventbrite, Disney's *Aladdin*, LA Weekly, Metro, Metrolink, Yelp and Rec and Parks. A portion of all proceeds will benefit Rec and Parks.

In addition to providing hundreds of thousands of visitors and Los Angeles locals with a fun-filled outdoor ice-skating experience each year, the iconic venue also hosts several community events:

Ice Breaker: Opening Ceremony and Birthday Party Nov. 16, 11 a.m.

Each year, the Holiday Ice Rink Pershing Square celebrates the start of its season with a literal "ice breaking" ceremony, where a large ice sculpture is shattered. The epic christening includes a performance from Disney's *Aladdin*, impressive skate performances by the California Gold Synchronized Skaters, special guests and more.

DJ Spotlights Select Thursdays from 7 - 9:30 p.m.

Visitors can showcase their skating and dance skills as they swirl about the rink to a litany of popular songs selected by DJ HowLY. The 2017 series officially begins Nov. 16.

Arabian Nights: Disney's *Aladdin* Theme Skate Every Wednesday, 5:30 - 8 p.m.

Guests will imagine themselves on a magic carpet ride as this unique new event will feature special purple rink lighting and music from the *Aladdin* original Broadway cast recording.

Learn to Curl Dec. 17 and Jan. 14, 8:30 - 9:30 a.m.

Visitors are encouraged to channel their inner Winter Olympian at this beginners' curling pop-up hosted by the Hollywood Curling Club. Advanced registration is required.

Silent Skate Party Nov. 30 and Dec. 13, 7 - 9:30 p.m.

On Thursday, Nov. 30 and Wednesday, Dec. 13 from 7 to 8 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., visitors are invited to dress up in their most festive attire as they partake in a fun-filled holiday skate party. There will be three different channels of music to dance/skate to, and the event is open to individuals of all ages.

Polar Bear Skate: The LA Edition Jan. 1, 2:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Experience Canada's Polar Bear Plunge done the California way. Skaters are invited to ring in the New Year...in their chicest, wildest, and most inventive beach attire, of course. Spectators will judge as prizes are awarded based on theme, originality, and overall appearance.

General admission to the rink is \$13 with skate rental included, and special group rates are offered Monday through Thursday. Tickets can be bought at the ice rink ticket window or in advance online at www.holidayicerinkdowntownla.com.

Rec and Parks is a sponsor of the event.

46th Annual **Los Angeles City Employees Chicano Association**

Holiday Reception

and

TOY DRIVE

Thursday, December 7, 2017
5:30 - 10:00 pm

Plaza De La Raza
3540 North Mission Rd. L.A., CA 90031

Special Performance by
Folklor Pasion Mexicana

DJ Music by
Latin Stylez

Food and Drinks
Door Prizes!

Toy Recipient
Plaza De La Raza

\$10 Members
\$15 Non-Members
Plus One Toy Valued at \$15. PLEASE, NO VIOLENT TOYS!

Tickets must be purchased by November 30, 2017

Lupe Durazo, Personnel Dept (213) 473-9108
president@laceca.org
Anthony Garcia, Public Works (213) 798-5202
2ndvp@laceca.org

Gloria Ortiz, DWP (213) 202-0559
treasurer@laceca.org
Angie Roman, LAPD (213) 282-7738
recordingsec@laceca.org

PayPal payments accepted at laceca.org. Make checks payable to LACECA.
Street parking and across the street at DMV parking lot after 6:30 p.m. Visit laceca.org for more information.

Holiday Ice Rink Pershing Square

What: Ice-skating rink in Pershing Square

Where: 532 S. Olive St. downtown

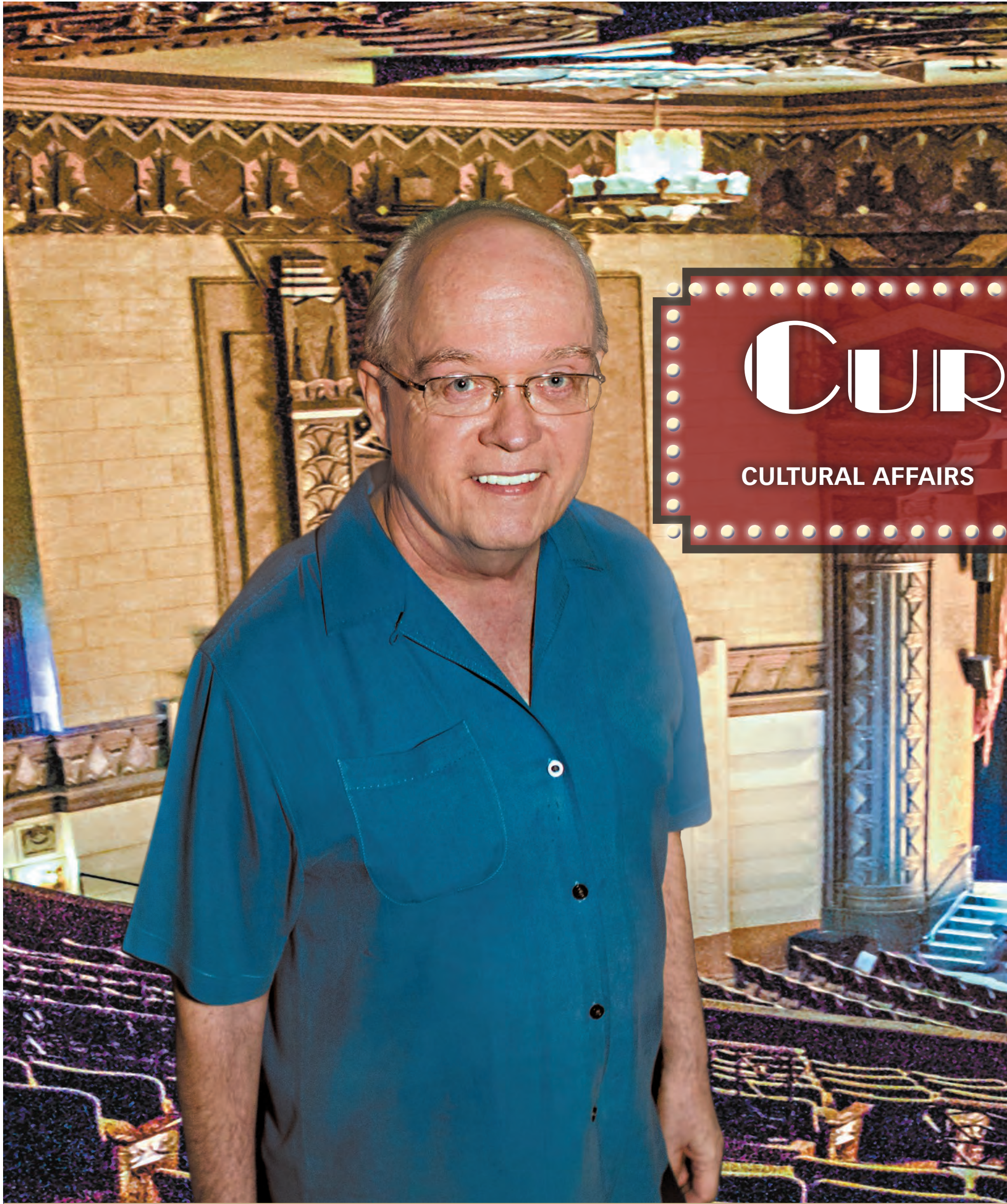
When: Every day Nov. 16 - Jan. 15

Cost: Regular skate session admission \$13; skate rental included. Purchase tickets at the rink or in advance at: www.holidayicerinkdowntownla.com

Group rates, private party and special event pricing available.

Hours: Nov. 10 - Dec. 14:
 Mon. - Thurs., 11:30 a.m. - 9:30 p.m.
 Friday, 11:30 a.m. - 11 p.m.
 Saturday, 10 a.m. - 11 p.m.
 Sunday, 10 a.m. - 9:30 p.m.
Dec. 15 - 30: 10 a.m. - 11 p.m. daily
Dec. 24 (Christmas Eve): 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Dec. 25 (Christmas): 11:30 a.m. - 9:30 p.m.
Dec. 31 (New Year's Eve): 10 a.m. - 11 p.m.
Jan. 1 (New Year's Day): 10 a.m. - 11 p.m.
Jan. 2 - Jan. 15:
 Mon-Thurs.: 11:30 a.m. - 9:30 p.m.
 Fri.-Sat.: 10 a.m. - 11 p.m.
 Sunday: 10 a.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Info: (213) 624-4289
www.holidayicerinkdowntownla.com



CUR
CULTURAL AFFAIRS

THE CITY'S **6** THEATERS

The City of Los Angeles owns six theatres, and Cultural Affairs operates four of them. They are (from left): the Vision Theatre (Leimert Park); the Warner Grand Theatre (San Pedro); the Los Angeles Theatre Center/The NEW LATC (downtown, managed by the Latino Theatre Company); the Madrid Theatre (Canoga Park); the Nate Holden Performing Arts Center (West Adams, managed by the Ebony Repertory Theatre); and the Barnsdall Gallery Theatre (East Hollywood).

Vision Theatre



ALIVE! FEATURE

Photos by Summy Lam, Club Director of Marketing; John Burnes, Alive! editor; the Security National Bank Collection, Los Angeles Public Library; courtesy the Vision Theatre; Franck Bohbot; and Taso Papadakis, Grand Vision. Madrid, Nate Holden and LATC theater photo credits as indicated.

TAIN UP!

The performing arts in the City are alive again as the City relaunches its Performing Arts Division. Read about the City's exciting plans ... and get to know its six theaters.

Did you know the City owns six neighborhood theaters - for live shows? Did you know the City had a Performing Arts Division?

A few years ago, you might have been right to not know. But last year the City relaunches its Performing Arts Division and hired a positive new director, Ben Johnson. Cultural Affairs has exciting plans

for the performing arts in the City, but for now it's one step at a time to bring the state of the arts back to where the City wants them – active and thriving. And with the Olympics, which also features a world-

class arts festival, coming to the City in 2028, there's no time like the present to get to work.

The Show Is Going On

Cultural Affairs relaunches its Performing Arts Division last year and is committed to providing resources to enhance the capacity of performing arts to thrive in the public realm and support music, dance, theater and performance of all genres, as well as to support organizations, arts programs, individual grants, cultural exchange programs, venues/facilities, presentations, and special projects based on partnership, collaboration, and community investment.

DCA currently manages and stewards four City-owned theaters: the Warner Grand Theatre (San Pedro), the

Vision Theatre (Leimert Park), the Barnsdall Gallery Theatre (East Hollywood), and the Madrid Theatre (Canoga Park), in addition to overseeing two City-owned, operator-managed theaters: the Nate Holden Performing Arts Center (West Adams, managed by Ebony Repertory Theatre) and the Los Angeles Theatre Center/The NEW LATC (Downtown Los Angeles, managed by the Latino Theater Company). The Performing Arts Division also supports Los Angeles artists through advocacy on a national and international level to enhance the relationships with national touring circuits, for-profit promoters, national service organizations, other government agencies, foreign consulates, and important festivals and cultural centers across the globe.

So enjoy this story, and make sure you go out and see a show at a theater owned and operated by the City of Los Angeles.

Warner Grand Theatre



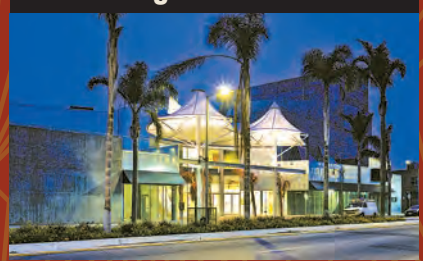
Los Angeles Theatre Center/NEW LATC



Madrid Theatre



Nate Holden Performing Arts Center



Barnsdall Gallery Theatre



CURTAIN UP!

TAKE A TOUR OF THE WARNER GRAND

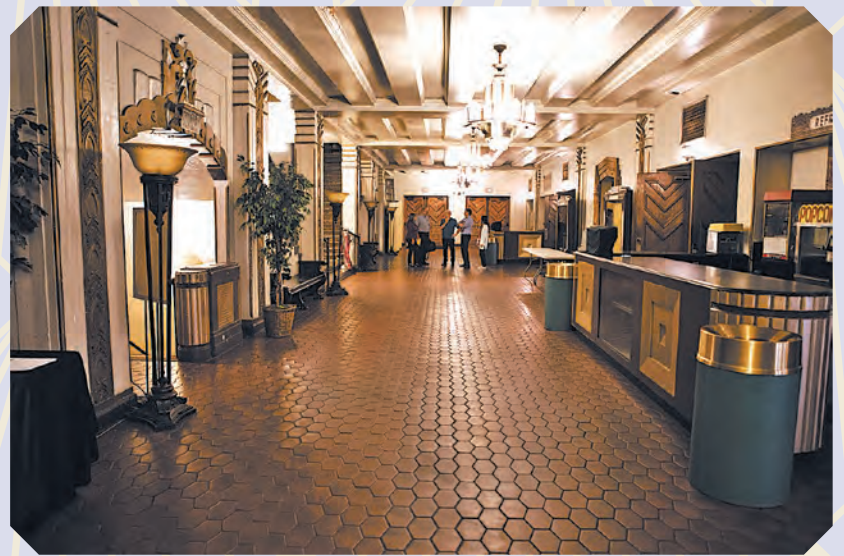
This art deco masterpiece is owned and programmed by the City. It's being renovated as funds are raised by Grand Vision, the City's non-profit partner on this project.

The tour was led by Lee Sweet, Cultural Affairs, Manager of the Warner Grand; and Liz Schindler Johnson, Executive Director of Grand Vision. (Liz says the theater is about 20 percent on its way toward rehab completion.)

THE LOBBY

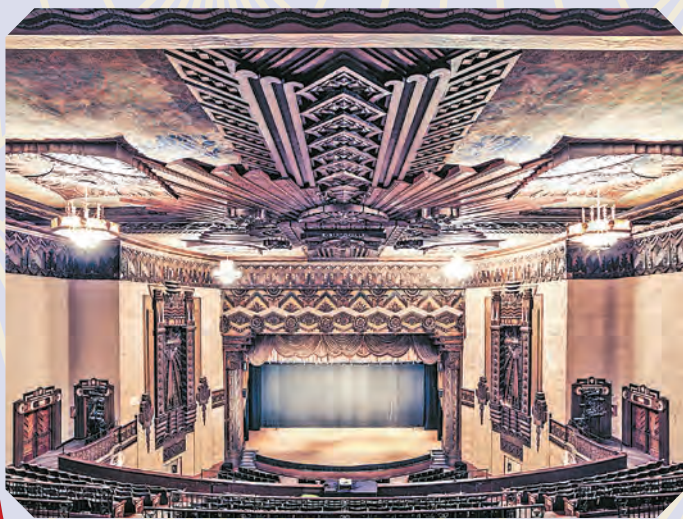


A vintage admission register, tickets cost 25 cents. It's unknown if the machine is original to the theater.



The magnificent Warner Grand entrance lobby off Sixth Street. The lobby is 86 feet long.

MEZZANINE



The mezzanine, showing the magnificent ceiling.



Grand Vision's ongoing restoration process includes these art deco elements in the mezzanine lobby. Craftsmen who restore the elements to the original condition are not always easy to find. From left: Lee Sweet, Theater Manager; Deborah Hong, Public Information Director, Cultural Affairs; Liz Schindler Johnson, Grand Vision Executive Director; and Club CEO John Hawkins.

DOWNSTAIRS



Lee Sweet, Theater Manager (second from right) explains that the two large dressing rooms below the stage are said to be haunted. From left: Deborah Hong, Public Information Director, Cultural Affairs; John Burnes, *Alive!* editor; John Hawkins, Club CEO; and Liz Schindler Johnson, Grand Vision Executive Director.



RIGHT: The City paid for the replacement of the theater's heating and air conditioning systems. The air circulation system uses the same grated vents in the floor of the main theater that the original construction used in the 1930s.

The *Alive!* Interview

A THEATER FOR SAN PEDRO



Lee Sweet, Manager, Warner Grand Theatre

On Oct. 4, Club CEO John Hawkins and Alive! editor John Burnes interviewed Lee Sweet, Manager, Warner Grand Theatre, 26 years of City service, Club Member; and Liz Schindler Johnson, Executive Director, Grand Vision Foundation, the theater's nonprofit fundraising partner. The interview took place on stage at the Warner Grand, which the City owns.

Thanks for giving us a great tour of this amazing theater. It's beautiful. First, though, tell us a little bit of how you got to your current positions.

Lee Sweet: Sure. I have been with the City since 1991. I started at L.A. Theatre Center as the general manager, and when the producing company failed, Mayor Tom Bradley asked Cultural Affairs to keep it running while they looked for a new operator to come in. The Latino Theater Company responded to an RFP and took it over, and they still run it. Cultural Affairs kept three of us from the former production company, and I joined the City. I came out here to the Warner Grand in 2000.

Liz, what's your background?

Liz Schindler Johnson: I was an art major who graduated from Yale, and I went into urban planning, which I did for about ten years. My husband somehow convinced me to quit my job and spend more time with him. Before I knew it, I had taken over Grand Vision Foundation.

