

**SPECIAL EDITION**

# Alive!

# 100

*Celebrating the  
100<sup>th</sup> issue of Alive!*

**- SEE PAGE 7**



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# Alive!

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<b>Jan. 14</b>	8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.	<b>Jan. 28</b>	8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.
	Patty Pulido		Patty Pulido

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\* A Message From the CEO \*

# New Year Starts With Old and New

by John Hawkins  
President and CEO, The Club

I said it in this month's *Alive!* interview, and I'm saying it again now:

It doesn't seem like we've produced 100 issues of *Alive!* As they say, time really flies when you're having fun.

And we have, in a big way. Here in the *Alive!* production office, we knew this event was coming for several months. And we've been preparing for it. But I wasn't prepared for how much fun I'd have talking about this newspaper, and revisiting some of its big moments. We didn't start out as good as we are now, not by a long shot. But we listened to your feedback, we saw what was interesting to you, our Club Members ... and we adjusted. We like to think that every issue we produce is better than the one before it, so that makes this one the best ever ... but not as good as the ones to come. In short, you are the difference. We celebrate the lives of City Employees, and your reaction comes right back to us.

*Alive!* is really the culmination of the Club concept in action. It depicts everything the Club is about – serving City Employees, insuring City Employees, and celebrating City Employees. We are grateful for all of you who have participated, contributed, or merely were depicted on one of our pages. *Alive!* is for all of you, and I'm proud that it's fulfilling its promise, and its initial goal of recognizing City Employees for all the good things they do.



I especially want to thank **David, Marie and Heather** at JJLA Associates, which has designed every one of the 100, and editor **John Burnes**, who has produced all 100. We have a great team, and I'm proud of what we have accomplished. Thanks!

So let's go and create another 100. As long as there is a Club, we will be celebrating all the good people who make our City work.

But that's enough of the past. It's time to move on to an amazing offer for the future – it's only the Club's biggest and best event ever. Who wants to go on a Mediterranean cruise – with a Club bonus? Well, I do, and I bet a lot of you want to, too. Our Mediterranean cruise, set for October, promises to be a fantastic adventure to share with other City Employees and Club staff. If you act soon, you can even be eligible for a Club bonus! Check out the ad on the back page. So don't wait.

There are many other things to talk about in this issue, including our traditional The City Parties! Holiday event roundup, but I am going to leave it here and wish all of you a very happy and productive New Year. May it bring all of us great adventures and new stories, more friends and deeper connections, and bigger perspectives and simpler joys. In a nutshell, more awesomeness.

Thanks for being on the journey with the Club. Let's go and create some more memories.

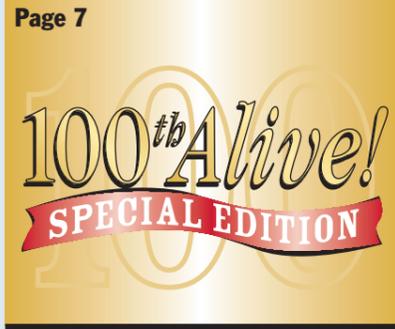
**JOHN**

(jhawkins@cityemployeesclub.com)



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The newspaper of the  
City Employees Club of Los Angeles



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**Cecilia Talbot,  
Claims Manager**

You probably won't get to meet Club Claims Manager Cecilia Talbot very often... until you really need her. That's when her 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.



**Monica Zamudio,  
Claims Assistant**

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When You Need It Most**

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The Club's claims service was "exemplary! In difficult times, it is a plus to have a person of compassion and cheerfulness handling one's needs. Thanks. My questions and the services rendered by your competent staff member, Monica, were quickly and professionally handled. I was kept apprised of the progress until its completion. You have 'cream of the crop' members on your staff. The book *[The Fall of Freddie the Leaf]* is a very unique and effectual way of complementing the nature of the life and death with the metamorphosis of humanity."

— Alvino Lopez, July 2010

The Club's claims service was "helpful and efficient. With so many details and emotional issues after the death of my father, your quick assistance was helpful. Thank you."

— Cathy Urban

The Club's claims service was "excellent. I can't say enough good things about Monica Zamudio. She has answered all my questions and kept me well informed on my recent claim. She is friendly and professional and knowledgeable, which is a great combination to deal with, when unfortunately you are off work due to injury. Thanks again for

all your help! Very much appreciated!"

— Michael Munis, May 2010

"The City Employees Club services were professional and very fast in helping my family. Every time I called seeking information, someone was at the office who could answer my call. This book *[The Fall of Freddie the Leaf]* always touches my heart. After reading it over the past several years, the book has the same positive effect on me."

— Brenda Wells, May 2010

**Your Club Insurance Dollars at Work**

**Total claims paid to Club Members so far in 2010: \$4,016,591.00**

**Claims paid:**

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Life insurance claims paid this year: **\$2,037,202.00**

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Long-term disability claims paid this year: **\$1,353,820.00**

Long-term care claims paid this month: **\$27,305.09**

Long-term care claims paid this year: **\$355,569.00**

Cancer insurance claims paid this month: **\$0.00**

Cancer insurance claims paid this year: **\$270,000.00**

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**Dunn Edwards**

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\*Contact the Club for more details.

**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.



**Member Services**



Tiffany Sy  
Member Services  
Counselor, In-House



Angel Gomez  
Director of  
Member Services



**Eboné Moses**  
Club Member  
Services Counselor



**Arlene Herrero**  
Club Products  
Manager



**Brent Urban**  
Club Member  
Services Counselor

Accounting, Bureau of  
Animal Services  
Building & Safety  
Chief Legislative Analyst, Office of the  
City Administrative Officer  
City Attorney  
City Clerk  
City Council  
Community Redevelopment Agc.  
Contract Administration, Bureau of  
Controller, Office of the  
Convention Center  
Cultural Affairs  
Disability, Department on  
DWP-Administration  
DWP-Energy Services  
DWP-Financial Services Executive  
DWP-Integrated Support Services  
DWP-Marketing & Customer Svcs  
DWP-Water Aqueduct District  
DWP-Water Services  
El Pueblo De Los Angeles  
Emergency Preparedness  
Finance  
Housing Department  
Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum  
Los Angeles World Airport  
Mayor  
Planning  
Street Lighting, Bureau of

Administration  
Aging  
City Employees Retirement Sys.  
Community Development Dept.  
General Services  
Employee Relations Board  
Engineering, Bureau of  
Environmental Affairs  
Fire  
Fire & Police Pensions  
Information Technology Agency  
Library  
Neighborhood Empowerment  
Personnel  
Recreation & Parks  
Sanitation, Bureau of  
Status of Women  
Street Services, Bureau of  
Transportation  
Zoo



John Hawkins  
President & CEO



Brian G. Trent  
Chief Financial  
Officer



Robert Larios  
Director of Operations  
"Sports Dude"

**Accounting**



Leigh Thompson  
Controller



Trinh Pham  
Senior Accountant



Katie Hesseltine  
Application Coordinator



Jennifer Schackelford  
Application Coordinator

**Claims**



Cecilia Talbot  
Claims Manager



Monica Zamudio  
Claims Assistant



Noelle Kauffman  
New Projects  
Coordinator

**Support**

**Information Technology**



Michael Anderson  
Information Technology  
Manager



**2007 President's  
Award Recipient**  
Alan Bound  
Information Technology  
Programmer



**2005 President's  
Award Recipient**  
Summy Lam  
Director of Marketing

**Club Store**



Rachael Brecher  
Club Store  
Assistant Manager



Lupe Medina  
Administrative Service  
Representative



Megan Debolt  
Club Store Services  
Coordinator



Chystopher Green  
Customer Service  
Assistant

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**Questions? We're here to help.**  
Call between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. weekdays.



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Testing out the snow at  
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Tickets Not valid on Holiday dates  
1/1-1/2, 1/15-1/16, 2/19-2/20 2011

# LETTERS To the Editor

Tell us what you think! [talkback@cityemployeesclub.com](mailto:talkback@cityemployeesclub.com)

## The Letters Roll In On Our 100<sup>th</sup> Issue!

Congratulations on your 100th issue. What a milestone!

I faithfully read *Alive!* every month for the latest on our great City of Los Angeles and all the people that keep the City of Angels the best place to live in the world.

I look forward to another 100 issues!

PS: I'm glad to be a member, too!

— **Tom LaBonge, Councilmember, Fourth District, and Club Member**

Congratulations to *Alive!* and its hard-working staff on the publication of your 100th issue.

Each month, thousands of City Employees benefit from the thorough and entertaining product that is produced. *Alive!* gives us a better appreciation of our diverse and talented workforce. In a city as large and sprawling as Los Angeles, *Alive!* does a remarkable job touching on all corners of the City and sharing a wealth of useful information that brings us a little bit closer together.

Here at the Harbor Department, we are grateful for the wonderful coverage we have received from *Alive!* The newspaper has featured the Port's centennial celebration, the Port Police dive and canine teams as well as our Lobster Festival, internship program and many other events and programs. On a personal note, as a history aficionado, I look forward to reading the "History Comes Alive" feature each month.

Thank you for your efforts and your commitment to the employees of the City of Los Angeles.

— **Geraldine Knatz, Ph.D., Executive Director and Club Member**

Thank you, *Alive!*, for being an important part of our City family and covering all those L.A. City employee stories. You have put face on who we are. My wife, Ann, and I have gone online numerous times purchasing great deals on movie tickets, amusement park tickets, and more recently See's Candy gift certificates. Such a sweet deal! Ann and I wish you and your staff a prosperous and healthy New Year.

— **Ken Kochakji, Retired, Transportation, Club Member**



Ken Kochakji

On behalf of the Department of Recreation and Parks, I would like to sincerely congratulate you on the 100th issue of *Alive!*

*Alive!* has served as a wonderful resource for all City employees since inception in 2002. The information provided highlights the City's and City Departments' assets. I especially appreciated the issues the Department of Recreation and Parks was featured in. *Alive!* has done a great job of presenting both the Department's assets and staff members. Thank you for your support and continued recognition.

I look forward to reading the next 100 issues of *Alive!*

— **Jon Kirk Mukri, General Manager, Rec and Parks**

One hundred is one of those great numbers. It's enough to mean something significant but not too large to make you lose touch. I have enjoyed a hundred different spotlights on the City of Los Angeles and on the intriguing people that make it work. *Alive!* shows just how exotic and rich even the most fundamental elements of the City really are and puts the human face on Los Angeles. We should all live to a 100 with such style.

Astronomically appreciative,

— **E.C. Krupp, Director, Griffith Observatory, Rec and Parks, and Club Member**

The *Alive!* team continues to amaze me each and every month. I look forward to reading the well-written and interesting articles, which cover the diverse work fields within the City. I also think that the photographs used to describe the City people and their jobs are excellent in both composition and power. My favorite recurring elements of *Alive!* issues are, of course, the cover stories, as well as Angel's "Be *Alive!*," "History Comes *Alive!*," "Alive! Around the World," "Cooking with the Club" and "John's Picture Perfect." Recently, I purchased several tickets to Universal Studios through the Club Store. The customer service that I received made me smile all day.

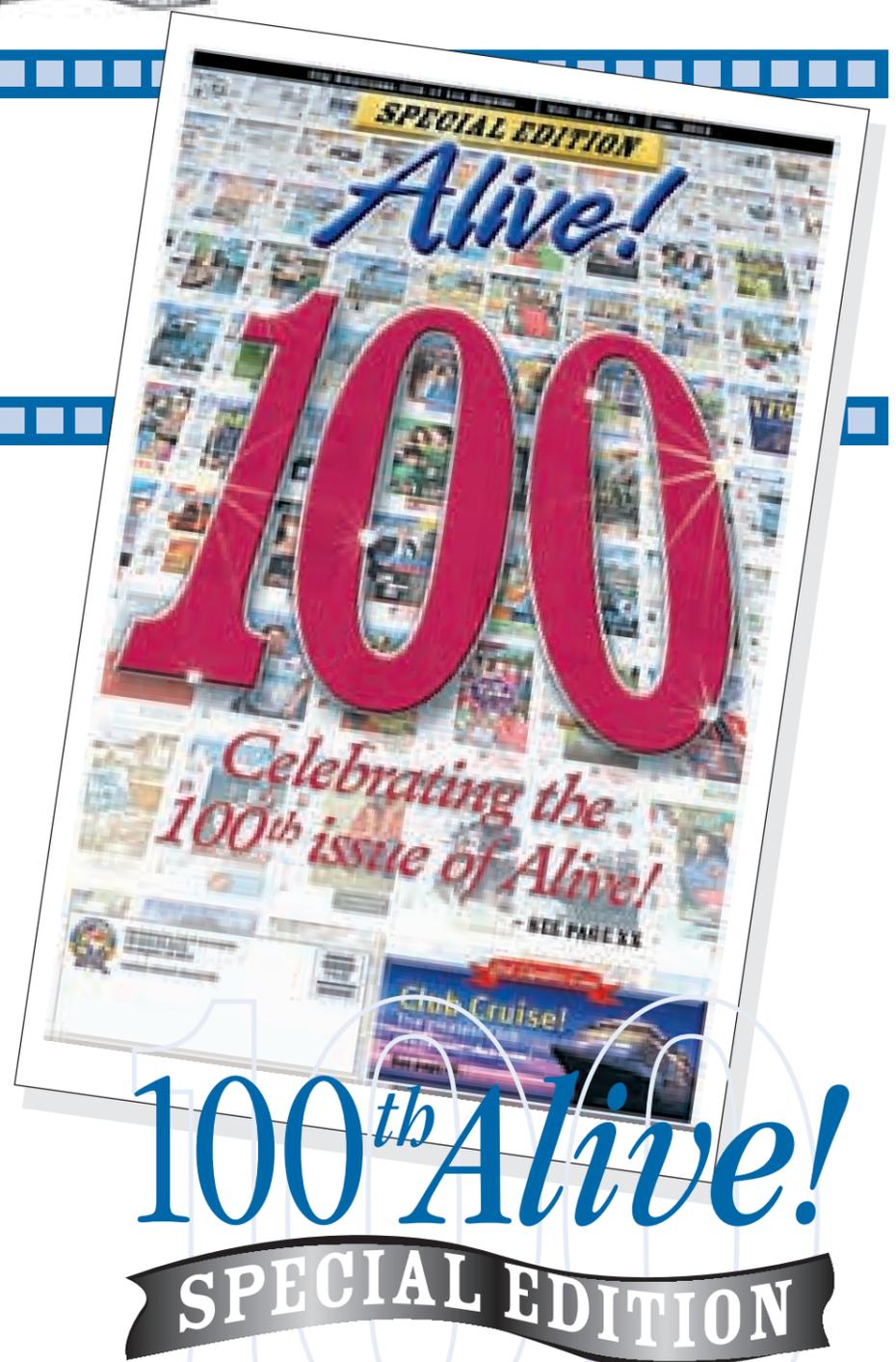
The Ocean Assessments Unit and Environmental Monitoring Division were featured as the November 2008 cover story. I had the extreme pleasure in working with John Hawkins, Angel Gomez and John Burnes. I felt obligated to join the Club after being involved in that story. Once I received and read my first issue, I knew it was and always will be money well spent.

Thank you, *Alive!*, and congratulations on the 100th issue! Keep up the excellent work. (And being an animal, especially pet, advocate, I think the "Pet Club" concept is a great idea.)

— **Curtis Cash, Ocean Assessments Unit, Public Works, Club Member**

Congratulations on your 100th issue!

I remember the story you had detailing the Griffith Park fire. What I enjoyed more was the story done one year later on the recovery of the wildlife and plants. Thank you for sharing the loss



# 100<sup>th</sup> Alive!

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and the recovery of this Los Angeles landmark that we frequent as a family.

I also want to thank you for accepting my contributions to this newspaper. In 2004, my co-worker, Ivan Gerson, Management Analyst II, Public Works/Engineering, and I started the Public Works Pioneers Toastmasters Club. We started submitting stories about speech contests and anniversary events to you and you were always welcoming and encouraging. Due to *Alive!*, City Employees we didn't know were congratulating us and greeting us by sight. *Alive!* made our Toastmasters club members feel like local celebrities.

Since 2004, I've been privileged to write about City employees' lives. I've written about City employees' work life, loves, marriages and even a couple of obituaries of folks who left us suddenly. Now that my husband found a job in Chicago and we're leaving Los Angeles, I will miss being part of City employees' lives through *Alive!* I appreciate the friendships and relationships that I was able to establish by my participation in this worthy magazine.

Thank you for the opportunity you gave me to celebrate City employees' lives.

— **Yvonne Liu, Office of Finance, Club Member**

Congratulations on your 100th issue of the *Alive!* newspaper. This is certainly a great achievement for your staff to proud of. I think your newspaper is awesome, especially when you do special interest story on just regular folks.

Thanks again.

— **Rey Castro, Chief Engineer, Convention Center, Club Member**

Congratulations on the 100th issue of *Alive!* This is one periodical I always read from start to finish! Your staff brings personalization to all City Employees, including covering parties, retirements and other special occasions. I also enjoy seeing in depth what fellow City Employees do during their workday, such as the Search and Rescue dog story. Another reason *Alive!* stands out is the personal touch of the "People We See" sec-

tion, which really puts a face on those less fortunate. "Life's Important Moments" also helps us to share those special moments with fellow employees, as well as "Alive! Around the World," seeing the exciting places people travel to. And of course I cannot forget Robert Larios in his "Cooking with the Club" section! He sure whips up some pretty yummy stuff.

Thank you so much for all you do, and congratulations again on this milestone! Best regards to everyone on the *Alive!* staff.

— **Jean Sarfaty, LAPD Communications, Club Member**

Wow! The 100th issue of *Alive!* Congratulations on achieving such a milestone. What began modestly has become an eagerly anticipated "must read" in our home. Each issue seems better than the previous one (although my personal favorite is the April 2010 issue). *Alive!* is reflective of the overall excellence of the City Employees Club. I am proud to be a member.

— **Paul Blount, Public Works, Club Member**

So, a little bird told me that your next issue is your 100th... Land O Goshen! That is just simply amazing; and I think I've read every single one of them cover to cover. Of course I always like reading what I wrote in the Letters to the Editor column first, and then I move on to the rest of the paper. In all seriousness, though, you have made me proud to be a City Employee. You have done what no other city in the country has been able to do – join all its departments from the LAPD, to the DWP to General Services in a morale-boosting conglomeration of love. I know the mayor must be so proud of you guys, I hope he has a special proclamation in mind. All of you should be so proud of yourselves, and I look forward to another 100 issues.

— **Mary Rose Wilkens, Retired, Club Member, "at your service!"**

# 1000

SPECIAL SECTION

## 100<sup>th</sup> Alive! Issue

### Being Alive! The First 100 Issues

**Congratulations to  
Alive!, which marks its  
100th edition. Enjoy!**

You're holding your copy of the 100th issue of *Alive!*, the newspaper of the City Employees Club of Los Angeles.

From the creation of the Club in October 2002, through fires, elections, budget cutbacks, holiday parties, City honors, and the introduction of popular *Alive!* features including "Alive! Around the World" and "People We See," *Alive!* has been there through it all. Celebrating the Lives of City Employees has been what it's all about, and *Alive!* stays as true to that concept with this 100th issue as with the first.

This milestone is to be celebrated – as *Alive!* has created a new way for associ-

ations to communicate with their members beyond what has been done before. We've always felt that City Employees deserve all the dignity we can provide, and *Alive!* proves that to be true.

With this issue, the Club sincerely thanks all those, who surely number in the thousands, who have contributed material, stories, photos, letters and/or comments on the paper. You have made it a success! So, thanks!

Here's to our next 100. As long as there are City Employees to be celebrated, we'll be there, doing the celebrating.



THE *ALIVE!* INTERVIEW

# ‘Everything the Club Does ... Is in *Alive!*’

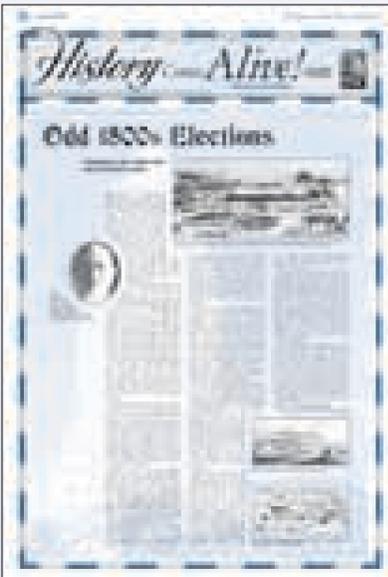
**Club CEO John Hawkins talks about the origins and impact of *Alive!*, and some of its turning points and successes.**

*Interview photos by Angel Gomez, Club Member Services Manager, and Summy Lam, Club Director of Marketing*

*On Nov. 4, John Hawkins, Club President and CEO, sat down with *Alive!* editor John Burnes to celebrate *Alive!*'s achievement of reaching its 100th issue. The interview took place at the Club's administrative headquarters on Spring Street downtown. – Ed.*

**History Comes *Alive!***

– June 2008



**Alive!:** As you know, we're celebrating our 100th issue this month. That's pretty amazing. Does it feel like we've done a hundred of these?

**John Hawkins:** Actually, it doesn't. Time has gone by pretty fast, but I find it amazing that we were able to produce a hundred. When you think about all the material that went in to it, I can't believe that we just kept going. That's a lot of material. The enthusiasm is just as great as it was in the beginning, which is amazing to me.

We've definitely hit our stride.

**John:** We have!

## The Contributors

We have generated a lot of content, but we've also received a lot of contributions from Club members who have really enjoyed this paper.

**John:** Absolutely. Like Hynda Rudd, for example. It was maybe six years ago that we ran in to Hynda at an RLACEI retirement luncheon. Out of the blue, someone mentioned that she writes articles and is a history buff, and so we simply just asked her, "Would you like to contribute to *Alive!*?" and voila, the "History Comes *Alive!*" section was created!

"Adventures with Hal," same thing. We've had his column for well, at least five years or so, and every month both of them contribute really good articles and photographs.

There are so many other people who believe in the Club and believe in *Alive!* and what we do, and they want to be a part of it, too. We're grateful.

**John:** Absolutely. Whenever we ask for assistance – when we get an idea for a story, we start calling around and asking people to help us produce it, whether it's by setting up a photo shoot or an interview, everybody – every single time hands down – has wanted to help us, whether it's the PR public relations with the DWP or LAPD or any other department in the City –

Like the Convention Center –

**John:** The Convention Center has been great. We couldn't ask for more enthusiasm or more support from City Employees. They have to go out of their way to dig up information or to arrange meetings for us.

## Origins

Talk about the paper's origins. How did the newspaper fit in to your Club strategy?

**John:** The Club is the Los Angeles City Employees Association, which has been around for 83 years. In 2002, we created the Club concept, which is just a manifestation of the Los Angeles City Employees Association. But we wanted to add a newspaper, *Alive!* It was prompted by our desire to build a connection among City Employees and to celebrate their lives.

*Alive!* had existed before –

**John:** Right ...

– but it was a very different thing, and it didn't have nearly the commitment or the imagination or the management that it has now.

**John:** *Alive!* was in existence in one form or another. It was a newsletter for the most part. But it all revolved around marketing our insurance products, and what we decided when we created the new *Alive!* is to not do that, because I think people can see that. We wanted to celebrate the lives of City Employees.

It's so multifaceted now. The whole focus turned when you decided to re-create the paper. It has a dual purpose now, to tell people about what's going on with the Club but also to make everyone who works for the City and who are Club members feel like they are all the same.

**John:** Right. Exactly. When people ask, "Well, what do you do, John? What does the Los Angeles City Employees Association do? What does the Club do?" I tell them, "Just pick up the *Alive!* newspaper, and you will see everything that the Club does. Everything is in there, everything that we do, whether it's the insurance products, whether it's celebrating the lives of City Employees, whether it's selling discount theme park tickets or movie tickets. It's all there.

There's not an issue of *Alive!* that we do that doesn't encapsulate everything that the Club is supposed to be about.

**John:** Right.

What were the mechanics of re-creating *Alive!*? What was the chronology of re-creating the paper?

**John:** We had the idea that we wanted to create a newspaper that brought the departments together and that raised the morale. Initially, staff of the association came to the board and said, "We'd like to create the Club." I was Chief Operations Officer. The board okayed it, and we began development of the Club concept, which included *Alive!*

What's interesting is that it was not believed that we could fill 16 pages with information.

I remember that.

**John:** But the production team knew we could because we knew that this was just the tip of the iceberg. There is tons of good information out there and stories to be told of the great things that City Employees are doing.

We launched the Club along with the very first issue of *Alive!* Many of our readers might remember the Club event at the L.A. Zoo, where we had I think 12,000 people come.

Blocking up the freeway exits.

**John:** Right. It took off from there. But a lot of people had doubt about whether or not we could fill even 16 pages with information. Well, as you know, the paper has at times grown up to 96 pages, and we had to cut things out even with that, so there's no lack of stories to be told. There's no lack of celebration that can occur for the City Employees.

**Adventures With Hal**

– Sept. 2005



**Rey Castro talks about the Convention Center's LEED certification.**

– Sept. 2004



*The first revamped *Alive!* – Oct. 2002*

100  
SPECIAL SECTION



Club CEO John Hawkins (left) reminisces with Alive! editor John Burnes.

### Proof of the Club Concept

Why is *Alive!* so important to the Club concept?

**John:** It's the proof in the pudding. You can talk a lot, but it's a little harder to walk the walk. When it comes to actually putting things together and taking pictures, researching stories, talking to one person after another trying to formulate a story, that's different, and that's very, very difficult. I can't tell you how many hours of work we put in to that, but we do it because we believe in that celebration factor. It's important because it's our calling card. It's proof that we are what we say we are. There's no two ways about it. It's oozing with celebration. Every issue we do is as though it's our first.

Talk about the Zoo story. That's when we knew we were on to something.

**John:** Absolutely. That was a crowning moment. In our first year, I think, we had done a "Dept of the Month" on the L.A. Zoo. When [Club Counselor] Arlene [Herrero] went back to the Zoo to deliver the newspapers to the staff, they started signing each other's copies of *Alive!* where their pictures were, kind of like a yearbook signing. That's when we realized, wow, we really have done something that is a morale booster, that has made a connection amongst employees. When they start signing *Alive!* because they're so proud to be in it, that says a lot; that speaks volumes.

### Game Changers

Let's talk about some of those moments where we modified our direction to better serve our readers. I remember that we were covering some wildfires and we used the word "fire" on the cover with a helicopter coming through. That changed our covers very graphically from being text-driven to strong photos. Do you remember that moment?

**John:** Absolutely. That was David Jamgotchian, our art director at JJLA Associates. When he sent the draft of the cover to both you and I, our jaws dropped because this was the first time that we took the front page and made it dramatic. It struck a chord in all of us; if we can do that in this issue why can't we achieve something that dramatic in every issue? And that was a turning point in terms of upgrading our photography overall, and on our covers.

Even after a hundred issues we are still just as driven, with no less enthusiasm to get that perfect front cover; we go to great lengths to get the best photography. We do it in house, as you know.

We haven't bought a single photo on the cover. A few times City

Employees, Club members, have taken them, but it is another source of pride that all of these covers are produced and sourced by the Club.



- Dec. 2003

**John:** Right. What comes to mind is Jay Leno on the cover. For our annual holiday party issue.

**John:** It was the LAPD Communications party. They took that shot, and it was excellent. But we want to do it ourselves. We know what we want and we're smart enough to be able to figure that out.

It's all created by us; it's organic. We're not going the easy way. We're creating exactly what we want.

**John:** Exactly. One of the things that I did when I took over as Club President is fill the office with Club art on the walls. So we took down all the modern art and we put up posters of our *Alive!* covers. We blow up just about every issue of *Alive!*, and we frame it and put it in our headquarters office at Spring Street. And we also put them in the store. We need to keep seeing them. The employees need to be reminded that this is what we're creating. This is awesome. This is great. This is how we celebrate the lives of City Employees.

Talk about Kenny Fox. I love when you went for a day with Kenny Fox. Kenny Fox is a Sanitation Refuse Truck Operator.

