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See page 20 for details.

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Vol. 4 ■ No. 11

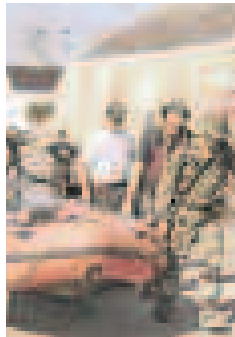
City Employees Club of Los Angeles | November 2005

Focus of *Alive!* Special Section: Katrina Heroes

■ Club paper devotes large section to City employees who served in Gulf States.

THE CITY — This month, *Alive!* devotes a special section to many of the City heroes who traveled to the Gulf States and saved lives and buildings, brought shelter and supplies, and performed other tasks.

"This is a historic moment," said John Hawkins, Club CEO and *Alive!* Managing Editor. "We want to make sure history remembers the names and faces of the heroes."



Katrina heroes are the focus of an *Alive!* Special Section.

Read about the City heroes in the *Alive!* special section, beginning on page 27.

Refund Checks! Big Club Benefit Arrives in Dec.

■ The Club announces life insurance refunds of approx. \$800,000. Only those eligible will share in the bounty.

THE CLUB — Here come the refund checks ... right on time for your holiday needs!

The Club's Insurance Board of Directors has determined that for the year 2005, approximately \$800,000 is to be distributed back to the eligible Club members.

The Club continues its tradition of rewarding loyal members with a return of unused premiums (total premiums collected less paid claims and expenses). The 2005 refund will be the Club's 75th refund.



Brian the CFO

See Refund, Page 3



The SKY'S the Limit

■ Massive renovation of Rec & Parks' famous Griffith Observatory brings together the best of the City. Facility director and legendary astronomer Dr. Ed Krupp gives *Alive!* a personal tour of the work in progress.

REC AND PARKS — Since graduating from UCLA with his doctorate degree, Ed Krupp has worked full-time at just one place: The Griffith Observatory. He started as a part-time lecturer, and is now the Observatory's director.

So there's no better person to lead the renovation of the world-famous observatory, which looks over the City basin and toward the sky.


The City-owned and -operated facility has been closed since 2002 to undergo a massive \$90 million renovation, the first in its history. Before it closed for its major nip-tuck, the Observatory was drawing some two million visitors a year. So, interest is high — and climbing — to see what Dr. Krupp and City hath wrought.

Judging from a private hardhat tour provided for *Alive!* by Dr. Krupp —and presented to you inside this issue—the restored

See Renovation, Page 50

Dr. Ed Krupp, Director of the Griffith Observatory, stands in front of the facility, which is undergoing a major renovation.

LOOK INSIDE
this issue of *Alive!* for the tour, interviews and tons of background information on the renovation of the Griffith Observatory:
PAGES 50-59

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Coming in December: **ClubFest 2005 Photo Gallery**
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Only in *Alive!*'s December issue.



Alive!

November 2005 • Volume 4 – No. 11

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by **John Hawkins**
 President and CEO, The Club



Refund Checks: Protect Family, Receive Bonus

It's Refund Check time again! What's a refund check, you ask? The short answer is that it's a return of the unused premium from the Club's Term Life Insurance program. This year we're giving back an impressive \$800,000 to our life insurance policyholders.

And since we're on the subject of life insurance, keep in mind that if anyone relies on your income (family, parents, children, etc.) you need life insurance; it's just that plain and simple. Life is extremely unpredictable as we witness each and every day. Get some peace of mind. Do not leave your loved ones in a financial disaster; apply for the Club's Term Life program by calling (800) 464-0452 and ask to talk to a counselor. And remember, we also handle all claims processes in-house, managed by our very own Cecilia Talbot. When disaster strikes, one call from you or your loved one to the Club is all it takes.

Every issue of *Alive!* takes a lot of time and effort to produce, not only on the part of the Club staff, but also on the part of many members who help us obtain all the great information you see each month. I want to take few moments to thank a few of those who really made a difference in putting this issue together:

- Dr. Ed Krupp, a genius and a gentleman, who took such great care of myself and John Burnes on our hard-hat tour of the soon-to-be-open Griffith Observatory;
- Fred Jamison, for giving us the idea to improve the table of contents. Fred and his wife Claudia are retirees living in Round Rock, Texas, and they're both big *Alive!* fans. (Claudia's favorite column is Chef Larios' *Cooking With the Club*);
- Anne Waisgerber, a Park Ranger who wrote the great story about the refurbished visitor center in Griffith Park; and
- Jarvis (Bubba) Willis, Jack Wise, Deresa Teller, Robert Sepanian, Charles Chang, Mike Fennessey, Chuck Ruddell, Michael Graychik and Marviana Jones for all their help in putting the Katrina Rescue story together.

Last but not least, you all should have received your brand new Club membership card in the mail by now. Keep it in your wallet so you have immediate access to all the Club's discount codes and numbers. I just used the back of my card to find the Enterprise Rent-a-Car code ... and saved 10 percent on a car rental in Spokane.

Until next month,

- John

jhawkins@cityemployeesclub.com

Numbers YOU CAN USE

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City Employees Club of Los Angeles FAX	(213) 620-0398	Fire and Police Pension System Local 347	(213) 978-4545 (213) 482-6660
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DWP Personnel	(213) 367-1934		
DWP Retirement Plan Office	(213) 367-1712		

Have a number you'd like us to include? Send it in: alive@cityemployeesclub.com

club Member Benefits

All active or retired City of Los Angeles and DWP employees are eligible to become members of the City Employees Club of Los Angeles.

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- Group Rated Accidental Death & Dismemberment Insurance
- Group Rated Auto and Homeowners Insurance

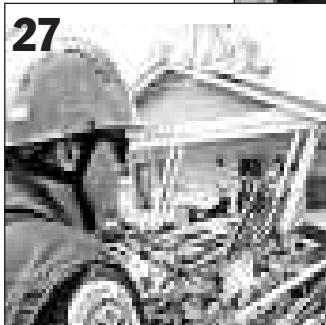
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Correction



On page 26 of the October issue, *Alive!* ran a story about the Police Protective League hosting a thank-you luncheon at the LAPD Central Division. We cropped one of the photos too tightly by accident and cut off some of the subjects of that photo. The correct photo is shown here, with this caption: From left: Sandy Avila, LAPPL Insurance Admin.; Corina Lee, LAPPL Director; Officer Tyler Fox, 3 years; Officer Nevile Gordon, 7 years; and Yolanda Rivera, LAPPL Admin.
Alive! regrets the error, and is glad that you are all whole again.

It's another BIG Refund Check

\$800,000

Brian, Club CFO

Refund

Continued from Page 1

And, for the first time in the Club's 77-year history, Retiree Members are also eligible for a refund.

Who is eligible? Anyone who had Life, Spouse Life, Dependent Life, Retiree Life or Retiree Spouse Life Insurance in force for the month of July 2005 is eligible for a refund.

The actual amount will be determined as a percentage of the total premiums paid by an individual for the period of August 2004 through July 2005. However, those who dropped their insurance coverage prior to July 31, 2005, are not eligible for any refund.

Checks will be distributed at your worksite to

active members around Dec. 6 (DWP) and 7 (rest of City). Anyone who has recently changed departments should notify the Club so their check does not get lost in the distribution process.

Retiree member checks will be mailed by Dec. 9. For the last two years the Club has given back more than \$1.8 million.

Are you not eligible for a refund check, but would like to be next year? It's so simple. Purchase any Life product from the Club, and you're eligible. Insure your family's future and, in most years, receive a little reward!

Talk to your Club Counselor, or call the Club at (800) 464-0452.



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QUESTION ? of the Month

Introducing a new feature in Alive!

Our Club Counselors are all over the City, every day, serving our Club Members. While we're out, we'll be asking City employees a fun question. Keep your eyes open... you never know when we'll be asking you what you think!

QUESTION:
What are you thankful for this Thanksgiving?



I am thankful that my husband, LAPD SWAT Officer Joe Rios, comes home every day after a rough day in the great City of Los Angeles. Also thankful for my family's health, and being able to see my mom, Yolanda Navarro, City Clerk, every day since she, too, works for the City. Also being able to come to work with my kids, who attend Joy Picus Child Care Center (Amanda is 4 years old, and Adrian is 17 months).
- Angie Rios, Accounting Clerk II, 14 years, Club Member.



Health and family.
- Noel Cabrero, Labor Supervisor/Event Coordinator, Gen. Services, 14 years, Club Member



Thankful to have worked around so many good people at GSD.
- Steven Jernagin, Delivery Driver II, 31 years, Gen. Services, Club Member.



I have a good job, and my family is all together.
- Linda Stone, Custodian, Airports, 20 years, Club Member.



How the community came together to help the hurricane Katrina victims.
- Mona Curry, Special Events Coordinator, Gen. Services, 12 years.



I am grateful for my family and good health.
- Glendra Perkins, Sr. Clerk Typist, Airports, 18 years.



For my family's good health.
- Ricardo Alvarez, Maintenance and Construction Worker, DWP.



For my new home and great health.
- Sharon Malone, Sr. Management Analyst, DWP.



For my patience getting through my last semester in college.
- Cindy Cisneros, Messenger Clerk, Library.

LETTERS To the Editor

Club Member Is Proud Her Grandfather Was Part of Central Receiving Hospital

I was very happy and proud to read the paragraphs about Charles "Charlie" Whitehead in the October 2005 article regarding the razing of Central Receiving Hospital. You see, Charlie was my grandfather, who helped lay the groundwork for two succeeding generations of City employees.



The current Central Receiving Hospital under construction in 1956. The hospital is scheduled to be razed.

Both his son, Charles, and son-in-law, Al Cuttrel (my father), were Los Angeles Firefighters. My five siblings and I followed the family tradition and entered City employment. I am the last still working, and, although I never had the privilege of knowing him, I have the honor of stating that Charlie Whitehead was my grandfather.

Charlie's youngest child, my mother, Kathryn Cuttrel, who is about to celebrate her 91st birthday, still reminds us of her father's commitment to the City and his contributions to the growth of Central Receiving Hospital.

Thank you for resurrecting his memory and recognizing his role in the rich history of Central Receiving Hospital.

— Julie Cuttrel,
Gen. Services, Club Member

some interesting times. As you stand on Sixth Street and look at the lawn east of the entrance road, there are a couple of trees on the far north side of the lawn. I am a creature of habit and always sat by one of those.

Every so often, I would get my courage up and sit on the bench on the loading dock. Occasionally an ambulance driver would speak to me.

I recall the car belonging to the medical director (he once even spoke to me!). It bore a City seal and had a single red (can) light on top, dead center (like the twin cans LAPD had for years, only it was just by itself), but no siren. I thought it looked kind of strange even then.

Not only was there the connection between my interests and the hospital, I knew there would be a future year when I would be there as a candidate. I took my physical there in 1976. I now have 28 years with the LAPD.

In my early years on the Department, the transition period to paramedics was still in process. I often wondered if some of the older LAFD drivers/attendants and paramedics I was now working with those who had driven past me years before.

— Lt. David D. Young, LAPD

City's Website Shows Us Slip-Sliding Away

When I go to the official Website for the City of Los Angeles (www.lacity.org), I notice in the top right corner of the home page in capital blue letters "LA" referring to the City of Los Angeles. The bottom left corner of the "LA" appears to be breaking off and sliding down a hill. I would like to know what this means and why it is there. My guess is that it stands for an earthquake, and part of Los Angeles is breaking off and sliding down a hill.

If this is the official Website for Los Angeles and people who are looking for jobs or other City info use this Website, then wouldn't this scare them if they think like I do and believe this symbol means an earthquake disaster in our City? Imagine if Miami used a hurricane or Kansas City used a twister on their official Website to greet people.

If anyone at the Club knows what this means and who designed it and why it appears on the official Website for the City of Los Angeles, please let me know and perhaps let the other Club members know as well.

— Rick A. Rinehart, LAPD, Club Member

These Alive! Readers Just Don't Like to Waste Words

I really was surprised that I received my movie tickets in the mail ... the next day!

— Victoria Thomas, Club Member

The City Employees Club is a great club and I would never leave the Club for any reason.

— Fredi Macias, Library

I enjoy your newspaper. Also, whenever I order movie tickets, the service I get is both prompt and efficient. So thanks for everything.

— Lt. David Young, LAPD

He Thanks Those From City in Katrina Efforts

I had no clue that we regular City employees went over to help in the Hurricane Katrina rescue effort. It feels good to know that not only LA City Firefighters went to help, but that Building and Safety, DWP, and Harbor employees helped as well. Those are some amazing photos of the areas they were stationed. I want to give my thanks to all those City employees that went over to help the people over there. Good work, everyone.

— Harry Glaus, Rec and Parks

There Must Be Something Special in the Club Water

The babies in the births section are so cute! There seems to be a great number of City babies being born. I guess there's going to be a huge number of applicants for City jobs in about 20 years!

— Georgina Glasgow, Gen. Services

He's Happy to See Lots Of Departments in Alive!

It is nice to see stories about City departments that we don't hear about regularly, like the Community Development Department and their In-N-Out fundraising event. I even saw some employees that I recognize.

I also want to mention that I was happy for Robert Saenz and his retirement. He's a good guy, and I wish him the best. *Alive!* did a great job of covering his story.

— Tim Pirozzi, DWP

Ticket Guy Adds Another To His Growing Fan Club

I spoke to Navin [Cotton], and he gave me the discount on Disney tickets. Thanks for being such a nice guy! Every time I have spoken to the Ticket Guy, he's been just great!

Many blessings

— Mary Del Bono, Club Member

Hal, StubHub and Eric Make Issue Memorable

I just got my *Alive!* Hal's article of his fishing trip was great. It all sounded soooo great; I hope I can make it up there one day.

I used StubHub's 800 number and ordered tickets for my daughter to see Brooks and Dunn in October. It was fast and easy, and the operator was so kind and helpful.

The retiree section is fantastic and the financial advice column by Eric Garcia will be an asset for both retirees and active members.

— Dave Muraoka, Van Nuys Jail,
Club Board Member

WRITE TO US TODAY!

Send your letters by email to
talkback@cityemployeesclub.com or conventionally:

The Club
World Trade Center
350 S. Figueroa St., Suite 700
Los Angeles, CA 90071

She Proposes to Join Us All Together With Dancing

I love reading your publication and, I'm sure other employees do, too. You cover a lot of variety. We hear and read too much about politics, our readers want to be entertained, too. It is also my goal to have City employees get united through "dancing." I know a lot of friendship, camaraderie and networking have developed since I formed the DWP Dance Club, and I want to open the doors to all associations. So, let's be united through dancing.

— Lourdes Zerrudo, DWP

After Hearing Chatter, He's Sorry He Missed ClubFest

After I heard what a great time many of my coworkers had, I am sorry now that I missed ClubFest. I won't miss next year's, that's for sure. Is it true that you had all you can eat barbecue and that you had real live bands playing? That sounds so great if it was true, and I really wish I was there even more. I would like to see photos of ClubFest if you have any. It has been the talk around the office for weeks! Put me on your pre-sale ticket list if you have one.

— Gerald Johnson, Gen. Services

That's right, Gerald. Please read our cover (and related) stories this month, and make sure to stay tuned for next month, too. —Ed.

Central Hospital Article Brought Back Memories

Thank you for your article on the Central Receiving Hospital. I loved it and appreciated the stories more than you know. I wish I had photographs...one of many regrets! If you know of any future events/activities, I would appreciate being informed.

In 1955, my parents moved to a house four blocks from where Central Receiving would be built. I was one year old.

I have an early childhood memory riding in a car on Sixth Street. I recall dirt and construction activity on what is now the front lawn. I would have been two or three. Not impossible, but I have so few other memories from that age, the question that I have never answered is why I would remember this.

As a child I went to Central Receiving for a variety of injuries. I remember those visits, some vividly and with nothing but good memories — that is, being treated well by doctors and nurses. I can't necessarily say that about other healthcare providers growing up, so I think it's significant that my memories of Central Receiving are all good.

By junior high I had decided on a career in law enforcement. In high school (late 1960s — early 1970s), I would often sit on the front lawn reading books while watching ambulances arrive/take off and the occasional police cars doing the same. For a young boy with my interests, those were

The Word on the Street



Cecilia Talbot,
Club Claims Administrator

You probably won't get to meet Club Claims Administrator 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.

Excellent service! The courtesy extended to me was great during a very difficult time. Personal assistance was available when needed (which was very much appreciated). Thank you Cecilia and all the other kind people who expressed their sympathy. Thank you for the card & book!

— Anna H., July 2005

Very good service ... you were very helpful.

— Carol T., August 2005

Cecilia always gave excellent service. She always answered my phone calls ... promptly.

— Angela R., August 2005

Excellent service! The letter and ebook [*The Fall of Freddie the Leaf*] were an unexpected surprise. No one plans the death of a child. Without the Club, I wouldn't have had any death benefits. Thank you for the calls, flowers, letter and book. They are appreciated.

— Milton E. Reynolds, April 2005

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...Trust the Club



Thanks go to the crew that organized the barbecue.



From left: Roy Martinez wins two Movie tickets from Felipe Rodriguez.



James Colleran, Electrician, 16 years.



From left: William Argueta, ECH, 5 years; Robert Williams, Assistant Electrician, 8 years; and JP Holzinger, Management Assistant, 2.5 years.



From left: Robert Williams, Assistant Electrician, 8 years, and Louis Wright, Electrician, 14 years.



From left: James Masud, Electrician, 15 years, and Jeff Dunkle, Electrician, 15 years.



From left: Robert Williams, Assistant Electrician, 8 years; Louis Wright, Electrician, 14 years; Roy Lujan, Assistant Electrician, 4.5 years; James Colleran, Electrician, 16 years; and James Josephson, Electrician, 13 years.



Employees stack their plates high with food.



James Josephson, Electrician, 13 years.

Lighting It Up

■ Street Lighting hosts an employee appreciation barbecue. Club donates prizes.

Story by Liz Montes, Club Counselor
Photos by Angel Gomez, Member Services Manager

PUBLIC WORKS — The Bureau of Street Lighting hosted an Employee Appreciation Barbecue Sept. 29.

The bureau organized the event to show its appreciation to their employees. Many volunteered their time to setup the event and cook the food.

Thanks go to Felipe Rodriguez, who invited the Club to attend the event. We were happy to donate movie tickets, Knott's Berry Farm tickets and Disneyland tickets.



From left: Robin Lacour, Accounting Clerk, 4 years, and Linda Zelaya, Store Supervisor, 18 years.



From left: Gabriel Cervantes, ECH, 3 years; Gregory Lee, Assistant Electrician, 13 years; Michael Ward, Electrician, 25 years; Juan Gomez, Warehouse, 1 year; and Mike Durkee, ECH, 10 months.



From left: Ramiro Munoz Jr., ECH, 5 years; Carlos Alvarado, M&C, 3 years; Val Hernandez, Assistant Electrician; Frank Ayala, ECH, 20 years; Sean Ribs, ECH, 5 years; Roy Martinez, Cement Finisher Worker, 6 years; and Jeff Dunkle, Electrician, 15 years.



Felipe Rodriguez hands out raffle tickets.



From left: Mark Wormer, Assistant Electrician, 3 years, and Ralph Martinez, Storekeeper, 9 years.



William Argueta, wins two Disneyland tickets.



Sandra Ramos, Clerk Typist, 2 months.



From left: Ben Lozano wins two Movie tickets from Felipe Rodriguez.



From left: Lawrence Spillman, Mechanical Helper, 17 years; Barry Barksdle, ECH, 2 years; Ben Lozano, Electrician, 13 years; Steve Grana, Electrician, 11 years; Orlando Usher, ECH, 3.5 years; and Frank Gaffney, Welder, 2 months.



From left: Frank Gaffney, Welder, 2 months, and Ronnie Gallardo, Assistant Electrician, 20 years.



Raffle winner Mike Durkee receives two Knott's Berry Farm tickets from Felipe Rodriguez.



From left: Victoria Magallanes, Clerk Typist, 4 years; Joe Jaramillo, Electrician, 18 years; Oscar Reyna, Assistant Electrician, 17 years; Val Sosa, Electrician, 16 years; and Marcus Winn, Electrician, 29 years.



From left: Craig Chinn, Assistant Electrician, 12 years; Jonny Gonzalez, Electrician, 14 years; Carlos Alvarado, M&C, 3 years; and James Josephson, Electrician, 13 years.



From left: Ervin Weaver, MNC, 5 years; Frank Simons, Welder, 30 years; and Richard Enriquez, Assistant Electrician, 4.5 years.



From left: Mike Stiles, Assistant Electrician, 15 years, and Mike Durkee, ECH, 10 months.



From left: Lance Shoho, Sr. Systems Analyst I, 11 years; Patrick Cross, Sr. Systems Analyst I, 15 years; Todd Mitchell Systems Analyst II, 11 years; Stan Horwitz, Sr. Engineer, 39 years; Norma Isahakian, Sr. Engineer, 17 years; Louis Wright, Electrician, 14 years; and Kurt Sato, Sr. Systems Analyst, 17 years.

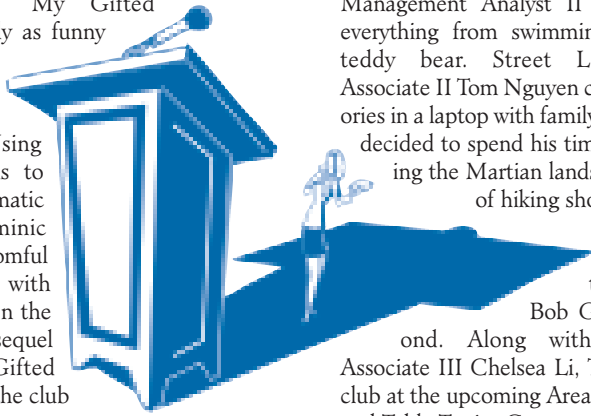
Toastmasters Are Ready

■ Public Works Toastmaster group gets ready for contests.

PUBLIC WORKS — In preparation to enter the Toastmasters International Area 43 Humorous Speech and Table Topics Speech Contest in October, Public Works Pioneers Toastmasters held its second annual Humorous Speech Contest and the second annual Table Topics Speech Contest in August.

Three Toastmaster members each delivered a uniquely challenging speech. Management Analyst II Ivan Gerson; Civil Engineering Associate III Chelsea Li; and Civil Engineering Associate IV Dominic Buenaventura competed in the second annual Humorous Speech Contest.

Ivan, famous for his wit, entertained the audience with a blustering, comic take on the Parliamentary Procedure in flying action. Chelsea made "My Gifted Husband" equally as funny as her previous award winning speech, "An Ideal Wife." Using his singing skills to project his dramatic voice, Dominic stirred up a roomful of laughter with "Laugh It Off." In the end, Chelsea's sequel piece, "My Gifted Husband," won the club contest.



at the Table Topics Speech Contest was "What three things within 25 pounds would you bring with you to live in Mars?" Five brave explorers put their best endeavor in a response that was minimally two-and-a-half minutes to a maximum five minutes long. Geotech Engineer I Bob Gallagher, Management Analyst II Michael Sloss, Civil Engineering Associate IV Dominic Buenaventura and Management Analyst II Ivan Gerson packed everything from swimming gear, oxygen to a teddy bear. Street Lighting Engineering Associate II Tom Nguyen captured his best memories in a laptop with family photos and films, and decided to spend his time reading and traversing the Martian landscape with a good pair of hiking shoes.

Club Contest Winner was awarded to Tom Nguyen, and Bob Gallagher finished second. Along with Civil Engineering Associate III Chelsea Li, Tom will represent the club at the upcoming Area 43 Humorous Speech and Table Topics Contest.

The Public Works Pioneers Toastmasters Club



The Public Works Pioneer Toastmasters are, from left: Management Analyst II Ivan Gerson; Solid Resources Superintendent Richard Veiga; Management Analyst II Yukari Iwai; Architectural Associate II Ben Gaetos; Personnel Analyst II Yvonne Liu; Architectural Drafting Tech Ioana June; Civil Engineering Associate II Yasmin Hafeez; Building Mechanical Engineer Shawn Farzan; Civil Engineering Associate II Chelsea Li; Management Analyst II Flora Khaw; Management Analyst II Jennifer Lau; and Street Lighting Engineering Associate II Tom Nguyen.

meets each Wednesday at noon at 650 S. Spring St. in the 12th floor Giannini Room. Guests are always welcome. Joining the club is inexpensive, educational and fun.

Toastmasters International is a nonprofit organization that helps its members to improve their communication skills, lose their fears of public speaking and learn skills that will help them succeed in their personal and professional goals.

Toastmasters International's core values are integrity, dedication to excellence, service to the member, and respect for the individual. These are values worthy of a great organization, and Toastmasters believe they should incorporate them as anchor points in every decision they make. Toastmaster core values provide members with a means of not only guiding but also evalu-

ating their operations, their planning, and their vision for the future.

Public Works Pioneers Toastmasters Club (Club No. 616895) held its first meeting in January 2004, with only three members and has met every Wednesday since. Today the club has an active membership of 30 adults representing every Public Works Bureau. The members meet weekly to improve their presentation skills, to encourage each other to pursue public speaking opportunities, to polish leadership skills and to cultivate an appreciation for the English language.

The City Employees Club of Los Angeles thanks Yvonne Liu, Vice President of Public Relations, Public Works Pioneers Toastmasters, for providing information for this story.

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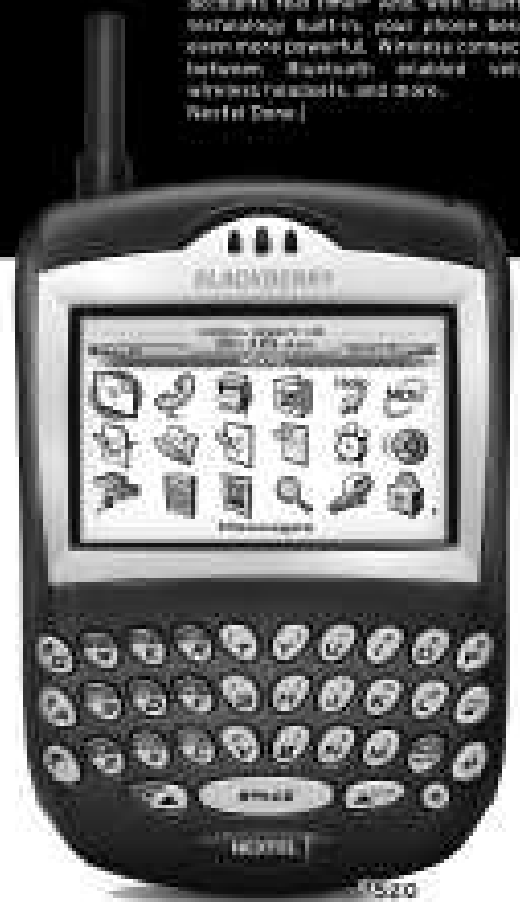
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Maro, a Chihuahua, is dressed up in his lobster suit for the parade.