I came to Los Angeles to help with community development. That's always been my passion—community development and the arts. San Pedro is an amazing community. People are close-knit. They really care. I just felt embraced here.

The City and the Warner Grand

Lee, what's the history of this theater?

Lee Sweet: In 1929, with the big market crash, all of the studios discovered that no one could afford to come see movies anymore, particularly because a lot of people had moved out of the urban centers where the theaters were. So they figured, "We'll build these things out where people are." There were tuna canneries and the fishing fleet and the Navy out here – a built-in audience. So Warner Bros. opened this in 1931, and they ran it until I think sometimes in the '60s, when the Supreme Court said, "All of you studios have to divest yourselves of your theaters where you're showing your product," which was the beginning of the Laemmle chains and AMCs and a lot of those that bought a lot of individual theaters. In the 1970s a man bought this and named it the

Teatro Juarez and showed Spanish language movies, exclusively I guess, and he recovered the seats in red, white and green vinyl and painted the lobby and took up the carpet and cleaned it up for his use, because it wasn't considered historic at the time. So now that it all is considered historic, we, with Liz's help, have to find a way to take it back to what it was.

And the City bought it and began running it in 1996?

Lee Sweet: 1996, yes. The City bought it from Lee Michaels whose career in the 60s and 70s as a rock musician included hits "Do You Know What I Mean" and "Can I Get a Witness".

Before the City bought it, it was going to be turned into an indoor swap meet or some other use—a church, perhaps—and Liz's husband, Alan, and a fellow named Gary Larson and a couple of other community leaders went to then Councilman Rudy Svorinich and said, "You have to help us save this thing." So he found money from the Community Redevelopment Agency and HUD and a couple of other spots and put it all together and bought it from Lee Michaels who went on to found the Killer Shrimp chain.

Liz, why did the foundation decide this was a project that it wanted to partner on?

Liz Schindler Johnson: My husband, Alan Johnson, was one of the community leaders who really loved this theater. This was before I knew him.

The Warner Grand Theatre was experiencing terrible times. They were really worried that something was going to happen to it. We still believe that this is an anchor for the development of this community. A 1500-seat theater isn't that common, and especially one that's as much of an attraction as what's going on onstage. You can always gaze at the majesty of the design; you're never bored here. Alan and Gary Larson convinced Rudy to act. Rudy is a born-and-bred San Pedran, and his father took his mother on their first date here at

this theater. His father sprung for the loge seats, which cost 35 cents, not 25 cents at the very top, and so his mother thought that his dad was a good catch and continued to date him. So Rudy had very positive feelings about the Warner Grand. He felt like it was the right thing to do, and the City saved a treasure. Since then we've been really lucky that the City has kept the lights on and kept the plumbing going, which is not an easy task; and made some major investments, like the air conditioning and redoing the heat. You used to have to come in your coat.

And then we really felt like Grand Vision had to step up. We were doing smaller things like controlling the wires on the stage and doing little projects, but there just became this moment where we were working with the Port and we had really good support from many directions. People were tired of seeing this theater like it was, and that's when we launched the Save Your Seat campaign in 2004. People just came and started writing checks. Before we knew it, we had raised more money than we expected and we were able to not only restore the seats and do the aisle lighting, but more. We had to scrape the floor of the gum and clean and paint it. We worked on the stage. We painted the backdrop. We had a wonderful donor appear out of nowhere and pay for the carpeting and many other things. We made many, many improvements. We also received a grant to really improve the sound system. We used to have these giant air horns from the '40s—I'm sure they're collectible! We were able to buy a movie sound system. We were able to do the stage rigging, and a little bit later we also fixed this stage, and then we did the curtain. Basically we made it more livable, and we've been repairing things and making it prettier. If it were up to me, we would have painters right now up on this ceiling cleaning every detail.

What percent are you to perfection, where you'd like to see it?

Liz Schindler Johnson: The City right now is trying to price out the cost. It depends on how perfect you want it— but I'd say between \$5 and 10 million.

I'd say we're maybe 20 percent there. We need an elevator and a few things that would make it a little better for the

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CURTAIN UP!

INSIDE THE HOUSE

The stage and main curtain.



The nonprofit foundation Grand Vision is slowly restoring all the theater's architectural gems, including this light fixture in the ceiling.



The Grand Vision Foundation paid for the restoration of the original curtain, top center.



Liz Schindler Johnson (front) explains the ongoing process of renovating the theater included a "Save a Seat" fundraising campaign.



Lee Sweet, Theater Manager, shows Club CEO John Hawkins how the modernized rope pulley system works for scene changes.



The orchestra seating area (the main house) of the Warner Grand.



Liz Schindler Johnson (right) explains the restoration process of the stage. Listening are (from left) John Hawkins, Club CEO; Deborah Hong, Public Information Director, Cultural Affairs; John Burnes, *Alive!* editor; and Lee Sweet, Theater Manager, Warner Grand.



Lee Sweet, Theater Manager.

CUSTODIAN



Rudy Jimenez, Custodian, General Services, 10 years of City service, Club Member (second from right), is permanently assigned to keeping the Warner Grand clean. Here he is in the theater lobby with (from left) Deborah Hong, Public Information Director, Cultural Affairs; John Burnes, *Alive!* editor; and John Hawkins, Club CEO.

PROJECTION ROOM



The project room high atop the Warner Grand's mezzanine contains equipment both modern (the large orange boxes in the back are digital projectors) and obsolete (the reels in the front right are film projectors and a film platter). All of the projection equipment is vintage and has been donated (the Super Trouper follow spots, from which the Abba song is named, are from the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, and the film projectors are from the United Artists Four-Star Cinema on Wilshire, which has been closed). The equipment is in demand from collectors. A follow spotlight is in the very back.

ALIVE! FEATURE

Lee Sweet

The *Alive!* Interview

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public. We don't have enough restrooms for the public. We've had some wonderful concerts here thanks to our current Councilman, Joe Buscaino. He's brought in some wonderful shows, and as a result we start to see just how many restrooms we really need when you pack the house.

Programming

Lee, how much of what you present is City-sponsored programming, and how much of it comes from the outside?

Lee Sweet: I would say probably 75 percent is rentals, where people have whipped up enough cash to do a show. There are other organizations that are in the business of putting on shows. ENCORE South Bay does musicals ... the San Pedro City Ballet ... the San Pedro International Film Festival that's coming up this weekend and next weekend. She saves up and scrimps all year to put on a two-weekend film festival that is full of features and documentaries and short films, and panel discussions.

In terms of the City programming, what is here?

Lee Sweet: Generally the City supports productions. There's an opera company downtown called the Industry that is doing a recreation of Bertolt Brecht's *Galileo* and turning it into an opera that is going to be done down here on Cabrillo Beach next year. It's going to have a helicopter in it and a big bonfire and just all sorts of stuff. So when that happens, our new Performing Arts Director, Ben Johnson, says, "Just open the doors, let them in. Make that happen."

Does Cultural Affairs program acting classes or children's programs, anything like that?

Lee Sweet: We don't do anything right now. We don't have the resources, and there are enough organizations here in the community that do that already; we don't want to get in competition with them. We're here to support them when they have classes and they want to do a culmination performance or something, then we step in.

When they need a theater.

Lee Sweet: Yes.

Liz Schindler Johnson: Lee is great with that. He is so generous and supportive of all the youth programs we have here.

Lee Sweet: The department is generous.

Liz Schindler Johnson: I mean the department is generous! I've had so many young people tell me, "When I was able to stand on this stage and sing, my confidence increased so much and then I was able to make a report in class. I was able to stand up in front of my class. It helped me get to college." We get a lot of that. We also have a partnership with the L.A. Opera where once a year we bring a full house of fourth- and fifth-graders in to see a one-hour version of a famous opera that the opera adapts. This theater allows us to really be a part of greater L.A. This theater connects us with the greater performing arts scene in Los Angeles.

Lee Sweet: Liz is one of the primary reasons why the City is able to do what it does and take ownership of what it does. Liz, God love her, is a volunteer. Her entire board is all volunteers. They can do whatever they want with their time, and they choose to do it here, which makes our job just so much easier.

And that really pays off in the community.

Lee Sweet: The Warner Grand is a great opportunity for people here. You don't have to go to a theater anymore that's so far away. Places like the Music Center and La Mirada do a wonderful job attracting an audience because of their programming and because they spend so much money on audience outreach and marketing.

Sometimes people say, "There's a 10-mile radius of people who might come here." I think it's a 20-mile radius because of its commitment and focus on ethnic arts. We want to do five weekend festivals of dance, music and culture, focused on those ethnicities, to give us an anchor while organizations like Grand Vision, the ballet, other places, come in and fill in around that. One thing we don't have right now is anchor programming that gives us a consistency. When people find something they want to see here, they really have just found it, like, "Look what's happening here at the Warner Grand." They're not yet attuned to, "Let's see what's happening at the Warner Grand this weekend," just because we haven't reached out to them in the right way. But with Liz's help and the Cultural Affairs marketing division's help. I think we'll do that.



Misty Copeland

Misty Copeland, the principal dancer with the American Ballet Theatre in New York and one of the greatest dancers in the world now, danced on this stage growing up.

Liz Schindler Johnson: She came from this area and she was at the Boys and Girls Club, and then they recommended she join the San Pedro City Ballet, which she did, and she started showing that she was a true prodigy. The first place that she ever performed was here on this stage.

Lee Sweet: They have a male Misty Copeland now who has been training with them who's just been accepted at the American Ballet Theatre in New York City. They've got a history of training folks up.

Liz Schindler Johnson: The San Pedro City Ballet is on people's radar when maybe it wasn't before.

And she came back here just a few years ago.

Lee Sweet: Right. She came here and led a master class with 75 young dancers, and it was just incredible. She's unreal.

Liz Schindler Johnson: Oh my God. We were pretty star-struck.

The Value of a Venue

Why does the City value having a theater like Warner Grand?

Lee Sweet: It's a demonstration of the City's commitment to the performing arts. The City certainly has a commitment to the arts citywide; all over the place, and throughout the City we have these theaters that are like mini regional performing



From left: Deborah Hong, Public Information Director, Cultural Affairs; Liz Schindler Johnson, Grand Vision Executive Director; Lee Sweet, Theater Manager, Cultural Affairs; John Hawkins, Club CEO; and John Burnes, *Alive!* editor.

arts centers that can be used to support the performing arts community, the schools, the local dance companies and places like that. Your left brain says, "Oh, if we just had a great, big, giant grants bag of money, we could give everybody a grant and they could go do it, and that's all that's necessary," but it's not always what's necessary. The cost of operating one of these things breaks the back of an artistic organization that wants to come in and run it in addition to performing. That's what happened at L.A. Theatre Center, the Mercury Theatre, the Zephyr Theatre, all of these examples. But with a separation like this of the City maintaining the fabric and the infrastructure, then the artists can come in and do art, get applause and go home, they don't have to worry about toilet paper or light bulbs or mopping the floor.

Liz Schindler Johnson: You need a big institution to support a building like this, and that's one of the things we're really grateful for – the City doing that. The City has a performing arts division, it has a Dept. of Cultural Affairs; it has a strong commitment to the arts and performing arts. The City of Los Angeles is made up of 38 civic centers. We invite everybody from our area to come here. We have people from the South Bay to Wilmington to Harbor City, Lomita, Gardena, and Long Beach coming to this theater.

Talk about some favorite experiences working here.

Lee Sweet: For me, the most memorable event we had here was when Jane Goodall came and spoke one evening. People were sitting on the stairs, hanging from the chandeliers – we were overpacked. But it's Jane Goodall. There's no way to keep them out. And I have never seen a bigger audience in here, or a quieter audience. Nobody said a word. You couldn't even hear them breathe; they were just listening. She's a very soft-spoken person, but they wanted to hear everything she had to say. That was seven or eight years ago.

Liz Schindler Johnson: And we had Michael York. We've done a lot of filming here.

Lee Sweet: Shirley Jones.

Liz Schindler Johnson: Leonardo DiCaprio partlv filmed

Catch Me If You Can here.

Lee Sweet: Ben Affleck did part of *Live By Night*.

Liz Schindler Johnson: *Pearl Harbor* was filmed here. One example of life imitating art is that with *Pearl Harbor* they dressed up the street beautifully with old-fashioned hanging lights, string lights. We took screenshots, and eventually our little Business Improvement District invested and now we have string lights too.

It's too bad they just didn't leave them.

Liz Schindler Johnson: Once the Port helped sponsor a Taiwanese orchestra. Evergreen Shipping Line has a boutique orchestra of trained Juilliard musicians from Taiwan, and they were part of the Port celebration of its 100th anniversary a number of years ago, and they provided the entire orchestra.

Lee Sweet: It is hard to pick out one or just a handful because there have been so many. I love to watch little kids the minute their parents bring them up here onstage. The kids start turning around in a circle. Nobody says "dance" or anything. The kids just do it naturally, turn round and round.

Lee, invite the citizens of the City who have never been here to come and experience a show or a ballet or a cultural performance here at the Warner Grand.

Lee Sweet: City people, I would like to invite you to come down here to see a ballet, a performance, a film, something like that. We are very eager. We have new leadership that's reforming the performing arts division that was put down about five years ago. We have Ben Johnson, who came from CAP UCLA, who is figuring out how to make this work. He and his assistants are very committed to helping us do what we've always known needs to happen down here, which is get resources and use them in the correct way so that we can expand the reach of these things. One thing I always tell young people, if I get a

chance to say something and they'll hear, is, "This is a great date here. You can go to a rave or a dance or a something for \$25 or \$50 or \$100 a ticket. This is \$10 a ticket. You just have to give it a chance, whatever it is. Maybe it's a film, maybe it's the Evergreen Orchestra, the San Pedro City Ballet or something. It's kind of a throwback, but it is a way to test if you're going to have a second date, for only 10 bucks."

Liz Schindler Johnson: Not everything is only 10 bucks. Sometimes they're \$100. Or \$45 or \$55 or \$65.

Lee Sweet: Yes, there's that. I was going to say that!

Christmas Events

Do you have a Christmas event?

Liz Schindler Johnson: We have several.

Lee Sweet: *The Nutcracker*. San Pedro City Ballet comes in and does it

on this stage.

The Golden State Pops Orchestra is in residence here. They do part of their season here, part at the Redondo Beach Performing Arts Center, and part at the Ace Hotel downtown. They do a holiday pops spectacular every year and have snow coming off the marquee when you walk out.

Love it!

Liz Schindler Johnson: Usually somebody will put on a Christmas movie. We go all out for Christmas. It's like one Christmas event after another here at this theater, and then it kind of rests for a little while. But really our season gears up right around now and goes till the late spring, and then it kind of gets quiet in summer. Some of the schools do their high school musicals here, and then in the late spring there are quite a few graduations. There are a lot of really great family experiences here.

In the End, a Passion

What do you love about what you do?

Liz Schindler Johnson: I love the fact that a theater brings people together to be creative and think about things creatively and maybe experience other cultures or other different forms of self-expression. It's great not only for kids but adults to have a place very close to home. L.A.'s a really big city, and a lot of people like being able to come here and have a beautiful evening, go out to dinner, come to the theater, and not have to drive 30 or 50 miles.

Lee Sweet: I love that. On July 1 when the budget is ready, you're told, "Here's your funding for the year. Make it work for the community." I can't think of a better way to earn a living, honestly.

Liz Schindler Johnson: Period. I can't think of a better way to earn a living, period.

Thank you for the tour, and thank you for this interview. We really appreciate it.

Liz Schindler Johnson: Thank you.

Lee Sweet: Thank you for coming down. ■

CURTAIN UP!

The *Alive!* Interview

'L.A. IS THE CULTURAL EPICENTER'

On Thursday, Oct. 5, Club CEO John Hawkins and *Alive!* editor John Burnes interviewed Ben Johnson, the new Director of Performing Arts for Cultural Affairs. Ben joined the City last year. The interview took place on stage at the Barnsdall Gallery Theatre in East Hollywood.

Hi Ben, thanks for joining us today to talk about relaunching the Performing Arts Division. As the director, that's what you were hired to do, right?

Ben Johnson: Right.

It was disbanded a while ago.

Yes. The Performing Arts Division was always couched within the Community Arts Division, but now we are trying to reestablish it as its own division for the City of Los Angeles. I was hired to be the new director of Performing Arts for the first one in a long time. I am tasked with relaunching the Performing Arts Division.

Great. So how long have you been working for the City?

A year-and-a-half.

You're fresh new.

To this job and working for the City, but not to L.A.

How did you get to this position? Start from before you came to L.A.

I grew up in LeRoy, Minnesota. And I had a visual arts mother, and a math genius father. And I had a grandfather who was a farmer, but also a jazz musician. My grandfather was known for having these jazz bands on the weekends that everybody would travel to. This was rural Northeast Iowa, so his claim to fame was that he made sure that all the wallflowers had somebody to dance with before the night was over.

That's great!

Yes, I also love that "making everyone feel good" kind of attitude. I was an arts motivated kid. I got a theater arts degree from St. Mary's College in Winona, Minn. That led to work with the Ordway Music Theater in St. Paul, Minn., where I was getting my Master's degree in arts administration. I worked with four cultural advisory committees – African-American, Chicano-Latino, Asian-Pacific and Native American. I worked with communities in St. Paul and Minneapolis on issues of accessibility in programming and education under a program called Planet Ordway, which was a big sort of multidisciplinary dance/music theater and world music program. I did that for five years.