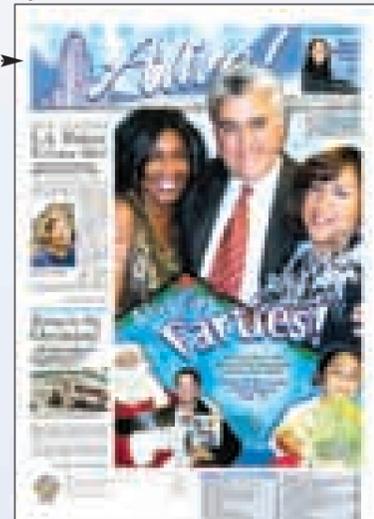
**John:** Right. That was another milestone, because we decided again that the proof is in the pudding. It's one thing to do a story on Sanitation or the refuse collector. It'd be easy just to take a story or the sanitation website, but we turned a corner at that point and we said, "No. We're going to do a real story. We're going to interview the person ourselves." I actually rode along in a trash truck for ten hours or so and learned firsthand how hard it is to be a refuse collector with all the things they have to deal with - knocked over trash cans, smelly fish, rats, cockroaches all over the place, and the sheer bumpiness of that trash truck moving along through the streets of L.A. That was a turning point for us.

How about Larry Keller? Larry was the General Manager of the Port. We sat down like we're doing now, and we did the "*Alive!* Interview," and as far as I understand, that was the first one we'd ever done of these long, detailed but always interesting interviews. That was another turning point.

**John:** Right. I'll never forget that. It wasn't just e-mailing questions. A lot of publications will just e-mail questions to the person and then they'll e-mail them back. That's not how we do it at *Alive!* We go out with the tape recorder. It's a real interview.

- continued next page

- Jan. 2005



Club CEO John Hawkins (left) and Alive! editor John Burnes look over the covers on display at the Club's administrative offices.

Alive! spent a day and rode along with RCTO Kenny Fox.

- May 2005



THE ALIVE! INTERVIEW, -continued



- May 2007

Right, and that's one of the reasons why we run pictures like we're going to run here, taken by Angel Gomez of the Club staff.

**John:** Let me tell you about Angel Gomez. You'll see him every month in his "Be Alive!" feature, hiking or enjoying the outdoors with his family. And he has taken quite a few of the cover shots for *Alive!* Angel is a sales manager with the Club. He does the "Be Alive!" out of his own time and energy and skill set. That's indicative of our staff in general. We all wear 15 different hats. As soon as the first *Alive!* was published, we all had to become photojournalists overnight. So we got a bunch of cameras and we just started to go out and take pictures from the sales staff to myself to Robert "Chef" Larios. Everybody got involved on a staff level.

Everybody at the Club is passionate and dedicated about this paper. It is a product of everybody's love of what the Club is all about. Angel's cover of the DWP Lineman's Rodeo was spectacular.....

**John:** I remember that, and I remember you actually recommending we use the cherry picker. We were down there on the ground, and we were discussing the perfect shot for the front cover. I've got to be honest with you. When you mentioned using the cherry picker, my first instinct was, "Are you crazy?," but I didn't say anything because I figured they would say no. The next thing you know, Angel is in a cherry picker. I don't know how many feet in the air he was. It was very high.

- August 2007

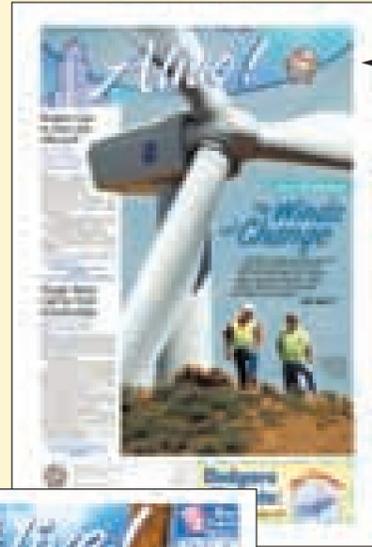
Club staffer Angel Gomez's "Be Alive!" has been a hit since it first appeared in May 2007.

This opening-spread photo of Port Executive Director Geraldine Knatz, Ph.D. (left), was one of the more memorable *Alive!* photos by Club staffer Angel Gomez.

**John:** That was another Angel photo shoot. What you don't realize is Geraldine is just fractions of an inch away from falling down 50 feet into the water, but we kept rearranging her to get the perfect shot. She knew what she was doing, but I remember that. We pushed that one to the limit.

The DWP's wind farm.

**John:** That might have been one of my favorite stories because, number one, I enjoy looking for alternative forms of energy. That's a hobby of mine, so the wind farm was fascinating from that standpoint. But also because it was probably the most intensely visual shoot we ever had to do - these windmills were so big. They were challenging to photograph, but to think that the DWP City Employees were responsible for these windmills is awesome. It's on DWP property. The DWP is generating electricity from them. It just made me so proud. It was all City. It was the City who was doing this. It was the City first to last.



- May 2009

Fun Times

We're going to talk now about some features that we do every month. But the first one has to be the one where I had to eat humble pie - the Grown-Up Coloring Contest.

**John:** Occasionally I'll have a crazy idea, and this happened to be one. I thought, well, grown-ups color and draw. Why not do a coloring contest that adults can enter, too, and I remember telling you and David, our art director, at one of our meetings. You looked at me like I was crazy, and I think you gave in just to see, "Well, we'll let him fail on this one." But it actually turned out pretty good. People really get in to it of all ages and of all genders, of all occupations. We received 80, 90 responses, something like that.



- April 2006

He was above the pole.

**John:** Yes, taking that dramatic shot of the worker on the top of the pole. It's a great picture. Everything's in focus. It was really phenomenal, a phenomenal shot by Angel.

Safe but daring. We really love producing great photography because the City Employees deserve it.

**John:** Right. Exactly.

The best double-page photo we've ever done is that double-page shot of Geraldine Knatz, Executive Director, Port of L.A., sitting on the dock with you interviewing her.



- June 2005



- August 2007

Our greatest moment

Hurricane Katrina

Let's talk now about Hurricane Katrina. That seems to be our greatest moment of the first hundred issues.

**John:** There's a perfect example of City Employees doing remarkable things that didn't get a lot of press. Here we have the LAFD's Urban Search and Rescue team. Nationally, these teams are comprised of medical professionals, law enforcement and firemen from all across the country, and we have a couple teams here in L.A. that will, at a moment's notice, go anywhere in the country or the world. They happened to be called out to New Orleans and Mississippi after Katrina. We started investigating it to see if could we get the pictures that

some of the firemen or Building and Safety employees had taken. Well, we saw first-hand what they had done. It was phenomenal, it was amazing, and to think that these are our guys, was pretty incredible. This is the City of L.A. It's not somewhere in Arizona or Nevada. These were City of L.A. firemen and Building and Safety individuals going over there risking their lives and trying to help other people. That was phenomenal, and the amount of pictures that we got and published was phenomenal as well.

And we interviewed dozens of people who were there. We sat down with all of them and we transcribed all those interviews. It was a special pullout section. We knew we were capable of it.

**John:** Right. We took that to another level.



- November 2005

- Oct. 2005

- November 2005

**John:** Right. Another special feature, John, is "People We See," where we interview street people around downtown within walking distance of City Hall. That has had a lot of interest and enthusiasm. I hear stories about people sending the newspaper back east because their kids and parents want to see this feature.



It's so powerful. Of all the things that we do, that one has to be the most dignified. I can't now imagine doing *Alive!* without it.

"Adventures with Hal."

**John:** Hal [Danowitz] is awesome. His stories are great. They're down home. He writes like he's talking to you at a restaurant, telling you about his adventures. The pictures are good. He's on time. He and Hynda are the perfect contributors to the paper.



Talk about the retirees for a second. We run a retiree section. Why is that important to the mission?

**John:** We decided early on that we wanted to make sure that the retirees had a voice as well, so we have "The Best Years" section. Every month the RLACEI [Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc.] contribute stories, updates- legislative updates, what's going on with their association, although all of the retiree associations are welcome to submit. We also go to the retiree events, their annual Christmas party, their picnics, their annual meetings. We give prizes. We contribute. We take lots of pictures because we want to give the retirees something as well, because once you leave the City and you retire, we want you to stay connected, not only to the active employees but your own peer group, your own retiree group.



Picture Perfect: I've been a communications professional for a long time. I am astounded with the quality of photos that our Club members send in.

**John:** Absolutely. It's amazing, and there's no lack of great photos. Many, many times I have to cut photos because I get too many.

My favorite feature has to be "Alive! Around the World."



**John:** It's amazing.

I know I am honored that people like our paper so much that they have to intentionally pack it when they're packing their clothes and their shoes and everything else. They intentionally have to remember to pack the newspaper with them. What are your favorite locations where people took their *Alive!*?

**John:** Well, they're all my favorites - Of course -

**John:** - but I always get a kick when Dr. Ed Krupp from the Griffith Observatory packs his paper and takes it to these very unique places, whether it's an ancient burial ground or the Greenwich Mean Time line. I always get a kick when he sends them in. [He's sent two more in this month. - Ed.]

But they're all good. It's hard to imagine our *Alive!* has gone to China and Africa and more. Plus Antarctica. Underwater. In a glider in the air. We keep track on a map of where all the entries come from, and that's actually a good example of how we take it to the next level.

I like the thought that we are taking the City of L.A. to the world. Now the world knows the quality of work that happens here in the City.

**John:** Exactly. Right.

Tom LaBonge. Remember that story?

**John:** The great thing about that story is that, I've always said that I do not want to be a political paper. I do not want to get involved with the politicians in the City. We want to focus on the employees, and frequently politics can get in the way of that. Politicians like to grandstand. They want their name or their picture to be in the paper, and that's fine, but we don't want that to ever overshadow the employees who are making the City run.

Councilman Tom LaBonge, on the other hand, is an exception to our rule because he is one of the nicest guys working in the City. He was a City Employee at one time until he became councilman, and he's always enthused. He's a cheerleader for L.A. He loves L.A. It's in his blood, and that resonates with us because we feel the same way about the employees of L.A.

As we went to talk to him, we were about ready to sit down for the "Alive! Interview"...

**John:** ...and he was called to the fire in his district. As soon as we sat down, he got a call from one of his constituents or somewhere that an apartment building was on fire in his district. He said, "Sorry, guys. I've got to run to a fire. If you want, you can come along," and we thought, heck, yeah, we'll come along, so we piled in his car.

It was great because we saw him in action. We saw him interacting with the City and his constituents. We saw him interact with City Employees. We saw him interact with the DOT officers, the Fire Department, all City Employees. We saw him interact at a real crisis. This wasn't a joke. It wasn't a drill. This was real, and we were able to take pictures of him in action. On the way back, we rode with him and he talked about his life and family, and it was fantastic.

- continued next page

# 100 SPECIAL SECTION



*Alive!* was literally on the run when covering Councilman and Club Member Tom LaBonge.

- Feb. 2008



## Alive! has been around the world



*Alive!* does best what the Club does best, and that's celebrate the lives of City Employees.

# Behind the scenes with *Alive!*

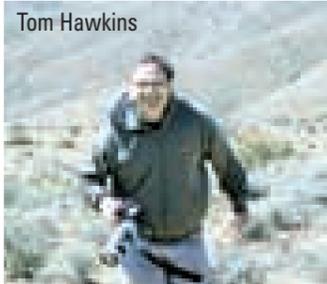
Putting the paper together each month is always a lot of fun.

## *Alive!* photographers

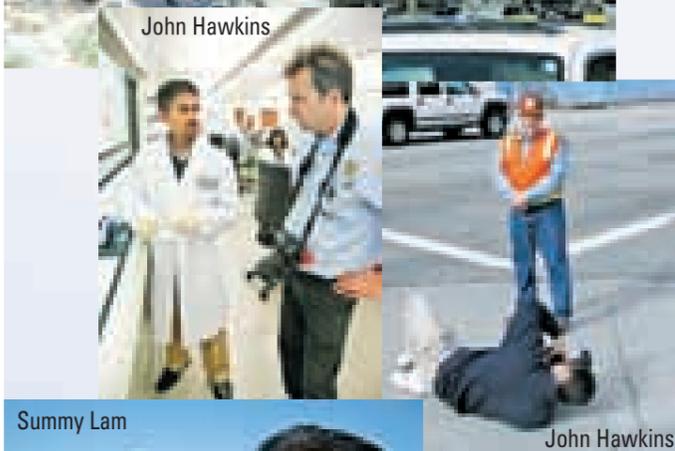
*Alive!* takes great pride in creating nearly every photograph we print – it's very rare that we would use a stock photo. Here, the lens turns to some of the Club photographers.



Angel Gomez



Tom Hawkins



John Hawkins



Summy Lam



John Hawkins

## *Alive!* editor



As with Club CEO John Hawkins and the JJLA design team, John Burnes has been part of the *Alive!* creative team since the very first issue. A city resident, he produces this and other initiatives for the association.

## *Alive!* designers

JJLA Associates, the Club's designers, have guided *Alive!*'s look and production since the very first issue. The JJLA design team includes from left: Heather Kurlander, David Jamgotchian and Marie Carama.



## THE ALIVE! INTERVIEW –continued

### At Our Best

Exactly. What does *Alive!* do best?

**John:** *Alive!* does best what the Club does best, and that's celebrating the lives of City Employees. It's our motto. It's our mission statement. It's our vision. It's everything rolled in to one. We ask ourselves all the time, "Are we celebrating the lives of City Employees?" It could be through life insurance. It could be through disability insurance. It's helping people celebrate life in the worst of times. It could be buying movie tickets so they and their family can go to the movies and not spend \$13 a ticket just to take your family. I don't know how people do it. It's putting pictures of City Employees in the paper so that that City Employee can go home and show their kids, and those kids are going to be so proud of their parents because they were in the paper and they got to see what they did. That's celebrating. It's so simple – the vision, the mission, everything rolled in to one. That's what we've been doing and will continue to do.

Do you think *Alive!* has changed the way associations communicate?

**John:** This is the only paper of its kind in the country or the world, for that matter, as far as I know. We can do this paper on a nonprofit basis. We're not part of the City government, which means it can't be cut from the budget; it will always be there. And I think that is a stumbling block for other associations in other cities. Unless you have a group of people really willing to work hard outside of their norm, it isn't going to happen.

And so I'd like to say, yes, people are looking at this paper. Are they duplicating it? It's very difficult to do. There are other cities that are very interested in having their own

## Fun Moments

Producing *Alive!* has created more than a few laughs. Here are a couple of examples.

– Feb. 2008



Tom LaBonge, Councilmember, turns the camera on John Hawkins during a photo-shoot for the cover of the Feb. 2008 issue.

BEFORE



Editor John Burnes and CEO John Hawkins set up a test exposure for framing and lighting purposes. Below is the actual photo used.

– Feb. 2010

AFTER



# 100 SPECIAL SECTION



Club CEO John Hawkins reminisces with *Alive!* editor John Burnes.

The Club thanks all who have enjoyed and contributed to *Alive!* You make *Alive!* possible!

*Alive!*, but you need a group of people like yourself, John; like David and his design team; like the staff at the Club who are willing to do extra work, go to the “nth” degree, learn new skills like photography and writing that they have never done before. And it’s too bad because I think other cities could really benefit in increasing their morale.

We’re archived in the Central Library downtown.

**John:** Yes ...

– so that historians 10, 20, 200 years from now can take a look back and say, “This is the way it was really done at this point in time,” and that was really important to you.

**John:** Yes, and of all the publications that have been produced in the City, I think this one is going to be the best diary of what was going on, what was happening, who were the people, what did they do, what movies did they like, the “Question of the Month” that we ask them. The quality of the newspaper had to be archival quality so that people would look at this and say, “Wow. We could use this as research” or “Isn’t this interesting? This is fascinating. That has given us an entire picture of what it was like back in the day.”

## The Future of *Alive!*

Where does *Alive!* go from here? What are your dreams? Do you think there are more stories to tell?

**John:** Every month is a surprise to all of us because something new will come up. We’ll think of a new story or a new angle or new photography methods, and so we start fresh every month. We could look in to the future – and we do in a business sense – but as far as *Alive!* goes, it just surprises us each month with what new story develops. Every month is the future, so I guess we’ll just have to wait and see what next month brings.

## A Paper to Be Proud Of

Are you proud of this paper?

**John:** Absolutely, John. This paper is my calling card. It’s sort of the mark that I’ve made on the association. We get City Employees praising us constantly about what it’s done for families or coworkers. A lot of times you have City Employees working for 30, 35, 40 years and never getting recognition ever, and this is a chance for us to recognize those people that are making this City work. We do it every single month.

How many City Employees do we photograph?  
Thousands?

**John:** Thousands and thousands.

People who have never been recognized for the good work that they do.

**John:** Right. The main reason that I wanted to do something that celebrated the lives of City Employees is because my Dad was a county employee for 30 years. Every day he’d come home and he’d talk about what he did. Never did the county or any entity recognize what he or the other individuals at his work did. I thought *Alive!* would be a great opportunity for the families to see what their parents and spouses do to make this City work. I thought all those years my dad never got recognition for anything. It’s not that he asked for it, but there were stories to be told where he worked and they weren’t told. We have that opportunity to tell them.

We like what we do, and [the cover art collection on the Club office walls] is going to keep growing because we just keep getting better and better stories that we find. What we do is never going to be static. It’s going to always change.

It’s been a great project. We have learned so much. Here’s to a hundred more.

**John:** Well, thank you, John, and thanks to the design team at JJLA Associates, too. ■

Councilman and Club Member Tom LaBonge sends his congratulations.



Club CEO John Hawkins (right) chats with Larry Fukuhara (center) and Bobbie Hedges, both of the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium, after a whale-watching expedition in March 2009.

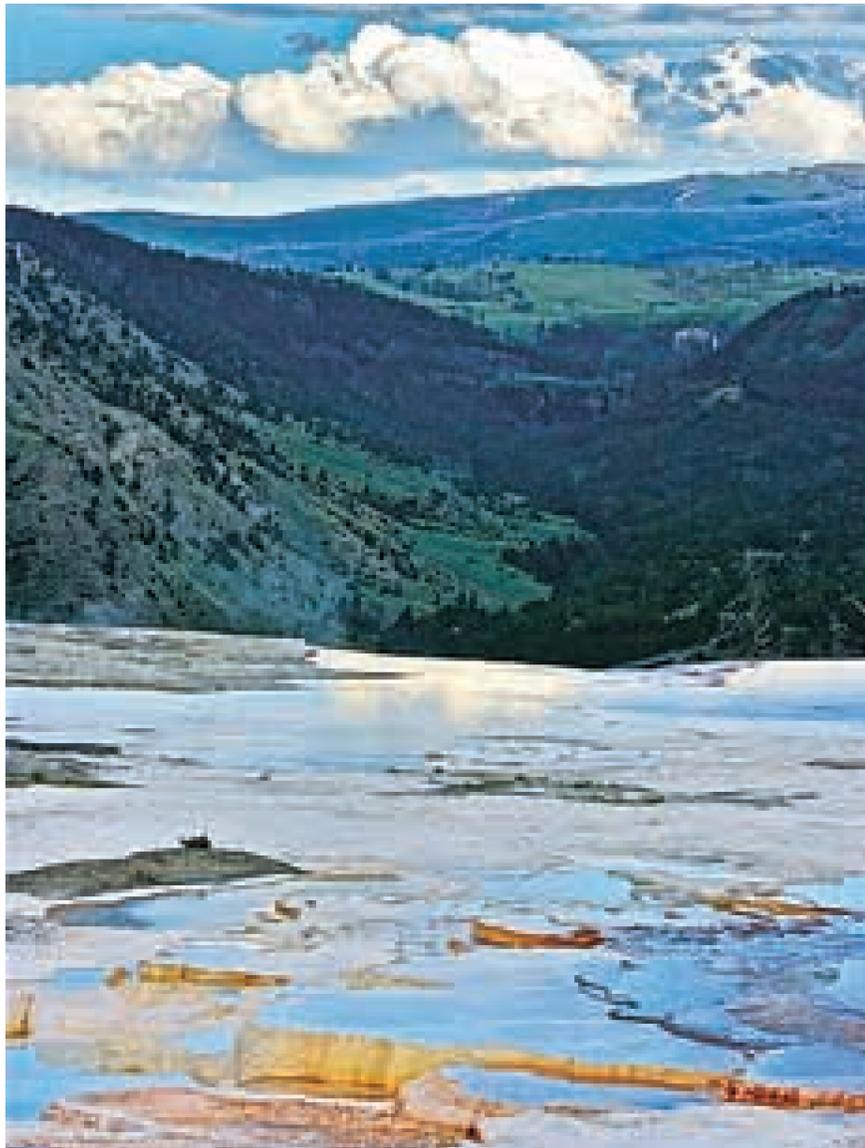
– March 2009



John Hawkins, Club CEO

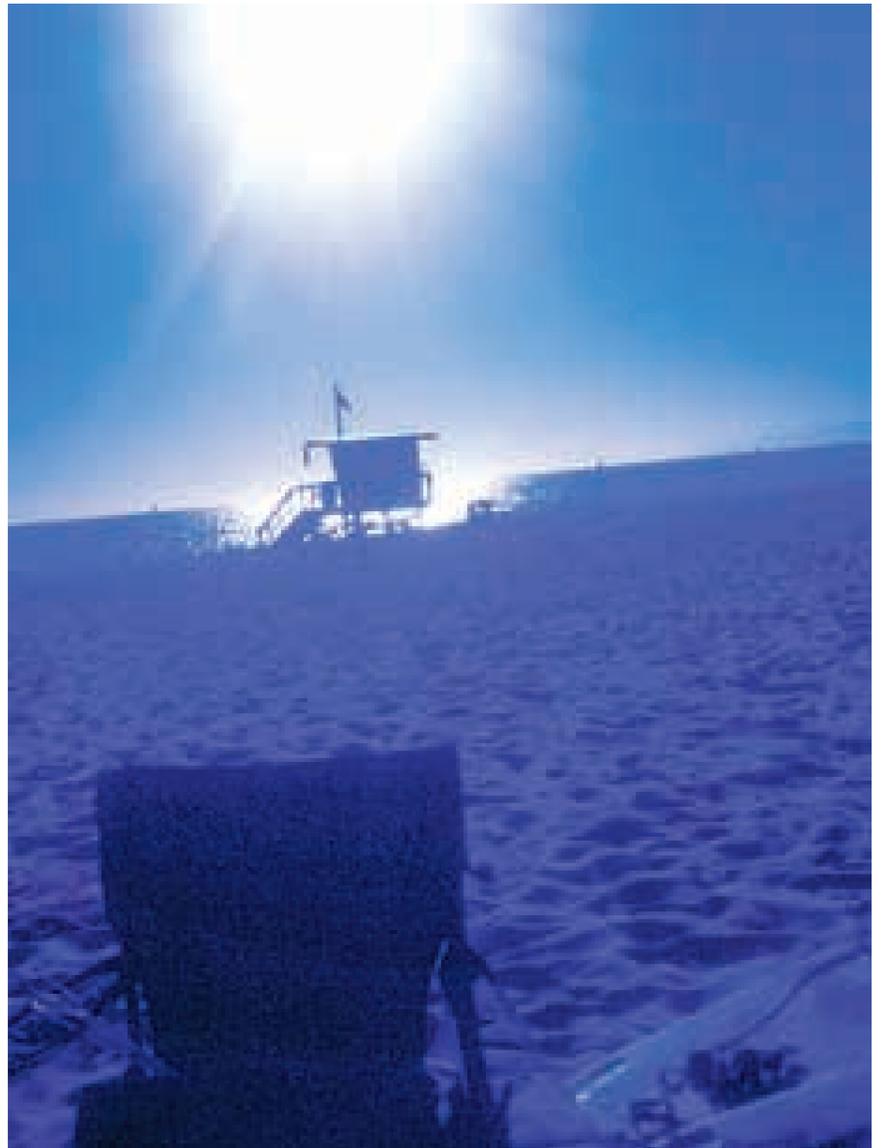
# John's Picture Perfect Contest

**WIN \$25 Target Card**  
NEXT DEADLINE: January 15  
Happy Snapping!



"Yellowstone."  
- Hector Cardenas

**John's comments:** Well, Hector, another amazing shot, from the billowing clouds framed by vibrant blue skies, to nature's "infinity pool" dropping off to the valley below. Thank you as always, Hector!



"I took this at sunset with my camera phone pointed toward the sun."  
- Andrea D. Wyatt, Transportation, at Dockweiler Beach

**John's comments:** Just like Bob and his photo, you've also harnessed our planet's little ball of fun in a very unique way. I really like the cool blue contrast to the white-hot sun, it's a very soothing photo. Nice work, Andrea!



"I don't know about you, but there is something very calming to me about watching jellyfish."  
- Karen Kishita at the Monterey Aquarium

**John's comments:** I agree, these mindless (they don't have a brain) creatures are extremely soothing. In fact, after a hard day at work, I think I could just sit down and stare at these things until I fall into a deep stress-free sleep.



"This photo was taken at sunset of the LA skyline Nov. 4."  
- Bob Pearce, DWP Retiree and former Club Board Member

**John's comments:** Bob! Thank you for your entry. You've captured a literal "explosion" of color, and a thermonuclear one at that (the sun is just one giant thermonuclear explosion - just like a hydrogen bomb). In fact, every time I pull this photo up on my computer, I can feel the heat emanating from my display. Nice work, Bob, and I hope to see more!

## 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](mailto: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.



The first hole.

# Fairway to Fun

Rec and Parks hosts annual golf tournament.



This year's tournament took place at Los Feliz Golf Course.



Dwain Henry, Lead Sr. Gardener, practices before the tournament.

Story and photos by Brent Urban, Club Counselor

Rec and Parks held its annual golf tournament Dec. 15 at Los Feliz, a Rec and Parks facility. PGA and LPGA hopefuls – I can't stress the word "hopeful" enough – gathered to hit the links. I witnessed the injury of several trees and at least one bird.

There were a few golfers who were quite handy with a golf club and hit the greens within regulation. The pictures tell the story! You decide for yourself which ones birdied and which ones injured a bird.

Special thanks to Rick Reinschmidt, Club Member, for his assistance.



Thanks to Club Members Rick Reinschmidt and Leslie Hutchinson for a great event!



Carlos Juarez, Club Member, pictured with his pitch in-flight.



Marnia Hernandez, Club Member, and Rick Reinschmidt, Club Member.



The chip and putt contest for cash prizes!



Sergio, Club Member, claims this whiff was a practice swing.



A swing and a miss – oh no!



Perfect form. His ball made the green.



The first group prepares to do battle with the course.



This is how to follow through with a golf swing. Perfect form!



From left: Tracey Gutierrez, Club Member, and Dwain Henry.



Nice down-stroke, Rick!



From left: Daniel Guzman, Club Member, Garden Care; Avi Juarez, Club Member, Garden Care; and Carloz Juarez, Club Member, Sr. Gardener.



Sergio, Club Member, makes a practice swing.



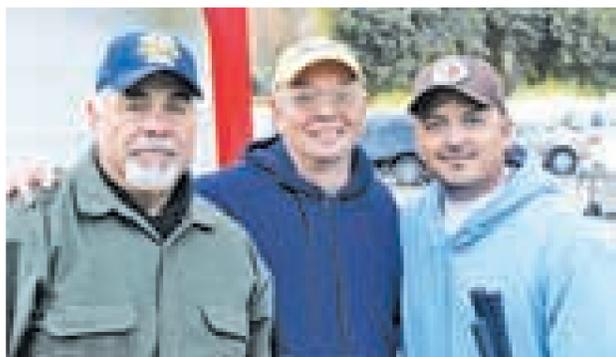
From left: Maria Hernandez; Tom Frey, Park Supervisor; and Michael Denton, Sr. Gardener.



The greens fees.



A little smack talk on the course never hurt anyone... much.



From left: Alex Sanchez, Club Member, Gardner Caretaker; Raul Conchas, Gardener Caretaker; and Alan Kubo, Gardener Caretaker.

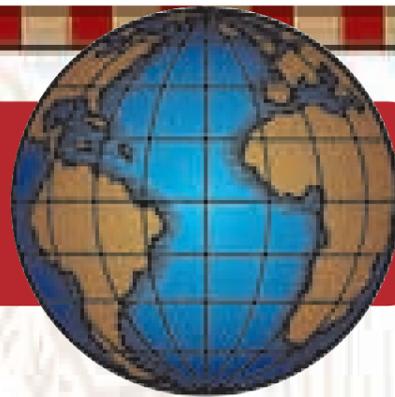


From left: Frank Ruger, Equipment Manager, and Bob O'Conner, Equipment Operator, practice a little putt-putt.



From left: Frank Ruger, Equipment Manager, and Bob O'Conner, Equipment Operator.