From left: Laura Beyer and Alex Pavlov of San Pedro attend their first Lobster Festival.



From left: Pelican Pete gives Rachelle Campbell of Public Affairs a great big hug.



From left: Al Guerrero, SLO, Port Police, Club Member; Alex Castillo, Port Police, Club Member; and Sonia Estevez, Training Officer, Port Police, 5 years, Club Member.



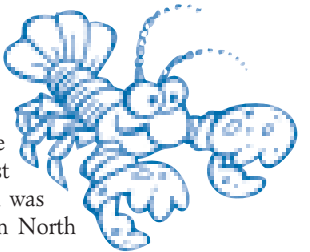
Festivalgoers enjoyed music by the Fantastic Diamond, a tribute to Neil Diamond.

All It's Cracked Up to Be

■ Port hosts seventh annual Lobster Festival Shell-a-Bration.

Story and photos by Arlene Herrero, Club Counselor

HARBOR — Pirates and treasure hunts, scuba diving, street performers and an '80s flashback weekend of rock and roll were all part of the Port of Los Angeles Lobster Festival's seventh annual weekend, held Sept. 16 – 18 at the Harbor's Ports o' Call.



In less than five years, the Port's Lobster Festival has grown to become the world's largest lobster festival, organizers say, and earned a "Greatest Event on Earth" award from Festivals.com in 1999. In 2003 the festival was nominated as candidate for recognition as one of the 100 Top Events in North America from Destinations magazine.

The festival featured the best of the old and new. The pirate camp expanded to take advantage of the new open space at Ports o' Call, along with a treasure hunt for kids. Back for the fifth year in a row was the National Scuba Tour, that offered a free chance to dive into the festival's 26,000-gallon pool and try scuba diving under the guidance of a licensed scuba instructor.

The Port of Los Angeles Lobster Festival was expected to attract more than 40,000 people. The festival featured a Lobster Dog Pet Parade at noon on Saturday and an art show all weekend long. Tons of fresh cooked Maine lobsters were served in addition to chowder, ribs, chicken, Thai and Mexican food and desserts along with beer, wine and flavored drinks. Craft booths, games and rides, arts and crafts and other activities for kids were available. Continuous live entertainment featuring the best tribute bands in Southern California rounded out the festival.

The Club thanks Rachelle Campbell for her assistance.



From left: Larry Fiori, LAFD, 17 years; Jim Thompson, Engineer, 19 years; Dan Butcher, Paramedic Helper, 32 years; Captain Matt Phillipsen, 25 years; and Daren Palacios, Battalion Chief, 24 years.



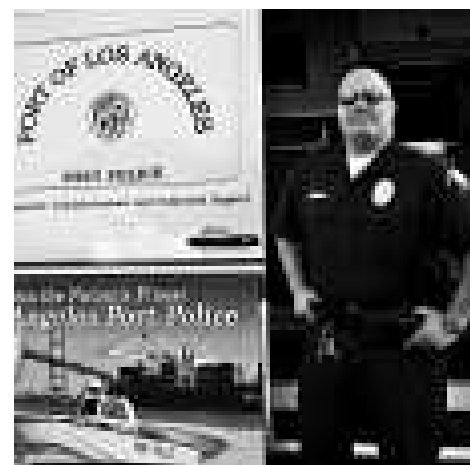
John Smatlak, consultant with the Port's Red Car Project, enjoys a bratwurst.



Danette Nappi, Secretary, 16 years, Club Member.



From left: Claudia Romero, Sr. Clerk Typist, 4.5 years, Club Member, with her husband, Luis, and daughter Aritza, 3.



Ian Schunke, Port Police, 5 years.



It's not all lobster.



From left: Marisela Caraballo-DiRuggiero, Legislative Representative, 3 years; Julia Nagano, Director of Public Affairs; and Phylis Weatherspoon, Sr. Real Estate Officer, 25 years.



Dutches, miniature schnauzer, enters her first lobster parade. She's shown here with proud owner Debbie Loob.



From left: John Williams, Fire Marshall, LAFD, 17 years; and Captain Scott Miller, LAFD, 25 years.



From left: Elizabeth Lopez, Public Affairs, dressed as Pelican Pete, with Rose Kinoshita, Graphic Assistant, Club Member.



From left: Sgt. Aleman, Port Police, Club Member; and Alex Castillo, Port Police I, 5 months, Club Member.



From left: Barbara Brunt, Clerk Typist, 4 weeks; Gail Dwyer, Public Information Director, 8 years; and Rickey Kirk, Duplication Machine Operator, 11 years, Club Member.



From left: Denise Martinez, Port Security, Club Member; and Damon Lankford, Port Security, Club Member.



From left: Lori Gastelum, Principal Clerk, 15 years, Club Member; Mimi Gutierrez, Civil Engineering Associate I, 2.5 years, Club Member; and Terri Krstofiak, Port Consultant, 5 years



Captain Jamie Bellows.



Jeanne Schwab, Port Police Dispatch, 20 years.



From left: Ryan Straus, Sr. Lead Officer, Port Police, 2 years, Club Member; and Norma Zarate, guest.



Rides for kids to enjoy.



Back for a fifth year in a row was the National Scuba Tour, which offered a free chance to dive into the festival's 26,000-gallon pool and try scuba diving under the guidance of a licensed scuba instructor.



From left: Porfirio Blas, P2, Port Police, 32 years; and Albert Alvarado, PI, Port Police, 6 months.



Lobster meals were picked up here.



From left: Dan Dayton, Port Police, 3 years, and Masaki Imoto, Port Police, 2 years, provided information on joining Port Police at their booth.



Lonnie Dean, with his bulldog, Pudge, dressed as a mermaid.



Back, from left: Daniel, 14, and his dad, Tony Alvarado, Port Security, 7 years, Club Member; Front: Michael, 8 yr old son

Toy Drive Set

■ As part of this Club holiday tradition, you can start donating your toys Nov. 14.

THE CLUB — As part of the Club Angels program, the annual Club Toy Drive is ready to reflect your generosity and give to those in need.

Collections run from Nov. 14 through Dec. 16, at Club Headquarters or through your Club Counselor. Club Members are asked to contribute an unwrapped toy to the cause.

The drive benefits the LAPD Central City Police Boosters. In the past, some of the toys were distributed to City Employees in hardship, too.

The Club has made a head-start on the drive already. At ClubFest, a brand-new iPod was raffled. Tickets were 50 cents, and the special raffle (ClubFest had a regular raffle, too) raised more than \$400. That will allow the Club to purchase additional toys, thanks to the generosity of Club Members at the October event.

This is the third year that the Club has participated in the holiday toy drive, and each year the drive collects more toys. More than 60 toys were collected last year. With your help, the Club hopes to collect 80 toys this year.

Last year's toy drive distributed more than 60 toys to families in need.

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Sergeant Michael Scolaro and family.



Sergeant Iris Godoy receives her badge from her mother.



Sergeant Troy Takaki's wife presents him with his badge



From left: Sergeant Steven Zouzounis and Chief Gary T. Green.

LAX Police Promotes 7

■ Airport Police names seven new sergeants.

Story and photos by Liz Montes, Club Counselor



AIRPORTS — Los Angeles Airport Police has promoted seven new sergeants. They are: Troy Takaki, George Holt III, Steven E. Zouzounis, Michael Scolaro, Iris Godoy, Floyd Johnson and Richard Higgins.

The swearing-in ceremony for the new sergeants was held at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) Sept. 23. Family and friends attended the ceremony to celebrate the new sergeants achievements.

Congratulations to the seven new sergeants, and thanks to Officer Belinda Nettles for providing information for this story.



Sergeant Michael Scolaro receives his badge from his son.



From left: Sergeant Sophia Mackey and Chief Gary T. Green.



From left: Sergeant Iris Godoy and Chief Gary T. Green.



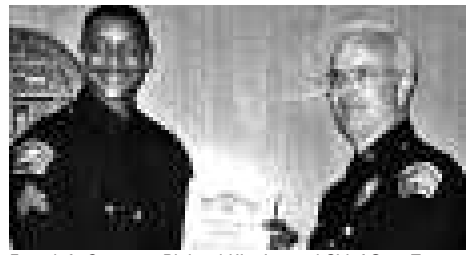
Sergeant Floyd Johnson receives his badge from his wife.



Sergeant Steven E. Zouzounis receives his badge from his mother.



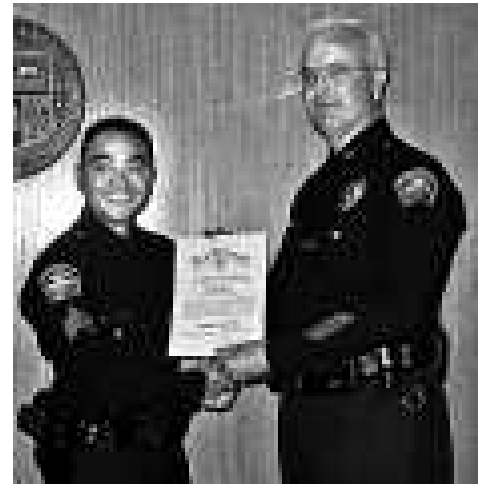
From left: Sergeant George Holt and Chief Gary T. Green..



From left: Sergeant Richard Higgins and Chief Gary T. Green.



Sergeant Floyd Johnson with his wife and sons.



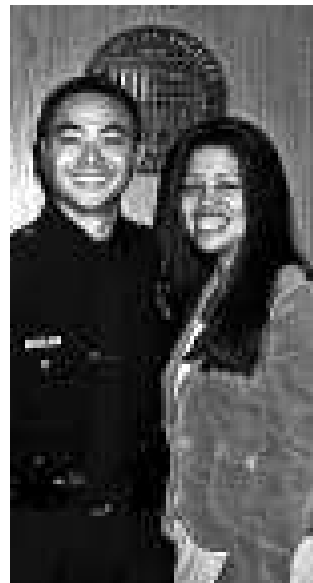
From left: Sergeant Troy Takaki and Chief Gary T. Green.



Sergeant Richard Higgins and family.



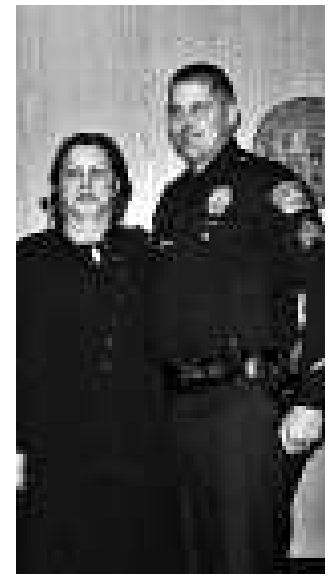
From left: Sergeant Rafael Perez and Chief Gary T. Green.



Mr. and Mrs. Troy Takaki.



Chief Gary T. Green presents Sergeant George Holt with his badge.



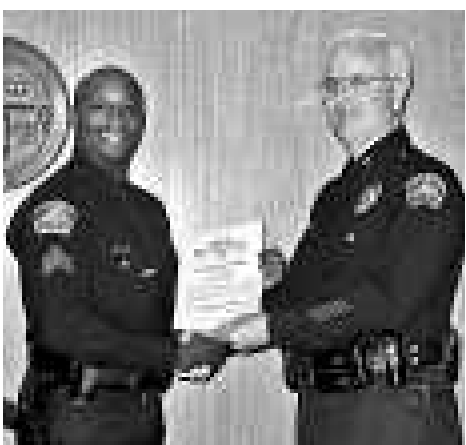
Sergeant Steven E. Zouzounis with his mother.



From left: Sergeant Gerry Jackson and Chief Gary T. Green.



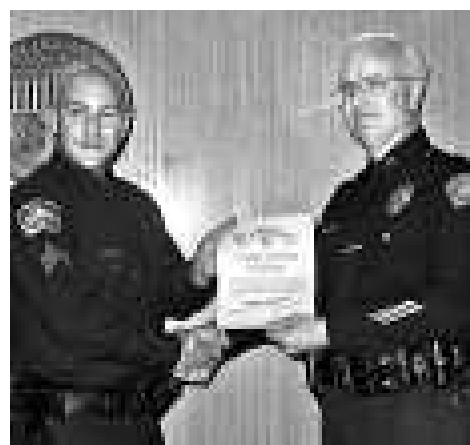
Recital of the sergeants' oath.



From left: Sergeant Floyd Johnson and Chief Gary T. Green.



Sergeant Richard Higgins is presented with his badge.



From left: Sergeant Michael Scolaro and Chief Gary T. Green.

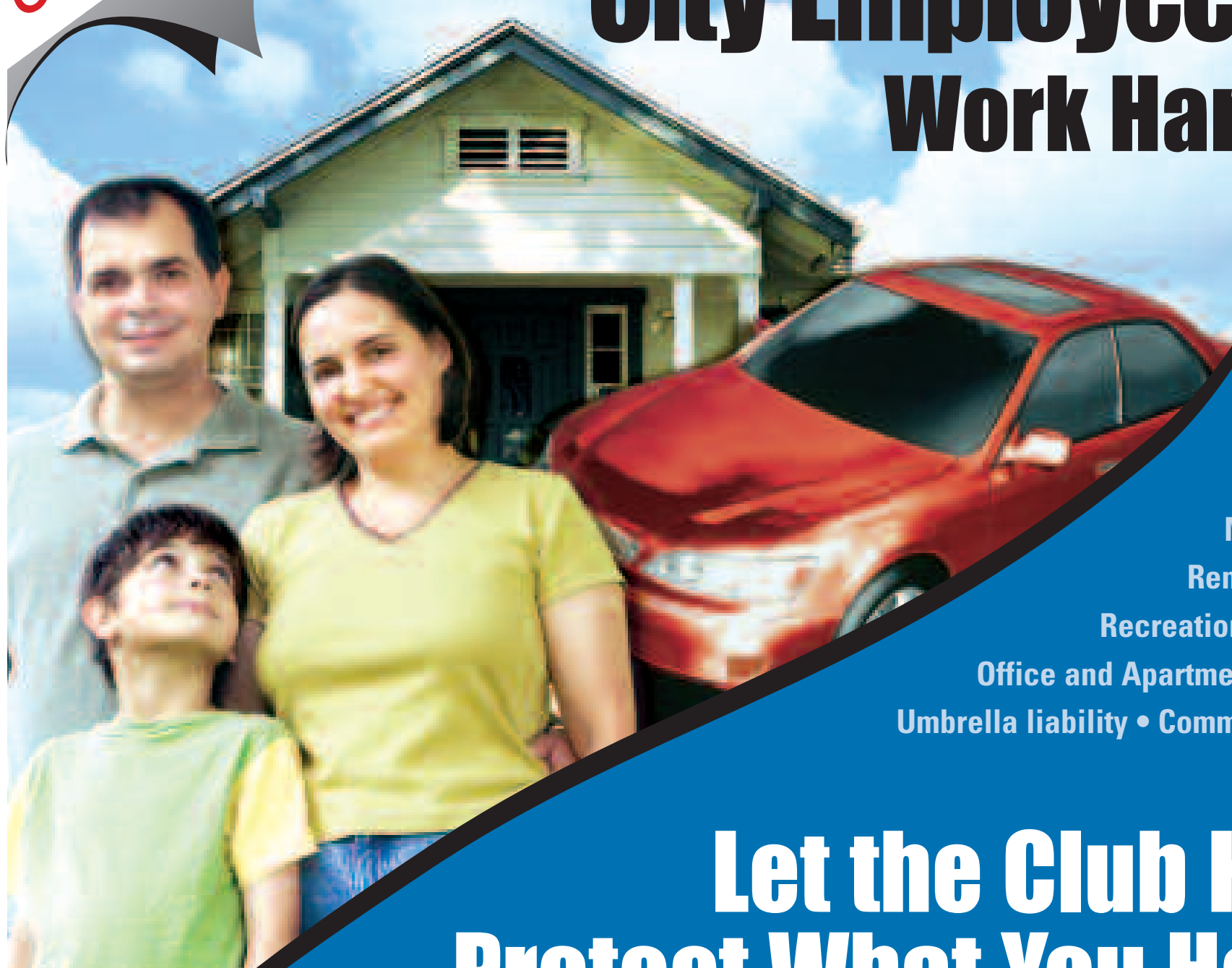


Sergeant Iris Godoy and family.

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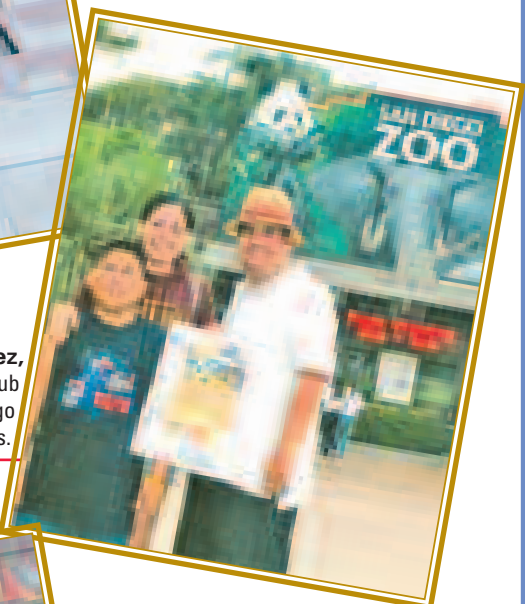
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Alive! Around the World

Take the Club with you, wherever you go! Club members are a well-traveled bunch. Bring your copy of *Alive!* with you. Snap a photo with you holding a copy, send it in, and we'll publish it. Send to talkback@cityemployeesclub.com



Here is **Alex Lopez**, DWP, with his son, Gabriel, 9, holding their issue of *Alive!* at one of our favorite places, Disney's Epcot in Florida. The photo was snapped by Alex's daughter, Bridget, 11. Good job, Bridget!



Joseph, Regina, and Martin Chavez, Harbor Department, use their City Club tickets to bring the *Alive!* to the San Diego Zoo Pandas.



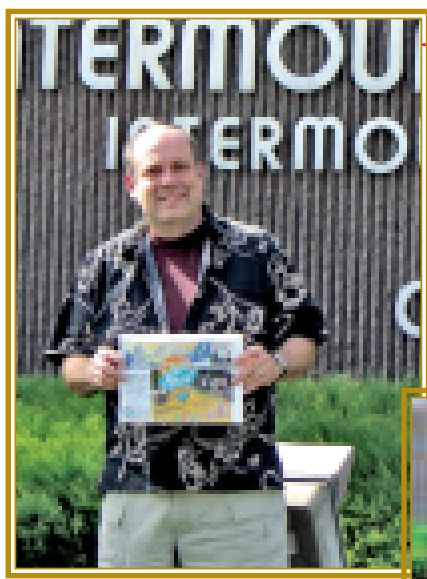
Lizette Cotangco, DWP, writes: "I want to share our vacation photo taken with *Alive!* when my family took a vacation this summer at the Great Wall of China."



Alive! editor **John Burnes**, catching a September game between his hometown St. Louis Cardinals and the Chicago Cubs, at Wrigley Field in Chicago.



Looks like our friend **Vasdev Singh**, Sanitation, had a fun time visiting New York City.



Looks like **Bob Hill**, Supervisor, DWP Telecom, mixed a little business with his vacation. He writes: "Here are pictures from my recent vacation with my wife, Lindsay, taken at the Intermountain Power Plant, in Delta, Utah. This power plant is jointly owned by the DWP and several other electric utilities. The plant delivers power through a high-voltage, direct current power line over 700 hundred miles to Los Angeles. We were on our way to Salt Lake City and couldn't pass up an opportunity to see a little bit of 'L.A.' in Utah!"



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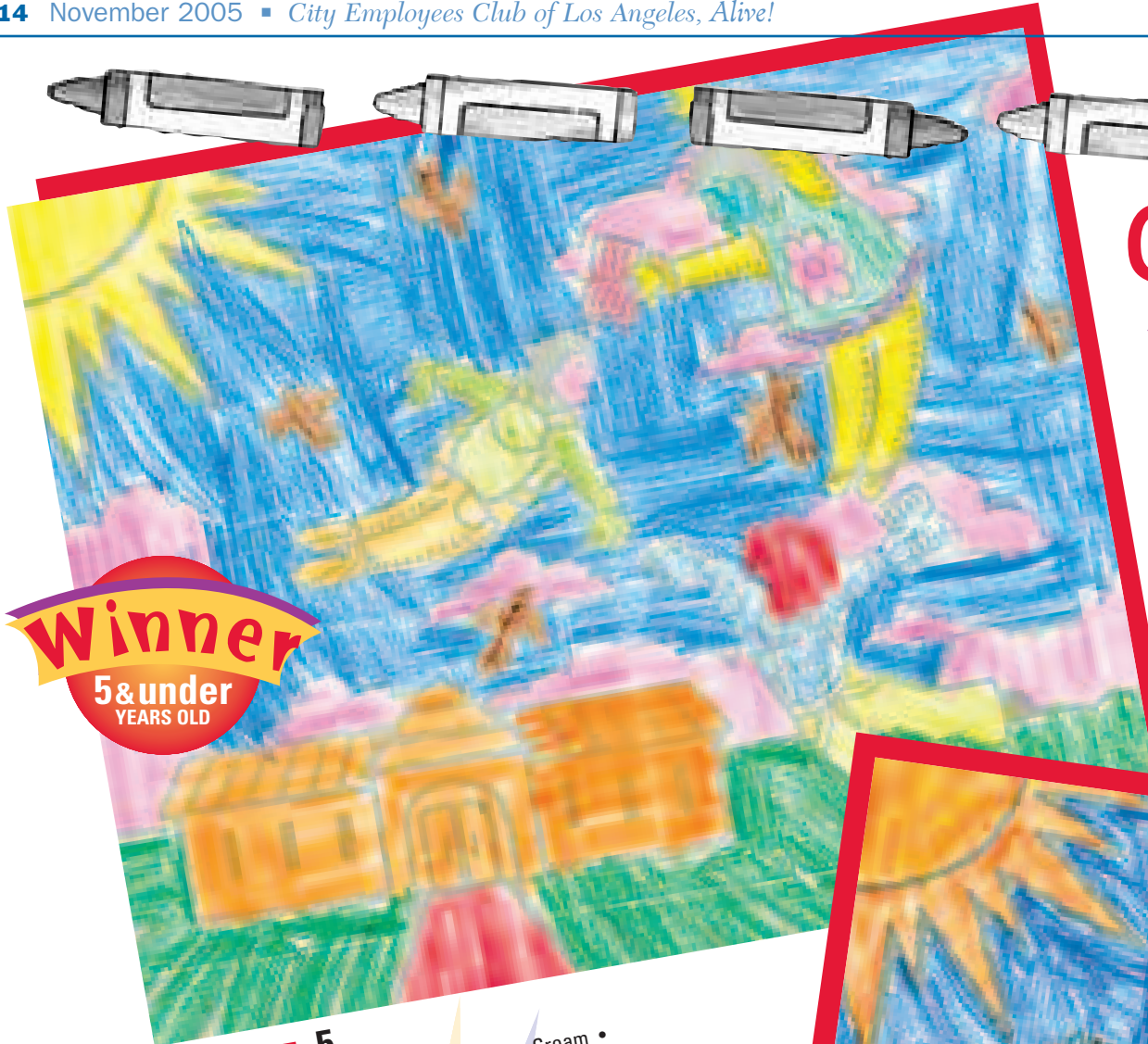
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Winner
5 & under
YEARS OLD

Roland Jimenez, 5
 FAVORITE TV SHOW: Sponge Bob • FAVORITE SNACK: Ice Cream •
 BEST FRIEND: Omar • WHY I WANT TO GO TO UNIVERSAL STUDIOS
 HOLLYWOOD: I've never been there.
 PARENTS: Reynaldo Jimenez, Security Officer; Martha Jimenez, Harbor Dept.



Winner
6 to 7
YEARS OLD

Nathan Moen, 6
 • FAVORITE TV SHOW: Pac Man
 • FAVORITE SNACK: Candy
 • BEST FRIEND: Tyler
 • WHY I WANT TO GO TO UNIVERSAL STUDIOS
 HOLLYWOOD: I've never been there.
 • PARENT: Brian Moen, E.M. Fleet Services

Jelani Estelle Smith, 10
 FAVORITE TV SHOW: Zoey 101 • FAVORITE SNACK: Funnys
 • BEST FRIEND: Faith
 • WHY I WANT TO GO TO UNIVERSAL STUDIOS HOLLYWOOD: I think it
 would be a good experience for me because I want to be in a
 Universal Studios movie or show
 • PARENT: Carolyn Smith, Police Lieutenant, LA Airport Police



Winner
8 to 10
YEARS OLD

Congratulations to the WINNERS!

of our Club Coloring Contest!

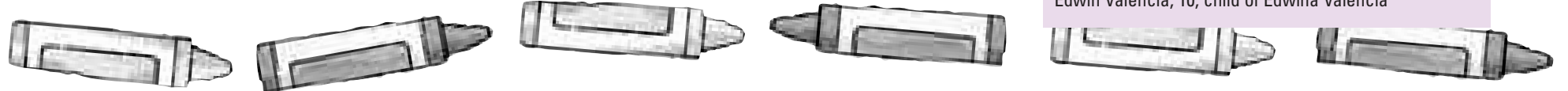
Congratulations to the winners of *Alive!*'s coloring contest. Everyone who turned in a design is a winner in our opinion! But our top three participants win four passes (each) to Universal Studios.