I worked for 13 years as the Director of Education and Audience Development for the University Musical Society at the University of Michigan. And I spent a lot of time working within the City of Detroit, as well as throughout the state. It was also a job that sent me around the world to festivals. I was the Curator of Programming as well. And after that, I went back to Minnesota to be the Director of Northrop Concerts and Lectures, which is at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis. And I ran a major International Ballet and Modern Dance program, as well as Jazz Series and Contemporary and New Music Series at the University of Minnesota. And it was about that time that I



Ben Johnson,
Director of Performing Arts for Cultural Affairs

started thinking, "Am I going to be living in the Midwest for the rest of my life?"

There were some opportunities in Los Angeles. So I was moved to L.A. I ended up working at the Center for the Art of Performance at UCLA at Royce Hall for three years. And then at the same time, I was doing a lot of work within Los Angeles and really understanding how the performing arts scene worked. I became an advocate for artists who were living in Los Angeles. And then this position came up, because it was a new position for the City. I applied for it, and I got it.

Got it. Before we get too far, I have to ask you a really esoteric question. With a name like Ben Johnson, you had to have gone into performing arts and theater, right? Has anyone ever pointed this out that there was a famous playwright by the name of Ben Jonson in Shakespeare's time?

Yes. That's funny; it depends on who you ask. If it's a Brit, they laugh, because they say, "Who names their kid Ben Johnson?" But if you're a Canadian, there's the runner, Ben Johnson. And then if you're in L.A., if you're real L.A. cinephile, there's Ben Johnson, the Western actor. He has a star on the Walk of Fame.

We're saving space on the Walk of Fame for the next Ben Johnson, you! You know, I've been to Winona. My great-great grandfather is buried there. He fought in the Civil War.

Wow.

I went there with my kids about five years ago, and we cleaned up his gravestone. That part of the country is beautiful.

It's beautiful, isn't it?

Oh, yeah! It's amazing.

I was born there.

That is mind-blowing.

It is.

L.A. at the Center

You're really qualified for your job. What excited you about this position? What really interested you about doing what you're doing?

There are a couple of big things that are happening right now. One is that L.A. is really seen as the cultural epicenter of the country. Lots of artists and creative people are moving here. It's no longer, "What's happening in New York or London?," necessarily. The pivot towards what's happening here in a really dynamic way is really exciting.

That was one thing. And also the geography and the vastness of the city, it was the first time that I felt like a city was bigger than my own imagination.

Los Angeles is really having a major Golden Age in performing arts right now. It has a burgeoning dance scene. All the composers are moving here. All the playwrights are moving here. There's a lot of incredible theater that's exploding all over the city. There's something really

special happening right now in L.A.

What's interesting to me is that there's no center to L.A. It's polycentric, so it's happening all over on multiple different levels. In talking with my boss, Danielle Brazell [the General Manager], it was like there are these six theaters that are owned by the City that are ready to be reborn. We're working to ask, what does it mean to have these theaters, and what are the other kinds of programs that would really make L.A. truly the most exciting place to live?

We talk a lot about the Warner Grand Theatre, which we just visited. But what's your thinking with the Vision Theatre in Leimert Park? With the Crenshaw Line coming that way, there's a lot of activity that's going to happen in that area.

We're anticipating what that will mean for that theater. We're hoping to rebrand it as the National Center for Black Culture. That's our working title for it. It's not just a theater that we're opening, but we're actually opening up a brand new idea that will have impact locally and nationally and internationally.

A Big Job

What's involved with your job?

There are four planks to what my job is. One is to understand what is happening with these theaters that the City owns, bring them up to capacity, fix them up and get them staffed and relaunch them in a meaningful way for the City. Another plank is that we're looking at festivals for the City, deeply rooted community-based celebration festivals. L.A. used to be a festival city, and many festivals were not able to continue after the economic collapse. So we're thinking, "What should we have here as a world-class international art city?"

I also advocate on behalf of L.A.'s artists on the national level. I spent a lot of time working at conferences, and when conferences come to Los Angeles, really advocating for artists to be seen and booked. The dance community is being advocated for, and the theater community, the classical community, the cultural community. I also participate in the International Cultural Exchange to countries around the world. I try to create the pipelines for L.A. artists to go work collaboratively with other creatives around the globe.

The Performing Arts Initiative

So that's sort of my next question: What are the goals of the Performing Arts Initiative? Those are very large international goals, and quite admirable. What about at the neighborhood level?

Currently, I don't have a performing arts education program. There are those kinds of courses offered through the community arts program. The theaters are a place for L.A. artists to either offer those, or present their performances. It's certainly something we hope to have in the future – to collaborate with the school district at the neighborhood level. We're working right now with the City on their new general plan. The City hasn't done a complete general plan since the 1940s, and that will be fed by 35 community neighborhood plans. We're asking the question, "What does culture at the center of each of those neighborhoods look like for the City in L.A. in a way that it hasn't looked before?" As cultural communities and artists are displaced throughout the City, we're trying to imagine, "What does the skeleton of cultural infrastructure support look like for a whole city like Los Angeles?" We're both global and then deeply local at the same time.

We're looking at who are the citizens of Los Angeles, and how do we best serve them. And then, how do we use arts and culture as a way to provide those services? The arts are really the glue that keeps Angelenos together.

Who is the visionary you mention? You say how "we" want to get these theaters and do this and that. Who's driving this? This vision wasn't there ten years ago.

Danielle Brazell. She spent two years putting it together. It became really obvious that the performing arts in Los Angeles was getting short shrift and it

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Ben Johnson in front of the Barnsdall Gallery Theatre in Barnsdall Art Park, East Hollywood.



In the control room of the Barnsdall Gallery Theatre is Derek Thompson, House Manager, Cultural Affairs, 30 years of City service. Thanks for your help, Derek, in setting up for *Alive!*'s visit to the Barnsdall Gallery Theatre.

ALIVE! FEATURE

The *Alive!* Interview: Ben Johnson

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needed its own division director for the city for the City. We had these theaters that were not stewarded in a great way. It needed focus and attention, and so she advocated that we would restart the division. It was also a priority from Mayor Garcetti to her that we'd focus on the performing arts of Los Angeles, and bring them up to speed like the Department of Cultural Affairs' other divisions, Public Art, Community Arts, and Marketing and Development. Every night there are performing arts events all over the City. And we didn't have a division. But we do now.

I don't think a comprehensive plan has been in place for quite a few years.

There used to be like a circus owned by the City.

Really?

There used to be several big festivals in dance and theater and music all over the City. They used to have this whole division of cultural festivals. We had a Festival Division of the City. All of that was decimated.

Why?

Lack of funding and resources.

I figured.

Some of this relaunching is about the fact that the Olympics are going to be coming. And how does L.A. get itself ready from a performing arts perspective for the artists who would be working on that scale? In the 1980s, when the Olympics were here, there was a huge cultural festival that had a transformative impact nationally, internationally and locally on the arts here.

What's really exciting about L.A. isn't so much the fact that we have these plans now. Although it is exciting that we have this new emphasis. But artists throughout the world are now moving here for a reason. I think that they're moving here to innovate. It's not the East Coast. It's not about being in New York. It's not being anywhere else. The City is so vast and creative, that the whole city is their palette. They're working collaboratively amongst themselves in all the different disciplines. It's really created a new creative entrepreneurial class.

Really?

We're saying, "What would it look like if there was some support thrown to amplify what's going on in L.A.?" It has forced artists to be more creative and more innovative and more scrappy and more DIY. And more interesting. They build their own audiences. It created this unique ecosystem that exists here. It happens at every little district and every pocket of the City.

Challenges, and New Life

Let's talk about some challenges. The hugeness of the City is an opportunity, but it's also a challenge.

You have to think that L.A. is a really big space. But what's exciting about our theaters is that those are in the spaces that are in the farthest regions. Lot of people think that the art center of the City is downtown. But we have theaters in the farthest reaches. We have one at the far end of the Port, in San Pedro. We have one way out in the West Valley. We have one here [in Barnsdall Park in East Hollywood]. It's about understanding how people participate in this community and how artists create their work. We have to organize how to build support in a City that requires people to drive across it. That's a challenge for everybody. If that's how it works, then maybe you just focus regionally to start the process.

And as you relaunch the division, that means staff and resources. The City is pretty loath to add on more staff and more resources without knowing what's on the other end of that. At the same time, if you don't have that, you can't grow and manage and steward a whole division.

And running theaters is a very unique practice. There's really been no fixing up of any of the theaters in 20 years. So it's a huge thing that no one's really had to think about before. But now they're thinking about it for the first time, which is great, because these are City-owned facilities, and they should be used to their maximum by all the local community, and the community deserves to have clean, safe, affordable spaces to be used. Not every local company is going to be able to produce at the Music Center.

That's where the partnerships come in. Like at the Warner Grand.

Yes. Two of our theaters have Memos of Understanding for companies to manage them – that's the Latino Theater Company at the L.A. Theatre Center downtown, and the Ebony Repertory at the Nate Holden. We're trying to help them because those theaters could also use some love and support. It's hard to be a theater company in this town and manage a facility at the same time. There are "Friends of" at all of our theaters, but at those theaters, they're really inactive. Part of my task is to relaunch those community groups to help support.

And it's not just fixing the theaters; they also are being given new visions and new mandates. At the Warner Grand, we'll be focusing on the stakeholders in that community. That theater is beloved by the South Bay and the people in San Pedro. We're hoping that South Bay major institutions like the Long Beach

Opera and the San Pedro Ballet and a whole bunch of other organizations will utilize that as their home. We're going to create a model for them to actually grow as a company. We'll also focus on working with for-profit promoters to use that venue as a place to launch new artists and festivals. And also have that theater become a portal for Mexico and Latin America. This space here in Barnsdall Art Park will become the music space of Los Angeles. The Madrid will be transforming to what's called the Madrid cultural hub. We've identified 12 companies in the Valley, and it will focus on family programming. It's an incubator for family programs for the entire City. We don't have a theater in Los Angeles devoted to family programming.

And then we have a partnership with an organization called New Economics for Women, a social service agency that supports 1,200 families, but 6,000 people. They're going to figure out ways for all of the arts organizations to intersect with those 6,000 members in their housing units. It's a new model that we're creating for the City.

How many people do you have working for you?

There are two to three people at each of the theaters right now.

L.A. Deserves Performing Arts

Why does a City like L.A. deserve a serious performing arts program?

That's a really good question. The answer in my mind is that, if you're going to call yourself a 21st century art city, you need to do this. You see other cities like New York, London, Paris and Tokyo investing millions of dollars in the infrastructure for the support of artists, for the animation of the City to extend the quality of life for the City, it doesn't exist in Los Angeles. We benefit from the fact that we have this large creative entrepreneurial class that creates art on their own terms. We have a grant program, but it doesn't begin to fulfill the need of a City of this scale and this stature. And the unique thing is we have access to the commercial industry for artists to garner other income. But what we don't have are the massive transformative kinds of festivals or support structures or funding that allow us to do mind-blowing large-scale things. Look at Burning Man - it's the imagination of artistry on a large scale that is not available to everyone in the City. So the question is, how do you support and retain creativity in a City of this scale, for the entire community? If you call yourself Los Angeles, what does that mean in terms of the arts? I think about that, and I think that our role is to be able to provide a support network to sustain us for a long time, to be the most creative, so citizens can actually say, "We are the most creative, because we are delivering things at a world-class level."

One of the biggest issues with Los Angeles isn't that there aren't places to perform, but there's a complete lack of spaces to rehearse and create work. We don't have a space for company to go in and spend six months, and develop a new work. We don't have enough studios for the Misty Copelands of Los Angeles to go find their free and affordable way to get basic training. People come to our theaters to rehearse because there's no good place to rehearse. That's another thing that I'm thinking about. We don't have those creative spaces like you do for any of the other creative industries. And to deal with technology. It costs a lot of money to put on shows. We don't have what are called residency centers, or creative laboratories, or incubators, or just safe, clean, affordable space to create work.

Awareness and Service

Are people aware that the City of Los Angeles has a performing arts program? When you're out at night at shows, or performing arts events, and you say that you do this, are people surprised that that the City of L.A. even has this initiative?

Yes. People are surprised.

Ben Johnson (center right) speaks to John Burnes, *Alive!* editor (left) and John Hawkins, Club CEO (center).



Did that surprise you that they're surprised?

No. It's just been not a thing for so long. It's slowly changing. But the broad general public has no idea that there's a Performing Arts Division in the City. It's going to take a while before that. Part of that is institutional marketing, and getting your Websites up, and doing Facebook, and having a program, and pushing –

And going out into the community and telling people every night when you're at a show.

What's exciting, and what I've experienced is that when people in the City even learn that there's a Performing Arts Division, they get really excited. A lot of the jobs in the City deal with waste products or earthquake plans ...

Firefighting, public safety ...

And those are major issues that need to be grappled with. One of the great opportunities of our department is that it can intersect with all of those departments in the City and in many ways. It's the glue that potentially holds a lot of the City projects together. We're actually actively working toward the quality of life of the City, and enhancing the quality of life.

Is that what you love about what you do?

I've always loved the ability to help support the creativity in whomever it is that surrounds me. It's the story about my grandfather, about getting people together. That is what I enjoy so much. I love being of service to realize the creative goals and aspirations of creative people around me.

Thanks, Ben. I know you have to run.

Thank you. ■



This Year's Honorees

Purple Heart

Officer Wayne J. Garber
Sgt. Joseph Morrison *

Medal of Valor

Sgt. Joseph Morrison *
Officer Oscar Cordoba
Officer Henry Merin
Officer Edwin Rocha
Officer Bryan Waggener
Officer Rodolfo Ledesma
Officer Ramon Lomeli
Officer Garrett Brooks
Officer John Carlyle
Sgt. Jesus Garcia

Preservation of Life

Officer Michael Burtner
Officer Saul Lopez
Officer Heather Monroe
Officer Joel Trask
Officer Gabe Ahedo
Officer Grant Hansen
Officer Brent Lamoureux
Officer Mark Pooler
Officer Jesus Arreguin
Officer Mannie Price
Officer Michael Alcantar
Officer Stephen Buehler
Officer Derek Leiphardt
Officer Juan Sierra
Officer Erik Helmstetter
Officer Daisy Venegas

* Honored with both a Purple Heart and a Medal of Valor.

LAPD

ABOVE AND BEYOND

Police Dept.'s annual event honors 28 heroes with Purple Heart, Medal of Valor and Preservation of Life honors.

On Sept. 28, the LAPD hosted its important annual "Above and Beyond" ceremony, which this year honored 27 officers who have demonstrated the highest level of courage and bravery in protecting the City.

The event was held at the Westin Bonaventure Hotel downtown.

This year's event contained the awarding of not just Medals of Valor, but also Purple Heart medals. Purple Hearts have been distributed only seven times in the history of the event. This year, two LAPD Officers were honored with the Purple Heart, 10 with the Medal of Honor, and 16 with the Preservation of Life. One officer received both the Purple Heart and the Medal of Valor.

For the second time, the LAPD awarded the Preservation of Life medal, a recognition of new efforts at de-escalation of public safety situations by avoiding the use of deadly force during dangerous encounters. The Dept. is one of only a handful in the country to bestow such an honor.

The Purple Heart recognizes officers who have sustained grievous physical injury during a tactical situation and posthumously to the next of kin of those officers who did not survive their injuries.

The Medal of Valor is awarded to officers who distinguish themselves by conspicuous bravery or heroism above and beyond the normal demands of police service. To be awarded the Medal of Valor, an officer shall have preformed an act displaying extreme courage while consciously facing imminent peril.

The medals are awarded by the Board of Police Commissioners and presented by the Chief of Police in the name of the Department at the annual ceremony. The award consists of a medal, ribbon, and citation. The Medal of Valor was first presented in 1925, and the Purple Heart was first awarded in 2009.

The awards ceremony is made possible thanks to the generosity of the Los Angeles Police Foundation.

Stories and photos courtesy Los Angeles Police Foundation

The stories of their bravery follow.



PURPLE HEART

Attacked by Driver



Officer Wayne J. Garber

On March 21, 1981, Van Nuys Division Officer Wayne Garber observed a vehicle weaving back and forth, initiated a traffic stop, and ordered the driver out of the vehicle. The driver exited the car and became very belligerent, so Garber ordered the driver to the sidewalk to conduct a sobriety test.

The suspect ignored his commands and walked back to his car, removing something from his person and handing it to the passenger. Believing the situation might escalate, Garber requested backup. The passenger then slid across the seat to the driver's side and started the engine, so Garber quickly reached into the car, turned off the ignition, and grabbed the keys.

Thinking the suspect was a threat, Garber drew his weapon and commanded him to turn around and place his hands behind his back before holstering his weapon and approaching him. Before the suspect had both wrists cuffed, he spun around and hit the officer in the nose with a loose cuff, leaving him dazed. As Garber fell to the ground, he was unaware that his service pistol had dislodged from its holster and fallen into the street. The suspect then jumped on top of the officer and began punching him in the face.