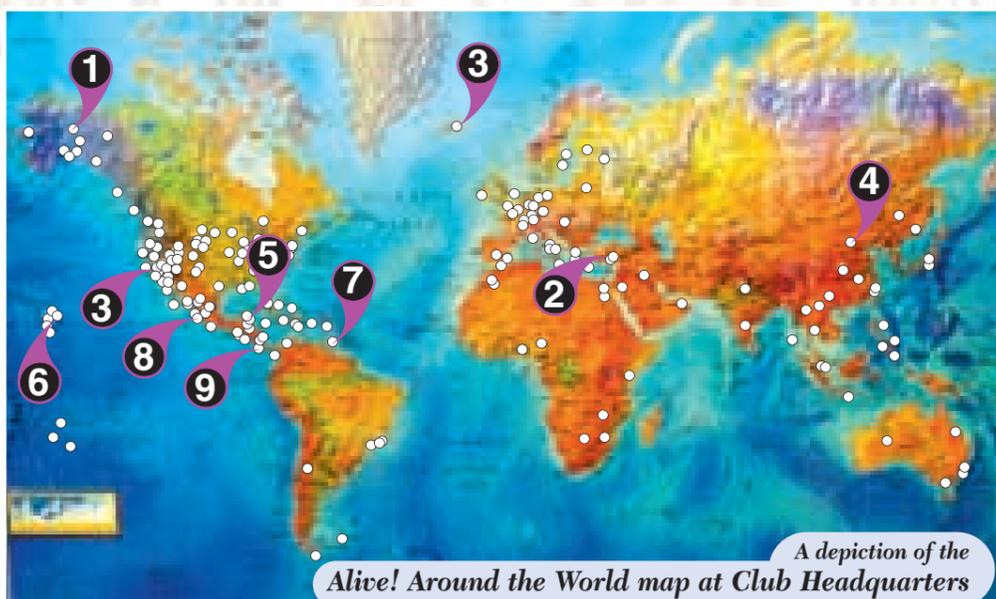
# Alive! AROUND THE WORLD



## 1 Alaska



**Erika Morris, Finance, and Makebra Williams, General Services,** went dog sledding in Alaska. "We had to take a helicopter to get to the glacier where the dogs were housed."



A depiction of the *Alive! Around the World* map at Club Headquarters

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!

Take the Club with you, wherever you go!  
 Club members are a well-traveled bunch. Bring your 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](mailto:talkback@cityemployeesclub.com)

## 2 Mediterranean



**Pablo Ninofranco Jr., Retired, Harbor,** and his wife, Josie, took a Mediterranean cruise in September.

## 3 California & Iceland



**Dr. Ed Krupp, Director of the Griffith Observatory** and Club Member, recently returned from a trip to Iceland... and then Joshua Tree.

In Iceland, he writes, "we dodged volcanoes, slipped on glaciers, and stalked the wild aurora in its natural habitat. One of the travel pictures I've attached puts Iceland's Eyjafjallajökull volcano in the background."

"The other picture is from an October trip to Joshua Tree National Park, a return to Queen Mount, a demanding ascent to locate rock art sites. I am inside one of those shelters, and painting in it is very different in style from most of the other rock art in the park. I think this is the site that was mistakenly identified as having a painting of a 'rainbow.' It took several expeditions to locate it."

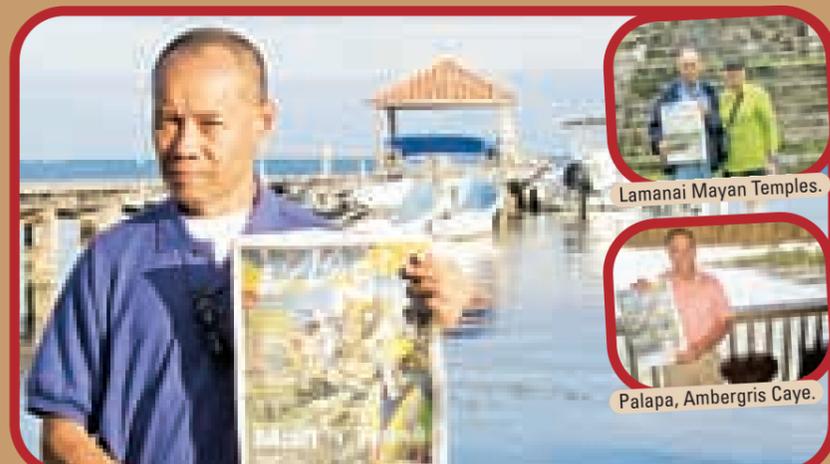
## 4 China



**Debora Fore** recently spent two weeks in China. "It was a great experience." Debora in front of "one of the world's greatest wonders. I have traveled to the Grand Canyon, Eiffel Tower, and now the Great Wall of China. [As for the Seven Wonders,] that's three down and four to go."

"My traveling companion, **Deatrice Thomas, LAPD, Wilshire, Area Crime Analyst Detail,** shows off her *Alive!*"

## 5 Belize



**Alfredo Fajardo, Library,** recently traveled to Belize with his wife, Carmelita Angeles, shown here in Ambergris Caye.



# Alive! **AROUND THE WORLD**



**6**

## Hawaii



"My husband, Eric, and I traveled to Kauai in November and brought *Alive!* with us."

- **Lori Leonard, Criminalist, LAPD**



Ke'e Beach, Kauai.

**7**

## St. Lucia



**Marco Sanchez, Harbor,** went to St. Lucia for his honeymoon, as Tropical Storm Tomas was fast approaching. "Little did I know that it would soon turn into a hurricane. I can honestly say that I lived through a hurricane now."

**8**

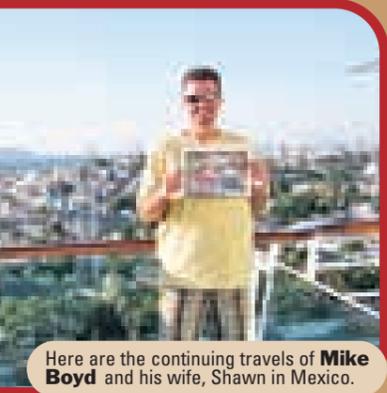
## Mexico



Puerto Vallarta.



San Pedro.



Here are the continuing travels of **Mike Boyd** and his wife, Shawn in Mexico.

**9**

## Panama & Costa Rica



**Alex Lopez, DWP,** vacationed in Panama and Costa Rica. These were taken at the Panama Canal and at the Flor Blanca Resort in Costa Rica.



Costa Rica.

# 2011 Mediterranean Cruise

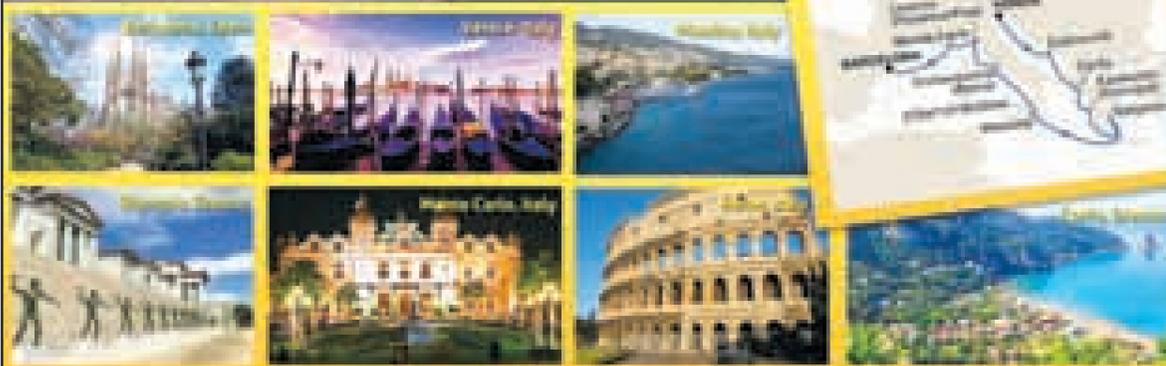
12-night cruise from Barcelona to Venice on board the Nieuw Amsterdam



**City Employees Club Member Exclusive Prices**

**OCT 3, 2011**

Ship Sails From - Barcelona, Spain and Ends in Venice, Italy



*Club Signature Event*

Room	Price Per Person	
	Reg Rate	Club Rate
Inside Room	\$2,219	\$2,099
Obstructed Ocean View	\$2,439	\$2,399
Ocean View	\$2,639	\$2,519
Balcony View	\$3,199	\$2,999
Suite	\$4,349	\$3,999

3rd/4th guest sharing a cabin pay \$99  
Government Fees are \$71.93 per person  
Air transportation from Los Angeles is \$1299 + \$21 air tax  
Roundtrip airport transfers are \$104.

**Incentives Per Cabin**

Earn Shipboard Credit by Booking Early!	You Get
Book between (Now - Feb 28, 2011)	up to \$1,000
Book between (March 1, 2011 - May 31, 2010)	\$500
Book between (June 1, 2010 - July 1, 2011)	\$100

## 12 Night Adventure at Club Member Prices

For more information on this cruise, please contact our Club Travel Expert

Kristy Adler  
Club Travel Expert  
CRUISE and RESORT, Inc.  
kadler@cruiseandresort.com  
Tel. - (818) 990-4290 or (888) 652-6400, ext. 101

C37#2008138-60

**Check Out the Back Page**



## *Special Holiday Party Section*



# *The City Parties!*

*It's an annual  
Alive! tradition!*

## **Part 1**

Every year, City Departments put aside their hard work and come together for fun and socialization at their festive holiday parties. And *Alive!* publishes as many of your party pics as we can.

Starting this month, we cover the City Parties. And we'll continue in the next months as the photos continue to trickle in.

*Happy New Year!*





# The City Parties



Holiday Committee, standing from left: Laura Cruz, PSR III; Capt. Joel Justice, Commanding Officer, LAPD Communications; Larry Gates, PSR II, Club Member; Berta Ugas, Sr. PSR I, Club Member; and Sara Wieck, PSR II, Club Member. Seated: Lt. Gloria Vargas; Eva Espinoza, PSR II, Club Member; Diana Montano, PSR II, Club Member; and Sarah Chacon, PSR II.

## LAPD Communications

Story and photos by Arlene Herrero, Club Products Manager

The City's 9-1-1 operators and administrative staff – held its annual elegant holiday party Dec. 5 aboard the *FantaSea* yacht in Marina del Rey.

This is the second year that this event was on the *FantaSea* yacht which cruised the Marina del Rey harbor. Dinner, dancing, great food and casino games for chance to win great prizes.

*The Club thanks Lt. Gloria Vargas and Larry Gates for their assistance.*



From left: Creighton Dawson, P2 at Newton; Iris Dawson, PSR II, Club Member; and Chris and Marie Garcia, PSR II.



From left: Margie and Capt. Joel Justice, Commanding Officer, LAPD Communications.



Lee Masters, Sr. PSR 1, Club Member, and his wife, Val.



From left: Mina Chong, PSR II, Club Member, with her husband, Andres Mendoza, PSR III.



Brandon Kemp, PSR II, and Nicole Ellis, PSR II



Ken Yasaki, PSR III, Club Member



Sgt. Nathan Ewert, Port Police, Club Member, and Rosanna Kim, PSR II.



Newlyweds Paulina Lopez and Robert Lopez, both PSR IIs and Club Members. Congratulations, Paulina and Robert!



Sara Wieck, PSR II, and guest Ruben Ponce.



From left: Marlene Swancy, Sr. PSR 1, Club Member; Robyn Frazier, Sr. PSR 1, Club Member; and Shaton Brown, Sr. PSR 1, Club Member.



From left: Naomi Alexander, PSR III, Club Member; William Young, guest; and Tracy Beverly, Sr. PSR I, Club Member.



From left: Cathy Sotos, Sr. PSR I, Club Member; and Cathi Pearson, Retired, Club Member.



From left: Debbie Barrios, PSR II, Club Member; and Sgt. Marc Archuleta with his wife, Gloria.



Under the umbrella, from left: guest Jessica Heredia and Quincy Mirage, PSR II, Club Member.



Ryan and Tiffany Hall, PSR I.



Carol and Lt. Vic Dennis, Club Member.



Diana Montano, PSR II, Club Member, and Jorge Martinez, guest.

From left: Iver and Jacqui Dreben, PSR II, Club Member; Victor and Halima Betton, PSR II; Damien Hodge, fiancé to Ricci Cureton, PSR III, Club Member.





# The City Parties

## LA Chicano Assn.

Story and photos by Eboné Moses, Club Counselor

The Los Angeles City Employees Chicano Assn. (LACECA) held its 39th annual holiday reception and toy drive on Dec. 2.

The event took place at Luminarias in Monterey Park.

At the party, the association installed its executive board for 2011-12. Dancing and entertainment followed. Over 200 toys were collected and contributed to the Anahuak Youth Sports Association in Highland Park.

Thanks to Manny Villalpando for his assistance.



From left: Leonor Garcia, Management Analyst, Club Member, 22 years of City service; Adolfo Felix, Lab Tech, DWP, 11 years of City service; Rosie Ocana, Retired; Kathy Ariano, guest; Edna Meraz, Retired, Housing; and Fernie "Elvis" Ramirez, LAPD, 25 years of City service.



From left: Jose Cuevas, guest; Virgie Reyes, guest; Lupe Durazo, LACECA Board, Secretary, 11 years of City service; and Anthony Garcia, Club Member, LACECA member, 25 years of service.



From left: Alex Mayagoitia, Club Member, Mechanic Helper, DWP, 12 years of City service; and Benjamin Banuelos, Club Member, DWP, 8 years of City service.



From left: Barbara Matlock, Club Member, Utility Administrator, 25 years of City service; Olga Nickenig, guest; and Gloria Ortiz, Sr. Clerk Typist, 21 years of City service.



From left: Sandra Preciado, Retired; John Palestino, Club Member, Sr. Clerk Typist, 25 years of City service; and Irma Gallardo, Club Member, Sr. Clerk Typist, 5 years of City service.



From left: Angie Roman, Club Member, LAPD Executive Administrative Analyst, 35 years of City service; and Rene Gomez, Sr. Management Analyst, 23 years of City service.



From left: Gloria Ortiz, Sr. Clerk Typist, 21 years of City service; Jackie Zarate-Roberts, First Vice President, LACECA, Club Member, 27 years of City service; and Stella Sias, President, LACECA board, 24 years of City service.



From left: Danny Beltran, guest; Arlene Acosta, Workers Comp. Analyst, 3 years of City service; and Virginia Delgado, Club Member, Accounting Clerk II, 11 years of City service.

## Housing

Story and photos by Eboné Moses, Club Counselor

Housing held its holiday party Dec. 3 at Castaways in Burbank.

Housing employees and their guests shared a holiday dinner and danced into the night.

Special thanks go to Manuel "Manny" Villalpando for his assistance.



Alfonso Avila, Housing Inspector, 3 years of City service, Club Member, and his wife, Judy.



Dindy and Mark Rude, Housing Inspector, 4 years of City service.



From left: Marco Castilla, Clerk Typist, 22 years of City service; Laura Blanco, guest; Bob Valdez, CT, 7 years of City service, Club Member; Irene Scaduto, Retired, Club Member.



From left: Albert Esparza, guest; Dalila Luna, Clerk Typist, 4 years of City service, Club Member; Michelle Wilson, Sr. Clerk Typist, 20 years of City service, Club Member; Lorena Aguilar, Sr. Clerk Typist, 8 years of City service, Club Member; Jennifer Rivera, daughter of Lorena Aguilar; Angela Hayes, Office of Finance Customer Service, 12 years of City Service, Club Member; Mandi Tom, Sr. Clerk Typist, 5 years; and Marina Ramirez-Lopez, Sr. Clerk Typist, 5 years of City service, Club member.



From left: Deborah Castillo, guest; Roberto Aldape, Asst. General Manager, Housing, 4 years of City service; Mary and Doug Guthrie, General Manager, Housing, 1 year of City service; Tia Carrera, guest; John Travolta, Housing; and Michael and Teresa Singson, Sr. Management Analyst I, 20 years of City service.



From left: Rueben Ordonez, guest; Anthony Lopez, DWP Home Inspector, 27 years of City service, Club Member; Priscilla Lopez, Assistant Support, 17 years of City service, Club Member; Johnny Jurski, guest; and Anna Juriski, guest.



From left: Jahanian Malik, Housing Inspector, 11 years of City service; Juliet Malik, guest; Klara and Vatche Kasumyan, Principal Inspector, 11 years of City service, Club Member; and Rubina and Vahan Melik-Kasumyan, Housing Inspector, 5 years of City service.





# The City Parties



## Library/Western Area

Story and photos by Brent Urban, Club Counselor

For its holiday party this year, the Library's Western Area had a Vegas/casino theme. The party was held Dec. 9 at the Venice/Abbot Kinney Branch. Proceeds went to the St. Joseph Center in Venice.

The party was complete with a blackjack table, bingo, a full buffet, and a game called "Guess that Branch." The only thing missing was an appearance by Wayne Newton. Oh, well. Maybe next year?

Special thanks to Jene Brown, Interim Western Branch Manager, for assisting us.



Blackjack table complete with dealer and fake money!



"Will you marry me?" No.



The prize may have been small, but the smile was large.



From left: Jene Brown, Club Member, Interim Western Branch Manager, and Yvonne Tremble, Clerk Typist, with "Name That Branch."



Chris Hoffman and Tiffany Coleman, Clerk Typist, Robertson Branch.



From left: Lucille Cappas, Branch Manager; Elian Whitaker, Children's Librarian; Maggie Johnson, Branch Manager; Zakkiya Akram, Club Member, YA Hyde Park.



From left: Joseph Atkinson, Club Member, Branch Manager, Playa Vista; and Mary Hoph, Branch Manager, Pacific Palisades.



From left: Trisha Simmons, Clerk Typist; Su Yin, Messenger Clerk; and Alice Poon, Clerk Typist.



Mrs. Duan, Sr. Librarian, and Jene Brown, Interim Western Branch Manager, with one of the several games they invented for the event.



From left: Tyrone Tennessee, Club Member, Sr. Lead Officer; Howard Wysinger, Club Member, Public Safety Officer; David Aquirre, Chief of Security; and Loni Brown, Public Safety Officer.



Cupcakes and casino. A nice combination!



# The City Parties

## LAPD Training Div.

Story and photos by Arlene Herrero, Club Products Manager

LAPD's Training Division held its holiday party Dec. 7 at Lawry's restaurant. Approximately 200 employees attended the luncheon. Lots of prizes were given away, and great food and prizes were enjoyed by all. *Special thanks go to Laura Rangel for her assistance.*



From left: Phil Watson, P3, Club Member; Sgt. II Heather Fungaroli; and Lt. II Ed Palmer.



From left: Clarence Jones, Security Officer, Club Member; Rita Vallejo, P3, Club Member; and Stinson Brown, D1.



From left: Ata Kirmani, AV Tech, Club Member; Hopyung Park, Video Alchemist; Dan Morehead, AV Tech; Jon Gesch, Photographer; Shawn Gabre, AV Tech; and David Gomez, Sr. Photographer, Club Member.



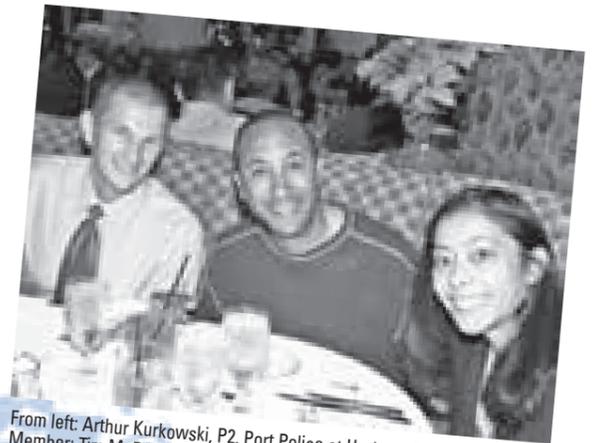
From left: Sgt. II Deborah Mastin; Sgt. II Jason Zabel; Clarence Mejia, P3; James Hwang, P3; and Paul Ahn, P3.



From left: Daryl Ordone, P3; John Derouen, P3; Anthony Pack, P3; and Andy Hwang, P3, Club Member.



From left: Richard Melendez, FTO Instructor; Rhoadell Sudduth, FTO Instructor; and Edward Espinoza, FTO Instructor.



From left: Arthur Kurkowski, P2, Port Police at Harbor/LAPD Academy, Club Member; Tim McRach, D1; and Adriana Ramirez, D1.



From left: Monica Lewis, CT, Club Member; and Ann Medina, PSR II, Club Member.



Retired PDO Michael Ellington, Club Member, kicks off the luncheon.

From left: Tanya Rodda, P3; Caryn McLeod, Sr. CT; Tiffany Burke-Williams, SMA 1, Club Member; and Marlene Burke, Retired, DWP.



From left: Joe Clay, P2; John Lee, P2; Erin Gabaldon, P2; and Sgt. II Frank McCloven.



From left: Sgt. Mitch Windsor; Laura Windsor, P3; Isaias Gonzalez, P3; and Capt. Greg Allen.



From left: Damien Pacheco, MA II, Club Member; Jeb Panyarjun, Management Assistant; Willie Umana, Equipment Mechanic; and Paul Dalton, Security Officer.



From left: Frank Morales, ECH, Club Member; Bud Eyerly, Building Repair Supervisor, Club Member; Curtis Ausmus, Plumber; Javen Borgwardt, Mechanic, Club Member; and David Van Hosen, Painter, Club Member.





# The City Parties



From left: Abhai Bhatia, Engineer; Lane Thibodaux, Engineer; Pancho Ferrer, Warehouse; Martin Lopez, Sr. Storekeeper; Ralph Martinez, Storekeeper; and Sueng Oh, Engineer.



Jose Garcia and his lovely family.

## Sanitation/ Terminal Island

Story and photos by Brent Urban, Club Counselor

As the Harbor's big ships passed by outside, Sanitation's Terminal Island Water Reclamation Plant employees enjoyed their holiday party Dec. 15. The party was held at Ports O'Call restaurant in San Pedro.

Family and friends enjoyed a delicious buffet (I ate my fair share) and music by one of their own, DJ V. (Shout out to DJ V!) See you again next year.

Special thanks to Shirley Crawford for her assistance.



Top, from left: Steven Trujillo, Club Member, Instrument Mechanic; Kieth Gawith, Instrument Mechanic, President of "Veterans for Peace;" Monterio Logan, guest; Loretta Arnold, Club Member, Clerk Typist; and Ciara Dowdy, guest. Bottom: Brianna Gawith, guest; Lori Logan, Lab Tech; and Geneva Dowdy, Clerk Typist.



Alice Gabourel, Storekeeper; and Kieth Gawith, Instrument Mechanic.



Vijai Serram, Club Member, Instrument Mechanic and resident DJ, and his daughter light up the party.



Committee Members, from left: Henry Ayala, Pipefitter; Barb Kavepi, Instrument Supervisor; Shirley Crawford, Club Member, Clerk Typist; Kelly Scrivena, Pipefitter; Sandy O'Guinn, Gardener; Vijai Serram, Instrument Mechanic; Karl Brieitenstein, Supervisor; and Jose Garcia, Club Member, Carpenter, with his daughter.



From left: Abhai Bhatia, Engineer; Lane Thibodeaux, Engineer, and proud new father of Sofie; Pancho Ferrer, Warehouse; Martin Lopez, Club Member, Sr. Storekeeper; and Ralph Martinez, Storekeeper.



From left: Virginia Love, guest; Sandy O'Guinn, Gardener; Henry Ayala, Club Member, Pipe Fitter; and Faye Kenoly, Club Member, Retired.

## Valley Transportation

Story and photo by Brent Urban, Club Counselor

Transportation's Valley Yard held its annual holiday party Dec. 15.

The party was held at Transportation's Valley headquarters. The roll-call room at the Valley Transportation office hasn't seen this much Christmas cheer since... well, since last Christmas. Check out the group photo. This is in the running for happiest division photo ever!

The Club donated raffle prizes.

Thanks to Sarah Morton, Capt. Rea and Sgt. Price for their assistance.



Sgt. Price and Sarah Morton, Club Member, Traffic Officer, and event organizer, pose with raffle winners.



Michelle Rampal, Club Member, Traffic Officer.



Sgt. Marsh, Club Member, wins the first raffle prize.



Emily Bolton, Traffic Officer.



Larry Randolph and Sgt. Price.



Capt. Rea, Club Member, with his poinsettia prize.



Sergio Florez, Traffic Officer, feels festive.



Kim Brooks, Club Member, Traffic Officer, with a bag of goodies.



Traffic Officers know how to have a good time. See, we even have a thumbs-up!



Susan Rahtz, Traffic Officer; and Bob Moran, Traffic Officer.



The group of holiday revelers from Valley Transportation.





# The City Parties



Top: Aaron Straussner. From left: Julie Locks Sherman, Haas Roberson, and Officer Shawn Smith, LAAPOA Assistant Secretary, Club Member.



Tamika Williams, Airport Police Dispatch, Club Member, and Jennifer Deadmond.



From left: Officer Frank Shin, 7 years of City service, Club Member; Amanda Archer, guest; and Officer Rodney Rouzan, LAAPOA Treasurer, Club Member.

## Airport Police

Story by Arlene Herrero, Club Products Manager, and Eboné Moses, Club Counselor; Photos by Tom Hawkins, Club Photographer

The Los Angeles Airport Police Officers Assn. (LAAPOA) held its annual holiday party Dec. 11 at the Embassy Suites hotel in El Segundo.

Toys were collected for the group's annual toy drive. Many prizes were given away. Appearances were made by City Attorney Carmen Trutanich and Assemblywoman Betsy Butler.

Special thanks to Marshall McClain, LAAPOA President, for his invitation.



Officer Michael Dear, LAAPOA Assistant Secretary, Club Member.



Officer Stuart Saxon, 3 years of City service, Club Member, and his wife, Liz.



Officer Julius Levy, LAAPOA Vice President, Club Member, and Shawnee Rogers, FTP, 7.5 years of City service, Club Member.



From left: Officer Aaron Duboise, 8 years of City service, Club Member; and Officer Mario Lara, 4 years of service, Club Member.



Sgt. Bernard Fitchpatrick, LAPD, 27 years of City service; and Capt. LaPonda Fitchpatrick, 28 years, Airport Police, Club Member.



Eboné Moses, Club Counselor, with Officer Rodney Rouzan, LAAPOA Treasurer, Club Member.



Nicky Agnew, Records, Airport Police, and her husband, Andrew.



Officer Marshall McClain, LAAPOA President, Club Member, and Assemblywoman Besty Butler, 53rd District.



Officer Gerard Kilayko, 7 years of City service, Club Member, and Anna Delarmente, guest.



Officer Diego Vasquez, 4 years of City service, Club Member, and Rosie Huitoun, guest.



From left: Mel Hayes, Commercial Enforcement Unit, and James Duffie, guest.



Martin Lopez, husband, Officer Adela Lopez, Drill Instructor, 4.5 years of City service; with (from left) guests Barbara and Joe Flan.



Officers Raymond Rouzan and Rodney Rouzan, LAAPOA Treasurer, Club Member.



Officer Marshall McClain, LAAPOA President, Club Member, and his wife, Yvette.



Tyrone Tarvis with guest.



Representing media publisher of Alert 3, from left: Jordan Tolila, Natalie Tolila, Mike Deitch and Susan Smiley.



# The City Parties



David Mello, Club Member, RCTO and his guest, Maria, with friends Ernie and Sofia Chavez. Ernie is an RCTO from the East Valley Yard.



Mr and Mrs. Rodriguez. Mr. Rodriguez is a Welder.

## Sanitation

Story and photos by Brent Urban, Club Counselor

Sanitation's fancy annual holiday party took place Dec. 18 at the Friendship Auditorium in Griffith Park.

Once again, people from the Bureau of Sanitation broke out some of their best threads for an evening of celebration and camaraderie.

There was an amazing buffet to choose from while the live band performed on stage late into the night.



Miguel Rodriguez, Refuse Driver, and his wife.



There was a wonderful ambiance in the Friendship Auditorium.



Tony, RCTO, and his wife, Rosa.



Johnny Williams, Club Member, West LA Sanitation Yard, and his wife, Kathy.



James Polk and his wife were among the first to arrive.



The live jazz band.



It's cold outside, and these two couldn't wait to cuddle up!



Gerald Lopez, Club Member, Truck Operator II, with his daughter.



David Pilkney, Club Member, Truck Operator, and his guest.



Ron Paige, Club Member, RTCO, and his wife, Lisa.



Sergio Pelayo, Club Member, Sanitation Driver, and his wife.



Chris Bell, Club Member, RCTO, and his wife Megan, with Derrick and Jacqueline Shannon. Derrick is a Supervisor.