Look for our next contest in the December edition of *Alive!*

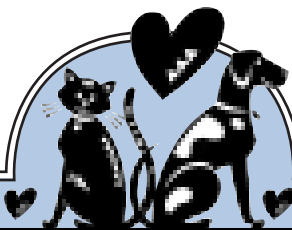
Honorable Mention

- Viviana Arredondo, 4, child of Jaime Arredondo
- Zhaviya Francis, 4, child of LuJeena Ennis
- Kara Hillman, 4, child of Steve Hillman
- Nathan Lam, 5, child of Peter Lam
- Kimberly Ochoa, 4, child of Mario Ochoa
- Ashley Orantes, 5, child of Sonia Galan
- Brandon Rodriguez, 5, child of Kenneth L. Rodriguez
- Joshua Nguyen, 5, child of Joe Sanez
- Riana Sellers, 5, child of Gary Sellers
- Valerie Truong, 6, child of Richard Truong
- Angel Varela, 5, child of Daniel Varela
- Daniela Tapia, 5, child of Daniel Tapia
- Isabell Thaug, 3, child of Norman Thaug
- Miranda Aguirre, 6, child of Mike Aguirre
- Michael Briones, 7, child of Julie Briones
- Abegail Diaz, 6, child of Myrna Diaz
- Jonathan Estevez, 7, child of Gabriela Zarate
- Joseph Ezekiel, 6, child of Gloria Funches
- William De Prez, 7, child of William DePrez
- Elle Jimenes, 7, child of Valente Jimenez
- Jordan Johnson, 7, child of Dennis Johnson
- Cami Hillman, 6, child of Steve Hillman
- Melissa Lava, 7, child of Amalia Lava
- Robert Luna, 7, child of Lorena Lopez
- Ruth Samson, 7, child of Samson Shewalema
- Ryan Zenteno, 6, child of Luis Zenteno
- Samantha Ashley, 10, child of Tim Ashley
- Karen Cruz, 10, child of Mardoqueo Cruz
- Melissa Diaz, 10, child of Myrna Diaz
- Jackie Files, 10, child of James Files
- Daisy Galvez, 10, child of Noe Galvez
- Monique Gamboa, 10, child of Maribel Gamboa
- Alexa Gonzalez, 9, child of David Gonzalez
- Daniela Juarez, 9, child of Hector D. Juarez
- Regina Mendez, 9, child of Jorge Mendez
- Arianna Moeai, 8, child of Seli Moeai
- Jamil Salazar, 9, child of Cassandra Jackson
- Sabrina Soto, 8, child of Michael Soto
- Guian L. Serrano, 10, child of Josephine L. Serrano
- Zyon Payne, 10, child of Enoch C. Murray
- Destiny S. Reyes, 8, child of Samuel A. Reyes
- Edwin Valencia, 10, child of Edwina Valencia

Compiled by
Lupe Medina



The Pet Club



Canine Influenza Can Really Hurt Your Dog

In this month's column, I wanted everyone to know what the Canine flu was. There is a lot of news these days about the bird flu. But canine influenza affects our best friend, our dog. So I gathered some facts and would like to share them with you. I hope it helps.

Canine influenza is a new virus that causes a respiratory infection in dogs and is highly contagious. It is believed to have jumped species from horses to racing dogs in Florida sometime in the last few years, and gradually spread out to dogs around the United States, including Southern California. This virus is spread by aerosolized respiratory secretions, contaminated inanimate objects and even by people moving back and forth between infected and uninfected dogs. It occurs most easily where numbers of dogs are kept in close proximity but could also be passed "on the street" or in kennels.

The symptoms can look a lot like the common disease "kennel cough," because coughing is the most common symptom. However, dogs with canine influenza are usually sick for a longer period (weeks), and are more likely to have a fever and nasal discharge, and to develop pneumonia. Most dogs develop the milder form of the disease (cough, mild fever). Some require hospitalization and intensive care.

Because this is a newly emerging pathogen, all dogs, regardless of breed or age, are susceptible to infection and have no naturally acquired or vaccine-induced immunity. Virtually 100 percent of exposed dogs become infected. Nearly 80 percent have clinical signs. There are two general clinical syndromes – the milder syndrome and a more severe pneumonia syndrome. The milder disease syndrome occurs in most dogs. The incubation period is two to five days after exposure before clinical signs appear. Infected dogs may shed virus for seven to 10 days from the initial day of clinical signs. Nearly 20 percent of infected dogs will not display clinical signs and become the silent shedders and spreaders of the infection.

Unfortunately, there is no vaccine for canine influenza virus at this time. There are ways to treat it, so if you suspect your dog has acquired canine influenza, waste no time and take your pet to your vet.



Send Questions

Karen Knipscheer has worked for Animal Services for 16 years; she worked in the field as an officer, then lieutenant, then captain. She was a district manager and a hearing examiner before recently becoming the public information officer. Feel free to welcome her; write to her at: talkback@cityemployeesclub.com

Karen Knipscheer,
Public Information Officer,
Animal Services



Animals Out of the Fire

Animal Services acts to save animals during recent Topanga firestorms.

People and their animals were displaced during the firestorm that started in the City of Los Angeles and through the City's lead agency for animals, Animal Services, they needed the assurance that their animals would be taken care of.

The calls came in from the residents that lived in the area that either they were not allowed to go in and get their animals or had to leave their animals behind. When the Department's employees deployed to the area, residents stopped and asked if they could take their animals. The Department complied.

Animal Services was the first on scene and stepped up and took control and started evacuations with the approval of the LAFD and LAPD. The employees worked with volunteers of the Emergency Equine Response Team (E.E.R.T.) and the LAPD's mounted unit, to evacuate hundreds of animals including horses, dogs, cats, alpacas, birds, rabbits, etc. At this time of emergency need, it didn't matter if they were County or City residents; the Department helped anyone who asked.

The animals were taken in, medically assessed, issued identification and housed at three locations: Pierce College, LA Equestrian Center and Hansen Dam Equestrian Center, at no charge. The Department also set up temporary housing at the Red Cross locations for smaller animals.

After it was safe and approved by the LAFD,



The recent firestorm in Chatsworth.

the Animal Services returned many of the animals to their owners, again at no charge to them.

The residents in this area have been so thankful for the great job the Department did, and for the care we took in evacuating their animals, that they have been donating to the Department. Employees worked countless hours under extreme stress. And kudos go out to the LAPD Mounted unit, which offered Animal Services the use of the unit's trailers and officer; and to the Department's Emergency Equine Rescue Team.

New Hours for Shelters

Animal Services extends the hours of its shelters.

ANIMAL SVCS. — LA Animal Services has extended its normal business hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays; shelters will now be open between the hours of 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. The extended hours on these two days of the week are to accommodate those who cannot make it during normal business hours.

New hours of operation:

Monday and Holidays:	Closed
Tuesday:	8 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Wednesday:	8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Thursday:	8 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Friday:	8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday:	8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sunday:	11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

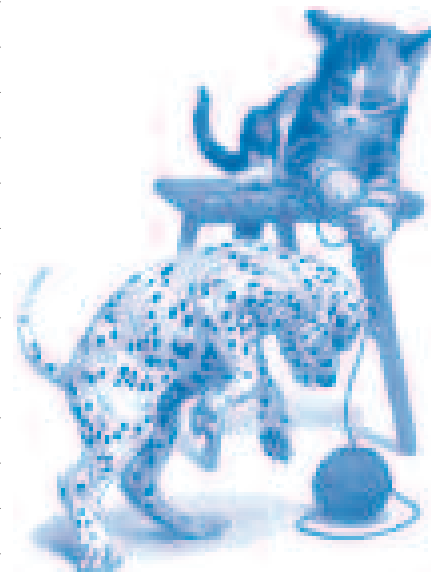
Shelter locations:

- East Valley, 13131 Sherman Way, North Hollywood
- West Valley, 20655 Plummer St., Chatsworth, CA
- North Central, 3201 Lacy St., Los Angeles
- West Los Angeles, 11950 Missouri Ave., Los Angeles
- South Los Angeles, 3320 W. 36th St., Los Angeles
- Harbor, 735 Battery St., San Pedro

For information or assistance:

Residents can call L.A. Animal Services at (888) 4LA-PET1/(888) 452-7381 (TTY hearing impaired: [877] 875-8205) or visit the Website at www.LAAnimalServices.com.

L.A. Animal Services rescues, houses and cares for lost and abandoned animals, enforces animal-related laws and acts to prevent cruelty to animals.



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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 digital photos to: moments@cityemployeesclub.com
Send paper notices and print photos to: *Alive!* 350 S. Figueroa St., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90071

Retirements

NAME	TITLE	DEPT.	#YEARS
Tomas Abutal	Etl. Eng. Drafting Tech.	DWP	N/A
Olivia Adams	Senior Clerk	DWP	N/A
Frank Alvarado	Water Utility	DWP	N/A
Carmine Baffo	Cust. Serv. Rep.	DWP	N/A
Robert Ball	Equip. Safety Investigator	Bldg. and Safety	37
Roy Barslund	Oper. Mtnc. Serv.	DWP	N/A
Herbert Barton	Street Mt. Supt.	Public Works	36
Richard Beal	Legislative Analyst	Council	21
Gregory Beckman Sr.	Oper. Mtnc. Serv.	DWP	N/A
Charmaine Brown	Crossing Guard	Transportation	7
Earl Brown	EAA Tech.	DWP	N/A
Jan Burba	Plumber	Gen. Services	21
Galo Campana	Ref. Coll. Truck Operator	Public Works	26
Richard Carrico	Systems Analyst	LAFD	28
Lionel Carvallo	Secretary	CDD	21
Floyd Casey	Welder	Gen. Services	25
Maria Castillo	Management Analyst	CDD	41
Roger Chandley	Pr. Construction Inspector	Public Works	35
Warren Charbonnet	Water Utility Worker	DWP	N/A
Darryl Cherness	Management Analyst	CDD	11
Melva Clark	Clerical	DWP	N/A
Stephen Clark	MEA	DWP	N/A
Terrence Colerus	Oper. Mtnc. Serv.	DWP	N/A
Larry Contri	N/A	DWP	N/A
Therese Correy	Librarian	Library	17
Freddy Cortez	N/A	DWP	N/A
Michael Coutu	Warehouse and Tool Room Wkr.	DWP	N/A
Marilyn Crasto	Sr. Clerk Typist	Housing	30
Phyllis Dougherty	N/A	DWP	N/A
Patsy Duchesne	Clerk Typist	Harbor	30
Robert Eustrom	Ch. Tax and Permit Div.	Finance	34
Dennis Eyre	EAA Prof. Supv.	DWP	N/A
Jeffrey Franetovich	Mech. Helper	Airports	30
Raymond Furnish	Finance Specialist	Treasurer	10
Gloria Garcia	Clerical	DWP	N/A
Doyle Gentzler	Deputy City Atty.	City Atty.	30
Cruz Gomez	EAA Prof.	DWP	N/A
Raul Gonzalez	Gardener Caretaker	Airports	16
Maximo Gorospe	Sr. Build. Operating Engr.	Airports	25
Michael Graskowiak	N/A	DWP	N/A
Pablo Griffith	Oper. Mtnc. Serv.	DWP	N/A
Ruben Guerrero	Ref. Collection Truck Opr.	Public Works	19
Aiko Hanami	Cvl. Eng. Drafting Tech.	DWP	N/A
William Hey	Heavy Duty Truck Op.	DWP	N/A
Vincent Hernandez	Oper. Mtnc. Serv.	DWP	N/A
John Hilger	Oper. Mtnc. Serv.	DWP	N/A
Geraldine Hines	Clerk Stenographer	City Planning	36
Barbara Holley	Sr. Systems Analyst	LAPD	11
Con Howe	Director of Planning	City Planning	30
Donnell Howard	Sr. Traffic Supervisor	Transportation	30
Hideo Ishimaru	Sr. Carpenter	Airports	35
Beda Jardenil	Lab. Tech.	DWP	N/A
Leola Johns	Traffic Officer	Transportation	18
Richard Johnson	Equip. Repair Supv.	DWP	N/A
Hosneya Khattab	Sr. Librarian	Library	19
J.A. Killingsworth	Equip. Specialist	LAFD	38
Shu Lee	Pr. Accountant	Controller	24
Deena Lester	Messenger Clerk	Library	8
Annette Lindeman	Clerical	DWP	N/A
L. Littlejohn	Oper. Mtnc. Serv.	DWP	N/A
Alan Lupoe	Oper. Mtnc. Serv.	DWP	N/A
Junie Maddox	Security Officer	Airports	13
Michael Marquez	Oper. Mtnc. Serv.	DWP	N/A
Christine McCall	Asst. City Attorney	City Attorney	30
Lucik Melikian	EAA Prof.	DWP	N/A
Margaret Murphy	Cust. Serv. Rep.	DWP	N/A
Manuel Nava	Gardener Caretaker	Rec and Parks	35
Gary Nyberg	Electric Station Op.	DWP	N/A
Patrick O'Connor	Oper. Mtnc. Serv.	DWP	N/A
William Penhallow	Sr. Equip. Mechanic	LAPD	25
Cletus Pierce	Sr. Build. Operating Engr.	Airports	9
Guy Pugliese	Plumber	Harbor	24
Charles Raffetto	Oper. Mtnc. Serv.	DWP	N/A

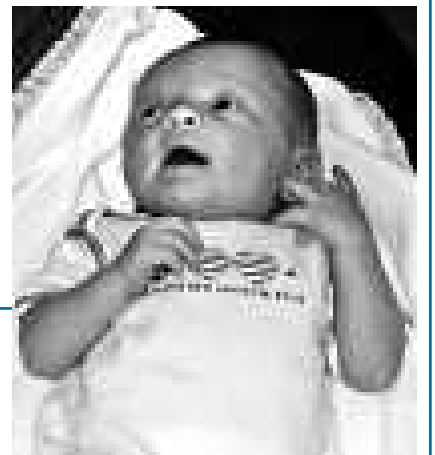
Kathy Rainey	Sr. Clerk Typist	DWP	N/A
Ricky Roberts	Tree Surgeon Super.	DWP	N/A
Albert Roy	Painter	Gen. Services	21
David Schneider	EAA Prof. Supv.	DWP	N/A
Herbert Schweiger	EAA Prof.	DWP	N/A
Kareen Shane	Sr. Mgmt. Analyst	Airports	30
Richard Shary	Instrument Mech.	DWP	N/A
Gary Shaughnessy	Rec Director	Rec and Parks	33
Koichi Shimada	Oper. Mtnc. Serv.	DWP	N/A
John Smith	Electric Station Op.	DWP	N/A
Mark Smith	Steam Plant Op.	DWP	N/A
Patricia Smith	Power Distribution	DWP	N/A
Efrayem Soliman	Civil Engr. Assoc.	DWP	N/A
Carolyn Tate	Sr. Clerk Typist	CDD	23
Aubrey Tindle	Oper. Mtnc. Serv.	DWP	N/A
Jerry Trusty	EAA Tech.	DWP	N/A
John Vail	MEA	DWP	N/A
Robert White	Golf Starter	Rec and Parks	10
Kenneth Widdis	Gardener Caretaker	Rec and Parks	34
Cunnie Williams	Sr. Gardener	Rec and Parks	30
Bernard Wilson	Police Captain	Airports	30
Reuben Wilson	Storekeeper	DWP	N/A
Stephen Yancey	Aqueduct and Reservoir Keeper	DWP	N/A

Alive! and your City Employees Club wishes to thank each and every one of the following, who have spent many years making Los Angeles the great city it is. Congratulations, and enjoy your well-deserved rewards!

Births



Isabella Alexis Jimenez, born July 28. He is the son of **George and Carol Jimenez**. George works in Meter Reading, DWP.



Jordan Lea DeZiel, born September 9 to **Josh and Julie DeZiel**. Josh is a carpenter at LAX.



Zorianna Garcia, born July 13 to **Carlos and Tracey Garcia**. Carlos is a Meter Reader, DWP.



Johnny Tratten, born September 2 to **James Tratten**, Rec and Parks.

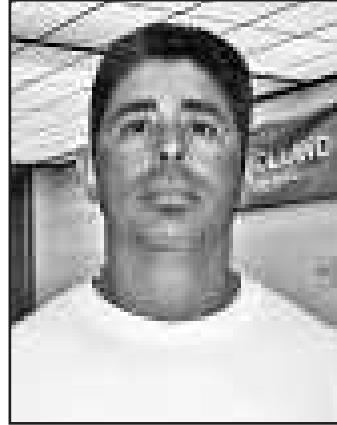
Births: Send us the following information: full name of the newborn, date of birth, name of parents, job title of the parent(s) who work(s) for the City or the DWP, your phone number and a baby photo. Send to moments@cityemployeesclub.com

Promotions

Mario Ignacio, promoted to Director of Finance and Risk Control, DWP. Mario has more than 14 years of financial management experience emphasizing taxable fixed income investment and debt administration. His responsibilities now include directing and managing special trust fund portfolios close to \$1 billion, administering and implementing debt-restructuring activities for the DWP and certain SCPPA projects, and monitoring risk and credit for the utility's wholesale marketing activities and natural gas hedging program.

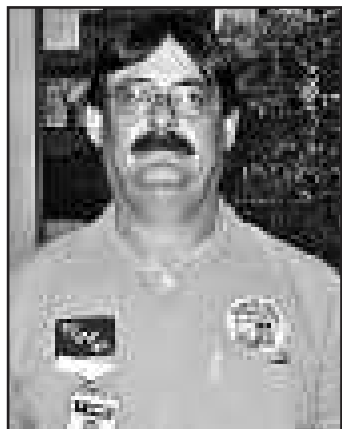
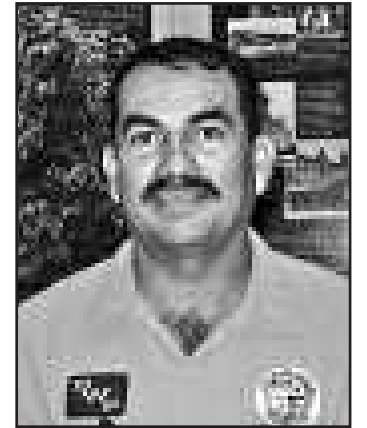


Lt. Gerry Perez, General Services Office of Public Safety Day Watch Commander, has been promoted to captain. He is a Club Member with 24 years of City service.



Ricardo Alvarez, promoted to Maintenance and Construction Worker, DWP, from Construction Equipment Service Worker, Gen. Services. He has been with the City for 20 months.

Rolando Vanegas, promoted to Maintenance and Construction Helper, DWP, from Maintenance and Construction Helper, Public Works. He has been with the City for 4 years.



Pete Hernandez, promoted to Maintenance Construction Helper from Light Truck Operator, DWP. He has 5 years of City service.



Harriet M. Voloso, promoted to Management I, Housing, from Management II, DWP. She has been with the City since 1982.

New Members

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

Welcome New Members!

- | | | | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Tony Alvarez | Gary Campbell | Brenda Young | Michael Durkee | Douglas Lee | Jose Luis Raza |
| Juanita Crutchfield | Cassandra Chambliss | Alicia Zamora | Romero-Salgado | John Leonard | Nazareth Revilla |
| Barbara Eubank | Howard Chambliss | Cesar Zapata | Elizabeth | Zoila Lopez | Christopher Riedesel |
| Rose Fuller | Karen Daniels | Eulalio Alcala | Erick Escobar | Rufino Lozano | Marianne Robinson |
| Ernestina Gutierrez | Jenny Day | Vincent Amos | Constance Evans | Lynn McClain | Mario Rodriguez |
| Mildred Klein | Larry Dominguez | Elizabeth Arnold | Jennifer Flores | Gordon McCullough | Kevin Rodriguez |
| Robert Sexton | Ching Feng | Teresa Arreola | Rene Fregoso | Roman Melgar | Maria Rodriguez |
| Michael Stevenson | Wendy Fuller-Bryson | John Arriola | Richardo Fuentes | Martin Mendoza | Juventina Rodriguez |
| Thelma Tellis | Maricela Garcia | Grace Arroyo | Cynthia Fuentes | Arthur Meza | Eduardo Rodriguez |
| Ron Trower | Keren Gonzalez | Andrew Avalos | Lisa Fuqua | Ron Miller | Milan Romero |
| William Violante | Emma Gonzalez | Frank Ayala | Frank Gaffney | Lorna Minix | Mary Rosales |
| Maxine Williams | Mayra Heredia | Carnell Baker | Maria Gambino-Gudino | Sofia Mohagheh | Beatriz Rubio |
| Ralph Alvarado | Salvador Hernandez | Earl Barnes | Sayde Garcia | Deossha Moore | Cynthia Serrajo |
| Rene Astengo | Mary Hodges | Erin Bishop | Aureliano Garcia Jr. | Reginald Moore | Frank Shin |
| Christopher Cadena | Jeffrey Johnson | James Byard | Juan Gomez | Baltazar Mora Jr. | George Skarmear |
| Belinda Crawford | Montrii Kiatkulpi Boone | Claudia Campos | Murriel Goosby | Frank Morales | Anthony Smith |
| Jason Darby | Edward King | Juan Carbajal | Lynne Gregoire | Dora Moran | Donald Smyth |
| Steven Davis | Amanda Lares | Max Cardenas | Kip Haneman | Jose Moreno | Linda Stewart |
| Jose Del Barrio | Tiffany Liaw | Josefa Castro | Tammy Harrell | William Motherspaw | Sherry Thompson |
| Matthew Hogan | Teodoro Lopez | Steven Cavazos | Falise Harrell-Jackson | Trena Napue | George Topete |
| Robert Kerr | Raymond Maese | Alicia Ceja | Carol Harris | Diane Newman | Yolanda Trejo |
| Hong Lam | Gloria Martin | Alfredo Cenicerros | Shannone Harvey | Sherade Nichols | Jorge Trejo |
| Paul Langbehn | Patrice Mingo | Fernando Chacon | Marcus Hawthorne | Emeka Nnamoko | Jubian Tutor |
| Wayne Nelson | Danette Nappi | Joe Chale | Anibal Hidalgo | Gail-Anne Noyes | Daniel Varela |
| James Ochoa | Gregory Navarro Jr. | Jesus Chavez | Donald Hobbs Jr. | Leena Ogoke | Adam Verdugo |
| Erlina Partosa | Brian Nelson | Jackie Chavez | Paula Hofsommer | Daniel O'Grady | Eleanor Villanueva |
| Juan Serna | Belinda Nieves | Cecilia Consebido | Pete Holguin | George Olsey | Darius Vosooghi |
| Michael Singson | Terrence O'Connell | Kelly Cooper | Scott Hurwitz | Mayra Ossono | Albert Wang |
| Michael Thompson | John Parker | Ana Cordova | Vern Ibarra | John Otto | Nicole Ward |
| Rafael Vazquez | Andy Robateau | Cesar Corona | Arthur Jackson | Sam Pallares | Sabah Washington |
| Javier Zendejas | Carlos Rodriguez | Julie Cuttrel | Azya Jackson | Clarence Parmer | Narvia Wells |
| Eufemia Avalos | Felix Santa Cruz | Charles Davis | Kathleen Johnson | Rameshbhai Patel | Elliot White |
| Tessa Bateman | Carmen Steffey | Michael De Lang | Jerome Johnson | Alfredo Pedraza | Kimberley Williams |
| Rayford Bennett | Victor Sturk | Michael Delgadillo | Timothy Johnson | Rafael Perez | Terron Worley |
| Duane Brown | Fabiola Villasenor | Sergio Diaz | Peter Kausteklis | Leonard Ramirez | Steven Wright |
| Aubrey Brown | Derek Wallace | Venkata Donthineni | Viet Le | Jeanette Ramos | Gloria Wyatt |
| Linda Browne | Leslie Washington | Richard Doris | Yi Lee | Sandra Ramos | Vicente Zamora |

Life's Important Moments



In Memoriam

Our thoughts and condolences are with the family and friends of the following current and retired City employees who have passed away:

NAME	DEPT.	#YEARS
Helen Bailey	DWP	18
Ronald Cox	DWP	26
Rodrigo Campos	Rec and Parks	21
Karen David	DWP	20
Ramon Garcia	Transportation	3
James Graham	Airports	21
Clarence Jingles	Airports	16
Richard Lenser	DWP	24
John Morales	DWP	20
Regina Orr	DWP	25
Edmundo Sosa	DWP	17
Ramona Strickland	DWP	25
Walter Anthony	DWP	27
William Arnold	Public Works	20
Charles Baer	DWP	16
Warren Bayton	DWP	34
George Bleibaum	Transportation	31
Player Bradford	DWP	32
Donald Brittingham	LAPD	44
Gus Brown	DWP	41
Leland Burton	DWP	23
Ray Cervantes	Public Works	28
Carl Chaplin	Harbor	6
Charles Childress	Airports	34
Thelma Clark	DWP	11
Desmond Cleary	Public Works	5
Frank Cochran	DWP	17
Mardell Craddock	Public Works	21
Lee Cramer	DWP	32
Frederick Crowder	Transportation	35
Thomas Cummings	DWP	23
Theodric Davis	Public Works	30
Kenneth Flittner	DWP	31
Harry Flynt	DWP	7
George Gallego	DWP	28
Walter Gilmore	Public Works	35
Edgar Givens	Gen. Services	20
William Gowdy	DWP	23
George Grover	DWP	37
Antonio Gutierrez	Transportation	20
Charles Hanus	Airports	12
William Hannah	DWP	18
Isom Holmes	Rec and Parks	13
Donald Horton	DWP	29
Elinor Howlett	Public Works	29
Barney Jester	DWP	43
Charles Johnson	DWP	20
Chester Jones	Gen. Services	27
Jewel Jones	DWP	22
Howard Kaessner	DWP	38
Mark Karmelich	Harbor	28
Peter LeLiever	DWP	20
Gertrude Lovinggood	DWP	21
Mary Luque	LAPD	28
Henry Macy	Airports	16
Dolores Martin	DWP	10
Otha Martin	Public Works	19
Wesley Marshall	LAPD	10
Odell Mathieu	DWP	25
Kathleen McDevitt	DWP	19
George Meehan	Public Works	16
Ralph Melching	Public Works	30
Charles Navarro	Controller	25
Francis Osborn	DWP	32
Otis Pierce	DWP	30
Milan Polacek	Public Works	26
William Powers	Airports	13
Joseph Ramirez	DWP	31
Ignacio Reyes	Public Works	35
Richard Ringys	DWP	26
Marguerite Rivera	Library	15
Donald Rossman	DWP	24
Robert Ryman	DWP	17
Harold Scarborough	DWP	33
Thomas Sims	DWP	30
Kenneth Smith	DWP	21
Lillian Sonies	Treasurer	21
Angus Stamps	Public Works	29
Robert Thompson	DWP	21
John Trotter	Transportation	35
Colleen Twomey	LAPD	38
Jose Vazquez	DWP	13
Earl Walls	DWP	21
Eugene Wald	DWP	37
George Ward Jr.	DWP	39
Anderson Warren	DWP	28
Robert Werndorf	DWP	11
Robert White	DWP	38
Thomas Williams	DWP	30
Robert Witt	Harbor	29



Dances into the Holidays

The LADWP Dance Club is hosting a Holiday Party for all City employees, families and friends Friday, Dec. 9, from 7:30 p.m. to midnight at the LJ Ballroom Dance Center, 19716 E. Arrow Highway in Glendora. Cost is only \$25. You are invited to dance the night away and meet your fellow City Employees.