As Garber struggled to stop the horrific attack, two construction workers drove by and saw what was happening. They pulled over and came to the officer's aid, threatening the suspect with a pipe and sledgehammer if he did not stop his attack. The suspect complied, the men completed handcuffing him, and held him until additional units arrived.

Officer Garber suffered a broken nose, a fractured jaw, and a lower back injury from this attack. He returned to duty six months later but eventually received a medical pension due to continued problems resulting from the attack.

Live Saver Through Fire and Smoke



Sgt. Joseph Morrison

On the evening of March 19, 2013, Pacific Division Patrol Officers received a radio call from a man who said that a male suspect was inside his mother's apartment, threatening to kill her and refusing to open the door. Based on an earlier call at the same location, Officers believed the suspect was probably the same person who committed an Assault with a Deadly Weapon in front of the location.

The responding Officers arrived on scene and found the suspect had locked the door, barricaded it with furniture and was now threatening to set fire to the apartment and kill the woman. Because of the barricaded door, they could not force their way into the apartment. The officers contacted Sgt. Joseph Morrison and requested a battering ram.

While waiting for Morrison to arrive, the officers could hear the hostage repeatedly pleading with the suspect to turn off the gas. Within seconds of hearing these pleas, they saw a fire erupt in the front living room. Some officers kicked the doors and struck the windows with their batons, but the doors would not open and the batons only poked holes in the windows due to a tinting film on them. Other officers used a garden hose and a fire extinguisher but were unable to put the fire out from the outside.

When Morrison arrived with the battering ram, the living room was fully engulfed by the fire. He was warned that the suspect was inside and armed with a knife. After several strikes with the battering ram, he broke the front door from the hinges but was blocked by a large amount of furniture, as well as dense, dark smoke. He pulled the items from the doorway and cleared a path, but the smoke prevented him from seeing inside.

Fearing the hostage would be killed either by the suspect or from the fire, Morrison entered the residence. He was soon overcome by the smoke and flames and was forced to retreat. After catching his breath, he tried several more times to go deeper into the living room to rescue the hostage but was forced out each time by the smoke, heat, and flames.

Believing at any moment that the hostage would be overcome by the fire and smoke, Morrison took an extreme tactical disadvantage and laid on the floor to crawl into the apartment. Unable to see and breathing in toxic smoke, he was navigating his way through the apartment when he encountered the suspect crawling on the floor. He grabbed the suspect's hands to pull him outside, but the suspect yanked free and said, "We are all going to die. I want us to die." On the verge of losing consciousness, Morrison grabbed the suspect, picked him off the floor as he continued to struggle, and pulled him out of the apartment. Surrounding officers took the suspect into custody and were able to break the window of a rear bedroom and pull the victim to safety.

Sgt. Morrison was taken by ambulance to a nearby hospital where he was treated for loss of consciousness, extreme smoke inhalation, and singed nasal passages.

Sgt. Morrison also received a Medal of Valor for his bravery in this incident.



MEDAL OF VALOR

Domestic Shooting Altercation



Officer Oscar Cordoba



Officer Henry Merin



Officer Edwin Rocha



Officer Bryan Waggener

On the morning of August 20, 2013, a woman was watering her front lawn when her estranged husband arrived and asked to come in for a cup of coffee. When she refused, he pulled out a .25-caliber pistol and shot her in the right side of the head, grazing her head and penetrating her ear. She immediately grabbed her head and bent down screaming when he fired several more rounds at her. Fearing for her life, she ran down the driveway to the detached rear residence where her son lived and shouted, "Help! Help! I've been shot!" Her son let her in, closed the door, and called 9-1-1.

The suspect went to his car, reloaded his gun, and began walking to the rear residence. While the woman was still on the phone with 9-1-1, the suspect fired a round into the house.

Communications Division broadcast that a shooting had just occurred, and Southwest Officers Henry Merin and Edwin Rocha went to respond, as did Officers Oscar Cordoba and Bryan

Waggener.

As Cordoba and Waggener arrived, a neighbor flagged them down to tell them someone was shooting in the rear yard. Merin and Rocha soon arrived, and the four officers formed up and tactically moved down the driveway toward the backyard. The officers could see the suspect over the fence holding a small semi-automatic pistol and yelled, "Drop the gun!" numerous times. The suspect ignored the officers and turned toward the house, firing one round into the window.

The officers could hear screaming coming from inside and, again, ordered the suspect to drop the gun. Instead, he turned towards them with his pistol pointed at them. In immediate defense of their lives, Rocha fired several rounds from his shotgun, and Cordoba and Merin fired several rounds from their handguns. The suspect fell to the ground with his pistol still in hand. He looked over his shoulder at the officers, rolled toward his side, raised his arm, and pointed the pistol at them. Cordoba and Waggener fired their weapons, and he dropped the gun and rolled on his stomach. Officers were then able to handcuff him and recover the weapon.

As a testament to just how frantic the situation was, video and audio evidence from the scene revealed that only 49 seconds elapsed from the time the officers arrived on scene to the conclusion of the officer involved shooting.

Gunshots From the Porch



Officer Rodolfo Ledesma



Officer Ramon Lomeli

In the early morning hours of Sept. 8, 2015, 77th Street Division Officers Rodolfo Ledesma and Ramon Lomeli responded to an Assault with a Deadly Weapon Domestic Violence call. The person reporting requested officers because her husband had threatened to kill her and had written a suicide letter. The officers were given a description of the suspect and his vehicle and were told that he owned a gun, but it was unknown if he was armed.

As the officers continued to the scene, they received updates from Communications Division letting them know that the suspect was in his car, had a mental illness, and that his revolver could not be located inside the residence. When they arrived, they saw the suspect's car and illuminated it using their exterior spotlights but did not see anyone inside.

They exited their vehicle and heard arguing coming from the front porch of the residence. As they tactically deployed on the location and made their approach, they heard multiple gunshots coming from the porch and saw muzzle flash.

The gunshots were directed toward the front door – the suspect was in the process of shooting his wife.

While Lomeli ran toward the front hood of the suspect's car for cover, he heard additional gunshots and saw muzzle flashes coming from the suspect, who was still standing on the porch.

Simultaneously, Ledesma took cover, heard the suspect scream loudly, and raised his right arm toward him and his partner. Still armed with a handgun, the suspect turned his attention toward the officers. To save the life of the victim, as well as their own, both officers fired their weapons. They stopped firing when the suspect went down to the ground; however, they were unable to determine if he had been struck.

Ledesma broadcasted an "Officer needs help/shots fired" call and indicated the direction he wanted officers to approach to ensure their safety as they arrived. Lomeli broadcasted that the suspect was down and that an additional victim was possibly injured inside the residence. As backup arrived, a tactical plan was formulated to safely approach the suspect and rescue the female.

The arrest team contacted the suspect and observed a gun lying next to him. As he was being taken into custody, the rescue team extracted the female, who had been shot. The suspect was pronounced dead at the scene.

Car/Bus Explosion

On the evening of March 28, 2016, Southwest Division Officers Garrett Brooks and John Carlyle had just started their watch and were leaving the station to begin patrolling when they heard a loud explosion. They saw a plume of smoke coming from a nearby intersection and quickly drove over, where they saw that a five-car collision had taken place. A Mercedes Benz had struck an MTA bus, rendering both vehicles immobile and causing the Mercedes to catch fire with both the driver and passenger still buckled inside and incapacitated by the impact.

Without regard for their own safety, both officers rushed in to remove the occupants of the Mercedes. Brooks radioed for help, while Carlyle assessed the situation and directed Brooks to remove the driver while he went to get the passenger. Carlyle opened the door behind the passenger and tried to remove her from the car, but she was still belted in her seat. He smashed open the window with the handle of his knife. He cut the seatbelt, but both of her legs were pinned by the dashboard. By this time, smoke and fire started to come through the firewall of the Mercedes and began to engulf the front passenger compartment. Carlyle ripped away part of the dashboard to free her legs. She was successfully freed from her seat and carried away from the fire with the help of an unknown citizen.

Meanwhile, Brooks was attempting to remove the driver who still had his seatbelt on, was unable to move on his own, and whose legs had become engulfed by the fire and were burning. A citizen at the scene used Brooks' knife to cut the seatbelt so that Brooks could pull the driver out from the window. They then carried the driver away from the fire.



Officer Garrett Brooks



Officer John Carlyle

At this point, the bus caught fire and the natural gas tanks on top of the bus became engulfed in flames and exploded. The officers used their bodies to shield both occupants from the blast and debris. Carlyle then moved the black and white to use as a shield

against the fire and further explosions. The officers carried the driver and the passenger behind the car, comforted them, and stayed with them until LAFD arrived and relieved them. Both officers suffered mild smoke inhalation, abrasions, and lacerations, but their heroic actions saved the occupants' lives.

Motorcycle Fire



Sgt. Jesus Garcia

On the night of June 15, 2016, Central Traffic Division Sgt. Jesus Garcia and another Officer heard a traffic collision occur about a block from their location. As the officers looked toward the direction of the accident, they saw that the motorcycle involved in the crash had burst into flames.

Garcia broadcast the incident to nearby units and quickly drove to assist the people involved. When he arrived on scene, both the motorcycle and the motorcyclist were lying in the street fully engulfed in flames that reached approximately 20 feet in height.

Garcia ran toward the motorcyclist in an attempt to pull him away from the fiery wreckage, but it was too difficult because of the intensity of the flames. Fully aware of the danger he was facing, he ran toward the burning wreckage, grabbed hold of the motorcyclist's legs, and pulled him to safety. In doing so, Garcia sustained first-degree burns to his hands and face.

Garcia and other officers who arrived on the scene removed the motorcyclist's smoldering clothing and backpack, cleared his airway and assisted him with his breathing until LAFD arrived.

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ABOVE AND BEYOND



PRESERVATION OF LIFE

Looking for Trouble



Officer Michael Burtner



Officer Saul Lopez

Shortly before 1 p.m. Jan. 7, 2016, Metropolitan Officers Michael Burtner and Saul Lopez were assigned to a crime suppression detail in Devonshire Division when they observed a male crossing the street against a "Don't Walk" sign. As the officers approached the suspect in their car, he looked at them and walked back across the street, committing a jaywalking violation.

The officers got out of their vehicle and told the suspect to stop as they walked to catch up with him. He ignored their instructions and walked away, concealing a metallic-looking object in his hand. Lopez radioed that he was following a man with a gun and requested backup. The officers then drew their guns in anticipation of the incident escalating to deadly force. As the suspect continued walking, he pulled out a large knife, raised his fist and yelled an expletive at the officers, continuing with, "You're gonna have to shoot me."



Officer Heather Monroe



Officer Joel Trask

By now, the suspect was near a crowded restaurant and parking lot. Using parked vehicles for cover and aware of restaurant windows in the background if they fired their weapons, the officers continued following him and ordered him to stop and drop the knife. He neared the front door of the restaurant and picked up a large rock and threatened to throw it at the officers before dropping it and lunging toward Lopez with the knife. Lopez stepped back to create more distance between himself and the suspect.

At this point, they could all hear the sound of a siren quickly approaching, and the suspect took off running. Devonshire Division Officers Heather Monroe and Joel Trask engaged in a foot pursuit, while the suspect, knife in hand, tried to climb a wall into a residential area. They ordered him to drop the knife, and he responded, "Kill me. Kill me. You're going to have to kill me."

Monroe broadcasted her position to an airship and other responding units, as all four officers continued with the foot pursuit. While Trask maintained lethal cover, Monroe fired her TASER at the suspect, striking him and causing him to drop his knife. Monroe and Burtner handcuffed him without further incident.

During a subsequent interview, the suspect acknowledged his intention was to commit suicide by having the officers shoot him. He was booked for Assault with a Deadly Weapon on Police Officers.

Possible Hostage Situation



Officer Gabe Ahedo



Officer Grand Hansen

On the afternoon of June 18, 2015, North Hollywood Division Officers Grant Hansen and Brent Lamoureux responded to a radio call of a man assaulting a woman. When the officers arrived on scene, they saw what they believed were the suspect and victim walking on the sidewalk with the suspect's arm around the victim, as if he were keeping her from moving away.

The officers attempted to have the suspect stop when he suddenly wrapped his arm around the victim's neck in a chokehold-style grip, spun her around, and used her as a shield. The officers requested backup and continued to speak to the suspect in an attempt to deescalate the situation. The suspect retreated up a driveway as far as he could. Not knowing if he was armed and only able to see one of his hands, the officers, again, requested help and reported that this was now a possible hostage situation.

As Hansen and Lamoureux waited, the victim looked like she was near the

point of losing consciousness. The officers had only TASERS available as a less lethal option, so they drew their duty weapons while demanding the suspect let the victim go.

Officers Gabe Ahedo and Marc Pooler responded to the help call, and Pooler fired three rounds from a less lethal shotgun. Finally, the suspect's grasp on the victim was broken. Lamoureux bear-hugged the suspect so he could not grab the victim again, while Hansen helped take him to the ground, where Ahedo handcuffed him.

Knife Situation



Officer Jesus Arreguin



Officer Mannie Price

On the morning of April 6, 2016, South Traffic Division Officers Jesus Arreguin and Mannie Price were assigned to a radio call of a traffic collision. When they arrived at the scene, the officers saw that two cars had collided. Arreguin obtained the statement of the victim and his family, while Price interviewed the suspect.

As the officers were waiting for the tow truck to arrive, the suspect, who had not previously demonstrated any frustration or hostility, suddenly and without warning pulled a knife and thrust it in a downward motion into the back of the victim's head. Price immediately drew his weapon, pointed it at the suspect, and ordered him to get back, as the victim's family gathered around him to help him. Fearing the suspect would attack again, Price ordered the suspect to drop the knife and get down on the ground while Arreguin provided cover.

The suspect eventually complied and was arrested for attempted murder.

Erratic Suspect



Officer Michael Alcantar



Officer Stephen Buehler

On the morning on May 14, 2016, Van Nuys Division Officers Miguel Alcantar and Stephen Buehler received a call about a male in Mission Division who was a possible gang member that might be under the influence of narcotics and/or suffering from a mental illness. They were told the suspect was armed with a pipe and a rock and was breaking the windows of multiple vehicles.

When the officers arrived at the location and contacted the suspect, they observed he was armed with a three-foot metal pipe in one hand and an open knife in the other. He raised both arms and screamed at the officers to shoot or kill him and began to approach them. Knowing that the suspect could hurt or kill either one of them, they used available cover to give themselves time to assess their force options instead of immediately closing the distance and engaging the suspect.

The suspect retreated a bit before swinging the pipe in the air, hitting it on the ground, and yelling at the officers to



Officer Derek Leiphardt



Officer Juan Sierra

come get him and shoot him. He then pressed his knife to his neck and yelled, "Kill me!" At this time, Officers Derek Leiphardt and Juan Sierra arrived at the scene, and the suspect ran in their direction screaming, "Come kill me. Kill me now."

All four officers took cover as the suspect put the knife on the ground and picked up a softball-sized rock. Fearing that he might throw the rock and strike them, Sierra warned that he was going to shoot him with a beanbag if he did not drop his weapons. The suspect failed to comply and continued to threaten the officers before Sierra fired two less-than-lethal beanbag rounds, allowing the officers to take him into custody. As a result of the officers' decisions, the suspect sustained only minor injuries related to the beanbag rounds.

Chokehold on Hostage



Officer Erik Helmstetter



Officer Daisy Venegas

On the evening of July 14, 2016, Hollywood Division Officers Erik Helmstetter and Daisy Venegas received a radio call of an "attack just occurred" on a woman by a male suspect carrying a skateboard and a backpack. The officers drove to the vicinity of where the call came from and were told by a witness that the suspect had fled.

The officers saw a person who matched the suspect's description, approached him, and ordered him to stop and turn around. He ignored the

officers' orders and walked away before turning back towards them while tilting his skateboard forward as if he was going to throw it at them. The officers quickly realized the suspect intended to fight them and warned that they would use a TASER on him. He, again, raised the skateboard and acted like he was going to use it as a weapon, so both officers deployed their TASERS. Even though the TASER darts made contact with the suspect, they were ineffective and he ran away from the officers who began to chase him.

During the foot pursuit, the officers saw the suspect grab a four-year-old boy from behind and use him as a hostage. The suspect placed the boy in a chokehold and clamped the boy's throat, strangling him. The boy's eyes rolled back, he turned pale and began bleeding from the mouth. Believing that the boy's life was in imminent danger, the officers initiated a team takedown. The suspect fell on his back but did not release the boy's throat. Not wanting to injure the child with a TASER, baton, or gun, Helmstetter decided to strike the suspect's face with a closed hammer fist to distract him while Venegas kned him in the lower torso area. Both officers grabbed and spread the suspect's arms apart to release the chokehold on the boy. The suspect was then taken into custody.

Angel Gomez, the Club's Mobile Man

Angel's

Be Alive! Oct. 2017



Bosque del Rio Hondo Park

- South El Monte

INFO

Bosque Del Rio Hondo Park

504 San Gabriel Blvd.
South El Monte, CA 91733

Hours:
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; closed on Mondays

Parking:
Sunrise to sunset

Note: I suggest that you go to the park and walk the trail only in the daytime. Once you go out beyond the park and under the bridge the trail gets a bit scary, mostly because lots of homeless people have settled along the trail.