# The City Parties

## L.A. Filipino Assn.

Story and photos by Robert Larios, Club Director of Operations

The Los Angeles Filipino Association of City Employees (LAFACE) held its annual Christmas party Dec. 3 in the Tom Bradley Room high atop City Hall.

Many different City departments were represented, including the DWP, Public Works, City Attorney's Office, the Mayor's Office, Fire and Police Pensions, CDD, Housing, Controller's Office, General Services and Building and Safety.

*Special thanks to Cora Soriano, Club Member and LAFACE president, for her assistance.*



From left: Lourdes Zerrudo, Executive Secretary, DWP, 26 years of City service; Susana M. Reyes, Director of Human Resources, DWP, 24 years of service; Maria Sison-Roces, Executive Assistant to General Manager, DWP, 20 years of service; and Sol Aumentado, Administrative Assistant, DWP, 26 years of service.



Alfredo Magallanes, Public Works/Sanitation, Acting Sr. Environmental Engineer, 18 years of service, with his daughter, Merci Magallanes.



From left: Yolanda Huang, Department Chief Accountant, LA Fire and Police Pensions, 19 years of City service, Club member since 1992; Amelia Marucut, CDD, Management Analyst II, 13 years of service, Club member since 2001; and Nell Dizon, Management Analyst, Housing Department, 10 years of service.



From left: Holly Ann Posadas; Marc Magallanes; and Andrew Angeles, scholarship awardees.



From left: Cora Soriano, President of LAFACE; and Ryan Carpio, Field Deputy, 3 years of City service.



From left: Alex Banares, Accounting Clerk, Controller's Office, 5 years of City service; Mildred Jacla, SMS Payments, General Services, 9 years of service; and Nani Paxton, Management Analyst II, Building and Safety, 15 years of service, Club member since 1997.



From left: Monette Carranceja, Assistant Retirement Plan Manager, DWP, 17 years of City service; Henry Martinez, COO, DWP; Susana M. Reyes, Director of Human Resources, DWP, 24 years of service; Maria Sison-Roces, Executive Assistant to General Manager, DWP, 20 years of service; and Cora Soriano, President of LAFACE.



# You heard that right – a Club Cruise around the Mediterranean!

– SEE BACK PAGE

For Retired Club Members



# The Best Years

FOR RETIREES ONLY



By Mary Beetz,  
RLACEI Publicity Chair

## City Retiree Associations:

### DWP Retirees Association



**Dolores Foley, President**  
Phone: (626) 445-7376  
E-mail: vinmar@altrionet.com

### Los Angeles Retired Fire and Police Association

**James R. Wilke, President**  
Phone: (323) 283-4441  
Fax: (626) 285-1461  
E-mail: larfpa@pacbell.net or  
9521 Las Tunas Dr. #4,  
Temple City, CA 91780

### Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. (RLACEI)



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

### Change of Address?

If you change your address, notify Helen Salgado, Membership Chair, at (800) 678-4145 Ext. 713, or write to her at 8372 Arnett Dr. Huntington Beach, CA 92647. Also notify LACERS.

### Have News About Yourself?

Contact Phil Skarin, 5301 Norwich Ave., Van Nuys, CA 91411-3910, or call (800) 678-4145 Ext. 709.

## RLACEI UPCOMING EVENTS:

Here's a listing of all the RLACEI events, dates and locations for 2011:

**April 14:** General meeting, 11:30 a.m., Friendship Auditorium, 3201 Riverside Dr. Los Angeles, CA 90027

**June TBA:** Golf Tournament, Alhambra Municipal Course

**Aug. 11:** Picnic/board meeting, 11:30 a.m. (1 p.m. meeting), Grace E. Simons Lodge, 1025 Elysian Park, Los Angeles, CA

**Oct. 6:** Annual corporation meeting/elections, 1 p.m., Friendship Auditorium, 3201 Riverside Dr., Los Angeles, CA 90027

**Dec. 1:** Holiday party/board meeting, 1 p.m., Friendship Auditorium, 3201 Riverside Dr., Los Angeles, CA 90027

Call (800) 678-4145, ext. 701 for reservations.

## RLACEI:

# Holiday Party at Simons Draws Capacity Crowd

### President, Ed Harding reports:



Ed Harding

"More than 200 people attended our Christmas holiday party Dec. 9 at the Grace E. Simons Lodge. George, owner of Chris and Pitts BBQ, put on a great lunch, which included large barbecued beef and turkey sandwiches served with coleslaw, barbecued beans and fruit salad, with carrot cake for dessert. We raffled more than 80 prizes donated by the City Employees Club,

ACEBSA and LACERS. RLACEI donated cash prizes and gift certificates for See's candy. Next year's holiday Christmas party will be held at the Friendship Hall. Grace E. Simons Lodge holds only 200 people. Our attendance has now exceeds Grace E. Simons Lodge capacity.

"Tom Moutes, Interim General Manager, LACERS, installed the RLACEI directors elected on our

October meeting for 2011. They are Ken Spiker, Helen Salgado, Mary Beetz and I, as well as Michael R. Wilkinson, whom I appointed to fill the recently vacated position by Jack Mathews' resignation. Michael is a recently retired attorney from the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office as Retirement Benefits Deputy.

"RLACEI wishes everyone a Happy New Year."

### LACERS Update: Mary Beetz, LACERS representative, reports:



Mary Beetz

"CMS Announces New Medicare Part B Premiums for 2011. On Nov. 4, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) announced that the 2011 basic Medicare Part B premium rate will increase from \$110.50 to \$115.40 per month. However, because current Social Security beneficiaries will not be receiving a cost-of-living adjustment in 2011, their Medicare Part B premiums will not increase.

"The 2011 basic Medicare Part B premium of \$115.40 will apply to retired members who fulfill at least one of the following conditions\*:

- Are new Medicare Part B enrollees in 2011;
- Lapsed in their Medicare coverage and must re-enroll in 2011;
- Do not have their Medicare Part B premium withheld from their Social Security retirement benefit payment or do not

receive a Social Security benefit payment; and

- Have incomes greater than \$85,000 (or greater than \$170,000 if filing jointly).
- \*Other exceptions may apply.

"Retired members with Medicare Parts A & B who don't meet any of these conditions, and are currently receiving a Social Security benefit payment, will continue to pay their current Medicare Part B premiums (i.e., the basic premium rate of either \$96.40 or \$110.50). For more information on the 2011 Medicare Part B premium rates, please visit the Medicare website at <http://questions.medicare.gov>.

"Plan Design Changes Become Effective Jan. 1: As LACERS enters its new retiree health plan year Jan. 1, here are a few reminders:

- Plan design changes affecting

LACERS medical plans in 2011, such as increased copays, go into effect Jan. 1;

- New 2011 monthly retiree health plan premium deduction amounts will be reflected in the December 2010 LACERS retirement allowance check; and
- Any retiree health plan changes made during LACERS Open Enrollment period will become effective Jan. 1.

"Form 1099-R: LACERS will mail retired members their IRS Form 1099-R (Distribution From Pensions, Annuities, Retirement, etc.) by the end of January. Members who do not receive their 1099-Rs by Feb. 15 should contact LACERS to request a new one. Regenerating a 1099-R may require a few working days to process. Also, retirees who recently moved should contact LACERS to update their address information."

### RLACEI Website

Hal Danowitz asks you to visit the RLACEI Website at [www.rlacei.com](http://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 LACERS

The Los Angeles City Employees Retirement System is at 360 E. Second Street, second floor, Los Angeles, CA 90012. 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.

The Best Years



From 2005: Hal fishing.



By Hal Danowitz, Secretary, RLACEI

**Retiree Hotlines**

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 Helen Salgado. Also notify LACERS, ACEBSA, and LAFCU.

**City Employees Retirement System:** (213) 473-7200

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

- Mary Beetz Ext. 711
- Hal Danowitz Ext. 707
- Americo Garza Ext. 710
- Edward Harding Ext. 703
- Michael Karsch Ext. 704
- Gary Mattingly Ext. 702
- Neil Ricci Ext. 714
- Helen Salgado (membership) Ext. 713
- Phil Skarin Ext. 709
- Ken Spiker Ext. 705
- Tom Stemnock Ext. 708

**RSVP:** Ext. 701

**DWP Retirement Plan Office:** (213) 367-1722

**RLACEI:**

**Officers**

- Hal Danowitz, Secretary
- Edward Harding, President
- Michael Karsch, Treasurer
- Kenneth Spiker, First Vice President
- Tom Stemnock, Second Vice President

**Committee Chairpersons**

- Hal Danowitz: Bylaws
- Americo Garza: Picnic, Holiday Party and Installation
- Neil Ricci: Health and Nominating
- Helen Salgado: Membership
- Phil Skarin: Publicity and Parliamentarian
- Ken Spiker: Legal and Legislative
- Tom Stemnock: Audit
- Tom Stemnock and Phil Skarin: Golf

**Directors**

- Mary Beetz
- Americo Garza
- Michael Karsch
- Neil Ricci
- Helen Salgado
- Phil Skarin



# Around the World In 64 Issues

■ Hal recalls the highlights of writing his travel column for *Alive!*

Congratulations to *Alive!* on its 100th issue. It's been my good fortune to be part of 64 of these issues. During the time that I have been writing my travel articles, Evelyn and I have traveled to six of the seven continents, missing only Antarctica; 38 countries; and many towns and cities in our own country.

My first article was for the September 2005 issue, and it was about my fishing trip to the King Pacific Lodge in British Columbia. It was my second trip to this fishing lodge with my friend, Erwin, who at the time was 83 years old. That trip is very special to me, as it was last fishing trip that I was to take with Erwin, who passed away last year.



The rest of that year's articles were about our cruise to Northern Europe on the Celebrity Cruise Line's ship, the *Constellation*. The highlight of that trip was

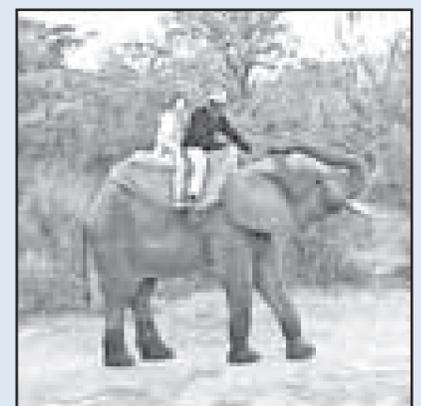
our visit to Berlin and the two days we spent in St. Petersburg, Russia. My mother's side of the family is from Russia, and I was interested to see the countryside. Berlin was interesting to me because I am somewhat of a history buff about World War II, and I was able to see that area of what was East Berlin and where the "Berlin Wall" was.

In 2006 I wrote about our Southeast Asia and China cruise on the *Diamond Princess* of Princess Cruises. Evelyn and I had been to China, Hong Kong and Korea in 1986 and Hong Kong again in the late 1990s, but this was a cruise from Beijing, China to Bangkok, Thailand, which covered a lot more places. While I loved Bangkok, the highlight of this cruise was our visit to Okinawa. We were lucky to find a wonderful taxi driver to took us around the island, where we visited the Imperial Japanese Naval Headquarters during WWII, and we also got to see a once-a-year ceremony at the Royal Palace, which we would not have seen if we had taken a ship's tour.

I also wrote about the first road trip I had



From 2005: Evelyn at Peter's Palace in St. Petersburg, Russia.



From 2008: Evelyn rides an elephant in Zimbabwe.

# ADVENTURES with HAL!

taken since the 1960s, and I got to visit Graceland in Memphis and the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville.

In 2007 it was our cruise on Holland America Line's MS *Statendam* from Australia to New Zealand. It was our first time on that continent, and we just loved both Australia and New Zealand. The whole trip was a highlight, but I really enjoyed visiting the ports in New Zealand. Each town had characteristic features from the area in Great Britain where the settlers came from.

In 2008 I was able to retell the story of our trip to Africa back in 2001. We visited South Africa, Botswana and Zimbabwe. We saw Cape Town and stayed in safari camps in both Botswana and Zimbabwe. Seeing the animals in their natural enjoyment was unbelievable. The highlight of that trip was our stay in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, at the Victoria Hotel, where we got to visit the famous falls. It was a step back in time to the colonial days when Europe ruled much of southern Africa.

The end of 2008 was our great road trip for my 50th high school reunion in Lansing, Mich. We drove the southern route to get there and the northern route to get back home. I really enjoyed our stops at Mackinac Island, Mt. Rushmore and Yellowstone National Park, but the highlight for me was the Little Big Horn National Park. I've always wanted to see where "Custer's Last Stand" happened. The only way to see our great nation is by car, and everyone should do it at least once.

In 2009, we took the Christmas cruise with the grandkids and then a trip to Costa Rica. But the most important journey that year was our 35-day adventure that included a week driving in Italy and then a 28-day cruise on the Holland-America's *Oosterdam*. We started in Venice, Italy, and ended in Fort Lauderdale. Every day of that trip was a highlight, but I'm sure I write for both Evelyn and myself that the best part was when we renewed our vows on our 20th wedding anniversary while on the cruise. This trip exposed us to multiple sea days and being away from home for more than a month; previous to that trip, our longest time away from home was three weeks.

Last year, we visited Mexico, San Francisco and Napa Valley. We cruised to Hawaii, which you will read more of in the next issue of *Alive!*

We are already planning a big trip for this April, and another one in 2012.

I hope that you have enjoyed reading

about our adventures as much as Evelyn (she has a lot of input in each article) and I have in writing them. If you are interested in group travel, drop me a note at [hdanowitz@verizon.net](mailto:hdanowitz@verizon.net) and let me know what destinations you are interested in. We hope to continue for many more years and look forward to being around for *Alive!*'s 200th issue.



From 2008: Evelyn at Mt. Rushmore.



From 2009: Evelyn and Hal renew their vows on the *Oosterdam*.



September 2005: Hal's first cover.



From 2007: Evelyn shears a sheep in New Zealand.



From 2006: Hal and Evelyn at a Buddha in Bangkok, Thailand.



From 2009: In-law, Effie; granddaughter, Isabelle, Evelyn; and granddaughter, Coco, with *Alive!* on our Christmas cruise.

### RLACEI MEMBER NEWS:

**Winfred Calhoun** is doing commercials for the Auto Club on Channel 9. He also models for the Auto Club Magazine. Thanks to Trinidad Carlos Quiroz for sharing this information for our readers.

Readers are invited to send information about themselves for publication in this column. Write to: Mary Beetz, 137 Westmont Dr., Alhambra California, 91801.



John Peterson, Plumber, and his wife, Sam. Congratulations to them on nearly 40 years of marriage!



Ben Davis, Street Maintenance Supervisor, and his wife, Joyce.



Cleone Vrabel, Clerk Typist, LAPD, Club Member, with her husband, Michael.



From left: Barbara Bass, Club Member; and Dorris Bass, Heavy Equipment Engineer, Club Member.



Tom Moutes, General Manager, LACERS.



Ed Harding, President of RLACEI, Club Member.

## Retirees Celebrate The Holidays

Story and photos by Robert Larios, Club Director of Operations



John Shadle, Building and Safety, and Marguerite Shadle.



From left: Lorenzo Porter, Street Maintenance, 35 years of City service; and Charles Wilson, General Services, 30 years of service, Club Member.

The Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. (RLACEI) held its annual holiday gathering and leadership induction ceremony Dec. 2.

The party was held at Grace E. Simons Lodge in Elysian Park.

The lodge was at capacity, as retirees were eager to celebrate the day with friends old and new.

Thanks to RLACEI President Ed Harding for welcoming us.



From left: Mayra Vines, Planning, Club Representative, 33 years of City service, Club Member; Gloria Unterburger, LAPD, 35 years of service, Club Member; and guest Wen Angreri.



Juan and Sally Lopez, Library, 15 years of City service.



From left: Jeanetta Adams, LAPD, 34 years of service; Barbara Adams Armstead, Retired, LAUSD.



Benjamin Davis, Street Maintenance, 32 years of service, with his wife, Joyce.



John Gomez, Park Supervisor, City Center, Club Member, with his wife, Carmen.



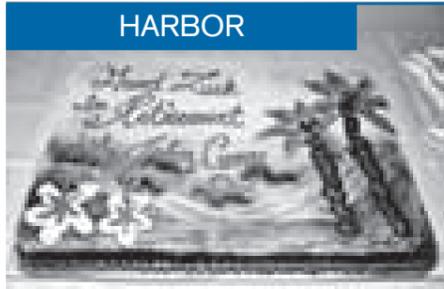
Tom Moutes inducts RLACEI leadership, from left: Mary Beetz, Helen Salgado, Ed Harding and Gary Mattingly.



From left: Michael Karsh, Treasurer, RLACEI, Club Member; and Hal Danowitz, Secretary, RLACEI; Club Member; and Alive! columnist.



RLACEI Directors (from left) Tom Stemnock and Ken Spiker.



The retirement cake.

# Bon Voyage, John

Sgt. John Curry, Club Member, retires from the Port Police after 30 years of City service.



John A. Curry, Club Member since 2008, is happy to celebrate his retirement with 30 years of City service.



Family and friends, top, from left: Ashley Winter and David Rowe. Bottom: Craig Rowe and Becky Rowe.



Retiree John Curry with Christina Pena representing the Harbor Employees Club.

Story and photos by Robert Larios, Club Director of Operations

A retirement dinner was held Nov. 19 for Sgt. John A. Curry of the Port Police, who retired with more than 30 years of City service.

The party was held at the Cabrillo Marina Community Center in San Pedro.

### Here's a summary of his career accomplishments:

In 1979, John graduated from CSU Long Beach with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice/law enforcement.

In 1980, he was hired by the Los Angeles Airport Police as a Police Officer after being a part of the first graduating class from Rio Hondo Police Academy.

In June 1981, he was hired by the Los Angeles Port Police as a Police Officer.

In 1981, John graduated from the Los Angeles Sheriff's Academy and ranked in the top 10 in academics.

From 1981 to 2001, he was assigned to various details.

From 2001 to 2006, in the aftermath of 9-11, John was assigned as a Sea Marshal, boarding inbound and outbound Cruise Ships and escorting them to safe arrival and departure.

In 2002, he was promoted to Sr. Lead Officer. In 2005, he was promoted to sergeant.

From 1995 to 2008, John served on the Los Angeles Port Police Range Staff, and from 2005 to 2008 he served as Range Master.

The Club congratulates John for his great service and wishes him a wonderful retirement.



From left: Lt. Titus Smith, 20 years of City service, Club Member since 2007; and Dave Knight, Retired, 26 years of service, Club Member since 2008.



From left: Lt. Anita Hayden, 18 years of City service, Club Member since 1992; and Robin Jackson, Management Analyst, 33 years of service.



Officer Rudy Meza, 30 years of City service, and his wife, Moneka.



From left: Maria Corona, Dispatcher, 20 years of City service, Club Member since 1993; Linda Wyatt, Retired Dispatcher, Club Member since 2009.



From left: Capt. Ralph Tracy, Club Member since 2010; Sgt. Mike Alva, 5 years of City service, Club Member since 2008; Sgt. Al Guerrero, 36 years of service, Club Member since 2008; Sgt. John Curry, Retired, 30 years of service, Club Member since 2008; Bill Fletcher, Retired, 26 years of service; and Capt. Mike Godward, 31 years of service.

# Sprint wins top two!



Two of the best phones on the market: Samsung Epic™ 4G and HTC EVO™ 4G voted PC World's best. Only from Sprint. Only on the Now Network.™

Use them with discounts for employees of City of Los Angeles.

## Save 20%

Select regular priced monthly service plans

"America's Best Smartphones" - PCWorld, September 9, 2010



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# History Comes Alive!

Tales From the City Archives



by Hynda Rudd, City Archivist (Retired), and Club Member

## 100<sup>th</sup> Alive!

SPECIAL EDITION

# Hynda and History

Hynda Rudd recalls how she came to write this column, and loving Los Angeles.

Photo of Herman Silver courtesy the Security Pacific Collection, Los Angeles Public Library photo archive, Christina Rice, interim director.

Commendations must be given to the City Employees Club of Los Angeles and its inspiring President and CEO, John Hawkins, for delivering 100 months of the City of Los Angeles' newspaper, *Alive!*, for and about the employees of the great City of Los Angeles. For this remembrance, I decided to look back at my thoughts and feelings over the years being given this monumental honor to re-create the incredible history of this unbelievable city, Los Angeles, by John Hawkins and the City Employees Club.

I was born and lived in Salt Lake City for 43 years. I am not a Mormon. But because of my innate tendency toward historical methods, I fell madly in love with many of the same historical concepts that the Mormons live by. Of course, I did not truly realize this until I moved to the Los Angeles area in late August 1978.

I must be honest – at first, before moving here, I didn't believe Angelenos cared much about their history. I also felt that any building in this City more than 15 years old was destroyed. Since then, of course, I have learned differently, with one exception! That will come later.

When I moved to the L.A. area, it was because I wanted a second master's degree in library science from USC, which I did receive. In a million years, I had never considered what reality had in store for me!



From Jan 2005: The Archive team: Jay Jones, Acting Archivist; Todd Gaydowski, Records Management Officer; and Hynda Rudd, retired City Archivist.

In Salt Lake, prior to my leaving there, I received my first master's degree in the history of the Jews of the Intermountain West from 1826-99. At the same time, I worked for the University of Utah's archives and records management program.

While working on my first master's thesis, I ran across a young man, Herman Silver, who was about 18 years old and came from Hamburg, Germany. His parents sent him to America because he had a history of chest congestion problems. At that time, circa 1898, many hospitals in the States were treating this common problem. Nevertheless, Herman survived and moved to Denver, Colo., where he became an accomplished citizen in both professional and religious milieus. He eventually moved to the Los Angeles area, where he became a City Councilman, twice (1896-1900) and the first President of the Water Commission circa 1900. Oh, and by the way, Silver Lake was named after Herman Silver.



Herman Silver.

Finally, this is where I came into the picture, and my life was changed forever. Herman Silver continued to fascinate me. I wanted to know more about him here in L.A. On July 5, 1979, I decided to find out what records the City Clerk's Office had on Herman. When I arrived at the Clerk's Office, I was sent to the vault in the Office, where many historical records were kept. First, I was shocked to find out the City had any historical documentation. Second, I had come from Salt Lake City, where historical records were

shelved, but there was no one in the L.A. facility protecting and/or cataloging them, like in Salt Lake City.

Finally, I found a bound copy of the *Star* newspaper, the oldest City of Los Angeles paper. I was perusing it when a man came up to the vault and introduced himself as the Assistant City Clerk, William (Bill) Ashdown. We started talking and discovered we had both come from Utah. After much conversation, he told me that their Office wrote a Federal Humanities grant to request an eight-month archivist to come to the City of Los Angeles to give an overview of its historical records in the city. He then asked me what my professional background was. I told him. He wanted

my business card; I told him I didn't have business cards. He asked me if I would like to apply for the position. All I could say was, "Is the Pope Catholic?"

In November 1979, the grant was approved. I have no idea how many people applied; I was told about 100. I really don't know. I was in Library School at USC. Sometime in January or February 1980, I was interviewed for the City Archivist position. The first week in March, I was called out of my classroom for a telephone call. I was then told that I was the first Archivist for the City of Los Angeles!

My life changed in a few moments. I continued my master's thesis in library science; I graduated in early 1981. Also, I was performing my eight-month grant from the Federal government, and learning fabulous information about the city. After the grant was completed, I was

hired to be the official City Archivist. I held that position for five years. I then became the City's Records Management Officer and Archivist. It was a whirlwind time for me.

Finally, a few years later, I met John Hawkins. I can't tell you when, but it also became another focal point in my life. He and, I believe John Burnes, the *Alive!* editor, took me out to lunch to ask me to write a monthly historical article about the "City's History." I was thrilled and said yes immediately. There is much raw historical material in this City, and I want to share it with the people, especially children, who need to know who they were and are so they know where they are going. Thank you, John Hawkins and John Burnes. The two of you changed my life. [You're welcome! – Ed.]

Earlier in this article, I use the phrase, "That will come later." Later is now here. I love this City with a passion. What I do not understand is why we the second largest city in this nation has no City of Los Angeles Museum of History. We have many community museums, which are wonderful. But the City as a whole deserves its own museum in the Pico House in the El Pueblo Historical Monument.

Thanks for reading!



January 2005: Hynda's first column.



February 2005: Hynda's second column.



# Coloring with Lupe!

The *Alive!* Children's Coloring Contest

Compiled by Lupe Medina, Administrative Services Representative

**Color this fun picture, have an adult send it in, and you could win four free tickets to the amusement park of your choice!**

We want to know about you! Tell us a little about yourself:

Your name \_\_\_\_\_ How old are you? \_\_\_\_\_

When is your birthday? \_\_\_\_\_ What is your favorite television show? \_\_\_\_\_

What is your favorite snack? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the first name of your best friend? \_\_\_\_\_

What amusement park do you want to go to, and why?: \_\_\_\_\_

For parents/guardian to complete:

Name of parent/guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Job title and department with the City: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/guardian phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's address/state/zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**Submit to:**

Club Coloring Contest  
City Employees Club of Los Angeles  
120 West 2nd Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Deadline for submission:

**January 15, 2011**

The Club will do everything it can to gather all the submissions, but it cannot be responsible for lost or misdirected mail.

**Good luck, and have fun!**

# WIN 4 free tickets to

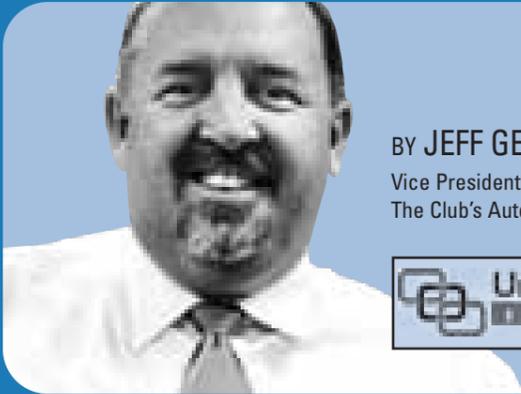
## THE AMUSEMENT PARK OF YOUR CHOICE

An award package will be given for each age group:

- \* Ages 5 and under
- \* Ages 6 to 7
- \* Ages 8 to 10



# REST INSURED



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



## Time to Raise Your Limits?

The number one question we are asked more than any other is, "How much insurance should I buy?"

Probably one of the reasons that this is such a common question is because there really is no easy answer. It would be great if we could simply look into a "crystal ball" and tell you what is going to happen to you in the future. That way you could make sure that you are prepared for whatever comes your way. Unfortunately, life doesn't work that way. Life is uncertain!

When asked by my friends about the level of limits they should buy, I always give them the same answer: "If you rear-end a school bus, then \$10 million won't be enough." While this doesn't really help out, it does help to illustrate the problem. Life is uncertain. You never know what could possibly happen to you. Most people try to live careful, prudent lives, but calamity can strike any of us at any time.

No one would disagree that a 3,000-pound vehicle driving down the road at 60 mph can cause an enormous amount of damage. But even a "simple" accident backing up in a driveway where children are playing can change the course of someone's life indefinitely.

The important thing is that as a conscientious person you will want to be able to take care of any problem that you might accidentally cause. That is why we buy insurance in the first place – to be financially responsible for any damage we might inadvertently cause.

There are some particularly pertinent insurance concepts to introduce here: maximum possible loss and maximum probable loss. While it is possible that you could

"rear-end a school bus" and require \$15 million or \$20 million worth of insurance, it is probable that you won't. Which do you insure for, the possible or the probable? That really depends on your personality and what you feel comfortable with.

One thing to keep in mind is the litigious nature of our society. While the average "bodily injury" auto claim is only \$16,000, the average of the same type of claim that goes to jury is \$281,000! You may not think that you have much at risk, but if your claim goes before a jury you may be unpleasantly surprised.

One rule of thumb has always been to buy enough insurance to protect your assets. With the value of homes in California, many people have significant equity in their home. All of that equity is at risk in the event of one single auto accident. While your bank may require you to carry only minimum limits on your auto insurance, you should keep in mind everything that you stand to lose in a potential claim.

Long story short: Buy limits as high as you can afford. That is always the safest course of action.

**Feel free to call our agency** if you have any questions about your Insurance Limits, or would like to do a complete insurance review with us. Call us if you would like to get a quote for your home policy through us, or would like a question answered on any type of insurance. We offer up to a 15 percent discount if you buy your home and auto insurance from the same insurance company.

**Be safe and have fun!**

United Agencies is the Club's partner in helping members with their home and auto insurance, and related products. We specialize in creating personal relationships with our customers, and serving their needs in a prompt, efficient and friendly manner.