LADWP Dance Club
Friday, Dec. 9
7:30 p.m. to midnight

LJ Ballroom Dance Center
19716 E. Arrow
Highway in Glendora

For more information, contact Lourdes Zerrudo at (213) 367-1405 or lourdes.zerrudo@ladwp.com



Fredi Macias, Library employee and the first Eagle Scout for his Boy Scout troop in five years.

Soaring Like an Eagle

■ Library employee becomes an Eagle Scout.

Story by Robert Larios, Director of Communications and Marketing
 Photo courtesy Fredi Macias

LIBRARY — Fredi Macias, a young Library Dept. Messenger Clerk at the Mid-Valley Regional Branch Library in North Hills, earned the Eagle Scout Rank, the highest rank of scouting achievement, at a ceremony Oct. 4 at the place where the troop meets, a Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints San Fernando Skate Center, 15555 Saticoy St. in Van Nuys.

"My mother is a single mother of three boys. I'm in the middle," Fredi says.

"I'm honored to say that I've completed the highest rank in Boy Scouts, the Eagle Scout Rank. I'm a Mexican American. I'm currently attending Los Angeles Valley College, and I plan to transfer to UCLA, where I would go on to major in political science. I plan to become a City politician because I feel a great desire to help this community.

"I've been a City employee since I was 16 years old at the Mid-Valley Regional Branch Library in North Hills. I have many dreams and I know nothing is impossible. My dream is to be the first Mexican American President of the United States of America! Watch out World, here I come!"





As his last official act of duty after a 30-year career with the force, departing Airport Police Chief Bernard Wilson (left) administers the swearing-in oath to new Airport Police Lieutenants Latasha Amerson, Michael Vaccariello, Carl Sansbury, Mario Patrick, Richard Hinkle and Tyrone Stallings.

Airport Police Promotes Six

■ Sergeants become lieutenants at ceremony.

Story and photo by Harold Johnson, LAX Public Relations

AIRPORTS — Six Los Angeles Airport Police Sergeants were sworn-in as Lieutenants Aug 17. The new lieutenants are Latasha Amerson, Richard Hinkle, Mario Patrick, Carl Sansbury, Tyrone Stallings and Michael Vaccariello. Departing Airport Police Chief Bernard Wilson administered the swearing-in oath as his last official act of duty after a 30-year career with the force.

Amerson was formerly assigned as Chief Wilson's Adjutant and is now assigned to the Investigations Unit over Internal Affairs and Background Investigations. Hinkle worked in Emergency Services and will join the Homeland Security Unit. Patrick, already a police lieutenant, transferred from General Services to the Airport Police Patrol Services Unit. Sansbury and Stallings are in the Patrol Services Unit and will remain a part of that organization. Vaccariello led the Dignitary Protection Unit and will now work in Patrol Services.

Congratulations to the new lieutenants!



From left: Chief Gary Green; Officer Gregg Iwamiya; Officer Thomas Dye; Officer Tanansuk Chow; and Paul Green, Chief Financial Officer.

They Saved a Life

■ Three Airport Police officers are recognized for saving a life.

Story by Officer Belinda Nettles, Airport Police
Photos by Liz Montes, Club Counselor

AIRPORTS — Three Los Angeles Airport Police officers were recognized Oct. 3 for saving the life of a female traveler at Los Angeles International Airport last July.

Certificates of Appreciation were presented to the officers during the Los Angeles Board of Airport Commissioners Meeting Oct. 3.

July 22, at approximately 12:45 p.m., Los Angeles Airport Police Officers Gregg Iwamiya, Thomas Dye and Tanansuk Chow immediately responded to an emergency radio call about an unconscious woman at boarding gate 112 in the Tom Bradley International Terminal. Dye and

Iwamiya performed cardiopulmonary resuscitation on the traveler while Chow retrieved an automated external defibrillator from a nearby wall and placed it on the victim. After the AED determined that defibrillation was necessary, a shock was applied. Shortly thereafter, the traveler regained a pulse and started breathing on her own prior to the arrival of Los Angeles Fire Department paramedics, who continued medical treatment and later took the traveler to Centinela Hospital in Inglewood.

The traveler reportedly made a full recovery and was discharged a few days later.

Iwamiya has served on the Airport Police force for three years, and both Dye and Chow for two years.

The Club congratulates the three officers for their heroic service to the customers at LAX.



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Let There Be Ice

■ Downtown on Ice returns for the holiday season. Also this year: holiday music and special events.

REC AND PARKS — Holiday revelers are invited to glide into family fun at the Southland's largest outdoor skating rink, Downtown on Ice, scheduled to open for its eighth season Nov. 17, and to remain open through Jan. 16.

The rink will be at Pershing Square (532 South Olive). As the City's answer to New York's Rockefeller Center, the vast outdoor ice oasis lies nestled among the City's picturesque towering skyscrapers and historical landmarks, perfect for a memorable and convenient outing.

With an admission price of \$6 per skating session and \$2 for skate rental, the rink is open seven days a week (including holidays), and is sponsored by Rec and Parks and the office of Councilmember Jan Pery (9th District).

Downtown on Ice also boasts a free holiday musical concert series with top names in entertainment, along with numerous special free family events, including a Disney on Ice special review.

The facility is easily accessible via the Golden State 5, Hollywood 101 and Harbor 110 Freeways, or by bus (5th and Olive), and the Metro Red Line (Pershing Square Station at Hill Street). Underground parking is offered at a discounted rate with rink validation.

For more information on Downtown on Ice, call (213) 847-4970 or visit www.laparks.org and go to Directory of Services, then click on Pershing Square. The toll-free number is (888) LA-PARKS (527-2757).

Downtown on Ice at Pershing Square Nov. 17 through Jan. 16.

532 S. Olive St. (across from the Millennium Biltmore Hotel)

Hours:

- General schedule: Monday -Thursday noon – 9 p.m.
- Friday/Saturday/Sunday 10 a.m. – 10 p.m.
- Special extended holiday vacation hours 10 a.m. – 10 p.m. (Dec. 17 through Jan. 8)
- Open all holidays

Admission: \$6 per session
Skate rental: \$2





Chief William Bammatre and Councilmember Greig Smith pose with firefighters who will be working at the new station.



Chief William Bammatre addresses the crowd.



FS 87 Rising

■ LAFD breaks ground on Fire Station 87.

FIRE DEPT. — A new fire station is on the way in Northridge.

The LAFD broke ground on its new Fire Station 87, at 10124 Balboa in Northridge. The new and expanded fire station will mean greater service to the people of Northridge.

Several dignitaries were on hand for the event, including LAFD Chief William Bammatre and Councilmember Greig Smith.



Dignitaries toss the first shovelful of dirt at the recent groundbreaking for Fire Station 87.

Invite the Club

Hey Club Members:

Alive! wants to go to your office holiday party!

Is your office having a holiday party? Let us know, and we'll do our best to publish a story and photos from your celebration!

We know there are many, many parties already scheduled, and we'll do our best to get to as many as we can. So please let us know.

Contact your Club Counselor. Look on the back page of this issue of

Alive! to identify your

Counselor. Or drop an e-mail to Michelle Moreno, the Club's Events Guru, at

michelleonthemove@cityemployeesclub.com



See you at the party!



Earn Two FREE Movie Tickets! Share the Joy!



Do your friends a favor by helping them join the best Club on earth.

All this can be theirs:

- ⊙ The best ticket discounts in town.
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- ⊙ Fantastically friendly and helpful Counselors.
- ⊙ Excellent insurance programs.

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When you share the joy and help a friend join the Club, we'll send you 2 FREE movie tickets (two per referral). You share the joy ...and have fun at the movies at the same time.

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the City Employees Club of Los Angeles today!



As a Club member, you'll receive this newspaper every month and all Club benefits for only \$4 per month. See page 2 for a complete listing of Club benefits.

INSTRUCTIONS: Simply complete the form below and complete and sign the payroll deduction authorization. Cut out the application on the dotted line and mail in an envelope. We'll process your application and send your membership card in about two weeks.

City Employees Club of Los Angeles
World Trade Center
350 South Figueroa Street, Suite 700
Los Angeles, CA 90071

Club members enjoy many valuable benefits including:

- Discount movie, theme park, and attraction tickets
- Discounts and savings with your Club card from local and national retailers
- Monthly *Alive!* Newspaper including free classifieds and special Retiree's section
- Access to Group-Rated Insurance Products
- Free notary services

New Member Information:

Last Name		First Name		MI	City Dept./DWP Empl.#
Address					
City				State	Zip
Work Phone ()			Home Phone ()		
E-mail			Social Security No.		
Date of Birth (MM/DD/YY)			<input type="radio"/> Male	<input type="radio"/> Female	<input type="radio"/> Married <input type="radio"/> Single

Payroll Deduction Authorization

Social Security #: _____ Name: _____ Department: _____

To: **Controller—City of Los Angeles, or Fire and Police Pension, or City Employees Retirement System, or Paymaster—Department of Water and Power**

I hereby authorize the deduction from my salary of amounts sufficient to cover premiums/membership fees on any of my group benefits provided by **City Employees Club of Los Angeles**. In the event any premiums should change due to age, increase in salary or benefits, or a general rate increase for the entire Association, I authorize you to make such change upon notification from the City Employees Club of Los Angeles and such deduction to remain in force until canceled by me in writing.

Federal Law P.L. 93-579 Section 7 RE: FEDERAL PRIVACY ACT AND USE OF SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS
This law requires you be informed, when asked for your Social Security Number, that it must be provided for use in employment, personnel and payroll processes: Authority for requiring this information is based upon provision of the City's payroll and personnel candidate processing system operational prior to January 1, 1975 and applicable Federal Law.

Sign Here

X _____

City/DWP Employee Date

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Code Deduction

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Last Name		First Name		MI
Address				
City			State	Zip
Work Phone ()		Club Member Number		

Questions?

A Club counselor would be more than happy to answer your questions about the Club: **(800) 464-0452** (toll-free)

Marianne Bids Adieu

■ **Marianne Miglin retires from LAFD after 32 years of service.**

Story and photos by Bev Haro, Club Counselor

FIRE DEPT. — Marianne Miglin enjoyed a retirement dinner held in her honor Oct. 13 at the Sagebrush Cantina in Calabasas.

After a moment of silence in honor of the late Julie Bennett, who died in the Metro crash last spring, Inspector Roscoe Carter described Marianne as a hard worker, very kind and a good manager, as she always ran things smoothly in the office.

Inspector Lee Cooper said that Marianne was efficient, kind and dedicated.

Battalion Chief Jones told the Club that Marianne was her "big sister" ... Marianne knew the system and "was the system."

The Club congratulates Marianne on her excellent career.



From left: Battalion Chief Jones, Marianne Miglin and Chief Hill sit at the banquet table shortly before dinner.



From left: Roscoe Carter, LAFD Inspector, 30 years of service, with his wife, Floydell.



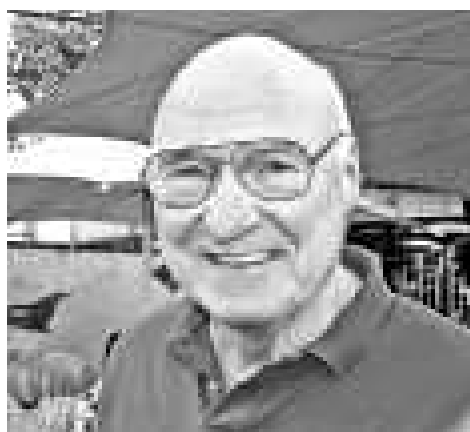
From left: Rich Mendenhall, retired, 40 years; and Craig Hancock, 21 years, Fire Inspector.



Brian Berringer, Retired, LAFD, 26 years.



Battalion Chief Jones, 29 years.



John Beiner, LAFD Inspector, 27 years.



Darcey Miglin, Marianne Miglin's daughter.



Robert Gregory, Marianne Miglin's nephew.



Florence Gregory, Marianne Miglin's older sister.



Marianne Miglin enjoys her retirement dinner.



Bridget and Lee Cooper. Lee is a Fire Inspector and has 31 years



From left: Coworker Zabela, Marianne Miglin and Coworker Gabby.

Haven House

Helping battered women and their children on their way towards a life free of violence.

We need your help to help save lives. You can help in so many ways – cash donations, clothing, food, volunteering. Every little bit helps more than you'll know. Every donation is greatly appreciated – no matter how much. Contact us today at 626.564.8880 to find out how you can help.

For more information on how to donate, please visit our website at www.havenhousela.org or call us at (626) 564-8880.

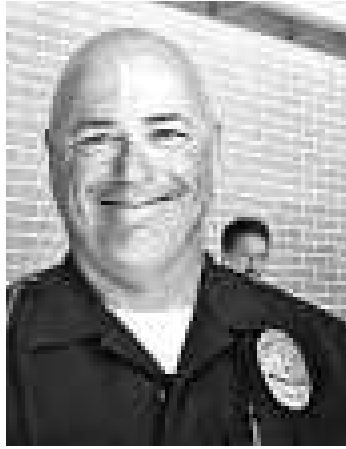
If you or someone you know needs help, call us now at our **24-Hour Hotline – 1-323-681-2626.**

Haven House is the oldest shelter of its kind in the United States, founded in 1964 to shelter families of violent alcoholics.

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- Assistance with finding permanent housing
- Assistance with finding employment
- Court and social services advocacy
- Assistance with getting welfare
- Legal assistance (TRO's etc.)
- Medical Services





Patrick Smith, P2+2, 9 years.



From left: Lt. Ted Matthews, 26 years; Marjorie Avila, Clerk Typist, 5 years; David Akazawa, Reserve Officer, 5 years; and James Miller, Detective I, 10 years.

Patty Wagon

■ Police Protective League continues its appreciation days at the Wilshire Division.

Story by Arlene Herrero, Club Counselor
Photos by Michelle Moreno, Events Guru

POLICE DEPT. — The Police Protective League brought its appreciation day and membership outreach program, complete with In-N-Out burgers, to the LAPD Wilshire Division Sept. 8.

The flyer said: "In appreciation for your outstanding service and dedication to duty, the Board of Directors of the Los Angeles Police Protective League invites you to enjoy In-N-Out Burgers."

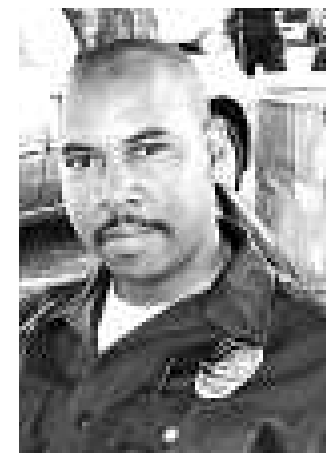
The Club thanks League President Robert Baker, League Secretary Ted Hunt, Treasurer Paul Weber and Directors Corina Lee, Peter Repovich and Luther Lutz for their assistance.



Angie Roman, Executive Assistant, 30 years.



Peter Hopkins, Automotive Supervisor, 20 years, Club Member



Officer Kevin Riley, 15 years.



From left: Sgt. Jay Hom, 12 years; and Detective Robert Palacios, 17 years.



From left: Officer Luis Robles, 9 years, and Officer Joe Pollack, 16 years.



Many line up for their In-N-Out burger.



Back, from left: Annette Leon, PSR, 17 years, Club Member; and Sheila Ponder, Clerk Typist, 25.5 years, Club Member. Seated: Mary Ross, PSR, 24 years, Club Member; and Brigitte Perry, PSR, 17 years, Club Member.



From left: Doris Chiriboga, Victim Assistance Coordinator, 7 years; Sgt. Ron Batesole, 37 years; and Nina Graham, Sr. Clerk Typist, 27 years.



From left: Frank Pettinato, Police Officer 3, 37 years; and Ilya Glusker, Police Student Worker, 3.5 years.



From left: Officer Alma Mark, 8 years; and Officer Cheryl Valdivia, 17 years, Club Member.



Charles Thomas, SLO, 19 years.



Zach Hutchings, Police Investigator, 10 years.



Leonard Miller, Sgt. II, 21 years.



From left: Roscoe Jolla, SLO, 18 years; and Geneva Haynes, Detective, 22 years.



From left: Officer Alma Mark, 8 years; and Steven Redd, P2+2, 20 years.



From left: Tyrone Miles, Detective I, 11 years; and John Hong, Detective I, 9.5 years.



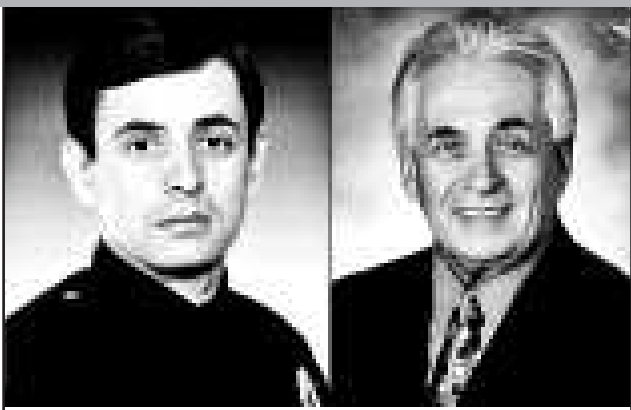
Anthony Cato, Detective, 15 years.



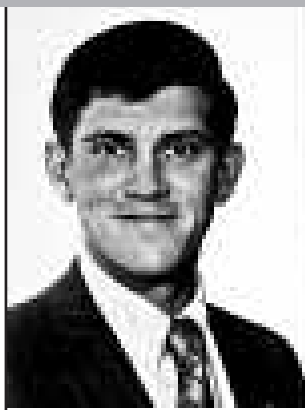
Angela Peoples, Sgt. I, 15 years.



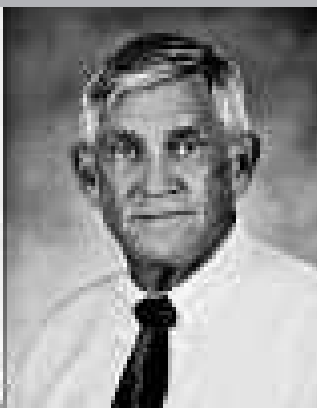
Sgt. Roy Ballesteros, 26 years.



Henry Zalba, then and now.



Jack Luther, then and now



Andy Monsue, then and now.



3 Say Goodbye

■ Three retire from LAPD.

Story and photos by Arlene Herrero, Club Counselor

POLICE DEPT. — At a dinner, the LAPD bid adieu to three veterans.

Those retiring were Det. III Henry "Disco" Zalba, with 32 years of service; Det. II Jack "Heart Attack Jack" Luther, with 32 years of service; and Lt. II Andy "Turtle" Monsue, with 31 years of service.

The dinner was held Sept. 22 at the Police Academy.

The Club offers its congratulations to all three men, and wishes them well.



Jack Luther has a great time!



From left: Annette and Roger Sundahl, Henry Zalba's daughter and son-in-law.



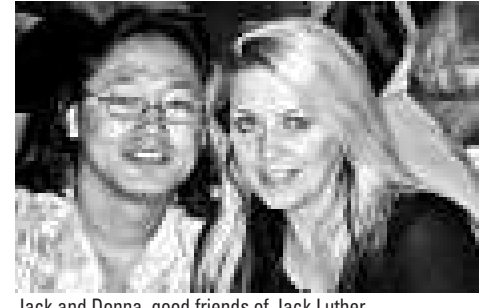
Philip Zalba, LAPD Officer, 3 years, Rampart Division, and oldest son of Henry Zalba, with his wife, Christen.



The three retirees enjoy each other's company at their retirement dinner.



From left: John Yanez, childhood friend of Henry Zalba, with John's wife, Lil.



Jack and Donna, good friends of Jack Luther.



Mark E. Kelly, Glendora Councilmember, enjoys being at Jack Luther's table.



Jack and Maxine Luther.



From left: Laura Phillips, sister-in-law to Henry Zalba; with Grace and Henry Zalba.



Jack's Mom and Dad, Nina and Stan Levin



From left: Anthony Zalba, son; Mia Caceres, niece; and Martha Peña, younger sister.



Andy R. Monsue talks about the old days and enjoys his retirement dinner.



Back, from left: Sgt. Walker and Lt. Heredero. Front: Tina Murillo, Cathy Susim and Cpt. Denis Cremins, Rampart Division.

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LAFD Promotes 6

■ Six are promoted during badge presentation.

Story by Bev Haro, Club Counselor
Photos by Summy Lam, Club Tech Guru

FIRE DEPT — In a badge presentation Sept. 19 in the Julie Bennett Conference Room in City Hall East, the LAFD promoted six employees.

Promoted to Inspector II from Inspector I were Patrick Juilian and Herman Quaintance. Promoted to Inspector I were Firefighter III Federico De La Vega; Firefighter III/Paramedic David Cohen; Engineer Kirk Garber; and Engineer Terrence A. Crossen.

Patrick J. Juilian has 25 years with the Fire Department. He was assigned to the high-rise unit. As an Inspector II, his new assignment will be in the schools, churches and institutions unit.

Herman R. Quaintance has almost 25 years with the Fire Department. He was assigned to the schools, churches and institutions unit (temp.). As an Inspector II, he will remain in this assignment, specializing in LAUSD inspections.

Federico De La Vega was assigned to the Bureau of Emergency Services, Fire Station 55, "B" Platoon. His new assignment will be in the Bureau of Fire Prevention and Public Safety, schools, churches, and institutions unit (temp.). Federico has been with the Fire Department since 1983.

David R. Cohen was assigned to the Bureau

of Emergency Services, Fire Station 75, "A" Platoon. His new assignment will be in the Bureau of Fire Prevention & Public Safety, Valley industrial unit (temp.). David has been with the Fire Department since 1990 and has 15 years of service.

Kirk W. Garber was assigned to the Bureau of Emergency Services, Fire Station 87, "B" Platoon. His new assignment will be in the Bureau of Fire Prevention & Public Safety, West industrial unit (temp.). Kirk has been with the Fire Department since 1980 and has 25 years of service.

Terrence A. Crossen was assigned to the Bureau of Emergency Services, Fire Station 61, "B" Platoon. His new assignment will be in the Bureau of Fire Prevention & Public Safety, high-rise unit (temp.). Kirk has been with the Fire Department since 1992 and has 13 years of service.



David R. Cohen



Firefighter Kris M. Larson was assigned at Fire Station 92, "C" Platoon. She was promoted to Inspector I on Sept. 19. Her new assignment is in the Bureau of Fire Prevention and Public Safety, West industrial unit (temp.). Kris has been with the Fire Department since 1990 and has 14 1/2 years of City service.



Patrick J. Juilian.



Federico De La Vega.



Herman R. Quaintance.

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From left: Orlando Calayag, RVT; Richard Shargani, DVM; Oscar Abuso, RVT; Victoria Harrison, ACT; Yesenia Espinoza, RVT; and Jun Ladlad, ACT.



The Free Spray and Neuter mobile.



Representatives from the LA Zoo hand out free information.



People wait in line to get their pets inoculated.

Pets in Pacoima

■ Animal Svcs. holds Pet Fair.

Story by Liz Montes, Club Counselor
Photos by Angel Gomez, Member Services Manager

ANIMAL SERVICES — Los Angeles Animal Services and Council member Alex Padilla hosted the Neighborhood Pet Fair Sept. 24 at Ritchie Valens Park in Pacoima.

The fair included free rabies vaccinations, free dog training demonstrations, pet licensing, spay and neuter coupons and pet adoptions. Free giveaways and tasty treats were given out to the pets.

Congratulations on a successful event!



Front row, from left: Laura Romero, ACT, and Walter Henriquez, ACT. Back: Karen Knipscheer, Public Relations, and Jackie Mora.



Two kids get their faces painted.



From left: Enrique Gomez, Civil Engineering Associate, and Maria Samano, Water Service Representative.



From left: Sergio Magana, Aaron Flores, Officer Gary Kennedy, Aaron Flores Jr. and Officer David Vasquez.



Angel Gomez Jr. with a Los Angeles County Representative



Two girls play with the puppies.



Two kids get their faces painted.



From left: Kristi Navarro, ACT; Clarence Clegg, ACO II; Christine Culhno, RVT; and Martha Nuno, Volunteer Coordinator.



From left: Guerdon Stuckey, General Manager; and Khaim Morton, Field Deputy for Councilmember Alex Padilla.



From left: Eric Gardner, ACO II; Hugh Briefman, ACO II; and Julie Bastian, ACO II.



A Boy Scout poses with his friend, a lizard.

Chris the D.J.

A.K.A. Papi-Chulo
(323) 376-6615

R&B • SOUL • OLDIES • ROCK • LATIN • REGGAE
JAZZ • BLUES • HIP HOP • GOSPEL • COUNTRY WESTERN



From left: Jennifer Bowers and Wendell Bowers.



From left: Kim Hoormann and Coral Barreiro, Education Specialist.



Tom takes a photo with a friendly lizard.



A puppy gets his shots.



From left: Alexandra Cortez and Orlando Calayag, RVT.



Front row, from left: Megumi Nakayama, Volunteer; and Jessica Anguiano, ACT. Back: Joel Cruz, RVT, and Maria Torres, ACT.



Animal Services displays horse rescuing techniques.



Alive!

SPECIAL SECTION

HURRICANE KATRINA RESCUE EFFORT



Charlie Chang

LAFD Rescue Squad Officer and USAR Team Member Rick Denning (second from right) gives instructions to LAFD Tech Search Specialist and USAR Team Member Patrick Leising (right). LAFD Tech Search Specialist and USAR Team Member Carlos Calvillo is in the foreground.



Crowl

City USAR Team Members "core" a hole for search cam access.



Supplied by Jack Wise

The leaders of the two Los Angeles-area "Swiftie" (Swift Water) teams, from left: LAFD Batt. Chief Jack Wise; TV personality John Walsh; and L.A. County Fireman Bryan Wells.



Supplied by Jack Wise

The LAFD's Swift Water Team unloads after being airlifted into New Orleans' Ninth Ward.

Hurricane Katrina Brings Out Heroism in City Employees

Inside:

LAFD Swift Water Team in New Orleans:

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Homecoming44

■ The City's response to Hurricane Katrina saved lives in the Gulf ... and changed lives back here in Los Angeles.

THE CITY — Approximately 100 City employees rushed to the Gulf after Hurricane Katrina ravaged the landscape and imperiled hundreds of thousands of Americans.

The City answered the call. From the LAFD's Swift Water Rescue Team, to the multi-department Urban Search and Rescue squad, to departments raising money for victims in need ... to empathetic Club Members writing poems to share their grief.

Last month's Alive! was right on deadline when the City's efforts kicked into full gear. But now, for November, Alive! has traveled from the Port to Bishop, from downtown to Pacoima to interview and document some of the City employees who responded in such a historic way.

It's hard to quantify exactly how much impact City employees made in this disaster, but some numbers might help. The Swift Water Team, in conjunction with other teams, saved more than 500 lives — almost 300 in the first few hours alone.