Hello everybody!

This month, let's begin with a question: Do you know what's on the northwest corner of San Gabriel and Rosemead Boulevards in South El Monte?

The answer is the tiny park Bosque del Rio Hondo, which translates to "forest of the deep river" in Spanish. This tiny park was built by the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority in 1994. The park is very small, but there is enough space for five or six big tables – perfect for a small picnic in the middle of the park under a group of tall beautiful trees. The park has everything within reach the restrooms, the parking lot and the informational boards.

Bosque del Rio Hondo is within the Whittier Narrows Recreation Area, just one mile south of the 60 Freeway. This park also serves as a meeting area for two regional bike paths, which run along the San Gabriel River and the Rio Hondo.

Let's begin.

History: The original San Gabriel Mission site was across the river from this very park. The original San Gabriel Mission was established near this area in 1771 but after a fire and flood in 1775 was moved to its present location now above the floodplain in San Gabriel.

This area is rich with lots of history going back hundreds of years. What was here before the Mission? Take a guess – the Tongva people arrived in this area more than a 1,000 years before the Spanish missionaries. They built their homes from willow branches and brushes that

grew along the river. They hunted and fished along the water banks; they gathered acorns, plants, berries and roots for nutrition.

The Bosque del Rio Hondo trail system is part of the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail, which commemorates the route taken by de Anza in 1771-76 when he led a group of colonists from Sonora, Mexico to establish a Spanish settlement at San Francisco Bay.

The expedition was said to have included 240 people (half of whom were children who later returned to settle Los Angeles) and more than 1,000 head of stock. The trail covers more than 1,200 miles from Mexico, through Arizona and up into Northern California, honoring one of history's great migratory marches.

The Walk: I liked the park and informational boards, too. There is so much history to be discovered about this area, but once out on the trail I was a bit disappointed with how much trash was just floating around in the area. There were also a lot of makeshift tents and areas that looked like someone slept or was actually living along the trail, so we decided to walk on the bike path because we felt a bit safer up on the road. I'm sure you could walk, jog or ride a bike for miles going north or south on the bike path. This month, we are just focusing on the park, the trail and the area history. Remember always bring water, sunscreen and a positive attitude, and you will have a beautiful adventure. *Be well.*

Angel



Angel Jr. reads the history of Bosque del Rio Hondo at the park entrance.



Bosque del Rio Hondo legend and trails.



A small park area with trees, tables and lots of shade.

A bridge crosses over a small creek to the trail.



The dry creek trail was used mostly by mountain bikes.



{ Who are the people you see every day? }

No. 96
in a series.



People We See

Shelterless in Los Angeles.



Meet Anthony Lincoln.

On Oct. 23rd, I interviewed Anthony Lincoln, 32. I interviewed Anthony in downtown Los Angeles, in front of the Spring Street Park on Spring Street between Fourth and Fifth Streets.

Anthony was born in Houston and moved to LA in 2007 to find work. He had just graduated from the University of Texas and Texas State University and was looking for a job. He spent two years in the Army, but he says he was discharged early after being caught smoking marijuana.

Anthony said he spent last night on the train, going to North Hollywood with a couple of friends. He went to a couple parties and just hung out at their house until it was time to come back downtown. I asked him where he thought he would spend the night tonight, and he said he didn't really know; he said he had a drug problem and right now he just goes and does drugs. He said that, at the moment, life to him was lived minute by minute, second by second.

Anthony has been married, twice, and divorced twice. He said he was a Christian. His favorite movie is *Ferris Buebler's Day Off*, and his favorite TV show is *It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia*.

He didn't name a favorite actor but he said he has an actor who he hates: Ben Affleck. I asked him why, and he said he is the exact opposite of Ben Affleck and that he is his nemesis. "He's everything I'm not, and I'm everything he's not." Anthony doesn't have a favorite actress, and he likes all kinds of music. His favorite food is pizza, and he likes gummy-type candies. The last thing Anthony ate was two glazed donuts and a Big Gulp from 7/11. The last books he read were the *Game of Thrones* series.

At first he said he didn't have a favorite place in LA, but then he said he likes Highland Park.

I asked him to imagine being the mayor of Los Angeles – what would he do to help the homeless? He said as a homeless person in LA there is quite a lot available to him: money, subsidized rent, subsidized health-care. He told me that he's been around the world and there is nowhere like LA, where you can have a drug addiction and be taken care of. He started "prizing drugs over everything" in high school, he told me. When he was 13 or so he was prescribed Adderall and Ritalin. Soon after he started popping pills, and then started smoking weed, he said. What are you addicted to? "Meth," he said. "It's the only drug I do." He's done it every day for five years, he said.

His most prized possession would be an iPod filled with lots of music.

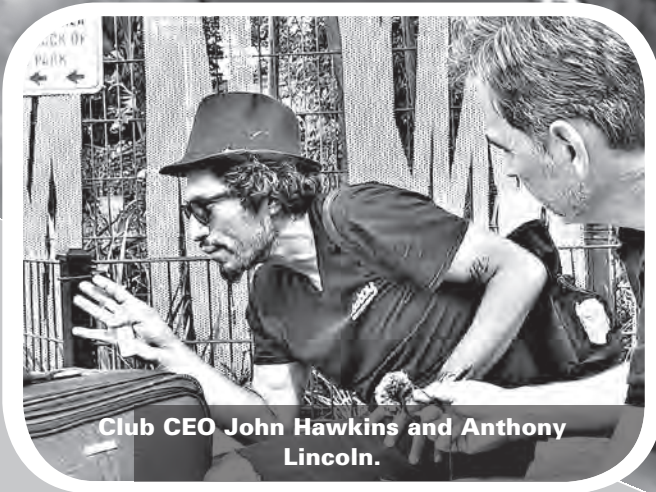
Anthony's advice for everyday people is to tell them to pay homage to life ... if you have a job, family and money and you can hold that job, you are doing good, he says.

I asked Anthony if he could do it all over again, would he do anything different? "No, I have no regrets. But I wish that by the end of the year I could be in a different chapter of my life, maybe a different state, doing something else, at least having a job."

— John Hawkins, Club CEO

The Club gave Anthony snacks, bottled water and \$20 for food.

The interview, conducted by John Hawkins, took place Oct. 23 on Spring Street between Fourth and Fifth Streets..



Club CEO John Hawkins and Anthony Lincoln.

{ In this monthly feature, Club CEO John Hawkins introduces you to people you see every day, but you might not know who they are. The Club reminds you that we all have names and stories to tell. }

It's that time of year again!

Project CARE



Sponsor an older adult this holiday season.

For more details, check your city email.

THIS MONTH AT THE Cabrillo Marine Aquarium A REC AND PARKS FACILITY

Cabrillo Art Corner

Sat., Nov. 4
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Have fun doing arts and crafts the first Saturday of the month. Each Cabrillo Art Corner features a unique ocean-themed project that jump-starts your creativity, engages your senses and relaxes your mind. Focus on the task at hand and forget about life's craziness for a while.

We hope you'll join us!

Free!
(Parking: \$1/hour)

Support the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium!

Consider joining the Friends of Cabrillo Marine Aquarium.

Call (310) 548-7410 or go to cabrillomarineaquarium.org/support.asp



City Owned. City Run. City Proud. cabrillomarineaquarium.org

Help Us Blanket the City!



Help the Club take care of those living on the streets this winter.

The last six years, we put out the call to help those in need downtown. And Club Members came through! So we're continuing *Blanket the City*.

It started six years ago with John Hawkins, Club CEO, and Angel Gomez, Club Mobile Man, coming into the Club Store one December night, shivering from the cold. And if they were chilly, they thought, what about those living on the streets?

So they hatched a plan: pass out blankets those living on the streets downtown. That first night, they gave

away eight blankets. Now the number is into the hundreds.

Blanket the City is an official part of Club Angels, the Club's charitable outreach. During the fall, winter and spring months, the Club will be handing out military-grade blankets to those who really need them.

Blanket the City has become a new winter tradition here at the Club!



Join the effort? Here's how:

- The military-grade blankets cost \$9 each.
- Contribute what you can, and the Club will purchase blankets and hand them out for you.
- Donations could be tax-deductible. Contact your tax professional.

Want to contribute?

Mail your donation of any amount with the completed form below, –or–

Contact John Hawkins or Angel Gomez, and we'll take it from there:
jhawkins@cityemployeesclub.com or agomez@cityemployeesclub.com

Help us to Blanket the City!

Enclosed is my check (made out to Club Angels) for \$ _____.

Please bill my credit card in the amount of \$ _____.



Send this completed form to:
Club Angels
311 S. Spring St., Suite 1300
Los Angeles, CA 90013

Name on Card

Card Number

Expiration - CV# Last 3 digits on back of card

Signature

Please provide the following information so we can send you a receipt:

Name

Home Street Address

City State Zip

Home Phone Work Phone

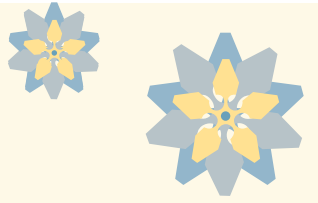
Club Member Number (if you are a member):

Club Angels is a registered 501(c)3 charitable organization. Contributions to Club Angeles are tax-deductible as defined by the U.S. tax code. Consult your tax professional.

Your donations will be acknowledged with official letters of receipt.



Life's Important Moments



New Members

Welcome New Members!

The Club gives a great big welcome to these new members, who recently joined the Club:

Airports

Jaime Acosta Jr.
Jesus Arrizon Jr.
Narmin Awad
Frederick Bell
Erika Bowman
Chadel Brent-Bradley
Haniff Ellison
Darren Gilbert
Kanisa Harrison
Nima Heidary
Jonah Kenney
LaShunde Lambert
Anesha Lee
Erwin Lopez
David Mangold
Jason Murphy
Phil Park
Dashan Rogers
Oscar Ruvalcaba
Irvin Salazar
Carissa Takahashi
Leslie Tejada
Jose Valenzuela
Ruben Verduzco
Nicholas Wade

Controller's Office

Monique Earl
Biridiana Sanchez

General Services

Zackary Evans
Donald Hanson
Oscar Martinez
Steven Perez
Pierre Riotoc
Vicente Sanchez
Joseph Seals
Jayson Smith
Gamaliel Villarreal

Harbor

Ryan Turk

ITA

Natalia Cardenas
Matthew Carroll
David Flores
Andrew Pereyra

Library

Doreen Barnes

LAFD

Ian Arnold
Lauren Bushey
Cody Edwards
Richard Franco
Kevin Gelinias
Jose Gomez
Haden Gregory
Huston Herman

Tanner Keeler
Kyle Lundgren
Daniel Martinez
Patricia Ochoa
David Ortiz
Robert Perea
Brandon Pickett
Richard Shernicoff
Diego Toapanta

LAPD

Shannon Hajji
Jeffery Hurwitz
Cynthia Keister
Ann McNamara
Redina Puentes

PUBLIC WORKS

Engineering
Mahelet Gebeyhu

Rec and Parks

Daniel Aragon
Rachel Barrera
Paul Boyd Jr.
Edward Chavarria
Gabriela Credi Mizrahi
Rodrigo Delfin
Michael Escalante
Monty Forshee
Lesley Garcia
Geraldine Gonzalez
April Hemicx
Fernando Jacques
Jaime Juarez
Adriana Lopez
Dave Navarro
Rony Ortega
Edwin Quinonez

Sanitation

Jeffery Baker
Stacey Brown
Charles Brown Jr.
Orlando Chavez
John Craig
Jaime Esparza
Rodolfo Giani
Francisco Gonzalez
Jaime Hernandez
Francisco Lopez Jr.
Jeffrey Person
Hugo Robles
Francisco Rodriguez
David Rouzan
Matthew Woolsey

Street Services

Blanca Madero
Oscar Mejia
Antonio Sedano

Transportation

Rilando Boudrout
Kieshia Evans
Daniel Gomez
Theresa Grant
Brittney Landry
Kimberly Lee
Tippin Lewis
Debra McGuire
Chasen Milton
Lorna Minix
Michael Moguel
Clara Ramirez
Michael Rocha
Miriam Theus
Orlando Thomas

Zoo

Guillermo Gutierrez

DWP

Eric Carrillo
Christopher Crockett
Pedro Eleno
Jared Garbell
Skilen Lechtenberg
Tae Lee
Roman Rios
Angel Salas
Joel Tinajero

Other

Mary Berling
Billie Briegel
Byron Brown
Rodney Campbell
Anthony Dattilo
Guillermo De La Mora
John Dillon
Dexter Edwards
Eric Gil
Angel Gutierrez
Aaron Hernandez
Pat Jepsen
James Kang
Daniel Luna
Branden Mecate
Paul Molina
Ruben Orellana
Francisco Ortega
Jewell Padua
Robert Painter
Richard Perez
Josue Robles
Ryan Rojo
Alicia Spaulding
Hovik Tsaturyan
William Valimento
Raushan Williams

Share your moments!

Did you get married? Have a baby? Get a promotion? We want to hear from you. Share your news with the world! Send all notices and high resolution photos with the appropriate information to talkback@cityemployeesclub.com or send paper notices and print photos to:

Alive!, 120 West 2nd Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

Weddings

Congratulations, Everett and Cara!

Everett Bennett, Public Works/Contract Administration and *Alive!* columnist ("The Car Club," although he's been a bit busy lately!) decided to pop the question to his girlfriend, Cara Chiamonte, in his July 2016 column.

Everett and Cara were married Saturday, Sept. 30, in Calabasas. Club CEO John Hawkins and *Alive!* editor John Burnes attended with their wives to wish Everett and Cara the best ... and enjoy the amazing feast of Italian food.

The Club sends its absolute best wishes to Everett and Cara. We're looking forward to Everett's next "Car Club" column – but not anytime soon!



Everett and Cara Bennett, married Sept. 30.



Cara and Everett Bennett (center) with Club CEO John Hawkins (left) and *Alive!* editor John Burnes.

Graduations



Melissa Tapia graduated from Francisco Bravo Medical Magnet High School near County-USC Medical Center. She attends college and wants to work for the FBI or CIA upon graduation. She's the daughter of **Claudia Avila, LAPD.**

In Memoriam

Our thoughts and condolences are with the family and friends of the following current and retired City employees who have passed away. The number after the name indicates years of service.

Tell Their Story

Every month, *Alive!* publishes the names of those current or retired City Employees who have died.

But who were they? Did you know them? If you worked with any of these people, knew a story or two about them or were related to them, consider writing to *Alive!* and letting us know. *Tell their story!*

- Write a few sentences or paragraphs
- Send in a photo, if you have one
- Let us know your name and connection to the deceased
- Send your memories to: talkback@cityemployeesclub.com.
Subject line: *Tell Their Story*

DEPARTMENT	YEARS OF SERVICE	DEPARTMENT	YEARS OF SERVICE
Active			
DWP	24	Imel, Charles	Public Works
Rec and Parks	17	Jaye, Ronald	DWP
LAPD	17	Jones, Genice	City Attorney
Transportation	11	Jones, James	LAPD
DWP	33	Kucera, Kenneth	Public Works
Retired			
Building and Safety	25	Laird, Donald	DWP
Airports	20	Lee, Harold	Transportation
City Attorney	18	Luke, Wendell	DWP
General Services	25	Luna, Wanda	DWP
LAFD	25	Lyman, Floyd Jr.	DWP
Public Works	25	Mansell, Lamond	Public Works
LAPD	31	Markheim, Mary	General Services
DWP	24	McGhie, Roland	DWP
DWP	25	Mogul, Betsy	City Attorney
DWP	40	Moore, Hiawatha	LAPD
Public Works	30	Nakashima, Mas	Rec and Parks
Rec and Parks	14	Naye, Charles	LAPD
DWP	34	Penir, Bradley	Airports
Zoo	40	Pickerel, Dick	Public Works
General Services	36	Schweizer, Arthur	DWP
Airports	17	Shupe, Peter	DWP
City Attorney	28	Smith, Anna	DWP
Building and Safety	30	Soliz, Daniel	DWP
DWP	28	Thomsen, Burdette	DWP
DWP	32	Tovias, Danny	General Services
DWP	44	Towner, Kelvin	DWP
DWP	34	Wagner, Frank	City Attorney
DWP	23	Warren, Sherwood	DWP
		Williams, Robert	Public Works
		Young, Samuel	DWP

Share Your Life's Moments

Everyone reads Life's Important Moments in *Alive!*

Share your news... and send in a photo! Have you gotten married? Had a baby? Graduated? Is a family member in the military? Send in a photo and a paragraph, telling us the details. We love to share your good news.

Send digital photos to:

(as high a resolution as you can send)

talkback@cityemployeesclub.com

OR send paper photos to:

Life's Moments – *Alive!*

City Employees Club of Los Angeles
120 West 2nd Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012
Please don't send the only one you have!