Check out our City Employees Club page on the United Agencies Website at [www.unitedagencies.com/cityclub](http://www.unitedagencies.com/cityclub). This website lists the upcoming visits we'll be making to City Department meetings where you can ask us any question in person, and get an instant quote!

**Have a question?** Is there something about insurance that you've always wanted to know, but were too ashamed to ask? Maybe something that you've just always been curious about?

Feel free to send me an email at [jgelineau@unitedagencies.com](mailto:jgelineau@unitedagencies.com), and I will try to answer your question in one of our monthly columns.

**Call United Agencies Burbank today at (888) 801-5522**

CA License # 0252636

## AIRPORTS

# Airport Police Honored

Officers recognized at City of Inglewood annual appreciation day.

*Story and photos courtesy Airport Police*

Airport Police Officers Casey Brummer and Abel Burboa were honored at the City of Inglewood's fifth annual Police and Fire Appreciation Day Nov. 18 for their dedicated efforts in enforcing the solicitor ordinance at LAX.

Officer Brummer, a four-year veteran, and Officer Burboa, a three-year veteran, were selected for their focused dedication and work with the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office for writing declarations to the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals urging a motion to lift the injunction against enforcement of LAMC 171.02(c), which prohibits soliciting for and immediately receiving funds at the airport. In the past, the actions of solicitors posing as information guides created a detrimental atmosphere for passengers and visitors to the airport.

Officers Brummer and Burboa, currently assigned to Patrol Services, worked with LAX Airport Operations staff and trained fellow officers on how to enforce the airport's anti-solicitation program.

"Thanks to their selfless service and commitment to an issue that affected the airport experience of passengers and visitors for over a decade, their hard work has helped prevent solicitors from taking currency from the traveling public and has brought relief to LAX tenants, Airport Police and the airport community as a whole," said Airport Police Chief George R. Centeno. "Their efforts went above and beyond the scope of their duties."

Co-hosted by the Inglewood/Airport Area Chamber of Commerce and Rotary Club of Inglewood, the Police and Fire Appreciation Day event was established to recognize the finest men and women, who serve and protect the community.



The three Airport Police officers who were recently honored by the City of Inglewood.

## Club Cruise: The greatest Club Event ever!

– SEE BACK PAGE

Something to  Think About

**"You have to expect things of yourself before you can do them."**

– Michael Jordan

A reminder from L.A. City's Quality and Productivity Commission:  
*Always do your best!*

# Holiday Happenings

## REC AND PARKS

### A Few More Weeks To Skate

Downtown on Ice concludes its 13th season Jan. 17.

#### Downtown on Ice

**Hours:** Open every day through Jan. 17

Mon.-Thurs.: noon to 10 p.m.; Fri.-Sun.: 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

**Extended hours:** Through Jan. 9, from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily.

**Martin Luther King Jr. Day:** 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

**Cost:** \$6 per session. Skate rental: \$2

**Information:** www.larparks.org (click on Pershing Square)



Downtown on Ice.

Celebrating its 13th season spectacular with holiday fun under the sun and stars, Downtown on Ice outdoor skating rink at picturesque Pershing Square, 532 S. Olive St., will be open every day through Jan. 17.

The tradition continues with LA's largest outdoor rink with the low admission price of \$6. As a favorite holiday destination, the facility boasts a medley of free events, including a holiday concert series, a Winter Holiday Fiesta, championship skating exhibitions, and more.

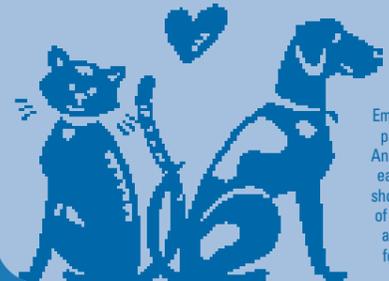
Framed by towering skyscrapers and stunning historical landmarks, the spacious rink is made possible thanks to sponsorship from Rec and Parks, and Councilmember and Club Member Jan Perry.

Centrally located in the heart of the City of Angels, the facility is easily accessible by car, bus or Metro. The convenient stop at Pershing Square Station makes getting there easy. Underground discount parking is available with validation. For more info and a detailed session schedule go to [www.laparks.org](http://www.laparks.org) and click to Pershing Square or call (213) 847-4970.



## the pet club

Your friend is waiting for you!



The City Employees Club partners with Animal Services each month to showcase some of the pets that are available for adoption.

### This Month's Pets For Adoption:

#### scooter

Scooter is a three-year-old eight-pound tan and cream male Chihuahua. He was found at the Hollenbeck Police Station – on his best behavior of course! He would love to ring in the New Year with you!

**ID #A1163730:** North Central Animal Care Center



#### juno

Juno is an 11-pound male tricolor and black six-year-old Chihuahua. He loves to play with other dogs and would make a great companion!

**ID #A1157585:** North Central Animal Care Center



#### jasper

Jasper is a four-year-old male white Havanese mix. He is a little shy but craves attention. Spoil him with your love!

**ID #A1168978:** North Central Animal Care Center



#### felix

Felix is a three-year-old 12-pound male white Chihuahua. He is a sucker for belly rubs and makes a great lap warmer on chilly nights! Adopt Felix and you will always have a snuggle buddy.

**ID #A1167355:** North Central Animal Care Center



#### spartacus

Spartacus is a five-month-old male black and white domestic shorthair kitten. He's a charmer who loves to talk! Adopt Spartacus and you'll never be bored.

**ID #A1166664:** North Central Animal Care Center



#### Meet your New Hope coordinator!



All of the great animals this month are available for adoption at the North Central Animal Care Center, 3201 Lacy St., 90031.

**Anna Hernandez** is the New Hope Coordinator, (213) 485-5767.

To see more animals available for adoption, please visit [www.laanimalservices.org](http://www.laanimalservices.org)



**Would you like a pen with your company's name on it? How about a coffee mug or a mouse pad?**

(We also do Family Reunions)

**Call 323-667-1985**

*"If you can imagine it, we can create it."*

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[rosebud@getpromos.com](mailto:rosebud@getpromos.com)

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Coffee Mugs, Pens, Watches, Clocks, T-Shirts, Magnets, Key Tags, Awards, Baseball Caps, Golf Items, Mouse Pads and More!

[www.RosebudMarketing.com](http://www.RosebudMarketing.com)

# Life's Important Moments

# Share your moments!

Did you get married? Have a baby? (Yea!) Get a promotion? (Hooray!) Retire? (Ahhhh.) 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](mailto:talkback@cityemployeesclub.com) or send paper notices and print photos to: *Alive!*, 120 West 2nd Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

## New Members

### Welcome New Members!

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

- |   |   |  |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|--|
| <p><b>Airports</b><br/>                 Bill Adrian<br/>                 James Adrian<br/>                 Michael Ahumada<br/>                 Naim Al-Amin<br/>                 Christian Alaniz<br/>                 Luis Alejandro<br/>                 Andrew Allen<br/>                 Francis Andrada<br/>                 Lizette Andrade<br/>                 Richard Andrade<br/>                 Damien Andrews<br/>                 Eduardo Angel<br/>                 Julio Aparicio<br/>                 Randy Armenta<br/>                 Artur Avetyan<br/>                 David Ayala<br/>                 Chris Azevedo<br/>                 David Baek<br/>                 Alejandro Baez<br/>                 Sergio Barot<br/>                 Michelle Beasley<br/>                 Ciro Benitez<br/>                 Hans Bergmann<br/>                 Richard Blaha<br/>                 Jeffrey Blaha<br/>                 Darin Block<br/>                 Roy Blue<br/>                 Rodolfo Bojorquez<br/>                 Greg Bonstrom<br/>                 James Bow<br/>                 Robert Briggs<br/>                 Abel Burboa<br/>                 Jennifer Camacho<br/>                 Jose Canal<br/>                 John Carandang<br/>                 Brandon Carr<br/>                 Jerry Case<br/>                 Alex Castanon<br/>                 Bartolo Castro<br/>                 Harold Caycedo<br/>                 Alexis Chan<br/>                 Imer Chavez<br/>                 Timothy Cheatwood<br/>                 George Chen<br/>                 Anan Chiang<br/>                 Richard Choe<br/>                 Tanansuk Chow<br/>                 Ryan Clark<br/>                 Huey Clease<br/>                 Harvey Coleman<br/>                 Andre Coney<br/>                 Sasheen Cooper-Battiste<br/>                 Robert Corchado<br/>                 Marlon Coronado<br/>                 Adonis Cutchlow<br/>                 Shahla Dallalzadeh<br/>                 Timothy Daniels<br/>                 Chad Davis<br/>                 Michael Dear<br/>                 Gerardo Delgado<br/>                 Roger Denniston<br/>                 Michael Desouza<br/>                 Yves Didier<br/>                 Anthony Digiorgio<br/>                 Daniel Dixon<br/>                 Thu Hong Do<br/>                 Francisco Dominguez<br/>                 Cliff Duckett<br/>                 Alberto Duenas<br/>                 Thomas Dye<br/>                 Anthony Edwards<br/>                 Shreef Erfan<br/>                 Jordan Espiritu<br/>                 Ka Man Fan<br/>                 Jesse Farber<br/>                 Faramarz Farnia<br/>                 Christopher Faytol<br/>                 Richard Flores<br/>                 Nannette Florez</p> | <p>Eric Foehner<br/>                 Sean Foley<br/>                 Robert Fortenberry<br/>                 Eduardo Franco<br/>                 Sofia Gallegos<br/>                 Raymond Galoostian<br/>                 Ernesto Garcia<br/>                 William Garcia<br/>                 Brenton Gardner<br/>                 Shaun Gardner<br/>                 Matthew Garrido<br/>                 Michael Garzon<br/>                 Eric Geihm<br/>                 Michael Gentry<br/>                 Jonathan Gomez<br/>                 Michael Gonzales<br/>                 Gabriela Gonzalez<br/>                 Heriberto Gonzalez<br/>                 Martha Hall<br/>                 Victor Haro<br/>                 Vaughndrea Harvey<br/>                 Melvarene Hayes<br/>                 Alan Hernandez<br/>                 Joseph Hernandez<br/>                 Carlos Hernandez<br/>                 Quan Ho<br/>                 Ericka Holliday<br/>                 Derrick Holtz<br/>                 Gregory Howard<br/>                 Thomas Howard<br/>                 William Hsu<br/>                 Glen Huggins<br/>                 Norm Ino<br/>                 Charles Jarvis<br/>                 Anthony Jenkins<br/>                 Maurice Jones<br/>                 Desmond Jones<br/>                 Joakim Jonsson<br/>                 Belinda Joseph<br/>                 Lacy Justice<br/>                 Clayton Kadekawa<br/>                 Daniel Keehne<br/>                 Gerard Kilayko<br/>                 Porchia King<br/>                 Kevin Kobayashi<br/>                 Michael Krishna<br/>                 Ellen Kuo<br/>                 Gerard Lagarde<br/>                 Alfonso Lagos<br/>                 James Lalicker<br/>                 Paul Lara<br/>                 William Lara<br/>                 Julius Levy Jr.<br/>                 Dana Locke<br/>                 Dana Locke<br/>                 Ramiro Lopez<br/>                 Adolfo Lopez<br/>                 Adela Lopez<br/>                 Randall Lovins<br/>                 Michael Low<br/>                 Jose Lozano<br/>                 Miguel Lozano<br/>                 Robert Mainwaring Jr.<br/>                 Shawn Maldonado<br/>                 Michael Manahan<br/>                 Andrew Marksbury<br/>                 Edward Martinez<br/>                 Ricardo Martorama<br/>                 James Mateer<br/>                 Laura Maturi<br/>                 Kevin May<br/>                 Brent McClune<br/>                 Moses McCullough<br/>                 LaWayne McFrazier<br/>                 Havon McLeod<br/>                 Roxanna Mendez<br/>                 Aletha Metcalf-Evans<br/>                 James Montano<br/>                 Everardo Montes<br/>                 Cipriano Montes<br/>                 Teresa Moore</p> | <p>Jorge Mora Jr.<br/>                 Daniel Morales<br/>                 Miguel Morante<br/>                 Juan Mosqueda<br/>                 Robert Mosquera<br/>                 Fariba Motakef<br/>                 Oweeda Newton<br/>                 Long Nguyen<br/>                 Long Nguyen<br/>                 Sean Norwood<br/>                 Thomas Nurre<br/>                 Eluterio Ocon<br/>                 Rosalia Olguin<br/>                 Bryan Ortiz<br/>                 Karla Ortiz<br/>                 Edwin Palacios<br/>                 Johnny Pan<br/>                 Sumit Pandya<br/>                 Lauren Peaks<br/>                 Thomas Pendola<br/>                 Alvenus Penny<br/>                 Julio Perez<br/>                 Clifford Perrier<br/>                 Jesse Pharr<br/>                 Richard Plourde<br/>                 Joseph Ponce<br/>                 Manuel Portillo<br/>                 Errol Priestley<br/>                 Daniel Quiros<br/>                 Dana Ramsey<br/>                 Starla Reader<br/>                 Christopher Renard<br/>                 Ryan Robinson<br/>                 Suzette Robottom<br/>                 David Rodgers<br/>                 Shawnee Rogers<br/>                 Raymond Rouzan<br/>                 Elizabeth Sanchez<br/>                 Santiago Sanchez<br/>                 Victor Santana<br/>                 Katherine Seda<br/>                 Jose Segura<br/>                 Jonray Selby<br/>                 Richard Shrode<br/>                 Shawna Smith<br/>                 Curtis Smith<br/>                 Francis Smith<br/>                 Jason Smith<br/>                 Shawn Smith<br/>                 James So<br/>                 Joseph Solomon<br/>                 Andrei Soto<br/>                 Marlon Spurgeon<br/>                 Rupert Staine<br/>                 Michael Staunton<br/>                 David Sun<br/>                 Francis Sur<br/>                 Baquar Syed<br/>                 Henry Ta<br/>                 Richard Taylor<br/>                 Earley Terry<br/>                 Eric Thompson<br/>                 Robin Tillman<br/>                 Gerardo Torres<br/>                 Rito Torres<br/>                 Pedro Uesugui<br/>                 Christopher Unruh<br/>                 Percival Valdenor<br/>                 Diego Vasquez<br/>                 Rafaela Vasquez<br/>                 Joseph Villalobos<br/>                 Dineen Villasana<br/>                 Jose Viramontes<br/>                 Loi Vuong<br/>                 Matthew Walters<br/>                 Kai Wang<br/>                 Emily Waters<br/>                 Douglas Watson<br/>                 Robert Westling<br/>                 Chad White</p> | <p>Barry Wilds<br/>                 Andrea Williams<br/>                 Eric Williams<br/>                 Michael Woodard<br/>                 Raymond Woods<br/>                 Leo Wright<br/>                 Kenneth Wroten<br/>                 Rob Yanez<br/>                 Angela Yang<br/>                 Charles Yoon<br/>                 Shane Young<br/>                 Daniel Yu<br/>                 James Zinter</p> <p><b>Building &amp; Safety</b><br/>                 Mark Casey</p> <p><b>City Attorney</b><br/>                 Estelle Braaf<br/>                 Marcia Gonzales<br/>                 Laurie Kostiv<br/>                 Rocio Martin Del Campo<br/>                 Veronica Reyes-Torkamani</p> <p><b>City Clerk</b><br/>                 Naima Pulliam</p> <p><b>City Council</b><br/>                 Leslie Benion</p> <p><b>Fire Department</b><br/>                 Philip Ayala<br/>                 Federico Delavega Jr.<br/>                 Lloyd Fukuda<br/>                 Su Huynh<br/>                 Dale LeCesne<br/>                 Oscar Martinez<br/>                 Gregory Resendez<br/>                 Carla Saturno-Robinson<br/>                 Kathryn Smith-Ball<br/>                 Shane Weaver<br/>                 Michael White</p> <p><b>Finance</b><br/>                 Joseph Hwang</p> <p><b>General Services</b><br/>                 Michael Caballero<br/>                 William Easom<br/>                 Nelson Genao<br/>                 Richard Hughes<br/>                 William Keogh<br/>                 Antonette Roberson<br/>                 Colette Wilbourne</p> <p><b>Harbor Department</b><br/>                 Weibing Chiu<br/>                 Pauline Hospe<br/>                 Stephen John<br/>                 Delfin Octoman<br/>                 Lisa Spencer<br/>                 Phyllis Yogi</p> <p><b>Personnel Dept.</b><br/>                 Monica Trevino</p> <p><b>Police Department</b><br/>                 Sophia Carr<br/>                 Angie Casarez<br/>                 Bobbie Clausell<br/>                 Ronald Code<br/>                 Jesus Cortez<br/>                 Darryl Grayson<br/>                 Ingrid Griffin<br/>                 Dawson Hill<br/>                 Kelly Kadomatsu<br/>                 Reola Kirksay<br/>                 Charles Knolls<br/>                 Miguel Lopez-Munoz</p> | <p>Debra McCarthy<br/>                 Kevin McCarthy<br/>                 Christine McGrew<br/>                 Lissa Mora<br/>                 Janet Moulin<br/>                 Sandra Platero<br/>                 Robert Pulido<br/>                 Elizabeth Reyes<br/>                 Abraham Santos<br/>                 Delia Sevilla<br/>                 Alcira Solis<br/>                 Richard Tompkins<br/>                 Eva Vega<br/>                 Carol Yarbrough</p> <p><b>Public Works</b><br/>                 Thomas Corrales<br/>                 Amy Chang</p> <p><b>PW-Engineering</b><br/>                 Peter Chiu<br/>                 Michael Sloss</p> <p><b>PW-Sanitation</b><br/>                 Edgar Garcia<br/>                 Gerald Harris<br/>                 Allan Huang<br/>                 Aerick Kendrick<br/>                 Renee Olsen<br/>                 Edwin Parker<br/>                 Ronald Pyles<br/>                 Mayra Salazar<br/>                 Craig Sawa</p> <p><b>PW-Street Lighting</b><br/>                 Sonia Isip</p> <p><b>PW-Street Services</b><br/>                 Jeffrey Fon<br/>                 Efrén Garcia<br/>                 David Joiner<br/>                 Wayne Mitchell</p> <p><b>Recreation &amp; Parks</b><br/>                 Jose Cisneros<br/>                 Steven Cline<br/>                 Brittany Harris<br/>                 Martin Perez<br/>                 Cristian Reyes<br/>                 Adam Smith</p> <p><b>Dept. Transportation</b><br/>                 Roland Barnett Jr.<br/>                 Mark Bivens<br/>                 Pauline Chan<br/>                 Renae Kuns<br/>                 Greta Stanford</p> <p><b>Dept. Water &amp; Power</b><br/>                 Bruce Johnson<br/>                 Vincent Martinez<br/>                 Raymundo Parga</p> <p><b>Retired</b><br/>                 Julia Oviedo<br/>                 Kenneth Powe<br/>                 Shirley Stapler</p> <p><b>Other</b><br/>                 Miguel Chamagua<br/>                 Lonnie Drew<br/>                 Christine Lear<br/>                 Steven Seitz<br/>                 Simon Zewdu</p> |
|---|---|--|--|--|

## 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.

### Active

- Eggleston, Steven, DWP, 30
- Gross, Jerrold, Building and Safety, 18
- Monteros, Gloria, Rec and Parks, 7

### Retired

- Anderson, Joseph, DWP, 15
- Atlas, Leonard, DWP, 27
- Banks, Wayne, Public Works, 31
- Barker, Earl, DWP, 23
- Battle, Edgar, Public Works, 18
- Baxter, William, DWP, 30
- Beasley, Alvin, DWP, 32
- Becker, George, DWP, 33
- Bishop, Mercedes, Airports, 30
- Boyer, Kenneth, Public Works, 32
- Bogart, Peter, Public Works, 8
- Breckenridge, Helen, Convention Center, 23
- Caston, George, DWP, 26
- Clifton Jr., Myrle, DWP, -
- Crofts, Charles, DWP, 30
- Curry, C.W., Public Works, 19
- Cutrone, Bernard, Public Works, 34
- Dao, Canh, Public Works, 20
- Devine, Arthur, DWP, 27
- Dewell, Victor, DWP, 27
- Edginton, Charles, DWP, 32
- Faustina, Lillian, City Clerk, 17
- Fletcher, Merlin, DWP, 21
- Gautier, Noel, DWP, 35
- Gehrig, John, Transportation, 20
- Gowing, Tommie, Public Works, 20
- Greene, Arthur, Transportation, 30
- Halajian, Garabet, Public Works, 23
- Harrison, Theodore, Airports, 32
- Hernandez, Jimmy, ITA, 38
- Hill, Melvin, Public Works, 20
- Jacobs, Ernest, Public Works, 18
- James, Katherine, City Attorney, 24
- Jones, Joseph, DWP, 26
- Juarez, Gumersindo, Public Works, 17
- Kepple, Maxell, Rec and Parks, 29
- Komarow, Dorothy, Airports, 18
- Lowkis, Andrezaj, EPD, 19
- Lujan, Henry, DWP, 37
- Ma, Joshua, Library, 29
- MacDavid, Mattie, Public Works, 11
- Marshall, James, DWP, 31
- McNutt, Alfred, DWP, 26
- Murray, Harvey, Public Works, 21
- Natividad, Barbara, CDD, 35
- Navarro, Ramon, DWP, 18
- Nay Jr., Samuel, DWP, 31
- Ondoy, Mariano, Public Works, 29
- Orosel, Joseph, DWP, 36
- Paul, Yvonne Marie, Airports, 11
- Paulsen, Lloyd, Engineering, 33
- Peachy, Thomas, Harbor, 31
- Powe, Jerry, DWP, 26
- Prochter, Harry, DWP, 31
- Rennegarbe, Louis, DWP, 27
- Rogoff, Sam, DWP, 30
- Rothenberg, Marvin, CDD, 8
- Salvitti, Caesar, Public Works, 24
- Scales, Earldon, Rec and Parks, 15
- Share, Millicent, DWP, 11
- Shaw, John, Airports, 30
- Sharrett, Margaret, DWP, 34
- Shearin, Ezra, DWP, 34
- Simmons, Clyde, Housing, 31
- Simon, Rose, City Attorney, 17
- Simpson, Raymond, DWP, 26
- Stapler, Edison, Public Works, 32
- Stuckey, Albert, LAFD, 15
- Sumi, Takashi, DWP, 36
- Sweeney, William, Transportation, 36
- Whalen, Joseph, DWP, 41
- Williams, Walker, DWP, 32
- Windemuller, Robert, DWP, 10

# Peace of Mind

## Resolve to Protect Your Family

BY TIFFANY SY

The Club's Peace of Mind Expert



As we ring in the New Year, plenty of you have made your annual resolutions. Whether it is a huge goal of running the L.A. Marathon or a tiny milestone of limiting chocolate to once a week, please consider protection of your family as one of your top priorities.

One of the ways you can do this is to check your benefits and coverage. Come visit us at the Club Store or call us. Has your family size changed? Have you purchased a home? Do you have enough coverage to leave a legacy for

your family, loved ones, or those who depend on your income?

As a general overview of Club insurance, we offer you and your family insurance for:

- Life
- Accidental death and dismemberment
- Long-term disability
- Cancer
- Long-term care
- Legal

- Pet, and
- Home/auto.

For our longstanding members and new Club Members, welcome to the City Employees Club! Thank you for your continued support in making our association what it is today. I wish you and your family a happy, healthy and harmonious 2011!

And finally, in our December issue, we gave an incorrect date for our upcoming Long

Term Care Open Enrollment period for DWP employees. The period begins May 1 and ends June 30.



Contact me at [info@cityemployeesclub.com](mailto:info@cityemployeesclub.com)

# Life's Important Moments

# Share Your Good News!



Everyone reads Life's Most Important Moments in **Alive!** Share your news... and send in a photo! Have you gotten married? Had a baby? Graduated? Has someone in your family had a quinceañera? 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.

### We're looking for:

- Weddings
- Babies
- Graduations
- Quinceañeras
- Special Achievements
- **Alive!** in the Military

Send digital photos (as high a resolution as you can send) to: [moments@cityemployeesclub.com](mailto:moments@cityemployeesclub.com)  
 OR send paper photos (please don't send the only one you have!) to:  
 Life's Moments - **Alive!**  
 City Employees Club of Los Angeles  
 120 West 2nd Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012



## Weddings

Have a photo of a recent wedding? Send a high resolution photo and the appropriate information to [talkback@cityemployeesclub.com](mailto:talkback@cityemployeesclub.com)

## Special Achievements

Have you or your children recently achieved something special? Send a high resolution photo and the appropriate information to [talkback@cityemployeesclub.com](mailto:talkback@cityemployeesclub.com)

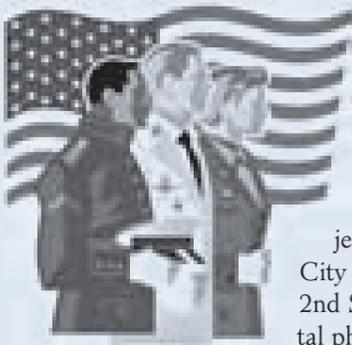
## Quinceañera

Have a photo of a recent quinceañera? Send a high resolution photo and the appropriate information to [talkback@cityemployeesclub.com](mailto:talkback@cityemployeesclub.com)

## Graduations

*Alive!* is delighted to publish graduation photos of Club members and their children. Send a high resolution photo and the appropriate information to [talkback@cityemployeesclub.com](mailto:talkback@cityemployeesclub.com)

## Military



Does someone in your extended family serve their country as a member of the United States Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines or Coast Guard? Send us a photo - either formal or on duty, along with your name, City department and relationship to the subject. Send photos to *Alive!* in the Military, City Employees Club of Los Angeles, 120 West 2nd Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012. Send digital photos to [talkback@cityemployeesclub.com](mailto:talkback@cityemployeesclub.com)

## Births

Sean Ryan Howley, born Oct. 16 to Ryan and Norma Howley. Ryan is a sergeant with the Port Police.



Have a photo of a recent newborn? Send a high resolution photo and the appropriate information to [talkback@cityemployeesclub.com](mailto:talkback@cityemployeesclub.com)

## Retirements

NAME	TITLE	DEPT	YEARS	NAME	TITLE	DEPT	YEARS	NAME	TITLE	DEPT	YEARS
Abraham, Louis	Storekeeper II	General Services	25	Johnson, Gary	Geog. Info. Sys. Supv. II	Public Works	40	Rosenheim, Devon	Council Aide IV	Council	14
Beck, Jerry	Investigator II	City Attorney	5	Kang, Nai	Database Architect	ITA	25	Samuels, Jeremy	Clerk Typist	Library	12
Crear, Bruce	-	DWP	-	Levine, Sandra	Management Asst.	Rec and Parks	24	Sanchez, Pamela	-	DWP	-
Croghan, Douglas	Signal System Electrician	Transportation	23	Lobasso, Christina	Clerk Typist	Transportation	21	Scott, Charles	-	DWP	-
Cuevas, Cynthia	Clerk Typist	LAPD	20	Maddox, Joyce	Perf. Arts Prog. Coord. II	Cultural Affairs	10	Somoza, Orlando	Parking Attendant II	General Services	10
Day, Kim	General Manager	Airports	5	Marks, Cheryl	Sr. Police Serv. Rep. II	LAPD	27	Stasiak, Robert	-	DWP	-
De Bibiana, Martin	Sr. Mgmt. Analyst II	Aging	23	McCall, James	Street Svcs. Supv. II	Public Works	25	Valdez, Ralph	-	DWP	-
Devore, Robert	-	DWP	-	Miller, Dwight	Truck Operator/One Man	Public Works	28	Van Horn, Thomas	-	DWP	-
Ezell, Charlotte	-	DWP	-	Pinero, Freddy	Rehab. Construct. Spec. II	Housing	19	Williams, Wanda	Accounting Clerk II	Airports	20
Gonzales, Patricia	Librarian II	Library	13	Pride-Anderson, Debbie	-	DWP	-	York, Marguerite	Messenger Clerk	Library	4
Hammoudian, Nancy	Accounting Clerk Supv. II	Building and Safety	10	Queen, Monika	Sr. Police Serv. Rep. II	LAPD	30	Yu, Jenny	Messenger Clerk	Library	11
Hedgers, Ruth	Clerk Typist	LAPD	5	Quinones, Anita	-	DWP	-				
Johnson, Doris	Sr. Clerk Typist	LAFD	30	Ramirez, Maria	Rec. Asst.	Rec and Parks	2				

{Who are the people you see every day?}

# People We See

in downtown Los Angeles.

No. 24 in a series.