But more than the numbers, the impact is far and wide, from humble and sincere expressions of thanks from those who benefited directly, to long-term goodwill, and to more specific knowledge on how our country ought to handle disasters on a scale this large.

Almost everyone who returned from serving in the Gulf States made similar comments about double-checking our own emergency preparedness here at home. Are you prepared? Start at our Emergency Preparedness Department's Website: <http://www.lacity.org/epd/>

The other thing that those who returned have in common is the denial that they are heroes. We at the Club know better. Read the eyewitness accounts and see the pictures in our special section, and see if you don't agree.

Alive! thanks all those who gave us their time and attention while they were still trying to settle back into their lives. You are heroes to us.

> LAFD SWIFT WATER TEAM IN NEW ORLEANS

First In, Hundreds Saved

Alive! interviewed two leaders of the City's Swift Water Rescue Team – LAFD Battalion Chief Jack Wise and LAFD Capt. Chuck Ruddell – to get their eyewitness accounts of what they encountered in New Orleans. Other members of the Swift Water Team deployed to New Orleans are Capt. Ernie Ojeda, Capt. Robby Cordobes, Firefighter/Paramedic Alan Naole, Engineer Dan Arnold, Capt. Greg Terrill, Apparatus Operator/Paramedic Frank Garvey, Firefighter Jesse Franco, Apparatus Operator Chuck Mills, Apparatus Operator Brian LaBrie, Capt. Craig White, Apparatus Operator Thomas Kitabata and Capt. Thomas Hays.

The team was deployed for more than two weeks in the rescue effort. — Ed

An Interview with Batt. Chief Jack Wise

Alive!: How long have you been with the Department?

Batt. Chief Jack Wise: 25 years now.

Alive!: How long have you been a member of the Swift Water Team?

Batt. Chief Jack Wise: Pretty much from its inception, within three months of its inception, I've been with it for a long time. I was actually program coordinator for the program from 1995 to '97. Back then, I was also working with the EOB, the Emergency Operation Board, to prepare the City for the El Nino, if you remember back then.

Alive!: Now your responsibilities now with the Swift Water Team are what?

Batt. Chief Jack Wise: I'm on the USAR [Urban Search and Rescue] Working Group. I'm one of the chiefs that can be deployed with the Swift Water Rescue Team, because I have the background. There is a Swift Water program coordinator in the San Fernando Valley, but he

doesn't go out on the deployments. I'm one of the chiefs because of my past history and experience.

Alive!: How often are you deployed out of state

Batt. Chief Jack Wise: This is actually the first time that FEMA has asked for a Swift Water-type flood component to be dispatched out of the state, at least from California into an area. The USAR teams, the FEMA USAR teams, are 70- to 80-person teams, so they're self-sufficient for 72 hours and they're tasked with doing ground-type searches, like with an earthquake. Also, they have a HAZMAT component; they really don't have a Swift Water component in there.

Because of the flooding [in New Orleans] FEMA came out and said they wanted something a little bit smaller. We're truly the only ones that have the Swift Water/flood rescue component. This is the first time that FEMA has recognized us and tasked us with that. So it's kind of a boon for us because we've been trying to get them to send us to these floods for a number of years. Their policy in the past has been that they're not going to send out Swift Water Rescue Teams. And this was good that we got over that hurdle and hopefully it's one of many. We went out there we had a tremendous amount of rescues in a very short time. We were what I considered the backbone of a lot of the rescues that were done out there

Alive!: And you certainly proved being worth FEMA's while to invite you in.

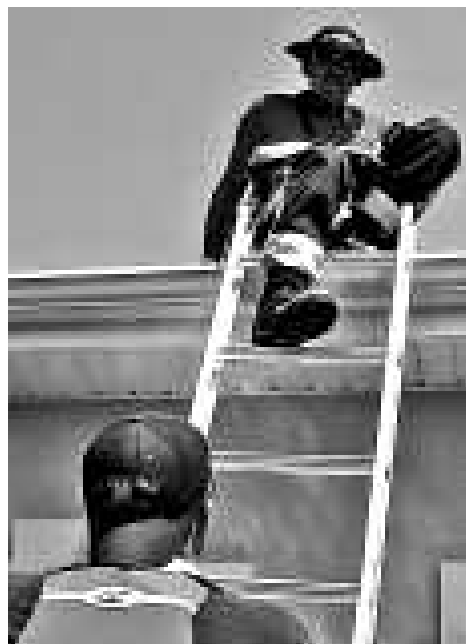
Batt. Chief Jack Wise: Yeah, I certainly hope so. One of the concepts behind these teams when we first designed them was that we'd be fast, light and mobile, and I think because of that we were able to get into areas that others weren't. We have in-water rescue capabilities,

and we have boats. So we're able to do a lot of rescues very quickly. Literally within a half hour of us hitting the theater of operations we were performing rescues. In our first three-hour operation we rescued over 250 people, which is a lot for a very short time. Like I said, we basically got to our base of operations, threw up our equipment, immediately went to work, and within a half a hour of getting into the theater of operations we were at work.

Alive!: Take me through those hours when you were on call. What were you thinking back here in Los Angeles before you left?

Batt. Chief Jack Wise: We were given an alert through FEMA that says that they're getting us ready — they haven't actually tasked us with it yet but it looks that way. At that point we were spooled up ready to go. A 14-member team is fast, light and mobile, and within an hour, literally within a couple of hours we were ready to go out the door.

What we needed though is their authorization; of course we can't go without their authorization. I don't know what the delay was, or who the delay was, I know it certainly wasn't on the City's part. But it took a while for them to finally get the authorization or the request. But a number of hours later they finally gave us the activation orders, about 4 o'clock in the morning [Tuesday, Aug. 30] as a matter of fact. It was a restless night for us; we got all spooled up ready to go and we're standing by. At 4 a.m. we got the activation orders, and approximately two hours later we were on the road to March Air Force Base, where again we had a delay waiting for transportation. We were being flown out through the Air Force, Air National Guard, and we had to wait for the C5s to come all the way from the East Coast out to the West Coast to pick us up and take us out to Lafayette [Louisiana].



LAFD Firefighter Jesse Franco, Swift Water Team member, climbs onto a roof from a boat during a search operation.



LAFD Capt. Rob Cordobes, Swift Water Team member, cuts into an attic during a search operation.



The Swift Water Team's Response Vehicle navigates through the University Division in New Orleans.



LAFD Firefighter Jesse Franco, Swift Water Team member, at a Wendy's drive-through in New Orleans. The restaurant was flooded and closed.



LAFD Batt. Chief Jack Wise, Swift Water Team leader, rescues a cat from the ledge of a window.

HURRICANE KATRINA RELIEF EFFORT: CITY HEROES

Alive! Special Section

LAFD SWIFT WATER TEAM IN NEW ORLEANS <

Alive! That has to come through the state, right? FEMA has to ask the state, and then the orders come from the state?

Batt. Chief Jack Wise: What's unique about the Swift Water team is we're actually a state asset, through the Office of Emergency Service in California. So the request came from FEMA to the state, and the state is the one that's tasked with that. All eight Swift Water teams [from California] went, and that's how that request came down.

Alive! How did you get from Lafayette to New Orleans?

Batt. Chief Jack Wise: Well again, one of the advantages of the Swift Water Rescue Team is we were fast, light and mobile. We took our own transportation with us on the C5s. We loaded up our Swift Water vans and Swift Water apparatus and other ground transportation, and we were able to take all of our equipment, so that when we hit the ground in Lafayette we were able to unload and head on out to the theater of operations right then.

Alive! You drove right over to the New Orleans Saints' Practice Facility; that was that your base of operations?

Batt. Chief Jack Wise: Yes, that's correct.

Alive! And then within a couple of hours of landing, at that point FEMA told you where they wanted you to be stationed, is that right?

Batt. Chief Jack Wise: They told us prior to us leaving where they wanted us to go. We knew all that stuff before we got on the plane. That's usually how the orders go, but you'll meet a member from FEMA at the airport where you're landing. They'll coordinate your travel over there, and we already knew where we were going as far as in what town we were going, where our base of operations were, and what we were going to be exactly tasked with. We had an idea we were going to be going in a flooded area, New Orleans and the surrounding parishes, but exactly where we were going to work we didn't know until we got there.

Alive! And once you were there where did they send you?

Batt. Chief Jack Wise: They sent us about a half-mile down from Zephyr Field, on Airline Highway, it was called Airline and the Causeway. What used to be a freeway, was now our launch ramp. Three of the other Swift Water teams that got there a few hours before us were

— continued next page



The LAFD's Swift Water Team tows its rig through downtown New Orleans, near the Superdome.



LAFD Firefighter Jesse Franco, Swift Water Team member, and members of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife team search in the West Gulf Division in New Orleans.



Aboard the Response Caravan heading into the Industrial Division of New Orleans.



Members of the LAFD Swift Water Team and a landing craft in New Orleans's Ninth Ward.



The LAFD Swift Water Team prepares to use Veterans Highway in New Orleans' West Gulf Division as a boat launch ramp.



The LAFD Swift Water Team decontaminates in Church Division, New Orleans.



LAFD Batt. Chief Jack Wise, Swift Water Team member, cruising Canal Street in New Orleans's West Gulf Division.



The LAFD's Swift Water Team sets up a command post in the West Gulf Division.



LAFD Apparatus Operator Tom Kitahata, Swift Water Team member, aboard the military helicopter on the way to the Ninth Ward in New Orleans.



LAFD Firefighter Jesse Franco, Swift Water Team member, goes from house to house during a search operation.

> LAFD SWIFT WATER TEAM IN NEW ORLEANS

Batt. Chief Jack Wise Interview, continued

already at work there and needing relief. If you can imagine, the heat index was triple digits, I think it was 110 that day, and it was exhausting work. So we went up there and relieved them, who were in the middle of operation. They had rescued a couple of hundred people also. We came in and relieved them and continued operations; it was a seamless transition.

We carried that on through the evening until around I want to say about 10 o'clock that night. We wanted to keep going, but due to safety concerns they had to shut down, they wanted us to shut down at dark. We were able to convince them that we wanted to continue operations until 10 o'clock that night. I can't tell you how many more people we were able to rescue.

Alive!: Because you kept going?

Batt. Chief Jack Wise: Correct, because we kept going.

Alive!: Did it get less safe as your deployment continued?

Batt. Chief Jack Wise: I felt safe every place we went. There was concern, but there wasn't an over-concern with it. We were able to get more and more force protection for all of our operations, and the more I became familiar with the areas the more I realized that the people there wanted us to rescue them or us to be there as much as we wanted to be there. So never once were we in an area that we had to make a tactical retreat [from] due to safety concerns.

Alive!: How many people did you rescue in that first day?

Batt. Chief Jack Wise: Well, in that first three-and-a-half-hour period, our Swift Water team rescued over 250 people.

Alive!: Just your 14 members, or you combined with other Swift Water Teams?

Batt. Chief Jack Wise: At that division right there, we had two other teams working that area. So with us we had [rescued] 197 adults, and the rest were children. You know, one of the concerns we had was the children: What do you do with them if their parents aren't there? Normally out here we have police to take custody of them, but as you can imagine in an area that's been decimated, the infrastructure of the city is wiped out or nonexistent and government as we know it is nonexistent, there wasn't those same contingencies, and that was a big thing. That first night, I had a boat that came in and it had three children, three minors on board, one was five, one was nine and one was 15, and I asked "Okay are the parents here?" And he said "No." I said "Okay, are they all related?" No, they weren't all related. So what do you do in a situation like that? Normally out here we would get the police to take custody of them. But the police department was overtaxed. We tried to get them there, but they didn't have the personnel to deal with that. Finally I was able to get some of the evacuees to take responsibility for those children. As we got them to the evacuation center, we hoped eventually to be able to marry them up with their parents, or their guardians.

Alive!: Tell me some stories that stick out in your mind.

Batt. Chief Jack Wise: One of the other issues, especially that first night is, as we had more and more people come up that ramp, there was a lot of convergent volunteers that we had there, and we were using those volunteers to assist us in the evacuation. The problem we had is that there was no organized evacuation center at that point. There was an impromptu evacuation area after the Red Cross eventually got there, and that's where we were taking people. But the only reason why they were being taken there is because we had some people volunteering buses that were taking them over there. Those buses wanted to go home, and we had to send the police out there to get them so they'd come back. As the people started piling up it got more and more crowded on the ramp and they weren't able to get to an area where we had enough food and water and shelter for them, and they started getting, well, uptight is a

good word. Not hostile, but they were getting frustrated as they'd been out on the bridge for a number of days. We got them over to an area, and they wanted to get over to an area where they could get some rehab and food and water. We had some there but not enough for the hundreds of people that we were getting. It became a concern that, as people's anxiety increased, my concern was, "Let's get them out of there." So we had to try to get police over there to provide some protection, more of a show of force than anything else. Fortunately we were able to get the buses to evacuate that ramp in a timely fashion, so it didn't go any further than that.

But as you can imagine all those things, you don't think about them. You think that people are going to a safe area, and at the same token if the other part of the system isn't there to get them to an area where they can get competent care and more protection, then that is a concern and we were dealing with those type of issues.

Another issue was just a human tragedy in the area, people who lost their homes and lives and loved ones. We had many people come up to us as we were doing our search and rescue operations and say, "I haven't heard from my dad in so long, I need you to check this house out," and we took all those and we made those a priority assignment, because they were a known commodity.

We had a number of animals that were walking around starving and we tried to feed them, but they'd been in some really nasty, nasty water and things, and a lot of them that were even starving didn't even want to eat. That's hard, just because you see them walking around. The adults were able to get to evacuation centers and help and care for them. But I think that some of the tragedies that were out there were those children who didn't have anybody there for them, the animals, and just the mass devastation that we saw. We saw whole communities wiped out, whole communities under water. That was really, really tough. I've been to the widespread floods up in Yuba and Sutter County, [and] I was there for the World Trade Center. I've been to just about everything that this City has gone through, including the earthquakes, and this was such widespread devastation that it's hard to conceive.

I was given areas [to be] in charge of [and was] tasked with searching and the response and recovery, and those areas are almost as big as my whole battalion here. I was responsible with maybe 20 people to search those areas, and that's tough to do, especially when you're on boats, you're going door to door.

We're talking about tragedies but I want to focus on some of the great things that we did and we found. Eight days into our operations, the Swift Water teams were still finding people alive in the attics, which is just phenomenal. It's a testimony to the strength of the human spirit, because in triple-digit heat indexes, I don't think I could live an hour in one of those attics, and these people were living days up there. One was an 83-year-old man who was on his last bottle of water.

Alive!: Did they cut into his attic?

Batt. Chief Jack Wise: That's how they found him: They cut into the attic and found him in there.

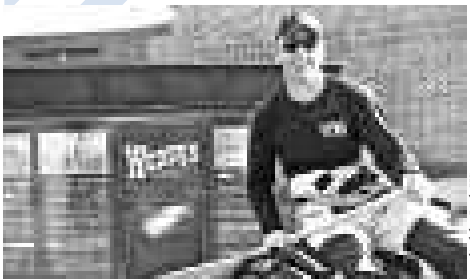
They found another lady in her attic. They talked her down into the room, and she didn't want to open the front door 'cause she's afraid the water would rush in. And you have to remember they have survival emergency preparedness out there, just like they do here. They taught their people to go up to your attic, and take survival items, food and water and some type of axe or something like that to get out of the roof if you need to. A lot of people were doing that but didn't take their axes. That they were up there surviving for those many days is just a testimony to the human spirit and the ability to endure things.

Alive!: Tell me about the moment when you found them. What did they do, what did they look like, what was the reaction?

Batt. Chief Jack Wise: One of the problems is that, somebody who's been in the attic that long in that heat is barely coherent. They don't know what's going on. It's amazing that we're able to find them in areas that we'd already searched. We'd already gone through and went house to house.



The LAFD's Swift Water team in front of a water pumping station in the West Gulf Division, New Orleans.



LAFD Capt. Tom Haus, Swift Water Team member, in New Orleans.



LAFD Capt. Tom Haus, Swift Water Team member, on a rooftop.



LAFD Firefighter Jesse Franco, Swift Water Team member, checks another home.



Batt. Chief Jack Wise standing amidst the wreckage in the New Orleans Marina, near Lake Pontchartrain.



LAFD Capt. Rob Cordobes, Swift Water Team member, cuts open a roof, looking for victims in the attic.



LAFD Firefighter Jesse Franco, Swift Water Team member, stands in front of a hotel that the team searched.

HURRICANE KATRINA RELIEF EFFORT: CITY HEROES

Alive! Special Section

LAFD SWIFT WATER TEAM IN NEW ORLEANS <



Two Swift Water Teams, one from the LAFD and another from the L.A. County Fire Department, establish a command post for the day.

Once the 911 system came up, we had a backlog of calls from people that were in distress or needed assistance. We went back to each one of those addresses and checked them out. That's where we found a couple of the people, because of these 911 calls. We'd already gone through there and knocked and yelled and screamed and everything, but they were so out of it they didn't hear or couldn't respond.

Alive! It was the second time around or even the third time around.

Batt. Chief Jack Wise: Yeah, yeah. I don't know how a person could last half a day up there, let alone that many days.

Alive! Was it the worst water you've ever been in?

Batt. Chief Jack Wise: Without a doubt, it was the nastiest smelling stuff I've ever seen. It was a cross between sewage, petroleum – raw petroleum products like crude oil, human waste and dead things; [it was] just the nastiest smelling stuff I've ever been in.

One of the concerns we had as the days went on, as they were draining the areas, is that the mud would turn to dust. All these other nasty chemicals and things that were in the water would become airborne as we went through it. It became an inhalation hazard. That's when we stopped the airboats, those big boats that look like they've got a big engine on them and a big propeller. We stopped those from being used in our areas because they were loud and noisy and they blew all that water, which was hazardous, all over the place. It mystified it and made it an inhalation hazard. You have to think about the pesticides, the chemicals, the heavy metals, all those things were in that water, or we presumed them to be in that water.

Alive! Tell me some of the great things now.

Batt. Chief Jack Wise: One of the great things that happened was the spirit of the people of New Orleans and that area, to put up and survive in those areas that had no food, water or electricity, or anything else. Like I said, government as we knew it had collapsed, and they survived.

Another thing that was just awesome to witness was that we were able to work with the military, police and local agencies, and we coordinated with them all. We worked in these areas to provide rescue and response with people from the New Orleans Fire Department and the New Orleans Police Department. It was really a unified and joint response by us in coordination with them.

We heard some of the stories from the New Orleans firefighters who were out there, as they went door to door and house to house swimming because all their apparatus was down. They were doing CPR at these convalescent homes in rotations for hours and hours and hours because there was nobody there to get them out.

You look at the testimony of these doctors. At some of the hospitals we were evacuating, so many of the doctors and the nurses stayed when they could have evacuated because they had patients there. These hospitals had no electricity. Their backup generators were all gone. They were without everything and in high heat, and patients were literally dying on them. They stayed there to provide the best possible support that they could because they felt obligated, even though they had family and loved ones also in the impact area. That to me is just amazing, an amazing feat. We would have that same type of response and the same type of dedication out here in this City, and I'm sure all the City employees would do as well here.

One of the things that I want to pass on to the City employees is [to make sure] your family's prepared and has the emergency preparedness packets, has the out of state contacts. Know that you've done everything you can to prepare for them. That allows you to focus on your responsibility and your task to save people. You might be a doctor, you might be a worker out here; if you know that your family's taken care of then that allows you to focus on your job and not worry about needing to get home. Many times in my career I've had to leave my family, or I haven't been able to get to my family, but I know that they're prepared with their emergency preparedness supplies and the drills that we've done with them. I know that they're going to be taken care of, I know that they know how to take care of themselves and, more importantly, that we've got those emergency supplies. That's one of the things that I want to make sure that you get out of this interview: Prepare your family so that when you're not there, they're able to survive.

Alive! Did the people of New Orleans make you feel appreciated?

Batt. Chief Jack Wise: Without a doubt. In the area we were working, there were a lot of fire and police officers and hospital workers who lived in that area, and they had been on duty. So they needed to know what had happened to their houses. They had some valuables they needed to get. And I made sure that they were taken care of, that we were able to get into the military and police and firefighters' and doctors' homes because they were doing the emergency services and not able to take care of themselves. So we made sure that we took care of them and we went out there and allowed them to get their stuff so they'd go back to work also. It was amazing to see how thankful they were. The doctors from East Jefferson Hospital ... coordinated shots for us all. That was so very nice.

The people in the areas would come and bring us food and water and were so thankful, it was tremendous. We had a [man] in the area who normally provides food service for PGA golf tournaments. He set up a huge food camp and opened it up to any of the responders out there. It was great food after eating MREs [military meals ready to eat] for weeks.

That type of outpouring and outreach from the community and from all over the nation, was just tremendous to see.

Alive! What do you remember about working in the Ninth Ward?

Batt. Chief Jack Wise: The Ninth Ward. Well, that was one of my most challenging areas. We were given that area and because of the devastation, we weren't able to get in by ground. They air-inserted us in, they used the big double-bladed Chinooks, and they brought our two teams in there. The Chinooks can land only in certain areas, and they put us on an area where we were still about a quarter of a mile away from the water, and here it is a Swift Water Team. They lifted us out there, dropped us off and left, and basically all we had was our inflatable rescue boat, and the stuff we had on our backs, so we had to try to find some vehicles.

“We saw whole communities wiped out, whole communities under water. That was really, really tough. I've been to the widespread floods up in Yuba and Sutter County, [and] I was there for the World Trade Center. I've been to just about everything that this City has gone through, including the earthquakes, and this was such widespread devastation that it's hard to conceive.”

– Batt. Chief Jack Wise, LAFD

My first job was trying to find some transportation. At that time I tasked a couple of our guys with finding that transportation. They were able to go to the local sugar mill, which still had some operators in there. And because of the devastation there was a fire truck that the local fire service had abandoned and was not operational due to mechanical problems. One of our guys was able to get it running, so we utilized that as one of our vehicles for a convoy. Hold on just a second.

I laugh about it now, but we were able to get a fire truck that we used in our convoy, able to get a dump truck and get that thing started, and had a forklift also. That was our convoy. It was quite amazing.

We had to go very slow 'cause there were wires and trees down. We had to cut our way in numerous areas. But once we got in the area we were able to start our search ops. As you can imagine it took a long time to do that. That evening, they weren't able to get us a flight back out, which created a little bit of concern on my part because we didn't really have anything to spend the night with. All we had was our dry suits. We had enough food and water, but nothing else. And I needed to get the guys decontaminated. We ended up finally getting a “deuce and a half,” which is a big truck. I'm not sure how that got over there, but we were able to grab a “deuce and a half” and we got 29 people on that thing, which normally is for about 10 people max. We had to go the long way back



LAFD Firefighter Jesse Franco, Swift Water Team member, looks out of a military helicopter as he is being airlifted into New Orleans's Ninth Ward.



LAFD Firefighter Jesse Franco, Swift Water Team member, uses a ladder bridge to move from one rooftop to another while searching attics for victims.

through about six feet of water most of the way in an uncharted area with 29 people on board. So that was a huge challenge and it was interesting. I look back on it now and can laugh about it, but it was quite amazing. There was no moon there, so the only light we had was the light from the spots that we had on the rig. It's kind

of eerie going through areas that are under six feet of water and you can't see what's in the road. You're going around things and through things and trying to find your way to these main roads. You don't even know if the main roads are good. What normally would've been about a half-hour ride, it took us about four hours to get back to our base of operations.

Then the next day we were sent out to the Ninth Ward again. I wanted to complete the operation. The Ninth Ward was devastated when the levy broke. It looks like a quarter of a square mile area in which all the homes were knocked off the foundation. And that area was also one of the ones with predominantly lower income, so the people in there didn't have a lot. They couldn't afford to get on an airplane and get out of there, so I think there was a lot of people still left in that area.

The next day we [tried] to go over the bridge, but the bridge was stuck open [up] over the industrial canal. So that day our operation was just going back and trying to retrieve our equipment, which we were finally able to do.

The third day we were finally able to coordinate and get the bridge down and get in and do some great operations in that area. The whole infrastructure was down, and it seemed many times that our operations were hindered not by anything we had done but just by the disaster, the things that had happened.

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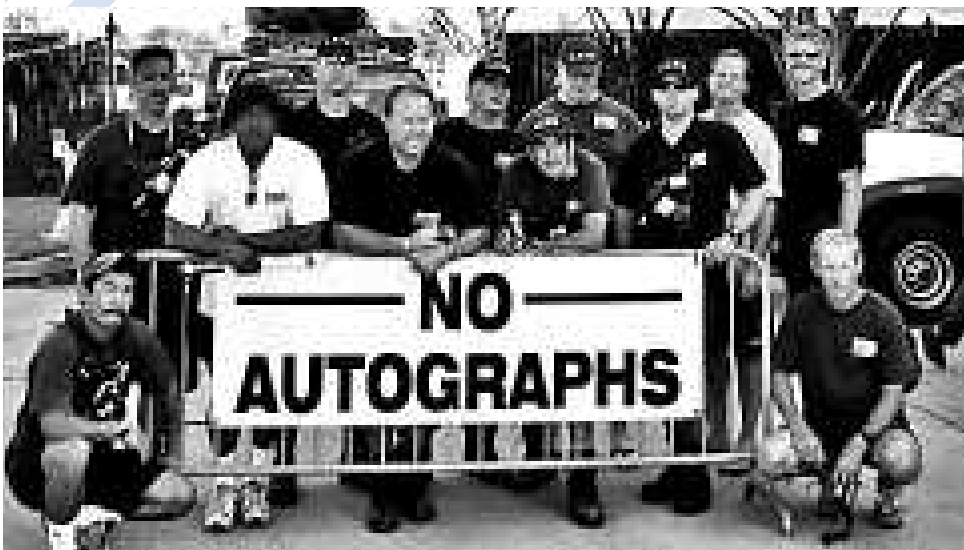
> LAFD SWIFT WATER TEAM IN NEW ORLEANS



The LAFD's Swift Water Team unloads the C-5 military transport after landing in Lafayette, La.



Two Swift Water Teams, from the LAFD and L.A. County, acquire a dump truck to assist in their rescue efforts in New Orleans's Ninth Ward.



The LAFD's Swift Water Team poses at their base of operations, the New Orleans Saints practice field. The "no autographs" sign belongs to the Saints.



An aerial photo: LAFD Batt. Chief Jack Wise, Swift Water Team member, performs a reconnaissance mission over Church Division in New Orleans.