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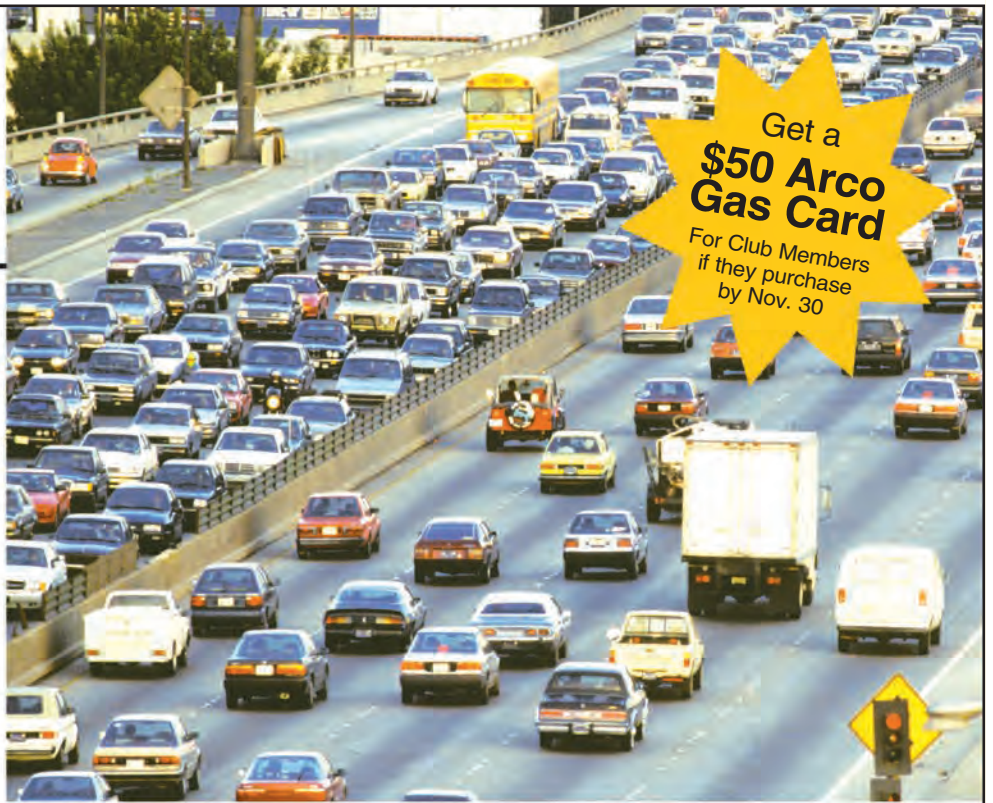
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DIRECT LINE FOR CLUB MEMBERS



Home and Auto Insurance Services provided for members of the **CITY EMPLOYEES CLUB**

We also have great rates on Homes, Boats, Motorcycles, RV's, Rental Properties and Apartment Buildings.

A FREE Benefit to members of the City Employees Club of Los Angeles



Get a **\$50 Arco Gas Card**
For Club Members if they purchase by Nov. 30

When it comes to their auto Insurance, United Agencies has been serving hundreds of Club Members for years. We provide a high level of personal service, with some of the lowest rates in California. Come experience the difference in service you get when you say, "I'm with the Club!"

Take a look at how **United Agencies** stacks up against the competition!

	COMPANY	(91105 Zip Code)
California Automobile Insurance Premium Survey	Farmers	\$1,482
	State Farm	\$1,339
	Allstate	\$1,329
	Geico	\$1,311
	Auto Club	\$929
	United Agencies	\$876

These insurance products are brought to you by the Club's Partner, United Agencies, Inc. CA Lic. # 0252636. United Agencies represents Mercury Insurance Group, as well as Chubb Insurance, Hartford, Fireman's Fund, Progressive, Civil Service Employees Insurance, Allied, Safeco, Travelers, Unigard and Encompass.

AIRPORTS

Over and Out from ONT

Final City Airport Safety Officers transfer out of Ontario Airport.

'We will never forget the legacy these officers built at LA/Ontario International Airport and we thank them for their service.'

– LAX Airport Police



The first Airport Police roll call welcoming the former Ontario International Airport Safety Officers.

On Sunday, Oct. 15, the Ontario Airport Authority took over all airport safety functions from the City of Los Angeles.

As *Alive!* reported in August, the final City employees at the airport, mostly Airport Safety Officers, were waiting to hear when they would be transferred out of Ontario to Airport Police at LAX. That happened on Monday, Oct. 16.

"Monday, we officially welcomed the 30 Airport Safety Officers and supervisors who were previously stationed at Ontario International Airport," the City's Airport Police reported. "These seasoned veterans come to LAX with many years of experience adding resources that will be a welcome addition as we prepare for another record breaking holiday season. We will never forget the legacy these officers built at LA/Ontario International Airport and we thank them for their service."

"The new members of the LAX team spent day one taking care of the administrative functions of the move, assigning radios, keys and other equipment before they hit the ground running."

On Aug. 6, 2015, after years of disagreements, bickering and legal action with the city of Ontario, the City of L.A. announced that it had agreed to sell Ontario International Airport, which it had operated since 1967 and owned since 1985. The City Council approved the sale in December 2015, and Mayor Eric Garcetti officially handed over the ownership Nov. 2, 2016 to the Ontario International Airport Authority, a joint-powers body between the City of Ontario and Riverside County.

Since then, the City had been removing its employees and assets from the airport. The sale stipulated that no City employee would lose their job during the transfer.

Reportedly, the City had fewer than 200 employees at Ontario when the sale was announced. By the time *Alive!* featured many of the final City employees at Ontario, that number had dwindled to perhaps less than 100. Thirty-nine of those employees, were Airport Safety Officers, who carried the unique dual responsibility of fire and police. Those who transferred to Airport Police at

LAX will be responsible only for police functions, marking Oct. 15 as the last day for the unique dual-function job in the City.

Thirty-nine of those employees, possibly the largest group in one department still remaining, are Airport Safety Officers. The dual-function position was rare when it was established, and it will fade into the City sunset over the next several months.

Alive! congratulates all those from Ontario Airport who carried the unique job, for their many decades of service to the City of Los Angeles.



Alive! featured the City's final Airport Safety Officers at Ontario International Airport last August.

CLUB Cooking Contest

Chef Robert Larios



Christmas Cookies With the Club!

Send in your holiday cookie recipe with a photo.

Do you have a favorite holiday cookie recipe? Of course you do!

When you're making your cookies this season, take a photo of yourself holding the plate with the finished product, and send it in with the recipe. We hope to print all the submissions in our January issue. If we print yours, Chef Larios will send you a small gift:

A \$25 Trader Joe's gift card!

It's all for fun in the spirit of the holidays. (Any holiday this season is fine – Christmas, Hanukkah, New Year's, Kwanzaa, etc.) So send in your holiday cookie recipe!



DEADLINE: Dec. 15

Send the recipe and photo to Talkback@cityemployeesclub.com



Cooking with the Club

Photos: Patty M. Larios

with Chef Robert Larios



Spicy Thai-Style Beef with broccoli and basmati rice*

This is a first for this cooking column in *Alive!* – a recipe with red curry and coconut milk as ingredients. Curry is not terribly difficult to find now in many East Indian, Asian and gourmet sections of some supermarkets and other local grocery markets. And I checked Amazon – they have it too at a relatively good price.

Using a wok works best for this dish as it concentrates the heat, but don't let not having one stop you from making this meal. A nonstick pan will work, too. Enjoy!

iBuen provecho!

Chef Larios

*Inspired by original recipe from Sun Basket (sunbasket.com).

Spicy Thai-Style Beef with broccoli and basmati rice

Serves 2

INGREDIENTS:

- 3/4 cup basmati rice
- 1 or 2 shallots
- 1-1/2 teaspoons grated fresh ginger
- 3/4 pound broccoli
- 2 limes
- 2 to 3 tablespoons dried basil
- 10 ounces top sirloin steak strips
- 2 teaspoons Thai red curry paste
- 3/4 cup coconut milk
- 1-1/2 teaspoons fish sauce
- 1 teaspoon brown sugar

Cooking TIDBIT

Be free to add more or less ginger and if you have it, use fresh basil during the cooking process as well as saving some for the end as a garnish to the plate. Substitute shrimp or scallops for the beef for great-tasting alternatives.

[Food Lover's Dictionary:]



Curry:

From the southern Indian word kari, meaning "sauce," comes this catch-all term that is used to refer to any number of hot, spicy, gravy-based dishes of East Indian origin.

Bibliography: Copyright Barron's Educational Services, Inc. 2009, adapted from *The New Food Lover's Companion*, 2007, by Sharon Tyler Herbst and Ron Herbst.

Food Quote

"Researchers in the U.K. have developed a vegetable called 'super broccoli,' designed to fight heart disease. Not to be outdone, researchers in America have developed a way to stuff an Oreo inside another Oreo."

– Jimmy Fallon

DIRECTIONS:



1

Rinse the rice.

In a small saucepot, combine the rice and 1 cup plus 2 tablespoons water. Bring to a boil. Reduce to a simmer, cover, and cook until the rice is tender and the liquid is absorbed, 15 to 20 minutes. Fluff with a fork, cover, and keep warm. While the rice cooks, prepare the vegetables and garnishes.

2

Peel and thinly slice the shallots.

Grate or peel and finely chop enough ginger to measure 1-1/2 teaspoons. Cut the broccoli into 1-inch florets; trim off any coarse stems. Cut the lime into wedges.



3

Prep and cook the beef.

Season generously with salt and pepper. In a wok or large frying pan over medium-high heat, warm 1 tablespoon oil until hot but not smoking. Add the steak and cook, stirring occasionally, until browned and cooked through, 4 to 6 minutes for medium. Transfer the steak to a plate. Do not clean the pan.

4

In the same pan used for the steak, warm 1 tablespoon oil over medium heat until hot but not smoking. Stir in the shallots and ginger and cook, scraping up any browned bits from the bottom of the pan, until fragrant, about 1 minute. Stir in the curry paste and cook until fragrant, about 1 minute.

Add the broccoli and 3 tablespoons water and cook, stirring occasionally, until just tender, 2 to 3 minutes. Add the coconut milk, fish sauce and brown sugar and bring to a boil. Reduce to a simmer and cook, stirring to dissolve the sugar, until the sauce thickens, 2 to 3 minutes. Stir in the beef and simmer until heated through, about 1 minute. Season to taste with salt.



5

Serve: Transfer the rice to individual bowls and top with the beef and broccoli curry. Add the juice of the lime on top as well.



John's Picture Perfect Contest

John Hawkins, Club CEO

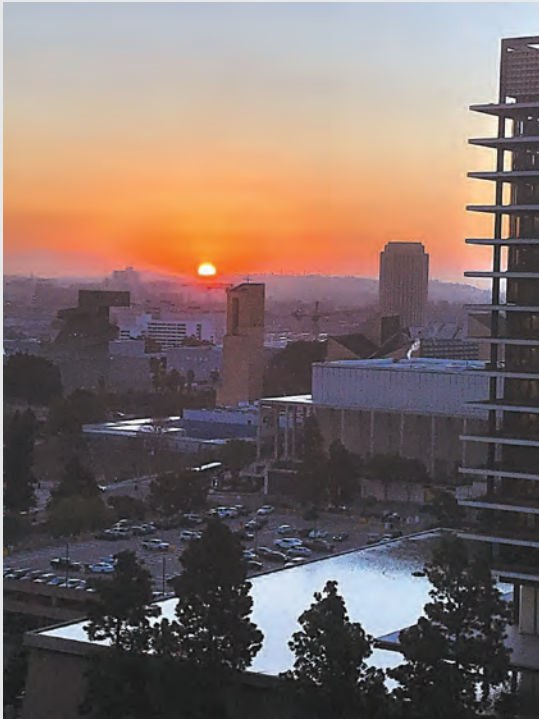


"Sunrise over LA with the DWP building and reflecting pool in the foreground."

— **Demian Wyma, LAPD**

John's comment:

I really like the frame you created by looking northeast – first the Cathedral steeple just below the sun ... to the MTA building in the distance ... then the Ferraro Building framing the right edge. The sun and then the "steps" create a visual dynamic that elevates this photo. Nice!



"Blue skies over two Sydney iconic structures – the Harbour Bridge and the Opera House."

— **Norman T. Faner, Retired, DWP**

John's comment: One of the things I've learned about taking photos, Norman, is something you already know, as I can see it here: When you want to show the majesty of something, shoot it from below. The Harbour Bridge looks downright heroic! Nice job!

"This is my little cousin, Michael, and his doggie. They went to drop his little brother, Azrael, to school. No charm was sad. I love the doggie's smile."

— **Maria Elias, Sr. Detention Officer, CSD**

John's comment: Can there be a better image of why we need pets in our lives? Little Michael is understandably sad ... but the face of that dog proves that, when we're down, we need only a good second with a dog to change our mood. You've captured a moment of wisdom, Maria!



"'Boo!' I watched *The Orphanage* before showing it to everyone else, and so I knew when to take this photo – that exact moment when the little child shuts the storage door underneath the mansion stairs. If you've seen the movie, I'm sure you gave a similar reaction. Happy Halloween!"

— **Dominique Daito, LAPD**

John's comment: Dominique, I keep scanning this photo, trying to decide which priceless reaction I like best, only to decide I love them all. This is what Halloween is all about. Although, I'm not sure I'm up for that movie now!



"'Praying for a Raise,' in Pisa, Italy."

— **Michael Barnes, Retired, Harbor**

John's comment: Whoa, Michael ... from your location, I thought I'd see another picture of the Leaning Tower. But there's nothing leaning about this ... nice job keeping your eye open for the unusual and amazing. It took me a minute to see the tube holding him up.



"Fall has arrived in Spokane, Wash.!"

— **Jill Weismann, Retired**

John's comment:

Jill, I know this part of the world very well, and indeed you have captured what the fall feels like in the Pacific Northwest. Instead of showing the rolling hills, though, you went small, and it's very evocative. Thanks for sending!



"'Butterfly' – Until I looked closely at this photo I hadn't realized the butterfly is a mirror image on each side."

— **John Nance, Retired, DWP**

John's comment: John, there are so many incredible details here that I didn't notice the mirror effect, either, until you mentioned it. What impresses me is how well you pulled off the macro focus of a moving object. That's really tough to do, and you did it well.

RULES:

- The contest is open to all Club members in good standing. Non-members are welcome to submit, but only Club members are eligible to win the monthly prize.
- If your photograph does not win, you are welcome to re-submit.
- Winners are chosen by Club staff. All decisions will be final.
- You must certify (if asked) that you indeed took the picture. No ringers!
- Photos can be submitted either on paper or digitally. Please don't send both.
- If you want your print photo returned, please write your name, address and phone number on the back of your photo.
- Photos can be of any subject matter: vacation, portraits, families, landscapes, still lifes, pets, etc. Subject matter must be appropriate for *Alive!*
- Paper prints can be mailed to: Picture Perfect Contest, *Alive!*, City Employees Club of Los Angeles, 120 West 2nd Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012
- When you send digital photos through the Internet, **please send the full, original digital file yourself**, rather than using digital photo software like Kodak EasyShare, Kodak Gallery, Flickr, etc. These programs send very low-resolution images, and they don't look good in print.
- We want you to look your best, so send us the original digital file, please! Thanks!
- Digital photos optimally should be between 100K and 2 megabytes in size and may be e-mailed to: pictureperfect@cityemployeesclub.com
- The contest is all in good fun: The Club cannot be responsible for delays in delivering *Alive!*, or for delays in the transmission of responses.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Members Marketplace

New Ads This Month!