## Meet John Fitzgerald.



- AGE:** "I'm 43."
- BIRTHPLACE:** "Philadelphia."
- WHEN DID YOU MOVE TO LOS ANGELES?** "Two years ago."
- MARITAL STATUS:** "I am single now, but I was married a long time ago."
- FAMILY:** "I have four brothers and four sisters."
- RELIGION:** "None."
- FAVORITE CHILDHOOD MEMORY:** "Getting a bike for my birthday when I was a kid."
- TROPHIES/AWARDS/MEDALS:** "As a kid, I had awards from baseball."
- WHERE DO YOU LIVE?** "Skid row."
- EDUCATION:** "I went to Strawberry Mansion High School in Philly – the Knights!"
- MILITARY:** "I was in the U.S. Navy."
- WHAT WAS THE LAST JOB YOU HAD?** "I worked in sanitation, and I was a male nurse."
- FAVORITE SPORTS:** "Basketball."
- FAVORITE FOOD:** "Potato salad."
- FAVORITE MOVIE:** "Dolemite."
- FAVORITE ACTOR:** "Steve McQueen."
- FAVORITE ACTRESS:** "Barbara Eden, from *I Dream of Jeannie*."
- FAVORITE MUSIC:** "Jazz."
- WHAT'S THE LAST BOOK YOU READ?** "*Flash Gordon*."
- FAVORITE TV SHOW:** "*Oprab*."
- FAVORITE CANDY:** "Tootsie Rolls."
- FAVORITE PLACE IN THE CITY:** "Malibu."
- IF YOU COULD WISH FOR ANYTHING, WHAT WOULD IT BE?** "A trillion dollars."
- IF YOU HAD A MILLION DOLLARS, WHAT WOULD YOU DO WITH IT?** "I'd go to Las Vegas and have some fun."
- IF YOU WERE THE MAYOR, WHAT WOULD YOU DO TO HELP THE HOMELESS?** "I would work on getting us jobs and a place to stay."
- WHAT WAS THE LAST THING YOU ATE?** "Salad, rice and a hot dog."
- WHO OR WHICH ORGANIZATION HAS BEEN THE BIGGEST HELP TO YOU?** "The St. Vincent Shelter."
- WHERE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF FIVE YEARS FROM NOW?** "Here in L.A."

*The Club gave John a McDonald's gift certificate, some cash, snacks, and a Club tote bag.*

This interview took place Dec. 14 on Main Street, between Second and Third Streets.



{ In this monthly feature, Club CEO John Hawkins and Director of Member Services Angel Gomez introduce 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. }

# 2011 Mediterranean Cruise

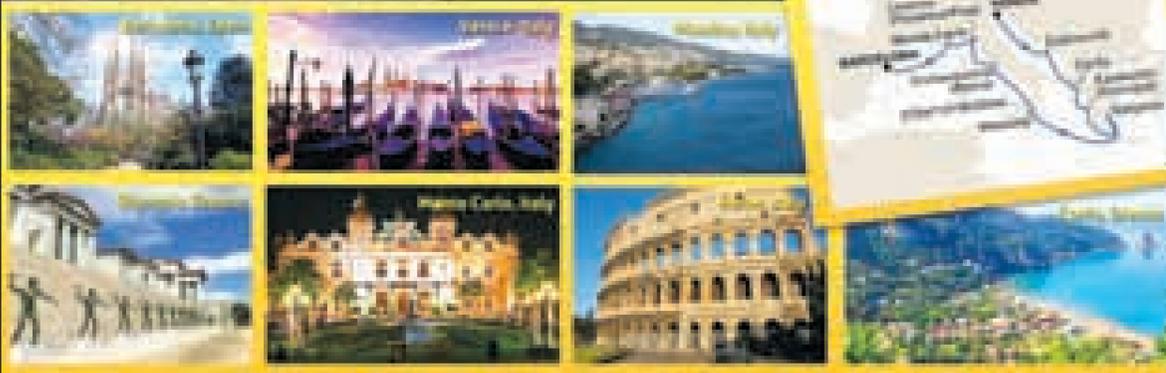
12-night cruise from Barcelona to Venice on board the Nieuw Amsterdam



**City Employees Club  
Member Exclusive Prices**

**OCT 3, 2011**

Ship Sails From - Barcelona, Spain  
and Ends in Venice, Italy



Room	Price Per Person	
	Reg Rate	Club Rate
Inside Room	\$3,219	\$1,099
Obstructed Ocean View	\$2,439	\$1,399
Ocean View	\$2,659	\$2,519
Balcony View	\$3,199	\$2,999
Suite	\$4,349	\$3,999

3rd /4th guest sharing a cabin pay \$99  
Government Fees are \$71.93 per person  
Air transportation from Los Angeles is \$1299 + \$21 air tax  
Roundtrip airport transfers are \$104

Incentives Per Cabin	
<b>Earn Shipboard Credit by Booking Early!</b>	<b>You Get</b>
Book between (Now - Feb 28, 2011)	up to \$1,000
Book between (March 1, 2011 - May 31, 2010)	\$500
Book between (June 1, 2010 - July 1, 2011)	\$100

## 12 Night Adventure at Club Member Prices

For more information on this cruise,  
please contact our Club Travel Expert

**Kristy Adler**  
Club Travel Expert  
CRUISE and RESORT, Inc.  
kadler@cruiseandresort.com  
Tel. - (818) 990-4290 or (888) 652-6400, ext. 101

CSTW2008338-40



## Blind Childrens Center



**A MODEL PROGRAM**

Inclusive environment providing specialized services for young children and their families.

All services are FREE and provided in a culturally sensitive environment.

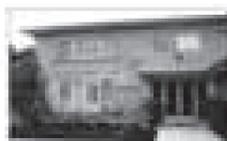
Contact the Blind Childrens Center (323) 664-2155

*Se habilita español*

- INFANT SERVICES
- PRESCHOOL
- KINDERGARTEN
- FIRST GRADE
- SECOND GRADE
- HALF DAY & FULL DAY PROGRAMS

BLIND CHILDRENS CENTER SERVICE INCLUDES:

- Teacher of the Visually Impaired
- Orientation & Mobility Specialist
- Occupational Therapy Specialist
- Speech & Language Specialist
- Music Program
- Full Time Nurse
- Social Workers
- Licensed Clinical Psychologist
- Parent Group



www.blindchildrenscenter.org • info@blindchildrenscenter.org  
Blind Childrens Center - 4120 Marathon Street - Los Angeles, CA 90009 - (323) 664-2155

# Happy New Year

From the Club!

May 2011 bring you  
health, humor and happiness.

*The City Employees Club of Los Angeles  
Celebrating the Lives of City Employees*

# Hellman Park Trail and Peppergrass Trail

— in Whittier

Walking down the hill.



**H**ello again!

To start this year, let's visit Hellman Park in Whittier.

I want to give you an opportunity to hike, jog, or bike a trail, and Hellman Park has all those options available. Hellman Park is in Whittier/Puente Hills.

The 200-acre Hellman Park offers trails into some of the most beautiful habitats in the area. Hike past the double gate with the sign pointing to the trail and around a reservoir. Then go up either the first trail encountered just as you turn right, or up the larger one marked with another small sign. This very aerobic hike travels up the mountainside by switchbacks and then to the ridgeline overlooking Sycamore Canyon, a beautiful view.

Along the way, you will see a large collection of California brittlebush, a sunflower family member with large yellow flowers in the spring. On a good day, Catalina Island is observable. Keep going, and you reach the ridge where you now look down into Sycamore Canyon.

You can return the same way or take the other trail by the water tower down as both reach the same main gate. We basically came down the way we started, except for taking a few smaller trails, not just the main road. Special note: We did see gopher snakes and rattlesnakes on the trail, so stay on the trail and be very careful where you are walking.

**The Trail:** The Hellman Park trailhead can be found one block north of Beverly Boulevard on Greenleaf Avenue, just a few blocks north of Uptown Whittier. There is a small parking lot next to the water tank, and you can't miss the trailhead map that will be your guide as you hike through the many trails. Starting at Hellman Park, you have options to hike Hellman Park Trail, Peppergrass Trail and Mariposa Trail to Rattlesnake Ridge Trail at the top of the hill.

The trails intersect each other for a 2.9-mile loop. The trail is a little steep but very manageable for most; however, the trail is very wide and you can travel the road by just walking. Lots of people mountain bike up the trail, and some fitness people actually jog this trail.

My wife and two boys were really excited to enjoy another 'Be Alive' trail. The first time it seemed harder than it really is I think because it was our first time, and we were not sure of what to expect. The second time was a lot easier.

If you want to make the trail a bit more exciting, try and go up the smaller side trails. By the way, the snakes we encountered were all on the smaller trails. However, after going up the trails three times, I noticed that most people were aware of the snakes and were not bothered.

Many people were walking their dogs, and some dogs were actually off the leash. I guess it not that big of a deal for the locals in the area.

We were very lucky to go out on such a clear day; you could see all the way to the Hollywood sign.

When you finally arrive at the water tank, you have gorgeous 360-degree views. We could see as far as San Pedro hill, and Catalina Island looked very close. We also were very surprised to see a small snake in the path. (Two days later, we met the "mommy snake" -- she was about the length of my arm and scary! My best advice is to stay on the trail and you will be fine. We also took our American bulldog Dakota, and she was breathing heavy the first time, too. The second time she had no problem and really enjoyed looking at all the other dogs.

My wife and boys loved the trail. We might go again in a week. You will like this trail very much, as there is lots to see and many friendly people to keep you coming back again.

The trail is just north of uptown Whittier. It is so close that we have already gone up multiple times. What I like the most is that you can start either way going up and still reach both water towers, and then cross from one mountain ridge across to the other. This trail is lots of fun and is a very good workout. Bring lots of water and snacks, too. If you noticed, we stopped to get some snacks.

I think anytime you can have your kids exercise and also learn about nature, you are really doing your kids a great service by opening their minds to all the beauty in the world, or at least our small piece of it.

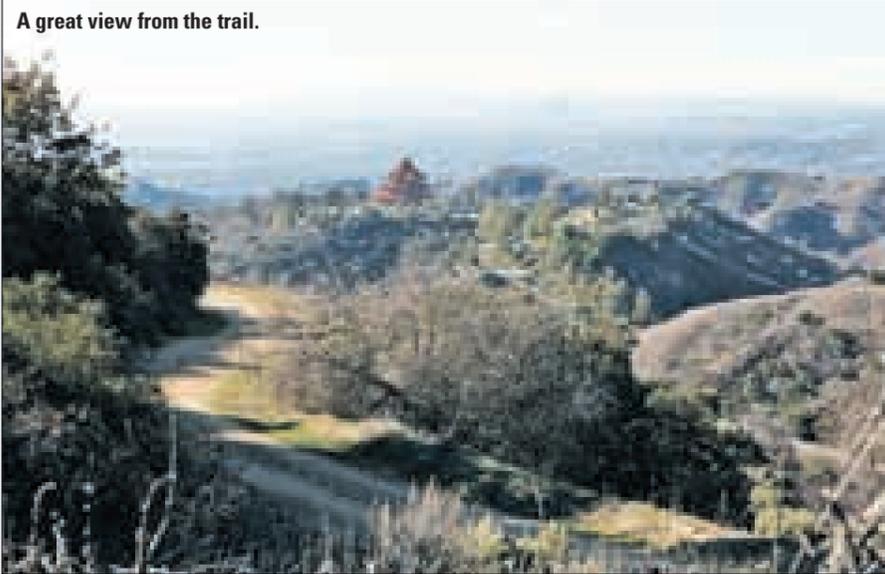
**As always,  
be safe and *Be Alive!*,  
Angel**

Send your photos to me at [agomez@cityemployeesclub.com](mailto:agomez@cityemployeesclub.com). I would love to see them!

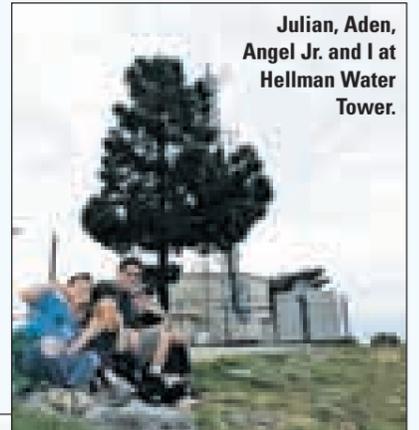


Angel Gomez, Director of Member Services

A great view from the trail.



At Hellman Park.



Julian, Aden, Angel Jr. and I at Hellman Water Tower.

Dakota, Kathy, Aden and Angel are nearly at the top.



There are lots of cacti along the trail.



Julian, Aden and Angel Jr. enjoy the hike.

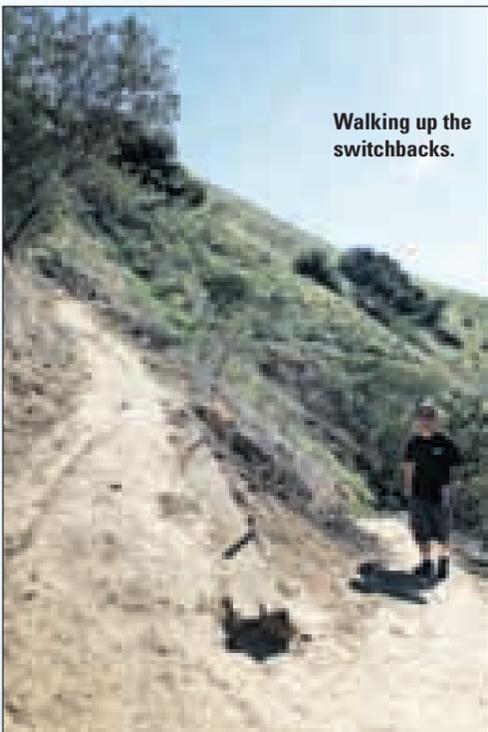


BELOW: Dakota and I at the second water tower.



Dakota and I reach the top with the famous Graffiti Water Tank behind us.

Walking up the switchbacks.



A gopher snake.



A rattlesnake.

## Hellman Park

5700 Greenleaf Ave. • Whittier, CA 90601

**HIGHLIGHTS:** 360-degree views, a Buddhist temple, and views of Catalina Island, Downtown L.A., the Hollywood sign and Mt. Baldy.

**DISTANCE:** 2.9 miles (loop)

**ELEVATION:** 2,100 feet

**APPROXIMATE HIKE TIME:** 2.25 hours, depending on your pace

**DIFFICULTY:** Moderate

**Directions:**

From I-605, take the Beverly Boulevard exit (Whittier) and go east for two miles. Turn left on Greenleaf Avenue and drive two-tenths of a mile to the park entrance.

**Parking:**

Parking is free. There are approximately 10 parking slots in the small parking area at the beginning of the trail. If the parking lot is full, you can also park on the street.

\* SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS \* SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS \* SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS

SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS

**LIBRARY**

## 'Most Interesting Man' in Fla.

After retiring to Florida, Thomas Vercher is continuing his artistry and designing.

Thomas Vercher, Retired from Graphic Designer, Library, where he was known at the "most interesting man," is continuing his artistic endeavors in Orange Park, Fla.

Last summer, he taught silk screening and other graphic skills to youths

"Through this, kids can do T-shirts, they can do little hats, they can be entrepreneurs," Vercher was quoted in the Florida Times-Union.

"I feel life, and mixing of people is like mixing shades of color, like mixing the timing and the right lighting on a photo," he was quoted as saying. "Everything is different in that time period, because all we have are memories, and you have to capture them, because when I'm blind in one eye, sitting in that wheelchair, that's all I have."



Thomas Vercher at his retirement party last year.

**PUBLIC WORKS**

## Medals, Finally

A retired engineer finally gets his World War II medals.

Last fall, Cheong "John" Lew, Retired from Public Works/Engineering's Central District, finally received what he had been working on getting for more than 25 years – official hardware to signify his achievements in the U.S. Army during World War II.

Specifically, John received two medals – a Victory medal, available to all who served during or in the aftermath of World War II, and a Japan Occupation medal, due to his service in U.S.-occupied Japan in 1946 – and three badges, for Glider Training, Marksman, and Paratrooper.

"They weren't for bravery," he pointed out, to be clear. But they recognized his well-given service to our country, and he had been trying for nearly 25 years to get what he was due. "I was taking a V.A. [Veterans' Administration] computer class recently, and they said, 'We can help you with that,'" he explained.

John served in the U.S. Army from 1946 to 1948. He retired from Public Works/Engineering in 1989.

Congrats, John, at long last.



California Congresswoman Judy Chu presents a certificate to John Lew, who's wearing his new medals.

**THE CLUB**

# Cruise With The Club!

Introducing the greatest Club event ever – a Mediterranean cruise. Act now for a great Club benefit!



This October, get ready to cruise Club style! And if you act now, you can lock in an excellent rate and a great Club benefit!

Introducing the 2011 Mediterranean Club Cruise, a fantastic 12-night adventure aboard Holland America's *Nieuw Amsterdam*. See Barcelona, Monte Carlo, Rome, Greece, Venice ... and more.

And if you book before Feb. 28, you can get \$1,000 in shipboard credit, courtesy the Club!

See the ad in this issue for all the details. Don't delay!



**Personal Finance Series**

## Financial Management Basics



Financial Management Basics is free to Active LACERS Members. It will help you:

- Develop money management skills
- Get out of debt
- Increase savings
- Gain control of credit cards
- Improve credit scores

The course also covers retirement planning and information about:

- LACERS defined benefit retirement plan
- LACERS Larger Annuity Program
- The City's Deferred Compensation plan

### Financial Management Basics

Wednesday, February 16, 2011 – 8:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.

LACERS  
360 E. Second Street, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Interested Active LACERS Members can sign-up for this course on [www.LACERS.org](http://www.LACERS.org) or by calling (800) 779-8328. Space is limited, so RSVP early.

Reserve your seat today.



Financial Finesse practices an unbiased approach to financial education so course instructors will not be selling or recommending specific products to workshop attendees.

AL ACHIEVEMENTS \* SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS \*

CLUB STORE

FINANCE

# Riding for a Cure

Congratulations to Gary Tran, Tax Compliance Officer II, Finance, for his recent 108-mile bike ride in a fundraiser to fight multiple sclerosis.

The ride took place Oct. 17 and traveled from Irvine to San Diego.

His team raised more than \$18,090. Gary raised \$1,140.01.

Here's an excerpt from an essay he wrote for *Alive!*:

"[At] the end of his welcome, the [hotel desk clerk] told me about his wife. His wife suffers from multiple sclerosis, and he genuinely appreciated the effort all cyclists put forth to raise funds for MS patients. He tearfully shook my hand [and] told me that we all had a special place in his heart. In that instant, the exhaustion, the cold, and the hunger went away. I was reminded of why we were there, what we were doing, and who we were helping."

Nice job, Gary. To donate please visit: [www.nationalmssociety.org/donate/index.aspx](http://www.nationalmssociety.org/donate/index.aspx)



Gary Tran, Finance, during his charity bike ride.

SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS \*

# Club Toy Drive Collects A Bundle!

The Club's annual Toy Drive collected more than 150 toys for the needy during the 2010 holiday season. That's incredible!

The toy bin in the Club Store was so filled that we didn't even have time to take a picture before its contents were out the door to those in need.

As it is every year, the Club Toy Drive is held in conjunction with the Central City Police Boosters, and the Club thanks them for their management of this great project. We'll see you all next year with the next Club Toy Drive.



# Newsbrief

## HARBOR SOLAR PROJECT:

The Port of Los Angeles has completed its World Cruise Center solar rooftop project, a 71,500-square-foot, one-megawatt system capable of generating approximately 1.2 million kilowatt hours of electricity annually to the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) energy grid.

The solar photovoltaic installation, which is expected to result in an annual \$200,000 energy cost savings, is the first phase of a multi-location solar power program that will eventually produce 10 megawatts of solar system generation capacity. The \$10.8 million project includes a total of 1.16 million square feet of rooftop solar panels, larger than the size of a football field. Three additional project phases are slated for completion over the next five years.

"Clean energy is essential if we are to meet the future growth and development needs of Los Angeles," said Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa. "This solar project and others being initiated within our city will not only reduce our carbon footprint, but also add meaningful new jobs to our green sector workforce."

"Solar power is one of many technologies being used at the Port of Los Angeles to promote environmentally responsible operations and development," said Port Executive Director Geraldine Knatz, Ph.D. "We are thrilled to now be harnessing the power of the plentiful Southern California sun to reduce carbon emissions, improve air quality and increase economic opportunities for Los Angeles businesses and residents."

Over the solar system's lifetime, it will reduce roughly 22,800 metric tons of carbon dioxide entering the atmosphere, the equivalent of cutting the annual greenhouse gases of 4,367 cars, according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

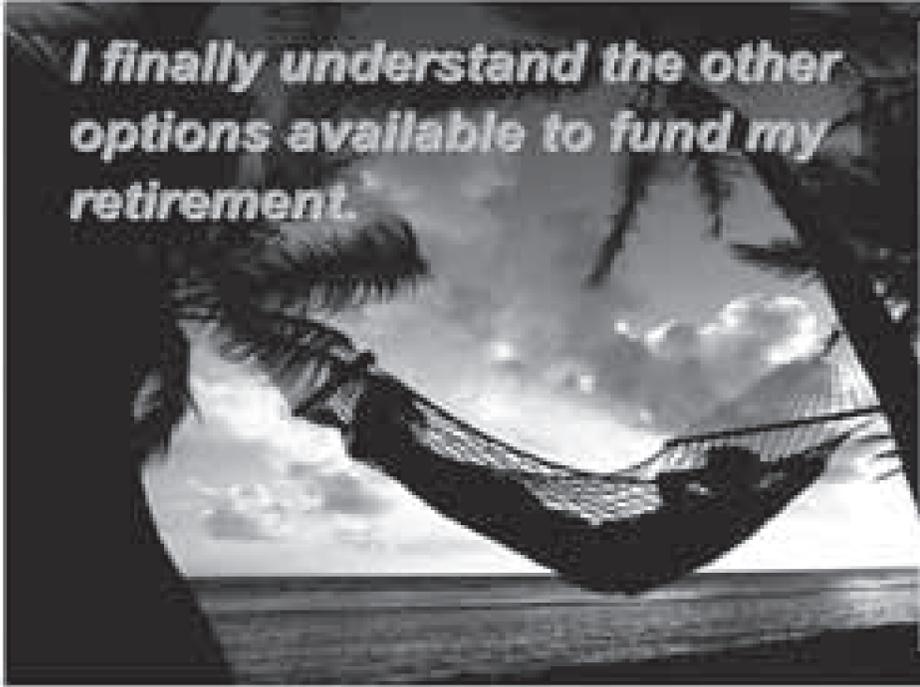
The system is comprised of 5,140 210-watt solar modules. It was installed by the Energy Alternatives Division of San Jose-based Cupertino Electric Inc. The roof-mounted system, which collects and converts solar radiation to electrical energy, features high-efficiency crystalline modules and utilizes a self-ballasted racking system that does not penetrate the terminal's existing roof. Electricity generated is then routed back to the LADWP through an existing electric meter at the World Cruise Center facility.

Home of the original "Love Boat" in the 1970s, the World Cruise Center is an inner-harbor facility just south of the Vincent Thomas Bridge. The solar panel project is part of a \$42 million upgrade at the World Cruise Center. Earlier this year, state-of-the-art walkways were installed to travel between the terminal building and cruise ships. Painting, lighting and audio-video upgrades have been completed, as well as a new fendering system and cushion-like bumpers on the wharf to protect the cruise ships and the wharf.



**Personal Finance Series**

## Investing Basics: Increasing Retirement Income



*I finally understand the other options available to fund my retirement.*

**In the Investing Basics: Increasing Retirement Income workshop you will learn about making the right long-term investment choices.**

- Learn how to research the right investments for you
- Decipher your mutual fund statements
- Get a better grasp of your personal investment style

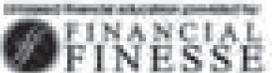
### Investing Basics: Increasing Retirement Income

**Wednesday, February 16, 2011 – 1:00 P.M. to 4:30 P.M.**

**LACERS**  
**360 E. Second Street, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor**  
**Los Angeles, CA 90012**

Interested Active LACERS Members can sign-up for this course on [www.LACERS.org](http://www.LACERS.org) or by calling (800) 779-8328. Space is limited, so RSVP early.

Reserve your seat today.

Financial Finesse practices an unbiased approach to financial education so course instructors will not be selling or recommending specific products to workshop attendees.

# CLUB SPORTS



News from Sports Leagues sponsored by the City Employees Club of Los Angeles • January 2011

## STATS

### Team Standings

(as of December 7, 2010)

	GAMES PLAYED	WINS	LOSSES	TIES	FORFEITS	TOTAL POINTS
Rec & Parks Hoopers	6	0	-	-	-	12
DOT Outlaws	5	2	-	-	-	10
Smashers	5	2	-	-	-	10
Traffic Jam	4	3	-	-	-	8
Ones & Zeros	3	4	-	-	-	6
105 West *	4	4	-	-	-1	7
LAX Ballers	2	5	-	-	-	4
Poi Dawgs	2	5	-	-	-	4
Hydropower	1	6	-	-	-	2

\* Forfeited game to replayed on later date

### Game Scores

Nov. 18, 2010		<b>8pm - North Gym</b>	
		Hydro Power	42
<b>7pm - North Gym SCORE</b>		Poi Dawgs	61
Smashers	64		
Poi Dawgs	33	<b>8pm - South Gym</b>	
		Traffic Jam	56
<b>7pm - South Gym</b>		105 West	59
105 West	33		
LAX Ballers	52	Dec. 9, 2010	
		<b>7pm - North Gym SCORE</b>	
<b>8pm - North Gym</b>		Ones & Zeros	46
Ones & Zeros	60	Hoopers	61
Hydro Power	37		
		<b>7pm - South Gym</b>	
<b>8pm - South Gym</b>		Smashers	58
Hoopers	47	105 West	44
Traffic Jam	39		
		<b>8pm - North Gym</b>	
Dec. 2, 2010		LAX Ballers	51
<b>7pm - North Gym SCORE</b>		Traffic Jam	62
Hoopers	48		
Smashers	38	<b>8pm - South Gym</b>	
		Outlaws	43
<b>7pm - South Gym</b>		Hydropower	27
Ones & Zeros	39		
Outlaws	45		

## Club Basketball League 2010

# Basketball Playoffs Nearing



Second season of Club basketball league is nearing the end.

Story by Club Staff; Photos by Tom Hawkins and Summy Lam, Club Photographers

The second season of Club basketball is coming to a close, and the playoffs are approaching. The first playoff games are scheduled for Jan. 6, leading to the finals Jan. 13. All games are played at 7 and 8 p.m.

There were no games scheduled Nov. 11 in observance of the Veterans Day holiday, Nov. 25 in observance of Thanksgiving, and Dec. 16 for a gym holiday closure.



For all the latest scores and schedules, go to:  
[www.cityemployeesclub.com/t-C2\\_Sports\\_BBall.aspx](http://www.cityemployeesclub.com/t-C2_Sports_BBall.aspx)

## CLUB SPORTS

## MORE SPORTS COMING YOUR WAY!

The Club's Sports Dept. is expanding ... and that's great news for City Employees and Club Members.  
 Here's what's coming up. Interested? Contact the Club's Sports Dude at (213) 620-0388 or [sportsdude@cityemployeesclub.com](mailto:sportsdude@cityemployeesclub.com). Information is also available at the Club's Website ([www.cityemployeesclub.com](http://www.cityemployeesclub.com), under the Sports pulldown).

**Call today!**

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**VOLLEYBALL** — Volleyball for men and women. Sign up today!

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**RUNNING** — A Club Running Group. The Club's Sports Dept. is putting together a Club Running Group. Contact the Club Sports Dept. and meet up with other Club Members who are runners.

---

**CYCLING** — A Club Cycling Group. The Club's Sports Dept. is putting together a Club Cycling Group. Contact the Club Sports Dept. and meet up with other Club Members who are cyclers (bicycles).

## Club Softball League 2010



**The Guzzlers,  
2010 Club softball  
champions!**

# We Have a Winner!

Guzzlers take the second year championship of the Club Softball League.

*Story by Robert Larios, the Club's Sports Dude; Photos by Summy Lam, Robert Larios and Tom Hawkins, Club Photographers*

The Guzzlers win! The Guzzlers win! The second season of the Club Softball League ended on December 1, 2010 with the championship game between the Guzzlers and the Enforcers. These are two

teams from Transportation. This is the second time that the Guzzlers faced the Enforcers in the championship game, and it is the second time that the Guzzlers won the title.