Batt. Chief Jack Wise Interview, continued

Alive! You must feel really great about what you did though. You do hero stuff every day, but still this must've been extraordinary, and you must feel pretty good about it.

Batt. Chief Jack Wise: Without a doubt. One of the things that I always say is that, you know, if you ask any of those guys out there they're not heroes. We are just given the opportunity to do things that probably everybody else would like

system. Our generator has a cigarette lighter on it, for 12 volts. So they took a cigarette adaptor and split it and crossed the wires and made it so it would power the 12-volt systems. We used our portable water, put it in the ice chest, and it had a little pump on it and we would use that so we could shower.

After about four or five days of that, they were able to get out into a town that actually had a Lowes. Brian and Craig went out and bought a bunch of PVC pipe and fittings and shower heads that you would have on your normal shower. They got a car cover-type tent, left the top open, and they ran this plumbing system up

"One of the things that I want to pass on to the City employees is [to make sure] your family's prepared and has the emergency preparedness packets, has the out of state contacts. Know that you've done everything you can to prepare for them. That allows you to focus on your responsibility and your task to save people." — Batt. Chief Jack Wise, LAFD

to do, and we're given the training and the equipment to do that.

We feel that we carry a part of Los Angeles with us wherever we go, and that we're responding for Los Angeles. It's not necessarily for ourselves, although it is rewarding for us. Everybody out there in the City can take pride in what we're doing because we carry that message with us, and we're responding for all of us. And I think that's probably the biggest message that I could send out there, that we carry that with us. We're all part of the family of the responders.

Alive! Tell me about your guys who set up your showers.

Batt. Chief Jack Wise: The infrastructure was shut down. One of the biggest hazards is the contaminants on our skin and on our bodies. There's no good way of getting that off. Soap and water is the best thing, and bleach. We take a small Hudson sprayer and bleach with us so we can do kind of like a mobile de-con. The problem is the guys need to take those showers to get it off their bodies. They were able to rig some showers the first few days, prior to any other portable water or showers. We were using our drinking water so that we could take what they call a four-bottle shower: four bottles of water. It was great for the morale, because they were able to take showers, and nobody else had those.

Alive! Was this the guys who work for you?

Batt. Chief Jack Wise: Two guys who work for me, Brian LaBrie and Craig White, are what they call logisticians. They're the MacGyvers of our unit. They can take a paperclip and make a shower out of it. At the facility where we were, on the side of a football field they had these misters and what looks like a portable ice chest. [Under normal conditions] they put ice and water in it and it feeds up through a tube into these misters.

What the guys did is they took the ice chest, with the hose, and it was powered by a 12-volt

top there and got a little portable pump that they put in a clean trash can. We ran a generator, put the water in, pump it up through the system. And now we had a big secluded shower area that had about six or seven heads on it. As the days went on, we never did get water that was plumbed.

Alive! Tell me about the air conditioning.

Batt. Chief Jack Wise: These guys are the MacGyver. Give them a problem and they love solving it; they come up with some great ideas. They actually got us bathrooms before anybody else did, too. Before that we were basically going to the bathroom in cans. They were able to get some Porta-Potties for us.

It was so hot, with no electricity. They had us sleeping on a [football] training field. It was a hundred yards long and was covered by metal. It was hot, and you had hundreds of people in there coming and going. It wasn't a really good place where you could leave your stuff and get a good night's sleep.

So they got some tents, what they call Western Shelter, from Lowes. And they were able to get some portable window air conditioning units. They set up the generators, and we were able to sleep all night in a cool area. It rehabbed our people and allowed them to be refreshed and work a lot harder and longer than they normally would have. It was so hot at night there. People from New Orleans, God bless them, I don't know how they put up with that, it's so bloody hot and humid is the thing. You sweat day and night. But I'm sure you get acclimated to it, but to me coming from California, we have the dry heat, it just sapped everything out of you. It was really nice when they did that. They took the window air conditioning and cut a hole in the tents and stuck those in there, and we got air conditioning.

Then they went out and got a barbecue for us. We had the first hot food there.



Swift Water Teams from the LAFD and L.A. County, plus the United States Coast Guard, pull their inflatable rescue boats (IRBs) out of the water in New Orleans's Ninth Ward.

HURRICANE KATRINA RELIEF EFFORT: CITY HEROES

Alive! Special Section

LAFD SWIFT WATER TEAM IN NEW ORLEANS <



The LAFD Swift Water team decontaminates their equipment at their base of operations, Zephyr Field in New Orleans.



LAFD Capt. Chuck Ruddell, Swift Water Team member, rides along in a Coast Guard johnboat in the West Gulf Division, New Orleans.

Alive! Kawasaki came through, too.

Batt. Chief Jack Wise: In a big way. We weren't able to bring our jet-skis with us on the aircraft. We have a contract with Kawasaki that provides the jet-skis for us here. Once we got there, they arranged Kawasakis through a local dealer for our use. Those were a tremendous help to us in those devastated areas.

You can imagine the inflatable rescue boats, the Zodiacs, in an area that's been flooded. There were all kinds of hazards, and we kept rupturing those [boats]. The jet-skis were one of our prime rescue craft. We were able to get the Kawasakis up there.

Alive! One final question about FEMA. There's been a lot of talk about FEMA and how it did its job or didn't do its job. What are your thoughts on that?

Batt. Chief Jack Wise: After every response there are areas that we can improve, and this is no different. There are certain areas that we're doing After-Action Reports to address some of those issues. If you look in the response alone and how many people were physically rescued in the area, you can't really complain about that.

Were there areas that need to be improved? Certainly. Are there areas that we need to improve every time we go out? Without a doubt. I think this is all part of a learning process. We really haven't ever seen anything quite like this. With this massive devastation, we've never seen a response like this where we've taken all these different agencies from all over and put them all together and said "Make it work." So there are issues that we need to work through and work at and I know that we're working at all levels to fix those.

Alive! Anything else that I didn't ask that you think is important?

Batt. Chief Jack Wise: The city of Los Angeles can be very proud in the response. All City employees can hold their head up proud, every one of them. When we go out the door we represent the Fire Department, but we represent the whole City. When they see LAFD coming in they know it's from Los Angeles.

Los Angeles has a history of going in there and doing the right thing. We've personified that in our response to this disaster [and] all disasters. [City employees] have a lot to be proud of. Not only every City employee, but also our elected officials. They allowed us to go, and provided us the opportunity. My hat's off to them. It's a direct result of the mayor, Councilmembers and every City employee that we're able to provide this. When we went out there, it wasn't just us out there. It was all of you out there too, so thank you. ■

> LAFD SWIFT WATER TEAM

An Interview with Capt. Chuck Ruddell



Alive! Tell me about the LAFD's Swift Water Team.

Capt. Chuck Ruddell: We operate when there's more than one inch of rain in any 24-hour period, or when it's anticipated. That's when we're deployed. Or when the ground is saturated.

We're at Fire Stations 100, 86, 44 and 62, which gives us full coverage of the City. We cover all the major channels in the City.

Alive! Is the Swift Water Team part of the FEMA Urban Search and Rescue effort?

Capt. Chuck Ruddell: The Swift Water Team is not part of the City's USAR Team that went down to Mississippi. We were in New Orleans.

Our base of operations was at the New Orleans Saints training facility, off Airline Highway. They used one of the football fields for us. There were teams there from Texas, New Mexico, Colorado, Nevada and L.A. County. They put up 1,500 people at that facility. That's where we would stay, recuperate and receive our plans.

That was our "Boo." That stands for Base of Operations.

Alive! When did you get the call to mobilize?

Capt. Chuck Ruddell: It was Monday afternoon [Aug. 29]. We got a call from the OES [California's Office of Emergency Services]. There are eight Swift Water teams in California, and they are the only organized Swift Water Teams in the United States. They're run by the state, similar to the fire strike teams.

In this case, they sent teams [to New Orleans] from both Northern and Southern California.

Fourteen of us went, as part of the L.A. City Fire Department's team. Fourteen went from

each of the Swift Water Teams. We also took equipment with us. We have a standard cache of equipment that the state buys for us: three inflatable rescue boats; outboard motors; and ropes, dry suits and floatation devices.

But the City also supplies us, too. We brought four City-owned trucks with us. We went with some of the finest equipment around. It was all brand-new. We had no equipment problems at all. Some [Swift Water] teams had problems getting through the [flood] water. But we had no problems.

Alive! How did you get the equipment to New Orleans?

Chuck: We flew from March Air Force Base in Riverside County down to Lafayette, La. At that point, we were under the control of the military. They transported us and our equipment in a C-5 transport.

It took us about 36 hours to get to New Orleans. We had to wait for the aircraft. We arrived at March at 7 a.m. Tuesday, but we didn't depart until 18 hours later, at 2 a.m. Wednesday.

The state's OES didn't allow us to take our watercraft [jet skis].

Alive! Why not?

Capt. Chuck Ruddell: Well, I think it's because not all the Swift Water teams had the same equipment.

Once we got to Lafayette, we knew we needed the best tools of our trade [the jet skis], but we hadn't brought them. So we called the Kawasaki Corp. [the manufacturer of the kind of jet skis the team uses] – we've had an agreement with them for the last eight years, providing us with watercraft – and they told us to go immediately to Lafayette Kawasaki. We did, and they got us two watercrafts within 10 minutes. The Kawasaki people were really good to the [rescue people] in New Orleans, too.

So, around 7 a.m., we picked up our watercraft and drove with them through the traffic. Within

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> LAFD SWIFT WATER TEAM IN NEW ORLEANS

Capt. Chuck Ruddell Interview, continued

six hours of landing in Lafayette, we were in the water, pulling people out. We were in operational mode.

Alive!: What's the first place you went?

Capt. Chuck Ruddell: To the intersection of the 10 freeway and Airline Highway, for the first six hours, until 11 p.m.

Right off the bat, we wanted to get the watercraft in the water and see what we were dealing with. The first thing we noticed at that intersection of the 10 freeway and the 610 was helicopters landing, continuously. There were 10,000 people in the grassy area of the intersection, just standing there. The helicopters were taking people out of the water, but had nowhere to drop them. So they dropped them off there.

The number of people surpassed their ability to move them out of town.

Once we deployed, it was us and two other Swift Water teams. [In the first six hours,] we pulled about 300 people from homes, schools and churches, and dropped them off right there.

There were a lot of disgruntled citizens; they had nowhere to go. We provided them a dry place to stand, but not much else. How they eventually got out [of town], I don't know. I think they took them to the airport.

Alive!: What was your mission?

Capt. Chuck Ruddell: Our first mission was to work at a school with a reported 50 or 60 people in it. We took the watercraft out and did an assessment. We found a wide boulevard [Airline Highway] with cars fully submerged. We couldn't go fast, or else we'd hit a roof and get knocked right off.

The highway off-ramps became our boat launch ramps. And 15 feet away from one of those ramps was a chemical plant. You could tell that it was already leaking into the water; the entire facility was under at least four feet of water. You could see the chemicals. You could smell it, whatever was leaking. We had no clue what was in the tanks. Fortunately, we had on our dry suits, but we all wanted to decontaminate at the completion of every day. We tried, but we had no water. So we took the bottled water they gave us to drink, and used it to decontaminate.

Alive!: Tell me about some success stories that come to mind.

Capt. Chuck Ruddell: I remember an 86-year-old female inside her house, four or five days after the hurricane, in at least three or four feet of water in her house, that had come down to about one foot that time. She was covered in mud and dehydrated. Well, the spirit of this Southern lady ... how she survived, was just amazing. "Oh, no, guys, don't worry about me, I'll just walk out" ... her spirit just brought me up every day. She didn't focus on her needs. She was worried about us getting muddy! Amazing. That was on Sunday, the Fourth [of October].

Alive!: You have to feel good about the lives you saved.

Capt. Chuck Ruddell: Yeah, but the second day, they didn't allow us to go back out because that was the day of all the shootings. I told my crew [the night before] that we would go back out in the morning, but we couldn't.

No one shot at us. We entered into some of the more dangerous areas in town. We had local sheriffs, the DEA [Drug Enforcement Agency] and the Coast Guard with us. And the last week, we also had the National Guard, plus the [Air Force] 82nd Airborne and Fish and Wildlife teams from the Southern states. We had them protecting us.

Alive!: Tell me about the Ninth Ward [reported-

ly one of the areas that got hit hardest]. I heard you were there.

Capt. Chuck Ruddell: We entered the Ninth Ward on [Oct.] 5th, I think. FEMA resources had not been there yet. It was completely submerged. And it was landlocked.

A St. Bernard Parish sheriff told us that there was no police presence in the Ninth Ward. "Good luck," he said. "I hope you have some weapons with you."

At a local sugar plant, they gave us a dump truck and a forklift. We put our boats on them. And an hour later, we were on our way into the Ninth Ward, in water that looked and smelled like pure crude oil. There was an oil leak in Chalmette, which was a long way from the Ninth Ward. It was the worst water I have ever seen in my life.

When the levy broke, it pushed 200 homes all together in one big bundle. They would not have known what hit them.



LAFD Capt. Tom Haus, Swift Water Team member, cuts into an attic as part of a rescue mission in New Orleans' West Gulf Division.



The LAFD Swift Water Team goes through the streets of New Orleans, moving into their operational area.



The LAFD's Swift Water Team performs its search and rescue operations. The United States Coast Guard provided force protection and transportation for all the "Swiftie" teams. The Coast Guard was one of the many teams that provided assistance.

Alive!: Did you encounter any dead bodies?

Capt. Chuck Ruddell: We saw maybe 40 bodies [in the water] throughout our deployment. We were still on a rescue mission [as opposed to a cleanup effort] until the day we left. When we saw a dead body, we would send the GPS coordinates and flag the location so that those responsible for picking up the dead could do it. And then we'd move on.

People would tell us to check in the attics, because, as part of the area's emergency preparedness plans, they told the citizens to go up in the attic in case of a flood. So we'd go to the roofs, cut them open and check inside. Near the end [of their deployment], after the 911 system was back up and running, we'd get reports of the 911 calls [in their area]. One day, about nine days after the hurricane had hit, the guys from New Mexico found an 86-year-old man who survived eight or nine days. How he did it, I have no idea. I would cut open the attics and feel the intense heat coming out of them.

On our last operation, 15 or 16 days after the hurricane, near the University of New Orleans and the lake, the water levels were still really high, up to a guy's waist. But there he is, standing on the porch.

Alive!: How would you rate the FEMA effort before and during the Katrina crisis?

Capt. Chuck Ruddell: Personally, the extent of the emergency was truly overwhelming to the point that vast resources were needed so quickly, with that large of a number of people — I challenge any group or organization to properly manage it. Nobody could have managed the true extent of the emergency. Once those levies broke ...

And they couldn't ignore the devastation in the other states, either.

Even those who don't have a water problem [like New Orleans] ... if an earthquake hits here, we could have a similar situation. Access, egress, food, water ... we'll encounter the same issues here. Do we have enough water to last a week or two? How do you deal with that?

Some people don't want to leave. If we had a tsunami warning today, I think 10 percent of the people would head right for the beach, to the water.

Plus all the bad elements, the looters. Nothing stops them from taking your water. We heard a lot of stories of being shot at, but in 14 days, no one treated us poorly. Not at all. Maybe the protection forces made a difference. But the people realized we were there to help them. ■



LAFD Capt. Tom Haus, Swift Water Team member.

> THE CITY'S USAR TEAM IN MISSISSIPPI

Bldg. and Safety: Safe and Sound

Robert Sepanian, Structural Associate II, and Charles Chang, Structural Associate III, both with Building and Safety, were the two engineers who joined the large LAFD Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Team that went to the Mississippi Gulf Coast. This team was separate from the LAFD's Swift Water Team that descended upon New Orleans.

Alive! spoke to the men shortly after they returned from duty, having spent approximately two weeks doing door-to-door searches and assessing the risks of entering what might be unsafe buildings. — Ed.

An Interview with Robert Sepanian & Charles Chang



Alive!: How do you describe what you saw?

Robert Sepanian: Total devastation. It's unbelievable. You cannot imagine it, not by looking at the news. It's difficult to understand how enormous and how big of an area it covers. It's almost like a natural nuclear bomb. Not only the buildings were down, the trees were dead, the signs were down, nothing left. Where we were it was just everything gone.

Charles Chang: You see the 100-year-old trees pulled out from the bottom.

Alive!: You were in Mississippi?

Robert Sepanian: We were in Mississippi, in Gulfport and Biloxi. Mississippi's pretty – I mean that's the first time for me and I think for Charles being in the South. Driving in is pretty green, very lush greenery. But when you get close to where this hurricane happened and where the seawater actually came in, you don't see any greenery. It's a very eerie feeling. When you stay there long enough you realize that it's not only not just the structures, but everything else. Every living thing is gone.

Alive!: Ten years from now, what do you think you'll remember the most as far as the devastation is concerned?

Robert Sepanian: Some of the people that we talked to. Not so much the buildings, but the people that came up to us and talked to us. We're standing on a piece of property; you wouldn't even guess that there was a house there. It was just a piece of bare land, and some lady came up to us. She drove up with her brother and gave everybody a hug and said that she [used to have] a house, on her property. She thanked us and she said she was very happy because she still had a job. She said she was looking for some kind of ...

Charles Chang: A milk bottle ...

Robert Sepanian: ... a milk bottle or something like that, that her father gave her. She said, that's the only thing she wants. She said if we found it, just put it on her property.

Charles Chang: It was the only thing that she was looking for. We knew that the milk bottle was floating [away] or buried in the debris. It's very sad.

Robert Sepanian: Very sad.

Charles Chang: They are very strong. There was an empty lot with nothing left, but everything was okay; they're okay, they're fine. They were not complaining.

People see us; We're from Los Angeles, and they treated us like heroes. We are not heroes, but they put their hope in us.

Alive!: You went with the Fire Department's USAR Team, right?



Building and Safety USAR Team Members Robert Sepanian (left) and Charles Chang.



LAFD Rescue Specialist and USAR Team Member Chris Cooper (right) with Medical Specialist Dr. Atila Uner from UCLA.



LAFD Tech Search Specialists and USAR Team Members Patrick Leising and Jerimia Spring at work in Mississippi. Patrick uses a Pomeroy to cut an access hole for the search cam. Jerimia uses a water pack to control the concrete dust.



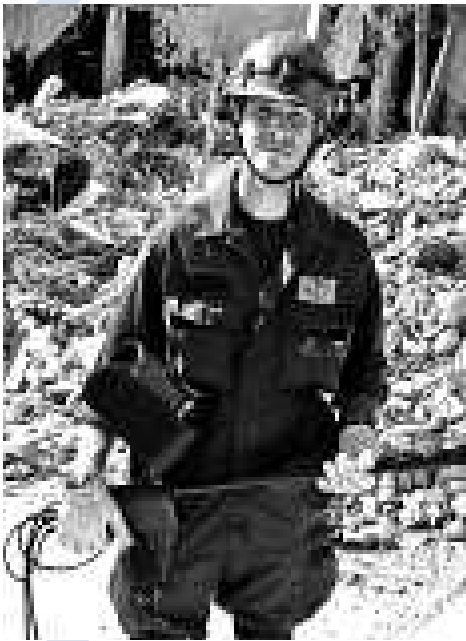
An aerial view of the Biloxi/Gulfport, Miss., area.

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> THE CITY'S USAR TEAM IN MISSISSIPPI



LAFD Canine Handlers and USAR Team Members Ron Wechbacker and Debra Tosch and their search dogs atop what had been a two-story apartment building, in Biloxi, Miss.



LAFD Tech Search Specialist and USAR Team Member Jerimia Spring holds a search cam.



LAFD Rescue Officer Rick Denning and DWP Heavy Rigging Specialist Mike Fennessey, USAR Team Members.



USAR Heavy Rigging Specialist Mike Fennessey, DWP, uses an excavator.



An aerial view of part of a casino barge that blocked the main coast highway in Mississippi.



An aerial view of damage caused by Hurricane Katrina in Mississippi.



The USAR Team lifts the floor of a collapsed apartment building after it was confirmed that there were no victims under it, in Gulfport, Miss.



USAR Team Members (from left) LAFD Rescue Officer Charles Butler and LAFD Tech Search Specialist Patrick Leising search a collapsed apartment building.

Sepanian/Chang Interview, continued

Robert Sepanian: Yes.

Alive!: Did you know these people before hand?

Charles Chang: No, but they treated us like brothers. We are like a family. We are from the Building Department, they are from the Fire Department.

Robert Sepanian: You become friends quick. They're a great bunch of people.

Alive!: Do you feel closer to the Fire Department now?

Robert Sepanian: I have a lot of friends there now.

Alive!: Tell me what a day was like.

Charles Chang: We slept in parking lot

Alive!: In a parking lot?

Charles Chang: It was a water park that they just opened. They were hit hard by the hurricane, so they couldn't operate. FEMA got a hold of them. They were very, very generous. They opened their facility to us. They have a big parking lot so we set up our base over there.

Robert Sepanian: We'd pretty much get up at dawn and have something to eat. We would have an area assigned to you by ...

Charles Chang: FEMA.

Robert Sepanian: There would be a briefing, and then we would go into a certain site. Then we took off from the base, and we go to that site, and we'd pretty much spend the day. Depending on most of the assignments, it wasn't like you would go there and you would be done in an hour or so; it was a daylong or two-day assignment. So we would go to that site and we would be there pretty much until dusk, and just get back to the camp, clean up, eat something, hit the showers, and go to bed.



LAFD Capt. and USAR Team Member Jaime Lesenski, front, enters a collapsed structure in Biloxi, Miss.



City USAR Team Members clear debris in Mississippi.



LAFD Rescue Manager and USAR Team Member Mark Akhoshi (right) assesses damage.

Alive!: Were you with the firemen all this time?

Robert Sepanian: We had the whole crew. There were also a U.S. Marshal escort with us wherever we went. Security was tight. And yes, most of the group would go out.

Alive!: What did you do at a site, typically?

Robert Sepanian: Our role is as the Structural Specialist. Before they enter a building, we are one of the first people to go in and make sure that the building is safe ... trying to point out the hazards, and trying to advise them on how to take care of some of these hazards before they enter.

Charles Chang: We don't want them to enter a building and have that building collapse.

Alive!: And they were looking for -people?

Robert Sepanian: Yeah. You assess the risk.

Charles Chang: We have to determine the potential occupancy. We have to see the use of the building, determine the occupancy load on the building, and based on the time of the date, and the use of the building, oversee the setting of the priority.

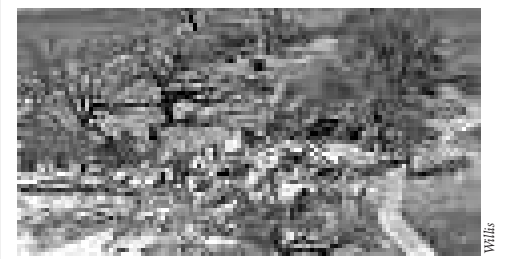
Alive!: So how would you do that?

Charles Chang: Based on experience.

Robert Sepanian: I'd say experience, basically. There was a building that we entered - me and Charles and one of the rescue people - it's a five-story building. You go in and you see things hanging from the ceiling. Part of the building was gone, and you're trying to make a determination, You're looking around and taking some chances going in. You have to take some risk to go in there.

Alive!: Your team was there to find survivors.

Robert Sepanian: Correct. When you go there, you do whatever you can. We help people with their belongings. There was a guy that had a boat stuck, and that was his livelihood. We helped him out with his boat. If there's a rescue you do a rescue. If there's something else, you just do what you can.



An aerial view of damage caused by Hurricane Katrina in Mississippi.



LAFD Capt. and USAR Team Member Jaime Lesenski emerges from a collapsed building in Biloxi, Miss. The person in back is not identified.



A flag, tattered but still waving, in Biloxi, Miss.

HURRICANE KATRINA RELIEF EFFORT: CITY HEROES

Alive! Special Section

THE CITY'S USAR TEAM IN MISSISSIPPI <



The City's USAR Task Force CA-TF1 poses on the last day at the base of operation in Gulfport, Miss.



Medical Team Manager Dr. Greg Palmer from Northridge Hospital.



USAR Task Force Leader Craig Fry.



Building and Safety Structural Specialist and USAR Team Member Robert Sepanian in front of a collapsed two-story apartment building in Gulfport, Miss.



LAFD Hazmat Manager and USAR Team Member Randy Opperman.



LAFD Rescue Squad Officer and USAR Team Member Dan Rodriguez.



LAFD Rescue Squad Officer and USAR Team Member Charles Butler.



LAFD Planning Manager and USAR Team Member Chris Kawai assesses damage.



USAR search tools ready for action.



LAFD Rescue Specialist and USAR Team Member Mike Kammerer.



LAFD Rescue Specialist and USAR Team Member Larry Fiori.



USAR Team Members perform a decontamination procedure. Decontamination was required of all team members prior to returning to the base of operations.



LAFD Rescue Squad Officer and USAR Team Member Rick Denning (second from right) gives instructions to LAFD Tech Search Specialist and USAR Team Member Patrick Leising (right). LAFD Tech Search Specialist and USAR Team Member Carlos Calvillo is in the foreground.



LAFD Logs/Rescue Specialist and USAR Team Member Scott Mitchell.



LAFD Rescue Specialist and USAR Team Member Scott Sanders (closest to slab) searches for victims under the debris.



LAFD Rescue Safety Officer and USAR Team Member Don Reyes. His job is to maintain the safety of the task force in both emergency and non-emergency conditions.



USAR Team Members (from left) LAFD Tech Information Specialist Rick Godinez with LAFD Planning Managers Tim Ernst and Chris Kawai.



Santa Barbara Fire Dept. Dog Handler Howard Orr.



LAFD Planning Manager and USAR Team Member Chris Kawai.



LAFD Medical Specialist and USAR Team Member Tom Henzgen.

Alive! How did you two get picked out of the entire Building and Safety Department?

Robert Sepanian: It's a volunteer position.

Alive! You two volunteered for the USAR Team?

Robert Sepanian: Yes.

Charles Chang: Yes.

Alive! How many days were you gone?

Robert Sepanian: Fourteen.

Alive! How was it for your family?

Charles Chang: I got a lot of support I think from the office here. Not only for my work – they share the load. And my wife constantly got phone calls from the office, my office mates.

Robert Sepanian: My wife was very worried. A lot of people from work called and checked on her, and Charles' wife, almost on a daily

basis. They even offered to come and mow our lawn and take the trash out, things that we do on a daily basis, so support was great.

Alive! Do you see things differently? Did your experience do anything to you personally that changed you?

Charles Chang: Yes ... we are very lucky. I learned to be more humble and to count the blessings that I have right now. I really wish that we could do more for them.

Robert Sepanian: There is a big task ahead to rebuild these areas.