For Rent: Lovely Remodeled 2 bedroom/1 bath apartment located on Don Tomaso Dr in Los Angeles/Baldwin Hills area(5-units). kitchen, living room, dining room, 1-car garage. Hardwood floors and laundry facilities on site. Very quiet. Close to public transportation, parks, hiking trails and 15 mins from most major free-ways and locations. 11/17



For Sale: bed. Twin rollaway. New, clean. Exclnt cond. \$40. (323) 578-6312. 11/17

For Sale: real estate. Full ocean view oversized lot. Undeveloped. Puerto Nuevo, Mexico. Exclnt. location, near Lobster Village. Electricity ready. \$60,000. Alan, (714) 348-1255. 11/17

For Sale: membership. Mountain Lakes Resort. \$2,500. Rudy, (213) 700-7237. 11/17

For Lease: home. 3 bd/2 bath, pool. 187 Teasdale St., Thousand Oaks. 1,600 sq. ft. Central air/heat, fireplace, recessed lighting, kitchen/dinette, new double oven, 2 car garage, low water landscaping, outside fire pit. Many features, near Cal Lutheran. \$3,000/month lease + sec. deposit, no smoking, no pets, credit history req. Kurt, kaufmankdk@gmail.com 11/17



For Sale: kitchen equipment. Oven, Whirlpool, 24-inch stainless steel, electric, double wall. 6.2 cubic feet, AccuBake, dual lighting, digital display, self cleaning, warm setting, Sabbath mode, more. (fire extinguisher not incl.) \$500. Kurt: kaufmankdk@gmail.com 11/17

Cemetery Plots

For Sale: Cemetery plots. 2 @ Eternal Valley Newhall. Highly desirable near entrance, Garden of Peace. Side by side. \$7,500 (total). Jim, (661) 713-6353. 9/17

For Sale: One single cemetery plot. At Rose Hill Cemetery in Garden of Benovolence. Asking price \$3K. Call Carrie at 323-751-3498 9/17

For Sale: Cemetery plots. 2, side/side, on hill. Rose Hills Whittier, Garden of Comfort lot 1844, graves 3/4. Approx. value \$12,000. Asking \$3,000 each/OBO. Jackie, jmccl@pacbell.net 9/17

For Sale: cemetery plot. 1 single. Rose Hill, Garden of Benovolence. Asking \$3,000. Carrie B. Wilson, (323) 751-3498. 7/17

For Sale: 4 cemetery plots. Rose Hills, Whittier. Greenwood Gardens, side by side. Valued at \$12,000, nego. Gregory, (909) 520-8053. 3/17

For Sale: Plot, Inglewood Park Cemetery. Double grave F, Lot 38, Park Terrace. \$8,600. JoAnn, (805) 238-6929. 11/16

For Sale: Cemetery plots. Rose Hills, Whittier. 4 plots side/side. Lot 858 Memory Lane. Valued at \$18,000. Sell for \$12,000 H. August, (208) 949-9858. 11/16

For Sale: Double cemetery plot. Forest Lawn Hollywood Hills, Section Tenderness, Lot 2127 Space A, B. Valued at \$13,000, asking \$11,000 OBO. Robert, (626) 899-2174. 7/16

For Sale: Cemetery plots. Forest Lawn, Hollywood Hills. Valued at \$13,000. Asking \$10,000 OBO. Robert, (626) 899-2174. 3/16

For Sale: Burial plots, 4 (spaces 1, 2, 3, 4), Forest Lawn Cemetery, Cypress. Lot 1187, Constant Love section. \$4,100 each OBO. Michelle, (310) 648-5506. 2/16

Furniture

For Sale: Bed frame. Antique Cal-king. heavy iron/brass mixture. \$150 OBO. (626) 260-3787. 11/16

For Sale: Grand piano. Yamaha C3 Conservatory. Like new. Humidifier. Cover. Concert bench. Internal felt dust cover for soundboard. \$17,000 OBO. Victor Vallejo, (323) 356-7595. 9/16

For Sale: cabinet. Vintage, blond oak. Great condition. Glass shelves, mirror back, interior light. \$450 OBO. (626) 359-0023 9/16

For Sale: Furniture. Oak. King size bedroom suite; china cabinet; dining room table, six chairs; more. \$2,000 OBO. Vic, newtvic@gmail.com 3/16

For Sale: Bedroom set, 5 piece, cherry wood. Good cond. \$650 OBO. (818) 281-1488. 10/15

For Sale: Crib, cream colored, designer style. Good cond. \$350 OBO. (818) 281-1488. 10/15

For sale: Sofa and chair, great condition, leather/upholstered, "reversible" pillows/cushions. Carved wood, unique design, nail heads. \$600 OBO. Charlene, (661) 916-2970. 5/15

Dining table: w/leaf, 6 chairs, \$300 obo. Jackie, (626) 383-1708. 4/15

Homes/Rentals/Land

For Sale: \$16,000; 160 acres appraised at \$160,000. All reasonable offers considered. (310) 488-6140 or barysylvan@live.com 10/17

For Rent: Apartment. 3 bd/1.5 bath. Inglewood. Remodeled bath, kitchen, lvg. room, dng. room, laundry. Central air/heat. 2-car garage. Encl. backyard. Near Inglewood Shopping Center, Forum, future home of Rams, LAX. \$2,400/month. Gwen, (323) 750-8461. 10/17

For Rent: Apartment. Leimert Park area. 1 bd/1bath. Kitchen, living/dining rms. 1-car garage. New paint. Hdwd. flrs. Remod. kitchen/bath, new fixtures/windows. Quiet. Downstairs unit. 4 units in bldg. Close to public trans. (310) 994-3682. 10/17

For Sale: Aviation space. Adelanto Residential Airpark. Zoned for hanger/house. \$30,000 each. Jimmy Dunn, (562) 318-4313. 9/17

For Rent: Timeshare. Cancun Sunset Club. 7 days Sat-Sat. Studio w/kitchen. Sleeps 4. \$500. Gina, (818) 395-3552. 9/17

For Rent: Big Bear Lake 3 bedroom, 2 bath house located in the village of Big Bear Lake, California. Fully furnished located near the lake. Contact John Long at 909-837-8347 9/17

For Sale: Farmland. Rural, upstate New York. 118 acres. Assessed at \$150,000, make offer. Ray, (310) 710-9871, ray1269@gmail.com 5/17

For sale: home. Bishop, Calif. Single family, 5 bd/3 bath. 2,900+sq. ft. Creek in backyard, view of Sierras. 2 garages. \$590,000. Patty, (661) 965-9457. 3/17

For Rent: Atwater Village. 2 bed/1 bath, 1 car garage, 1 pkg. spot. Hardwood floor, appliances, window A/C. No pets. \$2,300/month. John, (619) 207-0939. 4/17

For Rent: condo, Las Vegas. Vacation rental. 1 bd. Tahiti Village Resort, Bora Bora room. 3-, 4- or 7-nt. stay, starting \$150/night. Days avail. May-Dec 2017. Javier, (323) 547-5449, call or text. 4/17

For Rent: home. Covina. 3 bd/1 bath. New paint. Laundry inside. Front/backyards. Patio, carport, 1-car garage avail. Photos. \$2,000/month. (626) 482-0460. 4/17

For Rent: 1 bd/1 bath. Inglewood. Upstairs. Kitchen, living room, dining room. 1-car garage. New paint, hardwood, fixtures, double-glazed windows, granite countertop. 82nd/Crenshaw. \$1,350/month. (323) 292-9989. 12/16

For Sale: Undeveloped ranch near Victorville. 10 acres appraised at \$16,000; 160 acres appraised at \$160,000. Make offer. (310) 488-6140, or barysylvan@live.com 12/16

For Rent: Vacation rental. 1 bdrm. suite, WorldMark San Diego Mission Valley. Nov. 26-Dec. 1. 5 nights, \$350. Charles Ella, (818) 212-0198.. 11/16

For Sale: Home, Big Pine, Calif. 3 br., 1 3/4 bath. Outdoors activities near. Description, photos avail. \$195,000. bigpineproperty@gmail.com 9/16

For Rent: House, 3 bd/2 baths. Near Manchester/Broadway. Garage, laundry room, handicap access. No Section 8. (323) 971-1042. 8/16

For Sale: House, 2 bed/1 bath, remodeled, Bakersfield. Investment property, rented month/month (\$750/month). Large cleared lot, secure. Listed at \$94,000. Sold as-is, seller selects services (title, escrow). tisdaseason2468@outlook.com 11/15

For Vacation Rent: Condo, 2 bd./2 bath, beachfront, Puerto Nayarit, Mexico. Private pool on balcony. April 1-8, 2016. \$1,000. Jessie, (323) 893-6570. 11/15

For Sale: Timeshare. Pacific Monarch/Diamond Resorts. One full week, two bedrooms. Don't buy direct. \$2,000/obo. Elizabeth, (909) 772-4087. 9/15

For Sale: Home/studio apts., three sep. units sold as one package. Bakersfield. Front home: 2 bd., needs work (in progress), flippable. 2nd bedroom rentable. 2 studio apts. in back, rentable. \$110,000 total. Sold as-is; seller selects title/escrow co. Email: tisdaseason2468@outlook.com 8/15

For Sale: Townhouse. Las Vegas/Chinatown, near Strip, behind school, near major streets. Has rental tenant. \$85,000, HOA \$100/month. Sold as-is; seller selects title/escrow co. Do not disturb tenant. Email: tisdaseason2468@outlook.com 8/15

Household Items

For Sale: Lamps. 2. Tiffany style. 1 12-inch wide, 1 24-inch wide. Both are green. \$30, \$60. (626) 664-2172. 8/17

For Sale: stovetop/oven. GE, 1950s. Pink. Hood. Great condition. \$200 OBO. (818) 865-8104, leave msg. 5/17

For Sale: vacuum cleaner. Kirby. Works xlcnt. \$200. Margaret, (909) 460-9092. 5/17

For sale: audio speakers. Pair. Sanyo. 28x19x11, good condition. \$45. (323) 754-8926. 1/17

For Sale: exercise equipment. Chair Gym, w/ mat, twister, ball, instructions. Open box, never used. \$150. (818) 242-8644. 5/16

For Sale: Exercise equipment. Ab-Doer Twist Ex. Abdominal workout machine. DVD. Exclnt. cond. \$125. (818) 242-8644. 5/16

For Sale: Fitness equipment. Back2Life back relief machine. With a/c. Exclnt. cond. \$75. (818) 242-8644. 5/16

Miscellaneous

For Sale: 4 rims. Pacer chrome. 24-inch, universal holes. With 305/35R/24 tires. Were on Chevy Avalanche. \$1,550 OBO. Katrina, kfrink05@hotmail.com 9/17

For Sale: Collectibles. Lighthouses, including 1 16-inch alabaster lighthouse. Pigs, owls, salt/pepper shakers. Beverly, (562) 943-0930. 9/17

For Sale: pool table. Brunswick. Heritage. Approx. 9'x5'. Good condition. Includes cue, rack, light. \$800. Louis Radosevich, (818) 360-3687, watermaker@juno.com 5/17

For Sale: Portable generator. Honda 5000. Wheel kit, electric starter, shop manual. Avail. from noon - 8 p.m. \$1,000. (818) 893-1805. 11/16

CLASSIFIED ADS

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We'll run your ad in the next available issue on a space available basis. Your ad may be edited for length or appropriateness.

Classified Submission Deadline:

Dec. 2017
issue of *Alive!*:

11/15/17

For Sale: Vintage magazines. Architectural Digest. 150 issues dated 1981-82, 1991-99. Well kept. 25 cents each, \$25 all. Don, (818) 780-7788. 11/16

For Sale: treadmill. Sears Crosswalk. \$200. (818) 893-1805, noon-8 p.m. only. 9/16

For Sale: Turtles, fresh water, 3, 10 yrs old, w/ large aquarium. \$100 OBO. George, (818) 308-7644 or george.pardo@lacity.org 3/16

For Sale: Board games. Trivial Pursuit. Master Game Genius Edition and Silver Screen Edition. \$15. (213) 792-3130. 3/16

Travel/Timeshare

Timeshare: Welks Resort, San Diego, CA. For Sale. \$20K. Cherraine @ (661) 547-6707. 1/15

Wanted

Wanted: Salt and pepper shakers from Bob's Big Boy, circa 1950s/60s. Neil, (818) 304-3133. 10/17

Wanted: Baseball teams to join Saturday league. Recreational level. Tony, (310) 764-1792 11/16

Wanted: Riders for van pool, Lomita to Lincoln Heights. Leaves Lomita @5:40 a.m., BOA Carson @5:45, JFB @6:10, Main St. @6:15, arrives Artesian St. @6:20. Return to Lomita by 5 p.m. James, (310) 626-7169 or (213) 354-4790. 7/16

Wanted: I buy all kinds of collectibles: crystal, Disney, fishing gear, military items, musical instruments, pocket knives, gold & silver, Radko, WDCC. Michael @ (626) 592-2929. 11/12

Transport



(626) 320-5169.

For Sale: Car. 1967 Volkswagen Beetle, good cond. New 1776cc engine. Freeway Flyer trans., front tires, upholstery, much more. Asking \$4,500. mcp794@hotmail.com, or text Mark, (626) 534-2004. 10/17

For Sale: Beautiful classical 2-door 2003 Ford Thunderbird. Platinum Gray; light tinted windows, chrome wheels. Hard top w/stand, convertible, black leather seats, AM/FM radio, CD player air, 36,000 miles. Asking. \$20K OBO. Maxine, (323) 298-5274. 9/17



For Sale: Motorcycle. Harley-Davidson, 2006. Road King Classic. 10,000 miles. Black/chrome. Windshield, cover, saddlebags, exclnt. cond. Rarely used. \$10,000 OBO. Tony, (562) 274-6251. 8/17



For Sale: Car. 1993 Toyota Camry LE, approx. 250,000 miles. Passed emissions Aug. 2016. Cat. converter replaced. New tires, radiator, water pump. New front lower left and right control arms included in trunk. Asking \$1,000. Valerie Brown-McCain, (323) 377-6241. 7/17



For Sale: 1939 Hudson Utility Coupe. Only '39 known! \$33,333 OBO. Paul Thomas (909) 233-4420. 6/17



For Sale: 2005 Harley-Davidson Screaming Eagle Fatboy. 23,000 miles. Exclnt. cond. Vance and Hines exhaust. Windshield, cover, travel bags. \$9,500 OBO. Text/call John Long, (909) 837-8347. 6/17



For Sale: Pickup truck. Ford F-250 XLT. 2003. Very good cond. V10. 111,000 miles. Good tires. \$10,500 OBO. Text/call John Long, (909) 837-8347. 6/17



For Sale: ATVs (2). 2013 125cc Coolster; 2003 ex 400 Honda. \$2,000 for the set. Roy Ponce, rewroy,rp@gmail.com 6/17



For sale: Chevy El Camino. 1982, ruby red. New engine under 8,000 miles. Interior, paint redone. Automatic, A/C, clean. Must sell. \$23,000 OBO. Rudy, (310) 626-0255. 3/17



For sale: Pickup truck. GMC Canyon. Metallic green. 2WD. SLT. 3.6L V6. Crew cab, long box. Leather. 3,456 miles. \$28,000 OBO. Alejandro, (562) 665-7127. 3/17



For sale: 2008 Harley-Davidson FXCWC. 3,200 original miles, always garaged, custom fishtail pipes, S&S 510 G cams, Windvest detachable windshield, 6 speed, 16" Chubby apes, custom seat. \$14,000. 3/17



For sale: RV trailer. 2007 Thor Tahoe Light Hauler. 19 ft. Cover, TV. \$5,500. Contact Barbara: bebrunt@yahoo.com 1/17

For sale: Motorcycle. 2008 Harley-Davidson Rocker, FXCWC. 3,200 miles. 6 speed. Garaged. Custom fishtail pipes, S&S 510 G cams, Windvest detachable windshield, 16" Chubby apes, custom seat. \$14,000. Danny, (323) 605-8405. 1/17



For Sale: Delivery truck. Ford Vanette, 1955. Original engine, solid body, new brakes, suspension. Could be your next food truck or rat rod! \$6,500. (951) 532-5766. 12/16



For Sale: 1967 Chevy Camaro convertible. Original everything. Perfect project car. Must offer. \$25,000 OBO. (310) 753-9522. 11/16

For Sale: SUV. Range Rover HSE, 2003. Green. Cream leather int. 180,000 miles. Well-maintained family vehicle. \$7,200 OBO. (424) 477-9694, ray-proca@gmail.com 9/16



For Sale: 2015 CAN-AM Turbo side by side. Like new only 20 hours. Good Condition. Really fast and recently serviced. FOX adjustable suspension. Only \$17,500. Can deliver to serious buyer. Additional pic avail on request. Contact John 661 857 1396. 9/16

For Sale: Toyota Corolla, 2010, gray. 22,000 miles. In Montebello. \$10,000 OBO. Delia, (208) 262-8031. 7/16

For Sale: RV trailer. 2003 Wanderer, fifth wheel, model 367TB. Onan generator, 12-ft. garage, power hitch, fuel station. AM/FM CD stereo, super slide. \$10,000 OBO. Mike, (661) 557-0975, maddad111@yahoo.com 3/16



For Sale: 1980 Cadillac, red, white int., immaculate. New tires, gas tank, fuel pump, stored since 2010. 91,400 miles. \$9,495. (805) 649-1940. 3/16



For Sale: Cadillac Brougham, 1989. Leather interior. Very good shape. 77,000 miles. \$4,000 OBO. (626) 797-8328. 12/15

For Sale: 1984 F-150-w/camper shell and carpet kit. As is. \$1,100 OBO. Call 310-764-4478 9/15



For Sale: 1963 Corvair, convertible. Good cond., runs great. Light green ext./int., white top. \$9,000 OBO. Alex, (323) 691-0872. 8/15



For Sale: Watercraft, his and hers, '93 Bombardier Seadoo, '91 Waverunner w/trailer. Great condition. Jackie, (626) 383-1708. 7/15



For Sale: 2003 Harley "ROAD KING" Davidson (100th anniversary edition) motorcycle, 5087 miles, stage 1 with detachable windshield, passenger back support, hardbags, battery charger, black and chrome, hardly ridden, always garaged, 1 owner only. \$10,000.00 OBO. Please call 818-366-3273 John or text 818-633-4164. 7/15



2005 Honda Civic Si: Hatchback, manual, 2-door, sun roof, power windows, security system, XLNT running condition, tan color, 68K miles. \$10,500 OBO. Info @ (310) 642-0522. 10/14

CLUB **A Club Seminar**

NEW BENEFIT: The Club is offering six seminars over two days to answer your questions and help you sign up.

Everything You Need to Know About Long-Term Care

Jan. 2–3, 2018
10 a.m. • Noon • 2 p.m.

Learn why the Club's Long-Term Care insurance really matters.



Celebrating the Lives of City Employees.

WHERE:
 California Endowment
 1000 Alameda St.
 Los Angeles, CA 90012

DURATION:
 Each seminar session is 90 minutes.