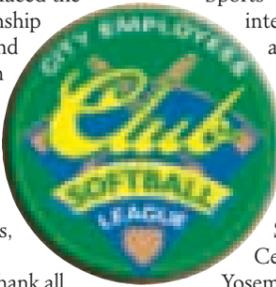
The playoffs were filled with intense games between the toughest teams, including LAX Jets, Guzzlers, Sluggers, Warriors, Hitmen and Enforcers.

The Club would like to thank all the teams and their fans that came out to

the games this year. The Club and the Sports Dude, Robert Larios, are interested in creating a fun atmosphere and most of all – memories that will last a lifetime. See you next season!

The locations for the games this season were:

Downey Recreation Center, 1772 North Spring St.; Shatto Recreation Center, 3191 Fourth St.; and Yosemite Recreation Center, 1840 Yosemite Dr.



# STATS

## Team Standings

(Team Standings as of Dec. 1, 2010 - END OF SEASON)

	GAMES PLAYED	WINS	LOSSES	TIES	FORFEITS	TOTAL POINTS
<b>West Division</b>						
Guzzlers	11	9	2	-	-	18
LAX Jets	12	9	3	-	1	17
I'd Hit It	12	7	5	-	-	14
Shockers	11	4	7	-	4	4
Bravo Tango**						** Withdrew
<b>Central Division</b>						
Sluggers	11	9	2	-	-	18
Warriors	11	8	3	1	-	17
Smooth Operators	10	4	6	-	-	8
Transformers	10	3	7	1	-	7
DOT-GERS	10	2	8	-	-	4
<b>East Division</b>						
Enforcers	11	10	1	-	-	20
Hitmen	12	10	2	-	-	20
Blue Dragons	9	3	6	-	-	6
Reservoir Dogs	9	2	7	-	-	4
Head First	11	1	10	-	4	-4

## Playoff Scores

November 17, 2010

HOME TEAM	AWAY TEAM	LOCATION/TIME
LAX Jets - 4	Guzzlers - 7	Downey Park/7:30pm
Guzzlers - 13	Sluggers - 4	Downey Park/9:00pm
Warriors - 4	Hitmen - 1	Shatto Park/7:30pm
Enforcers - 20	Warriors - 8	Shatto Park/9:00pm

## CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

November 17, 2010

HOME TEAM	AWAY TEAM	LOCATION/TIME
Guzzlers - 9	Enforcers - 2	Downey Parks/7:30pm

## GUZZLERS ARE THE 2010 CHAMPIONS!



This season's games were held at:

**Downey Recreation Center**  
1772 North Spring St.  
Los Angeles, CA, 90031

**Shatto Recreation Center**  
3191 Fourth St.  
Los Angeles, CA. 90020

**Yosemite Recreation Center**  
1840 Yosemite Dr.  
Los Angeles, CA. 90041

## TRANSPORTATION

# So Long, Rita

City veteran Rita Robinson, Transportation GM and Club Board Member, leaves the City after 33 years of service.

Story by Club Staff; Photos by Zaki Mustafa, Transportation, and Club Staff;  
Special thanks to Jasmin San Luis, Transportation

**The City came together twice in a major way to say goodbye to City veteran Rita Robinson, the former General Manager of Transportation, Sanitation and Housing (interim). She was also a longtime Club Board Member.**

**A major goodbye party was held for her Nov. 3 at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion downtown. She was also honored during a City Council meeting.**

Rita left the City after 33 years to take a position with Los Angeles County.

"The Club is grateful for Rita's leadership in keeping the Los Angeles City Employees Association strong, stable and responsive to the needs of City Employees," said John Hawkins, Club CEO, on Rita's service to the Club. "We thank her and of course wish her the best."

## Rita's Career

Rita L. Robinson was appointed General Manager, Transportation, in September 2007. She brought more than 30 years of government expertise to help find solutions to the traffic challenges that face the nation's second-largest city.

Ms. Robinson was responsible for the day-to-day operations of nearly 2,000 Transportation employees, whose mission is to provide for the safe and optimal mobility of people and goods throughout the City of Los Angeles to support economic activity and desirable quality of life. With the talented Transportation team, other transportation agencies and civic/community/business partnerships, she led the Department's innovative vision forward.

While her main focus at Transportation was to support initiatives in congestion relief, short and long-range local/regional transportation planning and acquisition of funding to implement those



projects, it was the positive working relationships she forged with City partners including the Planning and Public Works departments, LAPD and DWP. The new City of Los Angeles Bicycle Plan, construction of Transit Oriented Developments (TODs) and Mobility Hubs were three good examples. Working with federal, California State and county agencies, developers and businesses, the Department is providing alternative mitigation options and pilot programs such as "Express Park," a high tech, congestion relief parking initiative slated for July 2011 funded by a \$15 million federal grant. Improvements accomplished under Ms. Robinson's leadership include a \$150 million expansion and upgrade of the Automated Traffic Surveillance and Control system (ATSAC) scheduled for December 2010 completion and a City-wide LED signal light installation program scheduled for completion in June 2011.

As the largest municipality with four million citizens in a county of 20 million, Ms. Robinson's appointment to serve on Metro's Board of Directors provided linkage for future transportation challenges facing Los Angeles. Measure "R" projects such as the Expo Line, Crenshaw Corridor, Regional Connector, East San Fernando Valley North/South Rapidway and a "Subway to the Sea" are all potential 30/10 initiatives that will create jobs and require Transportation coordination and teamwork. Likewise, projects such as highway upgrades, bridge and tunnel projects with CALTRANS had Ms. Robinson's staff working side by side with California State engineers and planners.

Before her appointment to Transportation, Rita directed Public Works/Sanitation, which has 3,000 employees and the mission of protecting public health and the environment through legal,

efficient and effective collection, treatment, reuse and disposal of liquid and solid wastes.

As Director of Sanitation, Ms. Robinson managed a budget of \$260 million. The Bureau oversaw collection, recycling and disposal of approximately one million tons of refuse annually from about 750,000 residential customers. Additionally, the Bureau provided services to comply with regulatory mandates in the collection, conveyance and treatment of storm water. Lastly, they complied with regulatory mandates in the collection, transport, treatment, reuse and disposal of an estimated 450 million gallons per day of wastewater from four million Los Angeles residents and 30 contract agencies.

Prior to becoming Sanitation's Director in January 2004, Ms. Robinson served as interim General Manager, Housing, for one year and as interim General Manager, Transportation, for six months.

As Interim General Manager of Housing, Ms. Robinson directed a staff of approximately 500 employees responsible for housing production, rehabilitation and preservation. Ms. Robinson's major accomplishments as Interim General Manager included the development of the implementation plan for the use of the \$100 million Affordable Housing Trust Fund approved by the Mayor and City Council for additional housing opportunities within the City.

While serving as Interim General Manager, Transportation, Ms. Robinson directed a staff of 1,500 full-time and 500 part-time professional, engineering, field and clerical employees responsible for the development of programs and implementation of solutions to meet the ground transportation needs of the traveling public, as well as everyday commerce.

Ms. Robinson, a longtime resident of



## Certificate of Appreciation

Here's a Certificate of Transportation prepared for Rita Robinson and signed by George Moss, President, Board of Transportation Commission, and Bruce Iwasaki, President, Board of Taxicab Commission.

On the occasion of your retirement after 33 years of dedicated and excellent service to the City of Los Angeles, we would like to present you with a Certificate of Appreciation as a symbol of our gratitude for your unparalleled work and commitment.

"You received a bachelor of arts degree in American history and literature from Scripps College in Claremont, California.

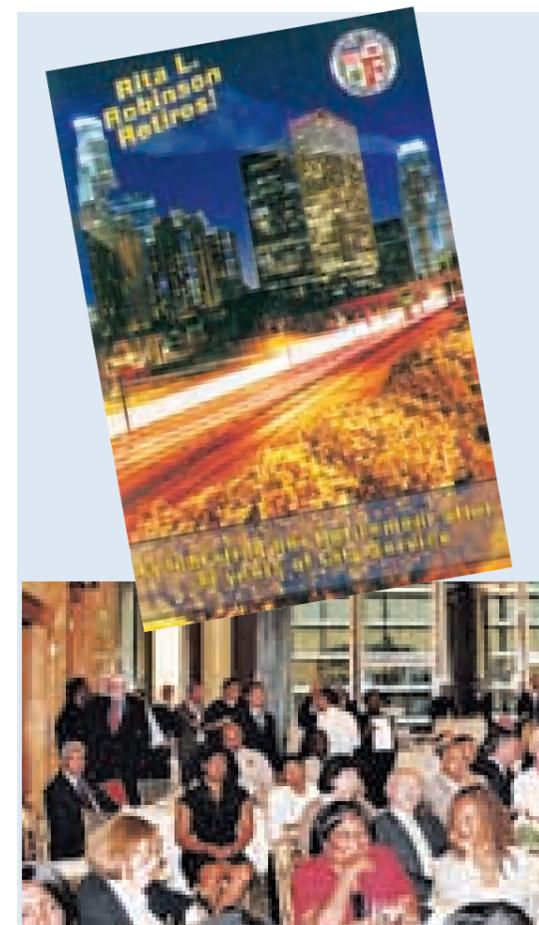
"You started your career with the City of Los Angeles Community Development Department in April 1976 as a Management Assistant. You held various administrative positions within the Community Development Department. You were promoted to Sr. Management Analyst and Chief Management Analyst within various City Departments, including the Office of the City Administrative Officer, Housing Department, and Recreation and Parks Department and successfully managed several divisions within these Departments.

"You held positions as Interim General Manager in the Department of Transportation and the Housing Department and subsequently became the General Manager for the Bureau of Sanitation and the Department of Transportation.

"Your achievements range from assisting in the adoption of a refuse collection fee for the City of Los Angeles to playing an instrumental role in major transportation, traffic congestion relief and parking solution projects for the region, and serving as a Director on the Metropolitan Transportation Authority Board.

"You received letters of appreciation from business managers, a commendation for your outstanding contribution during a proposal review process, and a Council Resolution to recognize your commitment to the City and responsiveness to community concerns during controversial and difficult situations. You are widely respected and admired by the public, your peers, management, and elected officials for your innovation, strategic vision and problem solving ability in providing leadership for the City government at all levels of operations, analyses, financial management and project delivery.

"With the approach you took in delivering for all of these Departments, you have inspired people from all walks of life and changed the way the world sees Los Angeles. On behalf of everyone in our City, thank you for your 33 years of service to the City of Los Angeles, and [we] wish you the best in your next endeavor with good health, prosperity and happiness."



# A History of Service to the City

Southern California and a 1975 graduate of Scripps College in Claremont, is a 33-year City employee and has served in a number of capacities in Los Angeles City government, including the Office of the City Administrative Officer, Rec and Parks, and the CDD. She is also a UCLA School of Public Affairs Senior Fellow for the 2010-2011 academic year.

## City Council Meeting

At a City Council meeting that took a time out to say goodbye to Rita, the following comments were made:

**Councilman Bill Rosendahl:** Rita "is widely respected among the public, her peers, management, and of course, the elected officials for her innovation, strategic vision and problem-solving ability. She provides incredible leadership for the City government at all levels. She's a straight shooter, and in politics, it's nice to have a straight shooter around who's not afraid to tell it like it is. She never feels compelled to over-promise, and she always delivers. Rita has been a dedicated leader who has helped her staff, and we as a Council navigate some of the most difficult times this City government has ever faced. For all of that and more, I want to express my sincere gratitude and wish [her] continued happiness and success in all [her] subsequent endeavors."

**Councilman Greig Smith:** "I sat here in the budget committee many times, and I said, 'I think we have two or three great managers from the City of LA,' and Rita was always at the top of that list. Rita is a tremendous manager. She's a role model for people that want to become general managers."

**Councilwoman Jan Perry, Club Member:** "Rita, it's been a joy to work with you. You've always been responsive in whatever position you've held, and you have been an expert in many fields, not just in Transportation. And I enjoyed

working with you. You've had a glorious career here in the City of Los Angeles, and I'm heartened by the fact that you're continuing your career in service."

**Councilman Bernard Parks:** Councilmembers might have "asked you the same question in 12 different ways, and you answered it the same way each time. And finally you looked up and said, 'I'm not going to lie. I'm just going to tell you what the truth is, and I'm going to say it over and over again.' And I think that's what a General Manager should do. So thank you very much."

**Councilman José Huizar:** "I value your input and all your knowledge you brought to that, and all the knowledge that you bring with you having served this City so well. The County's gain, our loss. But hopefully we'll get to still see you and call upon you to share with us your knowledge and insights. Thank you so much, Rita."

**Councilwoman Janice Hahn, Club Member:** "Your skills as a General Manager really were important because every department takes its inspiration and takes its orders from the top. And

you as a woman were a terrific role model for other general managers, but [also] for a lot of women employees in the City of Los Angeles. [They looked at you] for inspiration."

**Councilman Dennis Zine:** "I think you've served every department that the City has, [as] Assistant General Manager, General Manager [and] worker. Always [with] that smile, and always that can-do attitude to always make it happen. I wish you well."

### Rita's response:

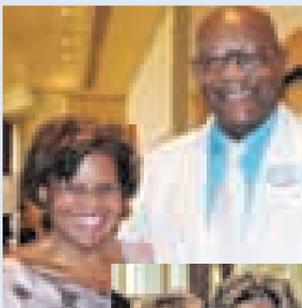
"I will always love this City. I have loved everybody that I've worked with ... Thank all of you who came today to be with me. I just couldn't be in a better place. And I will never love a family like yours. I will love the County, but I will always love my family here first. So thank you."

*The Club thanks Rita for her great and lengthy service to the association and all City Employees. Congratulations, Rita, and sail forth!*



## A Farewell to Rita

A goodbye party was held for Rita Robinson Nov. 3 at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion.



**PUBLIC WORKS**

# More at the Transfer Station

Here are a few employees we missed at Sanitation's Transfer Station.

*Story and photos by Brent Urban, Club Counselor*

Last fall, *Alive!* produced a cover story, "Man vs. Trash," that focused on Public Works/Sanitation's City of Los Angeles Recycling and Transfer Station (CLARTS) near downtown.

But we missed a few employees!  
Here are some of the rest of the good folks who keep our trash sorted and well managed.  
*And thanks to Billy Anderson for assisting us.*



Gwen Jean-Babista, Club Member.



The missing group!



Telesforo Delgado, Club Member, Maintenance Labor, 6 years of City service.



Eddie Arreola, Maintenance Labor, Club Member, 6 years of City service.



Rodolfo Torres, Maintenance Labor, Club Member.



Edgar Garcia, Club Member, Maintenance Labor, 6 years of City service.



Eddie Arreola and Gwen Jean-Babista at the weigh station.



Rodolfo Torres, Maintenance Labor, Club Member, with Billy Anderson.

**Ski Club-style**  
*(great discount)*  
**at Mountain High!**  
**- See page 5**

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<b>California Automobile Insurance Premium Survey</b>	Farmers	\$2,474
	GEICO	\$1,927
	Allstate	\$1,310
	State Farm	\$1,286
	21st Century	\$1,113
	<b>United Agencies</b>	<b>\$954</b>

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, Farmers, Ford, Progressive, Old Service Employee Insurance, Allco, Safeco, Travelers, Unigard and Entompass.

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



From left: Karen Grace and PDO Michael Ellington, Club Member.



From left: Esther Ancurios, SDO, Van Nuys, Club Member; Sgt. Stephen Maxey, Retired; and Jennifer Estrada.



From left: PDO Cheryl Walker, Club Member; Marilyn Jackson, guest; and Karen Grace, guest.



From left: Adeniyi Paris, Custodian, General Services, Club Member; with guests Ellis Hall, Jaydon Bean and Diane Lang.



From left: Cynthia Reed, SDO at 77th Division, Club Member; Shirley Westbrooks, Retired DO, Club Member; Rosalind Carroll, Retired PSR, Club Member; and Patricia Jones, Retired SDO.



From left: Alan DeLeon, PDO at Van Nuys Division, Club Member; Brenda Slaughter, DO, Club Member; and Elena and Joe Preciado, Retired DO.



From left: Bridget Jones, Sr. CT at 77th Division, Club Member; PDO Michael Ellington, Club Member; and Artillar Watts, Sr. CT at LAPD Training Division, Club Member.

# Michael Retires

Principal Detention Officer Michael Ellington, Club Member, retires from Police Dept. after 35 years of City service.

Story and photos by Arlene Herrero, Club Products Manager

A celebration was held Oct. 29 for Principal Detention Officer Michael Ellington, who retired from the LAPD after 35 years of City service. The party was held at the Police Academy.

### Here's a resolution prepared for his retirement party:

"Whereas, Principal Detention Officer Michael H. Ellington was appointed to the Los Angeles Police Department on April 7, 1975; and

"Whereas, Principal Detention Officer Michael H. Ellington was initially hired by the Los Angeles Police Department as a Station Officer, where he exemplified the highest standards in the following assignment, Metropolitan Jail Section, and

"Whereas, in 1993, Principal Detention Officer Michael H. Ellington was promoted to Detention Officer in the following assignment - Metropolitan Jail Section; and

"Whereas, on April, 1993, Principal Detention Officer Michael H. Ellington was assigned to the newly created Standards and Training for Corrections (STC) Unit of Jail Division, responsible for ensuring compliance with training standards for detention personnel set forth by the State of California's Corrections Standards Authority, where he received several commendations for his dedication in bringing Jail Division to full compliance with the State of California; and

"Whereas, on March 19, 1995, Principal Detention Officer Michael H. Ellington was promoted to Sr. Detention Officer and worked in the following assignment: STC Training Unit of Jail Division; and

"Whereas, in 1997, Principal Detention Officer Michael H. Ellington was certified as an Arrest and Control instructor and assisted in the training of detention personnel. This certification was previously only awarded to police officers; and

"Whereas, on Aug. 27, 2000, Principal Detention Officer Michael H. Ellington was promoted to Principal Detention Officer and worked in the following assignments; 77th Street Regional Jail Section, STC Training Unit and Metropolitan Jail Section; and

"Whereas, Principal Detention Officer Michael H. Ellington distinguished himself by earning numerous Department commendations for his excellence in police work, embodying the highest tradition of the Los Angeles Police Department; and

"Whereas, Principal Detention Officer Michael H. Ellington honorably retired from the Los Angeles Police Department on June 5, 2010, after faithfully serving the citizens of the City of Los Angeles for 35 years and 2 months; and

"Whereas, the Los Angeles City Council extends best wishes to Principal Detention Officer Michael H. Ellington.

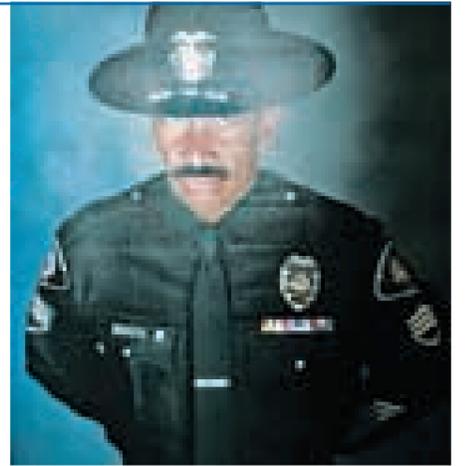
"Now, therefore, be it resolved, that by adoption of this resolution, the Los Angeles City Council commends Principal Detention Officer Michael H. Ellington for his outstanding and dedicated service to the citizens of Los Angeles and the Los Angeles Police Department, and wishes him much success in his future endeavors."

Congratulations, Michael! Enjoy your well-deserved retirement.

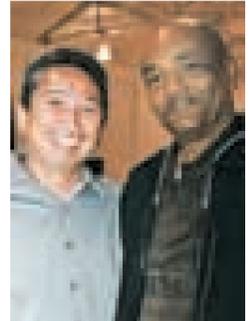
Special thanks to Laura Rangel for her assistance in producing this article.



Then and now, when PDO Michael Ellington started with the LAPD.



Guests were greeted at the door with this!



From left: George Cabarrus, MA with DWP, Club Member; and Howard Payne, Retired DO.



Jim McDonnell, Chief, Long Beach Police Department, Club Member.



From left: Patrick Findley, Executive Director of Security and Emergency Management, DWP, with Officer Pete Phermsangnam, PT/ARCON.



From left: Sandy Wallace, Utility Administrator, DWP; and D'Anna Markley, Police Administrator.



PDO Michael Ellington, Club Member; and Lt. Lydia Leos, Club Member.



From left: Joann Mitchell, Retired SDO, 77th Division, Club Member; Catalina Alvarado, SDO, Club Member; Emmer Brrus, DO at 77th; and Kris Alston, guest.



From left: Edwardo Abido, SDO; Lynn and Leonard Manaos, DO, Club Member; and John Scott, Retired PDO.



From left: Sgt. Ben Warren; Lt. Eric Coulter, Planning and Research; Don Wynne, P3, LAPD Training Division; and Sam Daughtry, "Camera Man."



Back: SDO Catalina Alvarado, Club Member. Seated, from left: Monique Jones, MA, Club Member; Teresa Haddad, Executive Assistant, Club Member; Deputy Chief Terry Hara, Personnel and Training Bureau; and Sgt. William Carter, ERG.



From left: PDO Michael Ellington, Club Member; Christine and Ben Cheung, DO, Club Member; and Wing Chan, Retired DO, Club Member.

CLUB MEMBERS:

# Be My Club Valentine

Send your sweetie a special Valentine ...  
to be printed in the February *Alive!*



**DEADLINE:**  
**JAN. 15<sup>TH</sup>**

**HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:**

Send us a photo (high-resolution digital preferred) of you and your sweetie... or just your sweetie... and two or three sentences declaring your forever love! And we'll print as many as we can.

**SEND DIGITAL PHOTOS  
AND YOUR TEXT MESSAGE TO:**  
talkback@cityemployeesclub.com  
(subject line: Valentine)



**SEND PAPER PHOTOS  
AND YOUR TEXT MESSAGE TO:**  
City Employees Club  
Be My Club Valentine  
120 West 2nd Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012



See your favorite movies at a big discount.



## COMING SOON

- The Green Hornet: 1/14
- The Dilemma: 1/14
- No Strings Attached: 1/21

Tickets can be redeemed at any AMC Theatres' location including Century City 15, Burbank 16 and Universal CityWalk 19.



**\$7.50 AMC Gold Experience tickets**  
EACH Up to a 44% discount off regular ticket price!

**\$6.00 AMC Silver Experience tickets**  
EACH Up to a 55% discount off regular ticket price!

Tickets are good for one admission to any movie at any AMC theatre in the U.S. AMC Silver Experience tickets exclude special engagements. Subject to surcharge at IMAX® and Premium locations or for Digital 3-D or other special presentations. \*Actual percentage of discount varies based on individual theatre pricing.

# REVIEWS BY FELLOW CLUB MEMBERS

# ENTERTAINMENT

## MOVIE REVIEWS



### Tangled

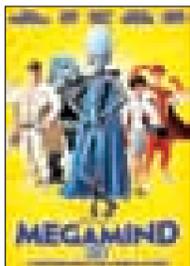
Rated G

My Score: 5 (out of 5)

If you love *Cinderella*, you will love *Tangled*! I took my ten- and 6-year-olds to see this wonderful 3-D movie. The story, the music and the characters were all great! I even liked the witch. (I'd love to have

her hair and her figure!) There is a scene in the movie where floating lanterns fill the night sky and it's breathtaking. I even cried. So, if you're in the mood for something beautiful and charming, go see *Tangled*. It's well worth the \$10 or \$12.

– Kelley Hawkins,  
Club Correspondent



### Megamind

PG

My Score: 3 (out of 5)

*Megamind* stars the voice talents of Will Ferrell, Tina Fey, Brad Pitt, Ben Stiller, Jonah Hill and David Cross.

The movie, like so many other animated films with superheroes

and villains doing right and wrong, was enjoyable, and funny from start to finish. The characters were so believable it was a good movie for the whole family.

– Pat Saucier,  
Retired



### The King's Speech

Rated R

My Score: 5 (out of 5)

This is an excellent historical drama about King George VI of Britain, father of the current Queen Elizabeth, who had a severe speech impediment. The film stars Colin Firth as the king and

Geoffrey Rush as his speech therapist. The story is told with warmth, humor and an eye to history, as the king attempts to overcome his stuttering and lead England as it prepares for World War II. Many surprises are in store for the viewer, including the several behind-the-scenes back stories regarding the royal family and English politics.

– Lou Loomis,  
Rec and Parks



### Due Date

Rated R

My Score: 1 (out of 5)

If you were thinking of seeing Robert Downy's latest venture, *Due Date*, don't bother. I was actually pretty excited to see this movie, considering I am a fairly big fan of Downy's.

After seeing Sherlock Holmes last year, I couldn't wait to see him in something else! Either I expected too much from this actor or the trailer was the only funny thing about this movie. My husband and I were actually appalled and extremely disappointed in this horrible job choice of Downy's. It was full of crude, embarrassing humor. The only thing that kept me from walking out was probably my hope that it would get better. But, it didn't! Don't bother seeing this one!

– Kelley Hawkins,  
Club Correspondent

## Book Reviews



### The Delta Sisters

Kayla Perrin

Fiction, 357 pages

St. Martin's Griffin

My Score: 5 (out of 5)

The women in the Grayson family are all Deltas, a sorority that connects them and other women of their ilk – upper crust, wealthy, cultured,

civic-minded and beautiful. But behind the façade of charitable endeavors and events brews contentious relationships between matriarch Sylvia Grayson, her daughter Olivia and granddaughter Rachel. The unforgivable was done to Sylvia; she then does the unspeakable to Olivia, who in turn does the inexcusable to Olivia. Where is the sisterhood that being in the sorority should bring? Is this family cursed and doomed to continue repeating the same mistakes from one generation to the next? Kayla Perrin has again written a great page-turner.

– Carmen Y. Steward,  
Fire & Police Pensions



### Murder in the Hamptons

Danita Carter

Urban fiction, 270 pages

Strebtor Books

My Score: 3 (out of 5)

Danita Carter uses her love for fashion and penchant for writing about high society black people to bring to life the characters ensnared in *Murder in the Hamptons*. Rapper TuSmart purchases a mansion in the exclusive enclave of Coco Beach, where only the richest of the rich blacks live. Hoping to gain acceptance by the community, he throws a white and platinum party aboard a resident's yacht. Someone ends up overboard and drowned, and this whodunit is filled with well-dressed suspects, most of whom turn their noses up at anyone from the wrong side town and not wearing the correct designer labels. The conclusion falls flat and grows a little tedious as the writer tries to keep the culprit's identity a secret. But it's still a fun read.

– Carmen Y. Steward,  
Fire & Police Pensions

## DVD Reviews



### About a Boy (2002)

Rated PG-13

My Score: 4 (out of 5)

This tough but touching comedy, adapted from a book by Nick Hornby, could have taken the least challenging course – little tension, humans making life changes with the snap of a finger, or easy rich

sloucher bachelor jokes akin to *Two and a Half Men*. But it does none of those things.

In this story about rich bachelor Will (Hugh Grant) who inherited his fortune from a father who wrote a meaningless Christmas song (think Rudolph or Frosty), there are some scenes that are so emotionally tough they made me almost want to turn away. In a Hugh Grant movie! Will's pathetically empty life comes into sharp view when he meets the son (Nicholas Hoult) of a troubled woman (Toni Collette) whom he tries to bed in another meaningless encounter. The boy has troubles of his own, and somehow, somehow, the man and the boy come to rich and surprising terms. It's the difference between a movie with a big star that chose to take real emotional chances, as opposed to a TV show with a real big star that takes almost none. This is a very underrated and satisfying movie.

– John Burnes,  
Alive! editor



### Winter's Bone (2010)

Rated R

My Score: 5 (out of 5)

I had been recommended to see this independent movie by friends on the strength of its quality, but also because it was shot in my home state (Missouri). Well, the God-forsaken Ozarks in this movie seem

two worlds away from my life growing up, but enough about me.

Unless you see something this Oscar season that I didn't, you won't see a tougher movie emotionally. *Winter's Bone* is about Ree (Jennifer Lawrence), a young teenager who's caring for her mentally incapacitated mother and two younger siblings amidst rural squalor and bleakness. When her absent father skips bail and the bail bondsman comes to take the family homestead away, Ree must find her father and bring him back to the law.

Believe what you've heard about this great movie. It pulls no punches and features one eye-opening performance after another from actors you have never heard of. Don't rent this so you can have a disposable evening. Rent it because you want something that will stick in your mind for a long time.