Alive! And that's not just New Orleans, but that's Mississippi, too. Was it the wind? Was it the water? What did the most damage?

— continued next page

> THE CITY'S USAR TEAM IN MISSISSIPPI



Getting to the lower floors sometimes required removing debris by hand.



Performing a secondary search.



An LAFD search dog, hard at work.



City USAR Team Members "core" a hole for search cam access.



LAFD Tech Search Specialist Patrick Leising (left) and LAFD Planning Manager Chris Kawai, both USAR Team Members, confirm that the deceased have been removed from the building.



LAFD Rescue Officer and USAR Team Member Rick Denning oversees the operation of an excavator.



LAFD Tech Search and Rescue Specialist Larry Fiori, in the background. The person in left foreground is not identified.



USAR Team members use a rotary saw to gain access to a lower floor. A water sprayer is used to control the dust.



LAFD Rescue Officer and USAR Team Member Charles Butler enters the attic of a home to start a search. LAFD Search Manager and USAR Team Member Denise Jones assists.

Sepanian/Chang Interview, continued

Charles Chang: Everything, wind and water.

Robert Sepanian: We looked at some houses, and maybe a mile in [from the coast] you could see the house, and you could see the watermarks on the house. They had few steps that go up to the porch, and you would see the watermark right at the porch light. And then you realize, wow, this area was totally under water.

Alive! And what about you Robert ... did it change you at all?

Robert Sepanian: You start thinking differently about people. You think these people are in the worst times of their lives, but they are still very nice people. You get a different perspective on people. People are generally very good ... I was very touched to see how helpful they were to my family and us. You count your blessings. ■



Building and Safety Structural Specialist and USAR Team Member Charles Chang stands in front of a casino barge that destroyed a two-story apartment and a five-story building (inset). LAFD Planning Manager and USAR Team Member Chris Kawai looks up to a casino barge that damaged at least two major buildings including the Biloxi Yacht Club.



Excavators move debris to give the USAR Team access to continue searching for victims of Hurricane Katrina. The USAR Team Member in foreground (right) is doing tool maintenance.



Members of the City's USAR Team enter a house to confirm if the search has been completed.



Medical Specialist Paul Schori on the way to Mississippi.

> THE CITY'S USAR TEAM IN MISSISSIPPI

DWP: Handling the Heavy Equipment

Michael Fennessey, a Heavy Rigging/Equipment Specialist with the DWP and Club Member, was part of the USAR Team that did building-to-building searches and cleared the devastated infrastructure. This interview took place at his work location in Bishop. — Ed.

An Interview with Mike Fennessey



Alive!: What was your first impression of Katrina's devastation?

Mike Fennessey: It was more than I expected. My experience on the team goes back to the World Trade Center, and that's the only benchmark I had to go on; the damage I saw there. As we got 100 miles out we started seeing trees snapped in half. The further you went in you started seeing RV trucks. The roads were closed and there were bulldozers everywhere. As we got into Biloxi it looked like the World Trade Center. When you got right down into Biloxi it looked the same, like tornado damage; everything was totally flattened. I'm sure you've heard that a lot, but totally flattened was about the size of it when you got right down there to the water. All you saw were slabs. All the buildings were gone.

Alive!: What is your specialty on the USAR Team?

Mike Fennessey: My position is called a Heavy Rigging Specialist and Heavy Equipment Specialist. I try to get heavy equipment and heavy equipment operators for the rescue team, and act as just kind of a go-between on the way that the team does business to make sure that everybody's safe mainly. That's what it all boils down to. The Building and Safety guys would go in and say what was needed to make a building safe for the rescue team to go in. They'd say we have to lift this or shore that, and then it would be up to me to go out and find the equipment, whether it would be cranes or excavators or bulldozers, to safely unstack the building and try to get the rescue guys in. The stuff I [use] is in the 50-ton range. We're set up to drill through those floors and lift them up with the air bags.

Alive!: What's the best thing about being on the USAR Team?

Mike Fennessey: Helping people. After Katrina, after the Trade Center, everyone wanted to do something. If you can just put yourself in that position, if there was an earthquake and your house came down all around you and you were lying in the wreckage and you saw some



o Mike Fennessey, USAR Team Member and Heavy Rig Operator, DWP, in the Bishop yard.

guy with a hard hat with a light on it looking down at you, you know your life just got better.

Alive!: How would you explain to our 17,000 other members what the destruction was like?

Mike Fennessey: It was worse than I thought it would be. I've been around a couple tornadoes when I lived in the Midwest and it reminded me of that. The damage was thorough and complete. It's like a tornado that goes on for hours. Roads were torn up, pipes were leaking, gas pipes, water pipes ... You wouldn't think that it would get to the infrastructure in the ground, but it was so thorough, all the vegetation and the trees. All those trees you see in the pictures are going to die from the saltwater immersion.

One thing that I thought was strange, and I

don't know if it's relevant or not, but when we got there we knew we were going to be living on the ground in sweltering heat and humidity and whatnot. You'd figure with all the dead animals and stuff all around ... but the whole time we were there I didn't see a fly. I didn't see any birds, insects or mosquitoes. The hurricane blows them all away.

Alive!: Did you work with search dogs?

Mike Fennessey: Yes.

Alive!: What is like working with search dogs?

Mike Fennessey: The dogs are phenomenal. They run the show. The dogs tell us where to go, at the Trade Center as well. The dogs are the heart of the whole team. If it wasn't for the dogs we'd be digging anywhere. You'd lose time, and time is of the essence. ■

Sanitation Districts Kick In

When Bruce Jones and Jon Reed first brought up the Katrina fundraiser prospect to Marviana Jones over lunch, they were just thinking about involving the West LA District only. But, Marviana took it a step further and contacted all of the yards, challenging them to contribute.



Joe Given, Refuse Collection Truck Operator, donates money to the Katrina fund.

The result was \$954 between the Western District and the South Los Angeles Yard, of the Solid Resource Collection Division. Jesse Cruz and Marviana presented the Red Cross with cash and checks. The fundraiser and donation process was so rewarding," Marviana says. "It feels

good to give and know that people will benefit.

"I want to thank the Western District and the South LA District," she continues. "I am so honored to work beside all of you that have actively participated and contributed to the donation efforts of the Hurricane Katrina victims. I would

like to thank each and every person for thoughts, prayers, and monetary contributions for those affected. Please continue to give from the heart."

The Club thanks Marviana for providing the information and photos. ■



Moniquea Mckee (left) and Dionne Chappelle take part in the coordinating efforts at the South LA Yard, as drivers come into the office to donate.

> THE CITY'S USAR TEAM IN MISSISSIPPI

LAFD: Searching With Dogs

Deresa Teller, a Paramedic with the LAFD, is a search dog expert on the USAR Team. She took her search dog, Ranger, to Mississippi. With other dogs, she has helped search the rubble in Oklahoma City, the World Trade Center and La Conchita. — Ed.

An Interview with Deresa Teller

Alive! What is your title?

Deresa Teller: Medic. I'm a single-function paramedic. I do not fight fires.

Alive! O.k. And you are part of the USAR Team?

Deresa Teller: Correct.

Alive! How long have you been a City employee?

Deresa Teller: A little over 26 years.

Alive! O.K. And before you were a firefighter...

Deresa Teller: I trained guide dogs for a while.

Alive! Oh. Seeing eye dogs? Guide dogs?

Deresa Teller: Right. And then I was an animal health technician.

Alive! When did you get involved with the USAR Team?

Deresa Teller: I got involved with search and rescue shortly after the Mexico City earthquake, which was '85. I saw the dogs work there, and then got involved in the Los Angeles search dogs actually first.

Alive! So the Mexico City earthquake inspired you to get interested in search & rescue?

Deresa Teller: In the search and rescue dogs. I had a wilderness dog, which was similar to the type of dog I have now. It is called a Belgian Sheep dog. And she would do wilderness only, and would have nothing to do with [searching for] cadavers. And it is funny; some dogs — just like some people — have different personalities. She would just not want to do cadavers. So she did wilderness only.

Alive! Which is finding lost people in the woods?

Deresa Teller: Right.

Alive! Tell us about Ranger, your search dog.

Deresa Teller: What is so special about him is he is so independent. The head trainer up in Gilroy said that, of all the dogs she has trained for this, one she would clone would be Ranger, because he is incredible. He just works and works. Of course, he is the perfect size. He is not really that big, and not that small. And his agility is unbelievable. His endurance is just unreal, and he just loves to search.

Alive! The road-trip to Mississippi wasn't pleasant, right? It was hard-core driving and fast food.

Deresa Teller: Right, right. Going there was harder [than coming back] because we drove pretty much through two nights. We left Wednesday, I think around 4 o'clock [p.m.]. Drove all Wednesday night. Drove all Thursday night. Got to Dallas at, I think, 3 or 4 in the morning. And then we were held up for a few days.

Alive! The Fire Department: Does it have its own dogs, or is this a dog you own?

Deresa Teller: This is my dog that I own. I do not know of any disaster dogs that are owned by the Fire Department.

Alive! What did Ranger do in Mississippi? What



USAR Team Member and LAFD Paramedic Deresa Teller, with two of her search dogs.

was Ranger's main job? What does he do?

Deresa Teller: He looked for live people. Although we did not use them as much as I have used the dogs in the past. After 9/11, in Oklahoma City and La Conchita, we used them a lot more.

Alive! That is because ...

Deresa Teller: There was not the necessity.

Alive! How does it work?

Deresa Teller: When we go to a home search at a house, we get everybody out of the home, and we will actually send in an area dog like Ranger first, an area disaster dog that works off leash, looking for any human scent that is pretty much hidden. We would pull all the people — all the family, all the detectives, everyone — and just myself and maybe another handler would come in with me so we could watch the dog. We would only work one dog at a time. And we would send the dog into the house by himself looking to see if maybe there is a kid in a closet.

He is looking for any live, human scent. If five of us went and hid in different spots in the fire station, they would find all five of us in different spots.

Alive! But once I leave, the scent is gone.

Deresa Teller: Oh, yeah, it is done.

Alive! How would you describe what you saw in Mississippi?

Deresa Teller: I have seen several earthquakes, and I have seen the Oklahoma City bombing and the New York World Trade Center ... I thought the New York World Trade Center was huge, but this was even larger. It just went on for miles and miles. And, of course, it was a different kind of rubble, more survivable rubble for people as opposed to New York. What really amazed me were those humongous floating casinos that were on those big barges that were just brought up on shore by the big wave, or whatever. I mean, those things must have weighed hundreds of tons. I cannot imagine what it was like first looking out there, because when we were there at least the streets were cleared so that we could walk down the street. But, you know, there is no way that was like that when the those rescuers first got there.

Alive! Were most of the people evacuated?

Deresa Teller: Not when we first got there. We had a cadaver dog with us on our team; some

teams did not bring a cadaver dog with them. We would use the live dogs for a certain amount. We worked in twos. We would just walk in a single line. We would check at the end of the block, and we would just walk the area. Sometimes we had an easy walk, and sometimes we had to go up and over whatever, and go through houses. We were seeing if we could find something, using our sense of smell.

Alive! Was there a smell, a strong smell?

Deresa Teller: Here and there. It was not terrible, but I think the stronger smells were actually refrigerators that had been turned over. A lot of it was refrigerator and contents. If there was an area where we noticed those smells, we would mark an area and bring the cadaver dog. They know the difference between [humans] and refrigerator contents.

Alive! Coming back from Mississippi, did it change you at all?

Deresa Teller: It makes me appreciate that we only have earthquakes. But how many of those [hurricanes] do they face every year? I would rather face an earthquake every 20 or 30 years as opposed to 10 to 15 hurricanes or tornadoes coming through each year.

Alive! It just seems like they keep coming.

Deresa Teller: I hope there is an end to it.

Alive! Why can't humans do what dogs do?

Deresa Teller: Because we do not have the sense of smell. [But] we have more emotions than dogs do.

Alive! And physically, they can get around better than we can.

Deresa Teller: A lot better, because they have four-wheel drive. They are just agile. And they do not disturb the rubble as much as a person.

Alive! What was different about this disaster, in Mississippi?

Deresa Teller: It was a different type of disaster, but emotionally it did not affect me differently.

Alive! Is there a reason for that?

Deresa Teller: I do not know. I think maybe you get kind of hardened with this job. With all the stuff you see. I do not look at them differently being either natural or man-made, because you have to really handle them the same. ■

Housing Helps One of its Own

Story and photos by Liz Montes,
Club Counselor

■ Housing Dept. hosts auction to help former coworker caught in Katrina wake.

HOUSING — Raquel Polk, formerly a Management Analyst working in the Rent Investigation and Enforcement Section of the Los Angeles Housing Department, moved to New Orleans to be with her family about three years ago. Although LAHD employees remember her as Raquel Polk, Raquel married and became Raquel Molina. The Molinas lived adjacent to the Seventeenth Street Canal and just down the street from Raquel's mother. Her brother and his family also lived in the area but closer to the ocean. Following the Hurricane Katrina disaster, several friends in the Housing Department contacted her at her cousin's house in Baton Rouge, La., and discovered that she'd lost everything except a duffel bag of clothes. Her mother and brother's family lost essentially everything as well.

To further exacerbate their already desperate situation, the three families have had difficulty in obtaining emergency funding from the federal, state and municipal governments. Threatened by the advancing hurricane and at the behest of governmental agencies, New Orleans residents were directed to seek safety and shelter with relatives or friends living out of the path of the hurricane, which is exactly what the three families did. Later, when the levies broke and waters flooded and destroyed thousands of homes, the three families tried to obtain emergency funds only to find out that since they were able to find shelter with family and were not forced to go to a shelter, funds would not be readily available to them, only to those in the sheltering system. To date, the Molinas have received a \$300 voucher from the American Red Cross for their vital needs.

Raquel and her husband plan to permanently return to the Los Angeles area. In early October, they arrived to seek housing and employment and at press time are staying with a friend.

To raise funds to help the Molinas, the staff of the South Regional Office of the Rent Stabilization Division in the Housing Department donated new and used items for an auction. Among the many items donated were a bronze statue, lawn lamps, jewelry, sports cards, car speakers, in-line skates, picture frames, cooking appliances, silk scarves, a case of shampoo and even a pair of gloves once owned by Oscar winning actress Jennifer Jones. The auction raised more than \$1,000, which the Molinas will put towards their first and last month's rent.

The Club thanks Daniel Snyder and Cynthia Lim for their assistance in producing this story. ■



From left: Daniel Snyder, Principal Inspector; Cynthia Lim, Sr. MA I; Raquel Polk; and Mel Plummer, Chief Inspector.



Auctioneer Willie Andrews.



From left: Daniel Snyder, Principal Inspector; Cynthia Lim, Sr. MA I; Raquel Polk; and Mel Plummer, Chief Inspector.



Lois Hearne shows off her new statue.



From left: Daniel Snyder, Principal Inspector; Raquel Polk; and Willie Andrews.



The staff admires a gold-thread linen.



From left: Willie Andrews, Jose Zepeda, Daniel Williams and Cynthia Stanton.

> THE PORT POLICE TEAM IN NEW ORLEANS

Harbor: A Home on Wheels

Lt. Michael Graychik of the Port Police lead a team of four Port Police officers on a care package mission on the grandest scale: They delivered a mobile shelter to their colleagues at the beleaguered New Orleans Harbor. The New Orleans officers hadn't been home in three weeks when help arrived from Los Angeles. At press time, the Port's mobile shelter was still on duty in New Orleans. The Port Police team – which also included Sgt. Mike Capodanna, Senior Lead Officer Ben Cobos and Officer Dave Yocham – also performed an assessment of the New Orleans Harbor.

In addition, the Port Police Officers Association passed the bat and raised several thousand dollars, which the Port Police foursome delivered to the offices in New Orleans upon their arrival.

Lt. Graychik was interviewed by Alive! at the Port of Los Angeles Cruise Terminal. — Ed.

An Interview with Lt. Michael Graychik

Alive!: What's your title with Port Police?

Lt. Michael Graychik: Lieutenant. I am over the Counterterrorism Section, and that includes hazardous materials unit, the canines, sea marshals and the dive team. And then also I do some things with homeland security grants and emergency preparedness and anything kind of homeland security related.

Alive!: Were you asked to assist in the Katrina efforts because of your emergency preparedness position or how did that come about?

Lt. Michael Graychik: Yes, yes.

Alive!: Where did that request come from?

Lt. Michael Graychik: It came from Chief Ron Boyd of the Port Police. My role was to equip the vehicle and to transport the vehicle to New Orleans. And then while at New Orleans, our mission was to lend the vehicle to them for a definitive period of time. It could be one month, it could be three months. We don't have a definitive closing date, but we're going to get it back, you know, within a short period of time. Also while there part of my mission was to do a survey on the damage and see what type of efforts they had to go through to reopen their port after the hurricane hit and survey the damage.

Alive!: It was really a two-fold mission.

Lt. Michael Graychik: Yes, correct.

Alive!: Are the ports similar?

Lt. Michael Graychik: It's a very different environment there. They have the Mississippi River, so their port is linear. It goes in a line that follows the river. And here our port is a very large complex, and our port is divided up into really two parts: the port of L.A. and the port of Long Beach. It's one giant complex but there's two entities as well as a federal entity, which is the Coast Guard, that has oversight in the port of L.A. and Long Beach.



The Port Police Mobile Shelter is ready for occupancy in front of the New Orleans Harbor Police Station.

Alive!: Did FEMA call you in or did the New Orleans Port call you in?

Lt. Michael Graychik: It was a direct call from the Port of New Orleans to the Port of Los Angeles police.

Alive!: How did they choose the Port of Los Angeles?

Lt. Michael Graychik: It's my understanding that their chief and my chief know each other from the American Association of Port Authorities.

Alive!: So it was really a friend calling a friend for help.

Lt. Michael Graychik: Yes.

Alive!: What was your assessment of the port?

Lt. Michael Graychik: We arrived at the port about three weeks after the hurricane, and the port was operational. It was limited but almost fully operational. They had recovered fairly quickly. The power had been out for three weeks and it was just coming online when we arrived. They had been using emergency generators to power their police station. The sewer lines were still down; they had no fresh water. FEMA was delivering food as well as water to them.

The port had 19 officers that were homeless. They had just received two travel trailers from FEMA and then they had received our mobile shelter so they were in a position where they could house most of the 19 officers that were left homeless in the wake of the hurricane. When we arrived, we handed the vehicle over to them. They were very appreciative. They were in dire straits as far as housing facilities go and there were 19 of them that are homeless so they were pretty much in dire straits in that respect.

Alive!: For three weeks they were homeless?

Lt. Michael Graychik: For three weeks, yes. And they gave us a tour of the city where we got to see all the hurricane damage, where the levee broke and just completely devastated that community. Then we saw some of the other communities where the buildings were standing because the water came up much slower in those neighborhoods. But there were other issues like crude oil that had come from a ruptured storage tank and had just completely surrounded this one neighborhood. So all the homes and streets and yards had a certain level of crude oil in them. And then there were a lot of other hazardous materials that were in the soil there.

Alive!: Did you get in the water yourself?

Lt. Michael Graychik: When we were there the streets were basically dry at that point.

Alive!: Tell me about this vehicle that you let them borrow.

Lt. Michael Graychik: It came from a company called Four Winds. It's called a Fun Mover, and it's a 34-foot super C class RV-type vehicle. The Harbor Department purchased it and then outfitted it as a shelter and named it a mobile shelter. The department took all the fancy graphics off the side, and put up the City graphic. Then the Harbor Department's carpenter shop built six bunk beds to go in the back. The back portion of it is a garage. In its civilian use it's for storing motorcycles or quads or some type of off-road vehicle. The garage was outfitted with the three sets of bunk beds. And then the forward portion is the living quarters, where you have a couch, a dinette, a kitchen, a full bathroom and a shower, and the driving compartment is attached to that.



Port Police employees Bill Hill, Mike Capodanno, Mike Graychik and Dave Yocham load the Mobile Shelter before leaving for New Orleans.

HURRICANE KATRINA RELIEF EFFORT: CITY HEROES

Alive! Special Section

THE PORT POLICE TEAM IN NEW ORLEANS <

Alive! The Port purchased it how long ago?

Lt. Michael Graychik: Around the 17th of September, approximately.

Alive! It was brand new.

Lt. Michael Graychik: Brand new; yes, just purchased it.

Alive! Was this its first official duty?

Lt. Michael Graychik: This was it – first official duty.

Alive! Did you drive it down there by yourself?

Lt. Michael Graychik: No, there was a team of four. Our mission was mainly to outfit the vehicle with the equipment and supplies it would need to house a number of officers for an extended period of time, and then equip it with the regular RV maintenance type equipment like water hoses, the sewer hoses, water pressure regulator, all the different necessities that you would have in an RV. And then we outfitted it with bedding, sheets and towels.

Alive! Did you live in the vehicle?

Lt. Michael Graychik: While we drove there we did. And when we arrived, we arrived early in the morning. Before went into New Orleans we stopped in Baton Rouge at a KOA [campground] and we dumped its sewer lines, cleaned it up, and filled it up with water so that when we pulled in to New Orleans it would be all ready to go, full of fresh water, empty sewer tanks and all that.

Alive! Did they give you entrance to the city?

Lt. Michael Graychik: We needed a police escort to get in. This was just prior to Hurricane Rita hitting, and the city had been evacuated again. They had a checkpoint set up along the freeway and the harbor police met us in Baton Rouge and escorted us into the city.

Alive! How long did you stay in New Orleans?

Lt. Michael Graychik: We just stayed overnight. We arrived on a Tuesday morning and stayed there all day Tuesday and half the day on Wednesday. We arrived on Sept. 21st, and we left on the 23rd.

It was a quick trip. It took us about 35 hours to get there.

Alive! How did you get back?

Lt. Michael Graychik: We flew back.

Alive! From New Orleans?

Lt. Michael Graychik: New Orleans airport. It had just opened.

Alive! You flew commercial?

Lt. Michael Graychik: Yes. We flew commercial.

Alive! I didn't realize they had scheduled flights down there.

Lt. Michael Graychik: They did. That was actually that was the first day American Airlines was operating in New Orleans. We flew out on American, so we were lucky.

Alive! What was the airport like?

Lt. Michael Graychik: Pretty quiet. There weren't that many people there because the town had been evacuated already. And the only people in the city were military, police, fire and public utilities. So there weren't a lot of civilians there. It was mainly those folks.

Alive! Did you need any special permission to be in the airport?

Lt. Michael Graychik: No. There were checkpoints set up throughout the city, and we passed through checkpoints. But we were in a police vehicle and the driver had the official FEMA-approved ID card to get through. They drove us around everywhere.

Alive! Those guys had been homeless for three weeks.

Lt. Michael Graychik: Yes, they'd been homeless for three weeks.

Alive! They must have been awfully glad to see you.

Lt. Michael Graychik: They were very appreciative of us getting there.

Alive! What were your reactions when you saw everything? This is still three weeks afterwards, but was the city still pretty devastated?

Lt. Michael Graychik: It was. I was amazed at the scale of the entire disaster site. We drove around for half the day. We were out for about four hours, and we never saw the same ground twice. I was just completely amazed of the size, the magnitude of the devastation.

The neighborhoods where the levee broke, those houses were just completely destroyed. And somebody mentioned before that it looked like an atomic bomb went off, and that's what it looked like. There was literally no structure standing, just piles of debris. And then in the neighborhoods that were farther away from that where the water wasn't rushing, where it just calmly rose, those neighborhoods were all covered in river mud, and the houses were all boarded up. It was kind of eerie because most of those areas were complete neighborhoods, but they were covered in river mud and they had been underwater for several weeks. Those houses had been soaked and saturated with river water and other contaminants for several weeks. I don't know if those houses will ever be inhabitable again.

Alive! Are you going to go back and drive the vehicle back here?

Lt. Michael Graychik: I don't know. I'm not sure what the arrangements are to bring it back yet. It's possible they may drive it back or we may fly somebody out there to go pick it up.

Alive! What are you going to do with it, when you get it back?

Lt. Michael Graychik: Once we get it back, we'll use it for ourselves. But it'll be part of the emergency vehicle fleet for the harbor in the event that there's a disaster here.

Alive! Were you proud that you were representing the City of Los Angeles in this effort?

Lt. Michael Graychik: It was a real good feeling to be able to deliver the vehicle to them in their time of need. It was a very good feeling. And along with the vehicle, the Port Police Officers Association donated several thousand dollars to them. Knowing that we were going, the officers passed a hat around and they collected several thousand dollars, which the association handed over to them when we got to New Orleans. Senior Lead Dan Cobos was in charge of handing over the money to them.

Alive! That's that's really nice .

Lt. Michael Graychik: Yes, it was a good feeling. ■



The Los Angeles Port Police Team surveys the devastation of the Ninth Ward near where the levee broke.



A view down a street in the Ninth Ward.



New Orleans Harbor Police Detective Glenn Smith tells Los Angeles Port Police Officer Dave Yocham about Glenn's boat rescues in this neighborhood of New Orleans.



Los Angeles Port Police Officer Dave Yocham loads supplies into the Mobile Shelter.



Los Angeles Port Police Lt. Mike Graychik returns to the survey vehicle after visiting the New Orleans Convention Center.



Destruction in a neighborhood near the Ninth Ward. The Los Angeles Port Police Team took this picture approximately three weeks after Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans.



A military Humvee on patrol, enforcing the evacuation order in the Ninth Ward.



Two tug boats left high and dry on the banks of the Mississippi River from the Hurricane Katrina storm surge.



Los Angeles Port Police Lt. Mike Graychik takes his driving shift and drinks plenty of coffee.



The Los Angeles Port Police pass a milestone as they cross the state line from Texas into Louisiana en route to New Orleans.

> HOMECOMING

LAFD SWIFT WATER TEAM & USAR TEAM

The week of Sept. 12, the City threw two homecoming parties for the returning Swift Water Team and USAR Team members. Families, friends and guests were treated to words of congratulations and welcome home from a number of speakers, including Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, Councilmember Wendy Greuel, Fire Chief Bill Bamattre, Chief Deputy Andrew Fox, LAFD Community Liaison Officer Lou Roupoli and Swift Water Team Leader Jack Wise. Here are some excerpts. — Ed.



Lou Roupoli, Community Liaison Officer, LAFD.

Lou Roupoli: "They have been given a mission to go where few are willing. They've seen the devastation and calamity in the last couple of weeks of Hurricane Katrina and have provided public safety in its highest regard. Their dedication to mission and country far surpasses all expectations. With the support from our mayor, the city council, our team was rapidly assembled and deployed into the region impacted by Hurricane Katrina. We're here today to welcome them home and reunite them with their families, friends and coworkers."