TEACHERS:
 Club Counselors and other experts

CAPACITY:
 50 attendees maximum for each of the six sessions (you need to attend only one, as they are identical).

Light refreshments.

Find out:

- What the Club's Group Long-Term Care coverage is
- Why Long-Term Care is critically important to your financial wellbeing
- What plans are available
- The advantage of locked rates, and how to compute them

Here are just some of the great features of the Club's Long-Term Care coverage:

- Available for spouses, domestic partners, parents, Retirees, etc.
- Portability
- Application assistance
- Monthly disbursements directly to you (from \$1,000 to \$5,000)
- Available plans cover Long-Term Care facility, professional home care, total home care, simple inflation protection and other features



Advance reservations required.

EMAIL: info@cityemployeesclub.com

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Cheryl Martin
Club Counselor



MaryAnn Urdiales
Club Counselor

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MOVIE THEATERS

	RETAIL	CLUB
AMC THEATERS		
Black Tickets - Good Any Time e	\$14.00	\$10.25
Small Popcorn	\$6.50	\$4.50
Small Drink	\$5.50	\$4.00
Movie Bundle	\$47.00	\$33.00
<i>- Includes 2 Black movie tickets, 2 small drinks, 1 small popcorn</i>		
CINEMARK THEATERS e		
Concessions (Good for one junior popcorn and one small fountain drink)	\$12.75	\$8.25
	\$8.00	\$6.00
CINÉPOLIS THEATERS		
Premium Theaters	\$15.25	\$10.00
Luxury Theaters	\$24.00	\$17.50
GALAXY THEATERS - Good Any Time		
	\$11.00	\$8.00
HARKINS MOVIE THEATERS		
Restricted	\$11.00	\$7.00
Good Any Time	\$11.00	\$8.00
Small Popcorn	\$5.60	\$4.60
Small Drink	\$5.00	\$4.00
KRIKORIAN THEATERS - Good Any Time		
Buena Park & San Clemente Only	\$12.00	\$7.50
LAEMMLE THEATERS - Good Any Time		
	\$11.00	\$7.50
LANDMARK THEATERS		
	\$15.00	\$9.00
METROPOLITAN THEATERS		
Unrestricted Tickets	\$13.00	\$8.00
Restricted Tickets	\$10.50	\$6.75
READING CINEMAS - Restricted		
	\$12.50	\$7.50
REGAL/ EDWARDS/ UNITED ARTIST		
Good Any Time e	\$14.75	\$8.50
Movie Pack	\$30.00	\$26.00
<i>- Includes 2 Good Any Time movie tickets and a \$10 concession gift card</i>		
REGENCY THEATERS - Good Any Time		
	\$11.50	\$7.50
STUDIO MOVIE GRILL - Good Any Time		
	\$13.00	\$6.25
ULTRASTAR THEATERS - Good Any Time		
	\$11.25	\$6.00

ATTRACTIONS CONT'D

	RETAIL	CLUB
DAVEY'S LOCKER e		
Whale Watching	Adult \$32.00	\$21.00
	Child \$26.00	\$15.75
Sport Fishing - 1/2 Day	Adult \$41.50	\$31.50
	Child \$34.00	\$25.21
Sport Fishing - 3/4 Day	Adult \$71.00	\$57.75
	Child \$61.00	\$47.25
Sunset / Evening Cruise	Adult \$25.00	\$12.61
GOLF N' STUFF		
3 Hour Unlimited Wristband - (Norwalk Location) e	\$30.00	\$16.25
All Park Pass - (Ventura Location)	\$20.00	\$15.25
GOLFLAND Discount prices vary depending on location		
GRAMMY MUSEUM e		
General Admission	\$18.95	\$12.00
IFLY INDOOR SKYDIVING e		
San Francisco - Save 15% Off All Flight Packages	\$59.95	\$50.96
K1 SPEED RACING		
This pass entitles the owner to (1) 14 Lap race and a annual license for the day.	\$25.95	\$15.25
MADAME TUSSAUDS WAX ATTRACTION e		
<i>All Access Pass includes Marvel Super Heroes 4D Experience.</i>		
Hollywood	Adult \$30.99	\$17.00
	Child (4 - 12) \$25.99	\$15.00
Las Vegas (eTickets Only)	General Admission \$29.95	\$14.98
MEDIAVAL TIMES e		
<i>eTicket prices will vary depending on date/time selections.</i>		
	Adult \$57.95	\$43.50
	Child (0 - 12) \$35.95	\$31.50
MONTEREY BAY AQUARIUM e		
	Adult \$49.95	\$41.95
	Child (3 - 12) \$29.95	\$24.95
	Senior (65+) \$39.95	\$33.95
MULLIGAN'S FAMILY FUN CENTER		
All Day Pass e	Adult/Child \$36.99	\$16.50
All Day Pass (Hard Stock at Club Store)	\$36.99	\$19.25
<i>- Unlimited use of Laser Tag, Miniature Golfing, Go-Karts/Speedway and the Rock Wall. Valid at Mulligan Torrance, Murrieta, and Palmdale.</i>		
PIRATES DINNER ADVENTURE e		
	Adult \$56.95	\$37.00
	Child (3 - 11) \$37.95	\$28.50
QUEEN MARY / BATTLESHIP e		
	Adult \$42.95	\$31.92
IOWA COMBO	Youth (12-17) \$34.95	\$25.95
	Child (6 - 11) \$23.95	\$17.95
RACERS EDGE INDOOR KARTING		
Adult: 16-Lap Adult Race	\$23.00	\$18.00
Junior (50" tall): 11-Lap Junior Race	\$20.00	\$15.00
SANTA CRUZ BOARDWALK e SEASONAL		
Unlimited Ride Wristband	\$48.95	\$41.95
SANTA MONICA PIER & PACIFIC PARK e		
Unlimited Ride Wristband	\$29.95	\$18.00

ATTRACTIONS CONT'D

	RETAIL	CLUB
SKYSPACE LOS ANGELES		
	Adult \$25.00	\$17.00
	Child (5-12) \$19.00	\$15.00
Slide Combo	Adult \$33.00	\$23.00
	Child (5-12) \$27.00	\$21.00
SPEEDZONE e		
3 Hour Unlimited Pass on Rides and Mini-Golf	\$49.99	\$28.00
TEATRO MARTINI e		
Buena Park, California	\$75.75	\$36.00 to \$42.00
USS IOWA e		
SAN PEDRO	Adult \$18.00	\$13.50
	Child (6 - 11) \$10.00	\$7.50
	Senior (62+) or Military (with ID) \$15.00	\$10.50
USS MIDWAY e		
SAN DIEGO	Adult \$20.00	\$13.00
	Child (6 - 11) \$10.00	\$7.00
	Senior (62+) \$17.00	\$10.00
WINCHESTER MYSTERY HOUSE		
	Adult \$37.00	\$25.00
	Child (6 - 12) \$20.00	\$15.00

THEME PARKS

ADVENTURE CITY e		
	Adult/ Child \$18.95	\$14.50
CALIFORNIA'S GREAT AMERICA e SEASONAL		
General Admission (Age 3+)	\$69.00	\$38.00
CASTLE PARK e		
General Admission (over 36")	\$24.99	\$12.99
GILROY GARDENS e SEASONAL		
General Admission	\$58.00	\$30.00
HERSHEY PARK (PENNSYLVANIA) e		
	Adult \$65.80	\$43.95
	Child (3-8) \$42.80	\$37.95
KNOTT'S BERRY FARM		
	Adult \$75.00	\$42.00
	Child (3-11), Senior (62+) \$45.00	\$39.00
Cheaper for eTickets e	Adult \$75.00	\$39.00
	Child (3-11), Senior (62+) \$45.00	\$37.00
LOS ANGELES ZOO e		
	Adult \$21.00	\$17.00
	Child (2-12) \$16.00	\$13.00
LEGOLAND e		
1 - Day, 1 - Park	Adult \$99.00	\$76.00
	Child (3 - 11) \$91.00	\$71.00
Legoland Resort Hopper (Valid to Legoland, Water Park, and Sea Life Aquarium)	Adult \$119.00	\$81.00
	Child (3 - 11) \$113.00	\$76.00
Includes 2nd Day FREE (expire 12/30/17)		
SAN DIEGO ZOO / SAFARI PARK e		
	Adult \$52.00	\$42.64
	Child (3 - 11) \$42.00	\$34.44

ATTRACTIONS

	RETAIL	CLUB
AQUARIUM OF THE BAY e		
SAN FRANCISCO	Adult \$24.95	\$19.96
	Child (4 - 12) \$14.95	\$11.96
AQUARIUM OF THE PACIFIC e		
	Adult \$29.95	\$18.95
	Child (3 - 11) \$17.95	\$13.95
BOOMER'S FUN CENTERS e		
SELECT CALIFORNIA LOCATIONS	4 Hour Pass \$49.99	\$24.99
CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE e		
	Adult \$35.95	\$30.56
	Child (4 - 11) \$25.95	\$22.06
	Youth (12-17) / Student (with ID) / Senior (65+) \$30.95	\$26.31
CATALINA EXPRESS e		
Round Trip Fare	Adult \$76.50	\$61.00
	Child \$61.00	\$51.50

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THE CLUB DOES NOT CHARGE ANY PROCESSING OR HANDLING FEES!

THEME PARKS CONT'D

	RETAIL	CLUB
SEAWORLD - SAN DIEGO e		
	Adult \$94.99	\$61.60
	Child (3 - 9) \$88.99	\$65.99
Fun Card - Adult (valid until 12/30/18)	\$89.99	\$79.20
Fun Card - Child (valid until 12/30/18)	\$88.99	\$74.80
SILVERWOOD THEME PARK (IDAHO) e		
	Adult \$48.00	\$39.00
	Child (3 - 7) \$25.00	\$20.00
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SIX FLAGS DISCOVERY KINGDOM e		
VALLEJO	General Admission (over 48")	\$69.99 \$41.99
UNIVERSAL STUDIOS e		
	Adult / Child (under 48")	\$120.00 \$95.00 & UP
	12 Month Pass	N/A \$109.00

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\$25 Gift Card	\$25.00	\$22.50
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Good for 1lb of chocolate	\$19.90	\$14.95

SPORTING EVENTS

LOS ANGELES DODGERS	▲	Games available online
ANGELS OF ANAHEIM	▲	Games available online
SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS	▲	Games available online
SAN DIEGO PADRES	▲	Games available online
LOS ANGELES CLIPPERS	e	Games available online
LOS ANGELES GALAXY	e	Games available online
LOS ANGELES SPARKS	e	Games available online
LOS ANGELES KINGS	e	Games available online
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The Smart Move

BY PATRICK MILLER, CBLIFE,
The Club's Insurance Partner

The Obesity Epidemic in America



The following report from the American Heart Association News tells a chilling story about the growing trend of obesity in America. It illustrates the need for significant change in the eating and exercise habits of a growing portion of our population. It also illustrates the need for insurance products that protect financial resources if a person's health leads to critical illness like heart attacks and strokes.

The obesity epidemic in America is getting worse, new federal data show.

As of 2015-16, about four in 10 U.S. adults were obese, up from 37.7 percent during 2013-14. The news for children and teens isn't much better. Overall, nearly 19 percent was obese in 2015-16, up from about 17 percent during the previous two years.

The report, released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Health Statistics, shows a trend of increasing obesity among Americans over the past 18 years, with middle-aged adults and some minority women hit the hardest.

Obesity rates were highest for black and Hispanic women: 55 percent and 51 percent, respectively. By comparison, 38 percent of white women and 15 percent of Asian women were obese. By age, obesity in adults was most common among 40- to 59-year-olds — 43 percent — and least common among 20- to 39-year-olds — 36 percent.

"It is a serious concern because it's a risk factor for many health conditions, such as diabetes, heart disease, stroke and even some kinds of cancer," said Craig M. Hales, M.D., lead author of the report and a medical epidemiologist at the CDC. "I hope that people think about their own health [and] do their own assessment in terms of where they are in terms of their weight," Hales said.

Adults with a body mass index — a calculation derived from a person's height and weight — of 30 or higher are considered obese. For kids, obesity is determined by whether a child's BMI is at or above the 95th percentile on the CDC's growth charts.

The continued uptick in obesity prevalence surprised Wendy L. Bennett, M.D., a cardiovascular disease researcher and primary care doctor at Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center in Baltimore. But she was most troubled by the high rates of obesity among black and Hispanic women.

"It's very challenging [for many primary care doctors] to provide high quality obe-

sity management and nutrition services — especially for our low-income patients," Bennett said.

The data confirms that federal, state and local health policymakers need to continue campaigns that promote good nutrition and exercise, but that greater efforts are needed for women, said Bennett, whose research focuses on obesity and women's health.

For example, she said initiatives for pregnant women — many of whom struggle to lose added weight after giving birth — could help them establish healthy routines early in pregnancy. And campaigns promoting healthy lifestyles must reflect the cultural, racial and regional diversity among Americans, Bennett said.

"We now know a one-size-fits-all program or one-size-fits-all policy won't work," she said.

Among kids, the odds of being obese were lower in younger children. There were also differences based on race and ethnicity among 2- to 19-year-olds overall. Nearly 26 percent of Hispanic kids and 22 percent of black kids were obese, the report showed. On the other end of the spectrum, 11 percent of Asian-American kids and 14 percent of white kids were obese.

Eduardo Sanchez, M.D., chief medical officer for prevention at the American Heart Association, said that helping people eat healthier and move more comes down to the basics of supply and demand.

"It will take a massive push from the food and beverage industry to increase the supply of affordable, healthy, nutritious foods and fewer sugary drinks. And it takes a tremendous effort on the part of consumers to demand healthier products and policies in their communities. We all have to do our part," he said.

Of course, we recommend getting healthy — it's the best way to encourage a long life. But insurance protection in the form of critical illness insurance can pay thousands of dollars in the event of heart attack or stroke to get a person through some tough financial times.

CBLife is The Club's partner for four areas — life insurance, critical illness insurance, retirement income and accident medical expense insurance. Currently the Club offers three CBLife products: the Security Builder Plan, the Timber Ridge Critical Illness Plan and the Accident Medical Expense Plan. Ask your Club Counselor for details.
You can contact CBLife at (888) 443-8829.

Los Angeles Public Library

Library's TOP 10

Here's what LA was reading, watching and listening to in September.

Lists are courtesy Los Angeles Public Library, Central library downtown and 72 branches combined.

Books loaned

1. *The Late Show*, Michael Connelly
2. *Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis*, J.D. Vance
3. *Y Is for Yesterday*, Sue Grafton
4. *Al Franken, Giant of the Senate*, Al Franken
5. *The Handmaid's Tale*, Margaret Atwood
6. *The Glass Castle*, Jeannette Walls
7. *The Wrong Side of Goodbye*, Michael Connelly
8. *Magpie Murders*, Anthony Horowitz
9. *The Dark Prophecy*, Rick Riordan
10. *The Hate U Give*, Angie Thomas

Books downloaded

(e-books)

1. *The Late Show*, Michael Connelly
2. *The Handmaid's Tale*, Margaret Atwood
3. *Into the Water*, Paula Hawkins
4. *Camino Island*, John Grisham
5. *House of Spies*, Daniel Silva
6. *A Gentleman in Moscow*, Amor Towles
7. *Big Little Lies*, Liane Moriarty
8. *The Underground Railroad*, Colson Whitehead
9. *Y Is for Yesterday*, Sue Grafton
10. *Hillbilly Elegy*, J.D. Vance

DVDs loaned

1. *John Wick Chapter 2*
2. *Logan*
3. *Beauty and the Beast*
4. *Get Out*
5. *Kong: Skull Island*
6. *Ghost in the Shell*
7. *Hidden Figures*
8. *Guardians of the Galaxy Volume 2*
9. *The Fate of the Furious*
10. *La La Land*

Download-and-Keep songs*

1. "What About Us," P!nk
2. "Havana," Camila Cabello feat. Young Thug
3. "Oh Baby," LCD Soundsystem
4. "Other Voices," LCD Soundsystem
5. "Make It Right," Foo Fighters
6. "I Used To," LCD Soundsystem
7. "La Dee Da," Foo Fighters
8. "The Sky Is a Neighborhood," Foo Fighters
9. "Change Yr Mind," LCD Soundsystem
10. "T-Shirt," Foo Fighters

* "Freegal" music via the Library lets users download and keep up to five songs a month — it's seriously free and legal! Check it out at <http://lapl.freegalmusic.com>

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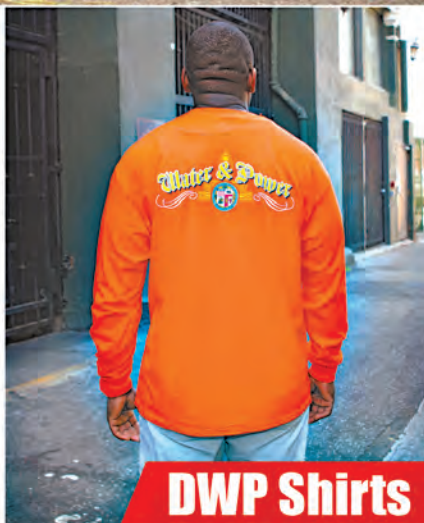
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