– John Burnes,  
Alive! editor



### Vitus (2007)

Rated PG

My Score: 5 (out of 5)

I am an avid lover of foreign films. I have many favorites, but I think I just found my latest. It is called *Vitus*. It was exceptional! I recommend it to people of all ages. In fact, I am going to get it again and have my

kids watch it. You have to read subtitles because it is a German movie, but it's so good you forget early on that you are even reading them. It's about a piano virtuoso who happens to be a young boy about the age of 12 or 13. He has this incredible relationship with his grandfather that leads to great adventures. It's hilarious at times, serious and so heartwarming that, if you are anything like me, will bring you to tears. If you aren't a fan of foreign, independent films, make this *the* only one you watch, and I promise you will love it.

– Kelley Hawkins,  
Club Correspondent



## Theatre Reviews



### West Side Story

Musical

At the Pantages Theatre  
(closed Jan. 2)

My Score: 5 (out of 5)

The Broadway revival tour of *West Side Story* is on, and has started at the Pantages Theatre in Hollywood. Those of us who have seen the film know the story, music and dancing, but what is not familiar is the way this production shows the viewpoint of the Puerto Rican families by including some dialogue and songs in Spanish. The effect is stark, powerful and, on some level, much more real than the film.

Locally, the tour will include San Diego and Costa Mesa. It should not be missed.

– Lou Loomis,  
Rec and Parks

## Your Reviews

You can be a reviewer! Have you just seen a great movie or DVD? Read a great book? Been to a great play or musical? Write a brief review. It's easy! See the instruction box.



## 100 Words or Fewer

Here's how to submit your review. *Alive!* accepts entertainment reviews of 100 words or fewer. We might not print them all, especially if we receive multiple reviews for the same movie or DVD. Follow these rules:

- For movies: Make sure the movie is still in theatres. For DVDs and books, make sure they are generally available. For theatre shows: try to submit your review before the show closes.
- All reviews must be written by you (not taken from another source) and exclusive to *Alive!* (not offered to another outlet). Violations could end your ability to be published in *Alive!*
- Have fun!
- Keep all reviews to 100 words or fewer, but try to write more than one or two sentences.
- Your own comments are more important than a long plot summary.
- Give us your score on a scale of 1 to 5. Use this format: **My Score: X (out of 5)**.
- Make sure you give us your name and City department (or retired).
- Submit your review to: talkback@cityemployeesclub.com
- *Alive!* will send you a small but appropriate "thank you" if we publish your review.

# Cooking with the Club

by Chef Robert Larios



# 100<sup>th</sup> Alive!

SPECIAL EDITION

## Super Duper Nachos

### DIRECTIONS:



1 Before you begin cooking, always have your ingredients washed, dried and prepped.



2 Take a skillet or nonstick pan and add the olive oil, then the minced garlic, onions and chicken. Let cook until browning is observed.



3 Place a layer of white tortilla chips on a large plate. Add some of the chicken mixture on top of chips. Add a layer of cheese. Then add a sprinkle of green onions and some of the salsa and refried beans. After that add a layer of blue corn tortilla chips. Continue with these steps until you run out of ingredients.

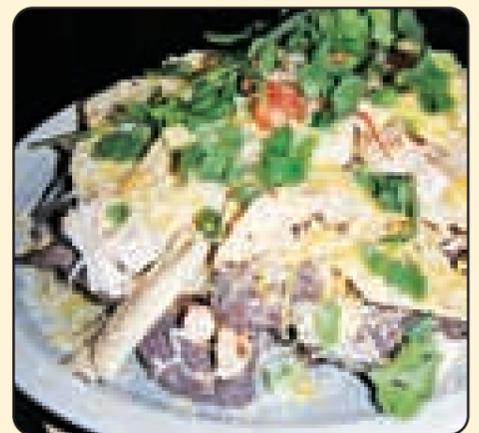


4 Once you've used all your ingredients, check to see if the cheese needs more melting. If so, place in an oven or microwave to melt the cheese further. Add some cilantro.

Just in time for football playoffs – a nacho recipe! And not just any nachos – super duper nachos.

There is a wide variety of nachos recipes. Some call for ingredients like shrimp, beef, chicken and even fish. Others include green salsa or black olives. What makes nachos, nachos is that they must have salsa, cheese and tortilla chips. If you have ever been to a baseball or football game, concession stands will have tortilla chips, cheese and salsa available. You may even be lucky enough to be offered jalapeños.

In this recipe, the ingredients are available from most markets and the steps are easy. What's incredible is the flavor! You'll love it! It's all about layering the ingredients on top of each other... much like you would with lasagna. Feel free to add black olives, sour cream, green chilies or my favorite – jalapeños.



### Super Duper Nachos

#### INGREDIENTS:

- 1/2 large tomato, diced
- 4 cloves garlic, chopped
- 1/4 cup extra virgin olive oil
- Sea salt and pepper to taste
- 6 green onions, diced
- 1/2 medium white onion
- 1 cup salsa (preferably pico de gallo)
- 1/4 cup cilantro
- 1 cup shredded cheddar and Monterey Jack
- 1/2 cup refried beans
- 1 package already cooked chicken breast
- 1 bag white or yellow tortilla chips
- 1 bag blue tortilla chips

Makes 4 Servings



#### Cooking TIDBIT:

If you can't find white or blue corn tortilla chips you can find, preferably without salt added to the chips. You'll have very salty nachos if you do.



### [ A Cook's Dictionary ]

#### Nachos:

A crisp tortilla chip topped with melted cheese (usually cheddar) and chopped chilies, usually served as an appetizer or snack. Nachos sometimes appear on menus as "Mexican pizza," in which case they generally have additional toppings including cooked, ground chorizo, onions and sometimes olives.

- From the *The New Food Lover's Companion*, Sharon Tyler Herbst, 1995, Barron's Educational Series.



Chef Larios says, "Enjoy!"

## Send Us Your Recipes!

If you would like your recipe published in the next issue of *Alive!*, you may fax your recipes to (213) 620-0398 or e-mail us at [talkback@cityemployeesclub.com](mailto:talkback@cityemployeesclub.com)



Food Factoid:

"Dig the well before you are thirsty."

- Chinese Proverb

# CLASSIFIED ADS



# Alive! Members Marketplace

## New Ads This Month!



### Truck parts for 1995 Chevy:

One air-conditioner part & one exhaust system part. If you can figure out what they are & offer a negotiable price, call Marieta @ (626) 912-6195. 1/11

**1996 Oldsmobile Ciera SL:** "as is", 118K miles, maroon color, V6, very clean, power windows, 4 door, tinted windows. Runs great!!! \$2,000 (Kelley Blue Book). Linda @ (310) 833-6801. 1/11

**Exercise Machine:** Elliptical Pro-Form 15-5S, good condition, asking \$250 but will take a reasonable offer. Jaime @ (310) 955-8871. 1/11



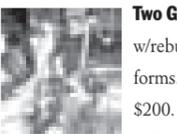
**For Sale:** Mobile Home, canyon & ocean views, San Clemente north, Orange County. Large lot, 3BD, separate dining & large living area w/views. Senior park w/pool, sauna, spa, exercise room, etc. \$299,000. Beth Larranga: rosel@caltech.edu 1/11

**2008 Mercedes R350,** 18K miles. Like NEW, excellent condition, under warranty. Harman Kardon sound, dual-rear dvd system, moon roof, parking sensors, extras. \$36,000. Shelley @ (213) 688-3232. 9/10



**Two Go Peds,** 2 stroke engine w/rebuilt carbs & new platforms. \$125 each or both for \$200. John @ (626) 757-5341 or jgonzlez@hotmail.com 8/10

**2000 Toyota Tundra Truck:** Long bed, 84,500 miles, manual windows, A/C, bed liner, needs minor body work. \$5800. OBO. Rudy or Linda @ (323) 255-0237 or ulibarriady@yahoo.com. 12/10



**2008 Dodge Avenger:** great condition, 37K miles, automatic, A/C, power windows & doors, mp3-jack, blue-tooth enabled, tinted windows, no accidents, gas-saver 4-cylinder, \$9K. Brent @ (310) 420-0092. 12/10

### Cemetery Plots

**4 Cemetery plots:** Reduced!!! Rose Hills, \$14,000 for 4 plots. Willing to trade for pickup truck of equal value. (323) 382-2405. 9/10

### Electronics/Computers

**Apple Macbook Pro:** Core Duo Laptop computer. 1.83 ghz, 1.5GB RAM, 80GB HD, 15" 128VRAM 10.5.8 OSX. Great condition, will sell for \$1,000. Orig price was \$2,500 w/upgrades. Larry @ (818) 521-3517 or trueblue22@sbcglobal.net. 12/10

**Polaroid 7" LCD TV** widescreen, under cabinet w/ DVD-CD player AM/FM radio & remote. \$125. Regina @ (323) 754-8382. 2/10

**Canon Pixma IP 4300 Printer** in box with disk/instruction & ink. Like new, asking \$60. Contact Frankie @ (818) 340-3059. 8/10

### Furniture

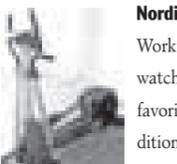
**Mobile Wheelchair:** Excellent condition collapsible for easy transportation. \$800 O.B.O. Call Mark @ (909)322-5140 or tspgtr@msn.com. 12/10



**MGA 20" girl's bike:** custom seat, grips, bell & light. Like new. \$85 OBO. Info @ (310) 408-6431, any time. 11/10

**Bombay Chests:** 3 excellent condition Bombay Chests. Beautiful decorative designs w/3 to 5 drawers. Each \$350. Frances @ (805) 583-5321. 10/10

**Curio Cabinet:** Excellent condition oak 2-piece curio cabinet w/glass doors, decorative w/curved legs. Has original key for locking. Great for displaying collectibles! 48" W x 18" D x 6' H. \$350 OBO. Frances @ (805) 583-5321. 10/10



**Norditrac CX938 Elliptical:** Work out at home while you watch TV or listen to your favorite music! Excellent condition. \$450 OBO. Alicia @ (626) 215-1462. 9/10

**Weslo Cadence C42 treadmill:** 2 years old. Great condition. \$65. Judy @ (909) 800-0414. 9/10

**Hammond Organ:** dual-key board, antique. FREE to good home. Mickey Miner @ (310) 833-9997 or David Miner @ (310) 519-8113. 8/10



**Handmade oak Loft Bed with Desk and Bookcase:** 43" wide x 81" long. Same size as twin bed set, great for smaller rooms. Birch drawers are dovetailed with sliders. Must see to appreciate. \$1000 OBO. Nancy or Jim @ (818) 340-8059. 8/10

### Homes/Rentals/Land

**For Rent:** 1BD/1BA front unit of 4-plex in Inglewood near Inglewood Ave/ Manchester Blvd. \$900/mo. Marco @ (310) 946-5066. 12/10

**For Rent:** Lovely apartment in Inglewood (4-units). 1BD/1BA, kitchen, living room, dining room, 1-car garage. Upstairs unit. New paint, carpet, windows & fixtures. Very quiet. \$2nd/Crenshaw. Close to public transpo. Info @ (310) 365-1868. 12/10

**For Rent:** Clean 2BD home w/garage. 1 block to bus stop & close to 710 freeway. \$1,500/mo. (310) 678-5510; (310) 877-2201. 12/10



**Kauai:** Ocean-front resort close to airport on secluded 25 acres available yearround! Ocean-view from lanai. Relax at the pool or travel to snorkeling beaches(20 min.) or the island in an hour. Mention City of LA.kauaivc@gmail.com or (424) 218-6808. 12/10

**For Rent:** 2BD/1BA (3 Units), hardwood flrs, laundry, in Pico/Fairfax community. Lovely neighborhood centrally located. Public transportation, shopping & restaurants nearby. Info @ (310) 980-9415. 11/10

**For Rent:** \$695, furnished Redondo Beach bedroom in 3BD/2BA townhouse; shared bath. 1.2 mile walk to beach. Available now for a female in female household. Full house privileges, low utilities, street parking, free wifi & laundry. \$695 security deposit, 6 mo. lease. Peggy @ (310) 617-7436, for photos. 11/10

**For Rent:** Condo in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico. 7-Day Getaway for only \$895. Has full kitchen, is a couple of blocks from town & on the beach. Info @ (562) 301-2940. 10/10

**For Rent:** 1 BD apt. near First/Alvarado, 10 min. from downtown, close to schools, parks, markets, stores, St. Vincent Hospital. Newly cleaned, painted & repaired, one-car garage. No pets; 1-yr. lease. \$750/month. Info @ (323) 919-1163. 10/10



**For Sale:** 2-story home w/hillside views, Eagle Rock. Hrdwd floors, 2-car attached garage. Upstairs: 2 BD/2 BA, living room w/fireplace, formal dining w/balcony, kitchen w/ nook. Downstairs: 2 private entrances, 2 BD/1 BA, den w/fireplace, kitchen & spacious porch. Flat front & rear yards. 2224 sq ft; 6 miles from JFB. MLS#10-473669. Susan @ (323) 344-9489. 10/10

**For Rent:** studio apt. in Highland Park. 5-10 mins. from Police Academy, off Pasadena Fwy. Near markets, stores, MTA and Gold Line. Courtyard. Hardwood floors, much new. Street parking. No pets; 1-yr. lease. \$700/month. Info @ (323) 919-1163. 10/10

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**For Rent:** Condo in Palm Springs- for rent weekly or week-ends. Gated community, 8 swim pools, tennis court, near shopping, restaurants & Spa Casino Resort. Rates @ (562) 301-2940. 10/10

**For Rent:** In Montrose- 1 BD/1 BA house, good schools, nice & quiet neighborhood. walk to Montrose shopping park. \$1,200 monthly. Info @ (818) 248-7758. 10/10

**For Sale:** Luxurious 1 BD timeshare in the heart of the Las Vegas strip, in Polo Towers Villas. Several amenities: full kitchen, sleeps 4 comfortably, DVD/VCR & private balcony. Best offer! Angela @ (626) 233-5259. 10/10

**For Rent:** Spacious Townhouse in Ontario. 3 BD, 2.5 BA, dining & laundry room, & attached garage. Large enclosed outdoor patio. \$1400. Info @ (562) 322-6972. 10/10

**For Rent:** Lovely apartment in LA(5-units). 1 BD/1 BA, kitchen, living room, dining room, 1-car garage. Downstairs unit, new paint, carpet, windows & fixtures. Very quiet on Don Tomaso Dr., close to public transportation. Details @ (310) 365-1868. 9/10

**For Rent:** Small 5 room, 2 BD Rear House, 2924 S. Cloverdale Avenue, 90016. \$950 per month, (323)937-8390. 8/10

**For Sale** by owner: 10 acres in Acton, graded, water & power. Ready to build \$249K OBO. Bill @ (661) 400-9893. 8/10



**Vacation rental** in Big Bear Lake: 3 BD/2 BA house located in the village of Big Bear Lake, CA, near the lake. Fully furnished. Contact John Long @ (909) 837-8347. 8/10

**Room for rent:** Furnished w/kitchenette, \$450/mo. No pets, no smoking, utilities included. Commute to work w/city employee. Call Marta @ (562) 863-4545. 8/10

**Room for Rent:** Whittier, extra large bedroom furnished in 3 bd home, share full bathroom w/other male. Bedroom: comfortable amenities -satellite, wall speakers, custom closet, etc. Near 605 & 60 Fwy in CA Country Club, quiet community surrounded by law enforcement neighbors. Firefighter owned home with 17 yo son. Male preferred, background check fee, plus references required. \$600 mo. & share in house cleaning. John @ (626) 757-5341 or jgonzlez@hotmail.com 8/10

**For Rent:** Charming Sunland Home. 10417 Eldora Avenue, Sunland. 2BD/1BA, kitchen comes w/fridge & stove, W/D in back. Fenced in front yard, private parking. Location off Sunland Blvd. Close to transpo, school, park w/ recreational facilities, etc. \$1395 per mo. Security deposit \$1995. Small pets welcome w/owner's approval. Contact @ (818) 352-8731. 8/10

### Household Items

**Craftsman 10" Table Saw:** 1 H.P. Motor, safety switch. 120V A/C mounted on heavy-duty steel cart w/casters. Delivery available, from Thousand Oaks to Northridge. Kurt Kaufman @ (805) 300-2147. 10/10

**Leather Jacket:** Brand new, 2XL, men's official #8 Team Dale Jr. Earnhardt Inc. New w/tags, retail \$300. Made by Wilson's Leather, Chase Authentics; sponsors stitched on, Budweiser, Bass Pro Shops, Gillette. \$150 OBO. Frances @ (805) 583-5321. 10/100

**Kenmore Dryer:** Super capacity, like new, hardly used \$150. Info @ (562) 301-2940. 10/10

**Outside Water Heater Enclosure** in orig. box unopened. \$90. Contact Frankie @ (818) 340-3059. 8/10

**H2O Mop** w/extra covers & instructions \$50. Contact Frankie @ (818) 340-3059. 8/10

### Miscellaneous

Enjoy ATV & m/c riding in our area but no one to ride with? Making list of families interested in **camping & riding** together. Rick (DWP) @ (805)433-3195 or email: rhinohd@dslex-treme.com. 12/10

# FREE CLASSIFIED ADS FOR CLUB MEMBERS

**MEMBERS: to place your free classified ad** send us your information **(25 total words maximum)** including your name, item, description, price, phone number or e-mail address.

You can fax to (213) 620-0598 or email to **classifieds@cityemployeesclub.com** We'll run your ad in the next available issue on a space available basis. Your ad may be edited for length or appropriateness.

**Opportunity** for Holiday CASH! Self starter who is motivated. No selling. (800) 823-9407. 12/10

**Ballroom Dancing:** Beginners, intermediate & advanced. Wednesday's- 7:00pm - 9:00pm The Gallery, 122 N. Market Street, Inglewood 90301. Group workshops too! Contact: Dance instructor/coordinator Erick Weaver @ (310) 351-5303. 10/10

**Scenic Flights Over LA:** Fly Ricchiazzi Aviation, LLC over the city of LA for a spectacular aerial tour. See local landmarks such as Downtown LA, Dodger Stadium, Rose Bowl & much more. Based at El Monte Airport (EMT). Reserve today. (818) 415-7253. 9/10

**Feng Shui onsite consultation:** by retired City employee. American Feng Shui Institute certified report package include rooms, occupants, goals, health, buy/sell analysis. Peter @ (310) 854-8952. 9/10

**On-site Taco Bars** for your special events. Treat your guests to mouth watering tacos! Info @ (562) 884-6069 for pricing & booking. 9/10

**All Occasions DJ!** Are you seeking a great, affordable, DJ for your special event? \$ Is Tight but we still need to DANCE! DJLEWSIC@aol.com 12/09

**Driver:** Luxury SUV available for all occasions. Affordable & comes with a DRIVER. Hurry, dates and times are going fast! LEWSIC@aol.com 12/09

### Travel / Timeshare

**Escondido Timeshare** for sale. Studio suite 1 Bdrm; sleeps 4 w/ full kitchen; overlooks 18 hole golf course. \$3,000. Brad @ (626) 297- 2924. 11/09

### Collectibles

**ESTATE SERVICES** - Appraisal or Liquidation of Fine Art, Collectibles and Coin & Stamp Collections. Michael @ (626) 592-2929.

### Wanted

**I purchase:** Coins, Stamps, WWII Items, Hunting/ Pocket Knives, Trains, vintage tools, Fishing reels & lures, Almost anything old! Collections or single items. Michael @ (909) 592-4332 1/10

**Vintage stereo/Radio equipment, Receivers.** Marantz, Yamaha, etc. 1975 and older. Call (805) 300-2147 7/09

**Wanted: Your Childhood Barbie Dolls and Clothes.** I collect dolls from 1959 - 1966 and pay top dollar! I will buy 1 - 1,000 dolls. Clothing, structures, cases. Anything vintage Barbie! Cheryl @ (818) 771-4835.

**Wanted: YOUR TOY TRAINS,** any age, any size. Mike @ (818)-831-0846.

Visit us online at [www.CityEmployeesClub.com](http://www.CityEmployeesClub.com)



# City Employees Club Store

## Monthly Featured Merchandise

Available Exclusively to Club Members

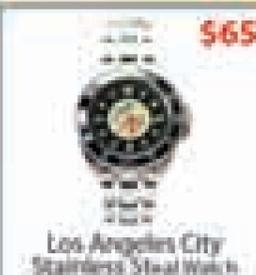
### Special of the Month

**- Clearance Sale -**  
**Inventory Reduction**  
**Starts January 10th**

#### Club Hats

 <p><b>\$19.99</b> City Fleece Beanie <small>(Assorted Colors Available)</small></p>	 <p><b>\$8</b> City of Los Angeles with City Seal</p>	 <p><b>\$8</b> City of Los Angeles with Script</p>
 <p><b>\$8</b> City of Los Angeles B-Label Hat</p>	 <p><b>\$10</b> City of Los Angeles with Departments</p>	 <p><b>\$8</b> (DWP) Department of Water and Power Hats</p>

#### Club Watches

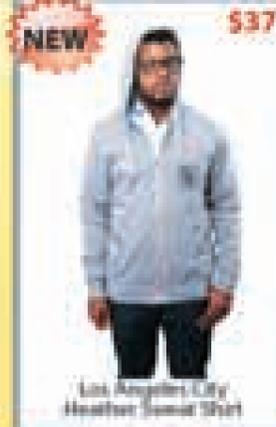
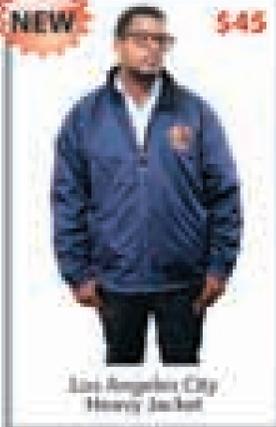
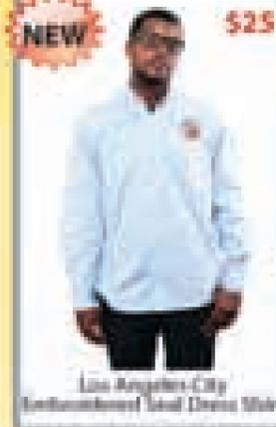
 <p><b>\$65</b> Los Angeles City Stainless Steel Watch</p>	 <p><b>\$25</b> Los Angeles City Classic Leather Band</p>	 <p><b>\$45</b> DWP Classic Seal Watches</p>
 <p><b>\$28</b> Los Angeles City Women's 18K Black Leather Band</p>	 <p><b>\$64.99</b> Los Angeles City Women's Classic Service Watch</p>	 <p><b>\$1 - \$1.50</b> Make your items a gift with the LA City Hall Gift Bags</p>

#### Club Accessories

 <p><b>\$5 - \$9.99</b> Los Angeles City Ceramic Mugs</p>	 <p><b>\$12.99</b> Los Angeles City Stainless Steel Travel Mug</p>	 <p><b>\$12</b> Los Angeles City Wall Clock (10")</p>
 <p><b>\$14.99</b> City of Los Angeles Tie Bar</p>	 <p><b>\$34.99</b> City of Los Angeles Computer Bag</p>	 <p><b>\$5</b> Los Angeles City Seal Key Chains</p>

#### Club Apparel

More Merchandise Online at [www.CityEmployeesClub.com](http://www.CityEmployeesClub.com)

 <p><b>\$8.99</b> City of Los Angeles Kids T-Shirt</p>	 <p><b>\$15</b> DWP Classic T-Shirt Long Sleeve</p>	 <p><b>\$19.99</b> Women's Los Angeles City Polo Short Sleeve</p>	 <p><b>NEW \$37</b> Los Angeles City Heather Sweat Shirt</p>	 <p><b>\$17.99</b> Women's Los Angeles City Embroidered City Seal</p>	 <p><b>NEW \$35</b> Los Angeles City One Color Heavy Fleece Hoodie</p>
 <p><b>NEW \$45</b> Los Angeles City Heavy Jacket</p>	 <p><b>\$12</b> Los Angeles City Classic T-Shirt</p>	 <p><b>\$10</b> Women's Los Angeles City Classic T-Shirt</p>	 <p><b>NEW \$25</b> Los Angeles City Embroidered Seal Dress Shirt</p>	 <p><b>\$30</b> Women's Los Angeles City Full Zip Polar Fleece</p>	 <p><b>\$12</b> DWP Seal T-Shirt</p>





# 2011 Mediterranean Cruise

12-night cruise from Barcelona to Venice on board the Nieuw Amsterdam

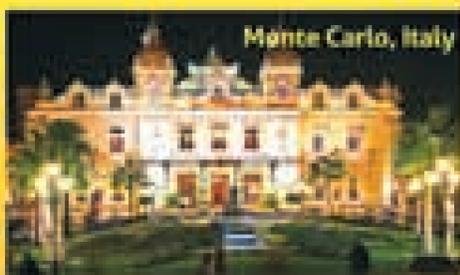
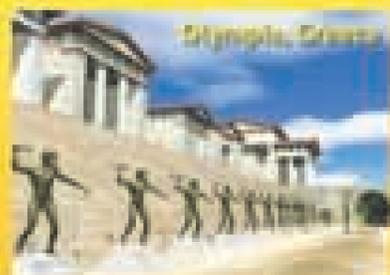
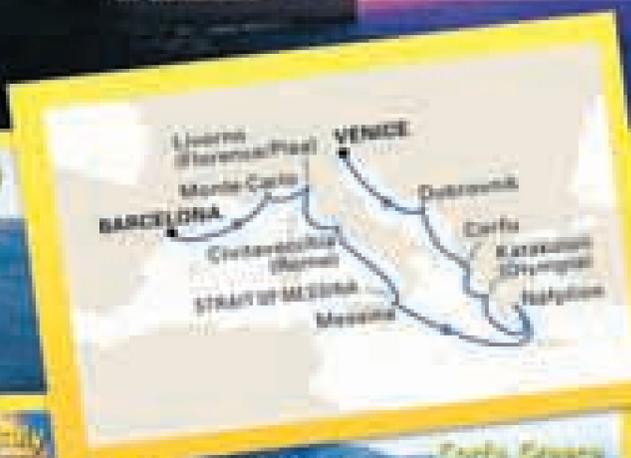
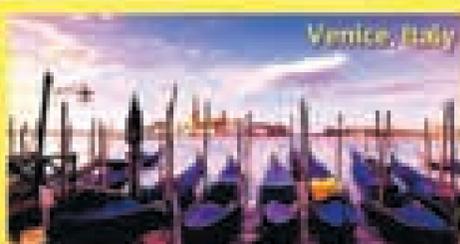
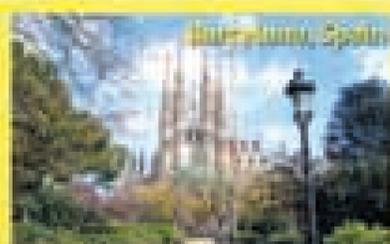
*Club Signature Event*

## OCT 3, 2011

Ship Sails From - Barcelona, Spain  
and Ends in Venice, Italy



### 12 Night Adventure



## Club Cruise Special

Join us aboard Holland America's newest ship, ms Nieuw Amersterdam for a 12 Day luxurious cruise around the Mediterranean.

Discover the magic and the rich history of this old world elegance as we set anchor to some of the world's most lively ports such as Barcelona, Monte Carlo, Messina, Civitavecchia, Corfu, and Venice.

This is a VERY LIMITED Club Signature Event available only to Club Members.

Signup today to ensure your spot on this amazing adventure and earn generous shipboard credits for doing so.

For more information, please contact:

**Kristy Adler**  
Club Travel Expert  
CRUISE and RESORT, Inc.  
kadler@cruiseandresort.com  
Tel. - (818) 990-4290 or (888) 652-6400, ext. 101



**City Employees Club  
Member Exclusive Prices**

	Price Per Person	
Room	Reg Rate	Club Rate
Inside Room	\$2,319	\$2,099
Obstructed Ocean View	\$2,439	\$2,399
Ocean View	\$2,639	\$2,519
Balcony View	\$3,199	\$2,999
Suite	\$4,249	\$3,999
3rd /4th guest sharing a cabin pay \$99		
Government Fees are \$71.93 per person		
Air transportation from Los Angeles is \$1299 + \$21 air tax		
Roundtrip airport transfers are \$104		

#### Incentives Per Cabin

Earn Shipboard Credit by Booking Early!	You Get
Book between (Now - Feb 28, 2011)	up to \$1,000
Book between (March 1, 2011 - May 31, 2010)	\$500
Book between (June 1, 2010 - July 1, 2011 )	\$100