Antonio Villaraigosa: "I get to do this a second time. I was at the airport a couple hours ago to meet these men. I was here to wish 70 Urban Search and Rescue team members that went to the Gulf States as well. And I can tell you, there are a few moments, as mayor, where



From left: Debbie Garner; Frank Garner, 28 years; and mom, Ruth Garner.



Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa.

you're prouder than to acknowledge the heroism and the great work and sacrifice of these men who are here today.

"And I want to express to you and your families ... It was nice getting to greet you as you got off the plane but to watch you interact with your families and your children and your wives and your friends here, you can't help but realize that this was a sacrifice. Not just for you but for your children and your families, your parents, who were obviously worried while you were gone and wondering what was going on as they saw the many faces of grief and devastation over the last few weeks. We salute your families as well and thank you for your sacrifices. These men worked with the L.A. County Fire Department and rescued over 525 hurricane victims. Can you believe that? 525 people.

"We couldn't be prouder. You all know that they had to face very, very difficult and arduous conditions. We heard about it, we read about it, we saw it on TV. This was hard work and this took great skill and competence. We have the best, the finest people anywhere in the world. Many of them were in New York and they've gone to every major incident and we're so proud of them.

"This was an act of magnanimity and humanity, an opportunity for us, as Angelenos, to reach out to people almost on the other side of the continent with people that were in need. And the fact that we were able to do this with such success makes me so proud as mayor to welcome you all home, to say thank you and to say to you that you deserve a few days of rest with your families."



Councilwoman Wendy Greuel.

Wendy Greuel: "I'm so pleased to have station 88 in my district. It's one of the best in the City of Los Angeles.

"I want to add my congratulations. These firefighters are Los Angeles' heroes. What we now know across the country is that they're heroes for everyone and they're heroes for those of you, your family. Each day, when they leave to go to work, you know that they're going to help someone, whether it be to save their life or help them in some other way. And we are just so proud of what they've done. When you see the signs down here that say, "We love you," "We missed you," we know what a great sacrifice it was for you to allow your family members to go out to help others. I know that their experience was one they will never forget.

"And, hopefully here in the City of Los Angeles, we will learn from some of the challenges that they faced in New Orleans so that we can make sure, when we have another disaster, and, God willing, that won't happen, but our Fire Department has been the lead when we've had issues of the 1994 earthquake and others that have been in the City of Los Angeles.

"I wanted to be here to say thank you to the families and particularly thank you to the firefighters who make us all so very proud. Thank you."

Jack Wise: "I'm quite honored to be called the leader of these gentlemen that you see behind us here. They are truly specialists and they are truly



Family members offer a warm welcome home.



Fathers like Mr. Cordobes are excited for the return of their sons (Robby Cordobes, LAFD) as well.



From left: Tammy and Jesse Franco, LAFD, who left with the Swift Water Team Aug. 29, the day before Tammy's birthday; and Jesse's dad (also named Jesse), an LAFD Inspector.

HURRICANE KATRINA RELIEF EFFORT: CITY HEROES

Alive! Special Section

LAFD SWIFT WATER TEAM <



Liz Bammatre, wife of LAFD Chief Bill Bammatre, being welcomed by the mayor.



Battalion Chief Jack Wise, a leader of the Swift Water Rescue Team Leader.

the elite of the elite. We've grown together, as a team, from its inception back in '92 and the people that you see back here are the forefront of that. I want to thank, from every individual on the Swift Water Team, the City Council, the Mayor, for your support through the years and your continued support in this effort. Also, the Fire Chief, Chief Bammatre, Chief Fox, for all the support you've given this team and the confidence that you've instilled in us by allowing us to go and help others in need, just like you've welcomed those that have come to our times of need.

"I also want to thank, for the team, all those that are out here in the crowd. The people at DPS ... all those that made calls to our people, 'til late at night, to our families, to re-ensure that they were being taken care of. That is so heart-warming to us, knowing that they were keeping up to date, that if they had problems, if they had needs, that they would handle those. I can't thank you enough for that. It was so reassuring for our members to know that, to allow them to get in theater and to perform those acts that we're talking about here. It took us that one less stress off of our mind.

"Words don't describe what the [firefighters] were going through and they kept going in and in and in, time after time after time, with little sleep, to help those people out. These are truly the heroes back here and I thank you all for allowing us to do that. That makes us feel good. This is what we train for and I'm at a loss for words, but thank you very much." ■



Mission accomplished, so it's time to celebrate at the USAR Team homecoming event.



Helen Kitahata (Tommy Kitahata's mom) and Robert Larios, Club Director of Communications and Marketing.



Debra Tosch, Executive Director of the National Disaster Search Dog Foundation



Craig White, LAFD, with his daughter, Korbin.



From left: Shane Wise; Jack Wise, 25 years, Battalion 12; and Kelly Martinez.



Craig White and family being interviewed by Channel 9 News, from left: Makenna, Craig, Riley and Tori. When asked about what he would like to share with other City employees, Craig said, "Be thankful for what you have, and realize how fast things can go away because those people lost everything. When we got there, there were people still on rooftops, high and dry on the freeways."

What's the best thing about being back? "These guys, right here!" When asked what they miss most about their dad, Craig's kids said, "Helping with their homework, going to soccer games and just being there for us."



The Cordobes family, from left: Corby; Ashley; Robby Cordobes, Fire Station 90, 17 years; Christopher; and wife, Laurie

When asked what they missed most about their Dad, the kids said, "Going to our football games and helping with the homework." Robby summed up his New Orleans experience by saying, "It was catastrophic, with all the water flooding through the area. It wasn't just one break, it was three different breaks. There were thousands of homes under water, a lot of multiple deaths and a lot of people left homeless."



Tommy Kitahata and his family. Tommy works out of Fire Station 3, downtown. He's been with the LAFD for 17 years.



The USAR Team homecoming helped this LAFD dad connect with this child.



It's all smiles at the USAR Team homecoming.



The USAR Team homecoming meant hugs all around.



The USAR Team homecoming generated high-wattage smiles.

Glenda Richardson, LAPD and Club Member, wrote this poem as a personal tribute to the survivors of Hurricane Katrina. Glenda is a native of Louisiana and has a daughter away at Grambling State University in Louisiana. "I just felt compelled to share this with fellow members." Thank you, Glenda. — Ed.

LOSS

(In the wake of Hurricane Katrina)

A sense of loss is what they feel
Look what they've been through with this ordeal
A disaster that compares to no other
It separated husbands from wives
And children from mothers.
Strength will come, because they survived
And after the hurt, they're still alive.
Some lost everything
Except the clothes on their back.
We can't imagine a loss like that.
There are no words to take the pain away
It's a thing called time, that will take its place.
Many will regroup and get back on track
And other won't ever recover
Or even bounce back.
We hope they stay strong in their belief
And not get consumed in their grief.
Try to dust off the clouds covered in gray
And keep the good memories to guide the way.
Our prayers go out to all the survivors in their time of need.
Helping where we can, so they can proceed.
Survivors,
Please remember the smiles
And the little things that make life worthwhile.

By Glenda Richardson
LAPD Communications Division

Home of the Brave



■ LAFD hosts fifth annual Benefit for Our Bravest Street Fair.

Story by Bev Haro, Club Counselor
Photos by Summy Lam, Club Tech Guru

FIRE DEPT. — Starting as a spontaneous fundraising event for the families of fallen New York firefighters, the Benefit for Our Bravest has grown in scope to both raise crucial funds and honor through public celebration the role of America's

"Bravest" -- those who selflessly put their lives on the line for the greater good.

The event took place Sept. 24 at the Valley Inn Restaurant, 4557 Sherman Oaks Blvd.

Funds raised go to Adopt-a-Fire Station, LAFD Division 3, which is a special project fund of the California Community Foundation. The Fund is designed to enhance life safety in City communities by coordinating the efforts of individuals, groups and corporations.

The first Benefit for Our Bravest in 2001 was a response by four best friends to the bravery and selflessness exhibited by public servants on Sept. 11, 2001. The first fundraising event was two weeks after the 9-11 tragedy. The \$25,000 raised at this first event was sent to the families of fallen NY firefighters.

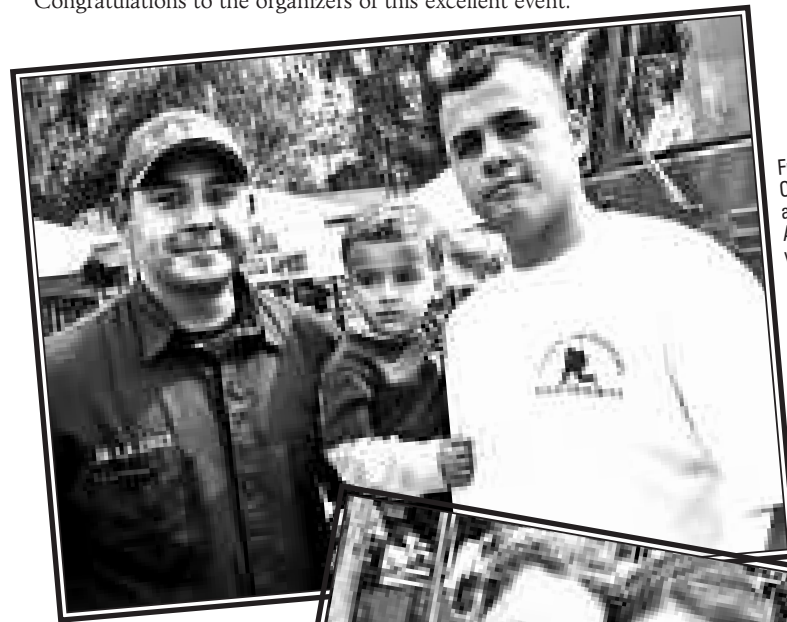
This first event was attended by many local firefighters, who were so appreciative of the community response that, by the end of the evening, it was decided that the benefit would happen annually as a tribute to our local heroes who serve and protect.

This year was the fifth annual event, and the originators were joined by local police and sheriff's departments. The event has grown from the side dining room of the Valley Inn Restaurant to a three-block outdoor street festival.

Congratulations to the organizers of this excellent event.



Fire Stations 72, 39, 74 and 89 share the barbecue duties.



From left: Apparatus Operator De La Cruz and Firefighter Alavarez 1.5 years, with his son, Anthony.



Children enjoy the fair



From left: Engineer Jared Bennett, 10 years; Firefighter Bustamante, 10 years; Firefighter Winn, 3 years; Firefighter/Paramedic Rubio, 3 years; Firefighter Bage, 3 years; and Firefighter/Paramedic Brian Simon, 10 years.



The band entertains the crowd.



From left: Lead Paramedic Gerlich, 19 years, with Firefighter/Rescue Ambulance Driver Jesse Ortiz, 35 years, Station 28.



From left: Firefighter Rogers, 25 years, and Inspector Jordan, 19 years.



From left: Engineer Charlie Sullenbarger (Ventura County) and Captain Ed Spafford (Ventura County).



From left: Apparatus Operator Perez, 16 years, and Captain Arriola, 20 years.



Captain Brazley, 25 years, with Club Counselor Bev Haro



An antique ambulance on display.

For Their Benefit

■ Airports sponsors benefit fair.

Story by Liz Montes, Club Counselor.
Photos by Angel Gomez, Member Service Manager

AIRPORTS — LAX hosted Airports' second annual Benefits Fair Sept. 28 at the Construction and Maintenance lunchroom.

Airport employees had the opportunity to meet with representatives from various organizations to review their benefits. More than 300 employees attended the fair to receive important information. Everyone in attendance was given free lunch bags and breakfast.

The Club would like to thank Letty Ortiz and Gerald Tuskes for inviting us to take part in the event.



From left: Gwynn Menefield, Construction & Maintenance, 33 years; Gale Bryant, Concessions, 16 years; and Demi Matthews, Procurement Services, 8 years.



From left: Officer Agdeppa, 25 years, and Officer Angel, 10 years.



From left: Ray Villanueva, Window Cleaner, 17 years; Donald Lee, A/C Filter Crew, 17 years; and Julio R. Amaya, Window Cleaner, 17.5 years.



From left: Dorothy Brookes and Claudette Jackson.



From left: Dawn Kealoha, A/P Guide, 1.5 years, and Shirley Hoffmann, P.R. Specialist, 6 years.



From left: Art Palomar, Clerk Typist, 4 years; and Letty Ortiz, Management Aide, 12 years.



Helen Georgeson, Benefits Analyst, 9 years.



From left: Rommel Panlilio, 6 years; Cora Salao, Financial Manager II, 18 years; Kelly Dickinson, Clerk Typist, 12 years; and Anita Domingo, Chief Accountant, 27 years.



From left: Jose Del Rio, Clerk Typist; Letty Ortiz, Mgmt. Aide; Gerald Tuskes, Sr. Personnel Analyst; and Arthur Palomar, Clerk Typist.



From left: Reinita Villamor, Accountant, 5 years; Rachel Barrica, Sr. Accountant II, 14 years; Silveria Silva, Pr. Accountant II, 8 years; Nora Giron, Pr. Accountant II, 24 years; and Rosalinda Rufino, Sr. Accountant I, 5 years.



From left: Rachelle Yuvieno, Management Analyst II, 7 years; Herschell Warlick, Financial Analyst, 2 years; John Kantz, Financial Manager II, 13 years; and Charles Clifton, Accountant II, 5 years.



From left: Henry Victor, Deferred Compensation; and Fernando Campos, Deferred Compensation.



From left: Brenda Henderson, Landscaping, 21 years; and Pamela Cruz, MA II, 18 years.



From left: Cecilia Cano, Landscaping, 19 years; Maria Ramos, Recycling, 20 years; and Silvia Facilo, Custodian, 3 years.



From left: Brenda Crawford, Accounting Clerk II, 6 years, and Linda Brown, Personnel Records Supervisor, 16 years.



Linda Annala, Management Aide, 20 years.



From left: Terry White, Carpenter; and Jerry Green, Landscaping, 15 years.



From left: Darin Plotnick and Charlotte Riddle.



From left: Cesar Pedroza, Gardener, 10 years; Guadalupe Raygoza, Gardener, 17 years; Taizo Oga, Gardener, 2 years; and Satiago Rico, Gardener, 15 years.



From left: Dawn Kealoha and Paul Aguilar.



From left: Luis G. Mercado, Sr. Accountant II, 15 years, and Nestor Pacada, Eng. Designer, 17 years.



Back row from left: Jose De Lira; and Mi Yolanda Ramirez. Front: Reyes Manuel; Elsy Castro and Martha Paz.



Julie Wallace, Club Partner, Cruise and Resort, answers two employees' questions.



From left: Charlete Bullock, Senior Clerk Typist, 33 years; Robin Cannon, Senior Data Processing Technician II, 27 years; David Lindsay, Programmer Analyst III, 6 years; Debbie Cabeza, Programmer Analyst IV, 15 years; and David Rhodes, Programmer Analyst V, 15 years.



From left: Amy Lava, Database Architect, 16 years; Pat Dorsey, System Analyst II, 25 years; Evelyn Martinez, System Analyst, 31 years; Maryann Abbassi, Information Systems Manager, 10 years; Ron Murray, Communications Electrician, 6 years; Sandy Eng, Programmer Analyst, 19 years; Erma Dozier, Data Entry Operator, 31 years; Carmen Contreras, Programmer Analyst III, 24 years; Fazeel Chauhan, Systems Programmer, 14 years; Emily Tran, Programmer Analyst, 15 years; Tom Young, Communications Electrician, 16 years; and Jack Gardner, Electronics Technician, 8 years.



Lloyd White, Communications Electrician Data, 6 years.



From left: Jesus Cabrera, Warehouse Worker, 6 years; Juan Norona, Senior Computer Operator I, 19 years; Frank Delavara, Communications Electrician, 7 years; and J.P. Delmundo, Communications Electrician, 4 years.



From left: Dave Lear, Senior Communications Electrician, 25 years; and Greg Steinmehl, Information Systems, Manager, 20 years.



Donald Hasan, Head Custodian, 34 years.



From left: Pat Dorsey, System Analyst II, 25 years, Club member; and Amy Lava, Database Architect, 16 years, Club Member.



From left: Ron Murray, Communications Electrician, 6 years; and Darlos Cornejo, Communications Electrician, 4 years.



Evelyn Martinez, System Analyst, 31 years.

ITA Luncheon

■ Dept.'s Communications Services Division hosts a luncheon.

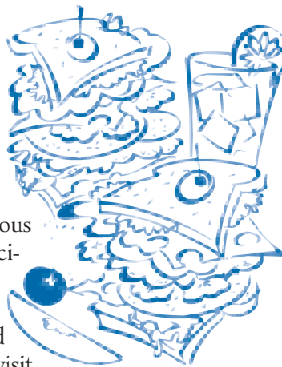
Story by Gene Gamachi, ITA, with assistance from Summy Lam and Michael Anderson, Club Tech Gurus
Photos by Summy Lam

ITA — On Sept. 21, the Information Technology Agency (ITA) held its summer luncheon at Piper Tech. This year's luncheon was held at the Piper Tech cafeterium, with additional outdoor seating available under the shaded canopies. This was another fantastic job coordinated by the ITA's events committee and hosted by ITA's Communications Services Division (CSD).

The CSD delivered an excellent luncheon. Ron Murray barbecued delicious steaks and sausage links, while Lloyd White provided music. Special appreciation went out to Larry Montoya, Kenji Takai and Terry Hadley for their effort in hosting this luncheon.

The ITA events committee also assisted in the thorough preparation and smooth execution of the event. The event allowed many ITA employees to visit the Piper Tech facility and discover the many critical functions provided by the CSD.

During the event, the organizers raised money for Hurricane Katrina relief.



Greg Adams Jr., Communications Electrician, 3 years.



From left: Peggie Kirkpatrick, Programmer Analyst, 22 years; Irene Watanabe, Programmer Analyst, 18 years; Sonya Bhudhikanok, Programmer Analyst IV, 25 years; Hana Saad, Systems Programmer, 6 years; Jina Payba, Systems Programmer, 9 years; and Edwin Lorenzana, Programmer Analyst, 13 years.



Robert Neville, Police Officer, 16 years.



Mikio Igarashi, Communications Electrician, 6 months.



From left: Diane Richmond, Senior Clerk Typist, 21 years; Scott "Big Daddy" Wiles, Management Analyst II, 18 years; Robert Cook, Management Analyst II, 19 years; and Miu Lee, Management Analyst II, 2 years.



Sandy Eng, Programmer Analyst, 19 years.



Peggie Kirkpatrick, Programmer Analyst, 22 years.



From left: SMO David, Communications Electrician, 8 years; Dave Curry, Communications Electrician, 9 years; Paul Gibbins, Communications Electrician Supervisor, 22 years; and Peter Benjamins, Senior Communication Supervisor, 24 years.



From left: Sylvia Moran, Clerk Typist, 10 years; Eva Gonzales, Senior Clerk Typist, 23 years; and Rhonda Edwards, Clerk Typist, 21 years;



From left: Greg May, Senior Communications Electrician, ITA, 8 years; Esequiel Lorta Jr., Communications Cable Worker, ITA, 2.5 years; and Jim Hawley, Communications Electrician, ITA, 20 years.



From left: Kamton Joe, Assistant General Manager, 20 years; Greg Steinmehl, Information Systems Manager, 20 years; Gene Gamachi, Information Systems Manager, 18 years; Eddie Millager, Delivery Driver II, 17 years; Rob Collier, Senior Communications Supervisor, 16 years; and Kyle Millager, Senior Management Analyst II, 2 years.

Griffith Observatory Renovation

The Sky's the Limit

A City Icon, and Why It Matters

COVER STORY:

In October, Dr. Ed C. Krupp, director of the Griffith Observatory, sat down with Club CEO John Hawkins to talk about the major renovation of the City landmark, and then took John on a personal hardhat tour of the work-in-progress.

Alive! Thanks so much for welcoming Alive! and the City Employees Club. We're a totally positive newspaper.

Dr. Ed Krupp: Even if you weren't, it would be okay. We're public servants here.

Alive! Is it getting old with people asking you, "When is the Observatory going to open?"

Dr. Ed Krupp: We ask that question every day. No, it's not old at all. In fact, in a sense, it's terrific, but not surprising. Griffith Observatory is known and, it might be a little overly romantic to say so, but beloved by just about everybody. It's one of those few places that has no agenda other than we're owned by everybody. We're the people's observatory; people feel that way about it. So the fact that people want to know when it's going to open is actually terrific. It means that they're engaged: They know they own it, and they want it back. I don't blame 'em a bit.

Alive! When are you going to open, then?

Dr. Ed Krupp: I can tell you that last night at a Los Feliz Improvement Association meeting, the Councilmember said the Observatory will open when the Bureau of Engineering, the Department of Recreation and Parks, the Observatory, the neighborhood, and everybody says it is fully ready, and all of the things from a safety and completion [standpoint] have been done. He didn't speculate on any specific date. He said it might be mid-summer, or it might be late summer. It's going to open when it should. And so that decision will be made obviously by management.

Alive! Next year sometime?

Dr. Ed Krupp: Absolutely, absolutely.

Alive! One of the things we want to ask you is about the renovations, of course. What's different? Has it been two years?

Dr. Ed Krupp: No, no, even longer. We closed Jan. 6, 2002, and that was after many, many years of architectural preparation and all kinds of stuff. In a sense, this project is 25 years old in conception and development, but that's beside the point.

You asked about what's different. I want to preface that with a kind of a frame because it's an extremely important frame for this facility: Yup, it's different, except it's the same. And this goes right to the original master plan and the fundamental principles behind what we were doing. Everybody knows the Observatory. It's an icon of Los Angeles and it's known worldwide, largely thanks to Hollywood. That means that people have an emotional expectation about it, that it's this grand building.

They really did it right when they did it the first time. You don't wreck something that is actually superb and one of these real jewels for the City. So item number one is that this place, when it is finished, has to look the same, since it's seen from all over the City. When you make the pilgrimage and get up the road and you've done work to get there and you're rewarded by arriving there and you are greeted by this building, it must in fact look more or less the same not only for the sake of history and integrity of the building and all, but because it was the right thing in the first place. The people knew what they were doing. There was drama in this approach. There is satisfaction in this grand building that says, "This is the Observatory. This is the place where you make contact with the sky." It sends that message by its location and architecture. It is in fact on the best piece of public observatory real estate in the world. We're the envy of other places that do things like us.

Alive! Public observatory as opposed to ...

Dr. Ed Krupp: Private. Private observatories would have nothing to do with [our location], because they need to be much farther away, much higher, and, I'm speaking from the point of view of its steadiness, not its clarity, the steadiness of the air in Southern California is actually what drew astronomy to Southern California in the first place. Mount Wilson still has superb observing conditions and is still used because of that unique quality of the climate.

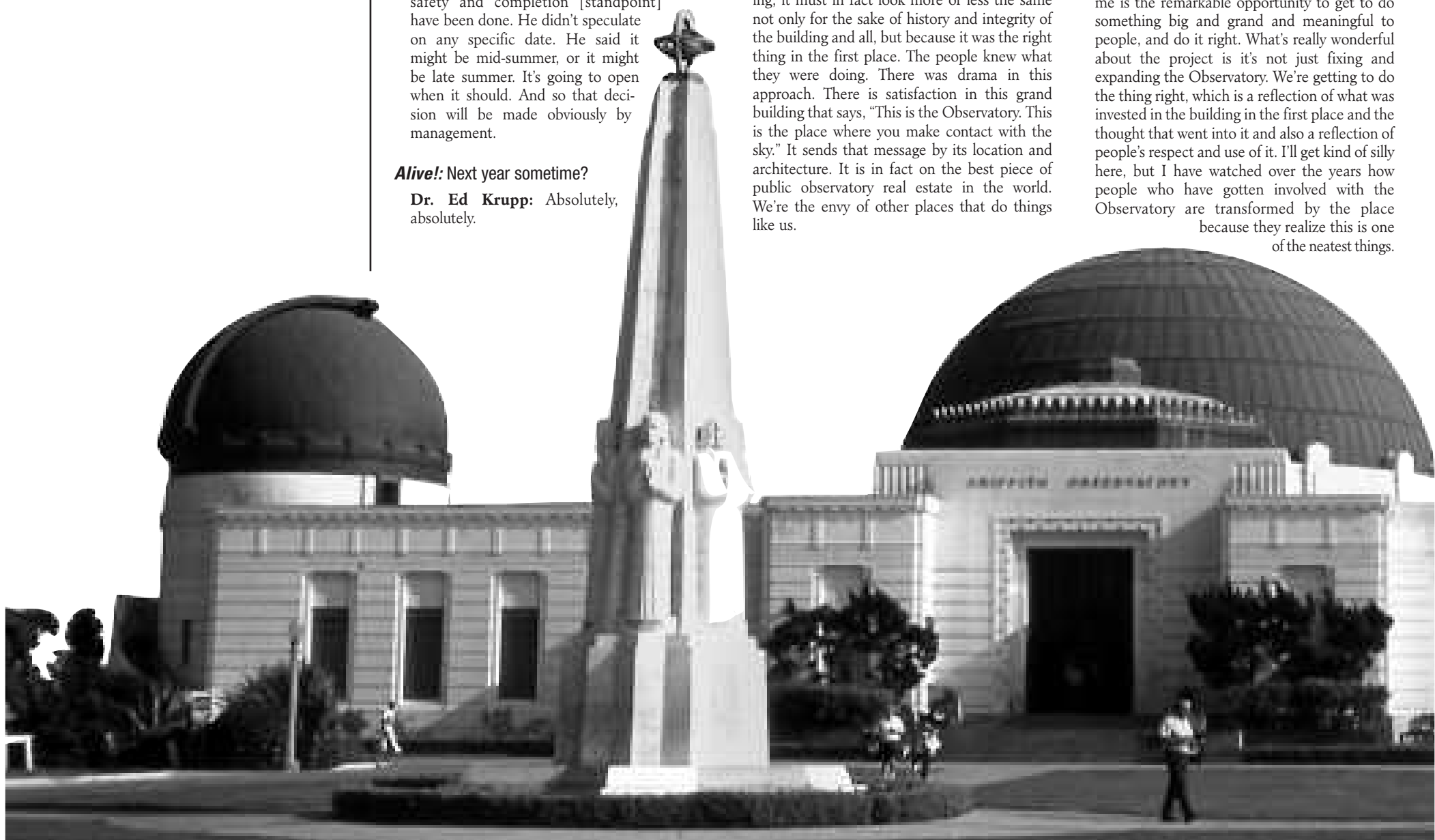
Bottom line is the place had to look the same.

And then when people get here, they are owed the same sense of vista and view. When we closed and I was asked what people would miss the most, I said, "The view, no question about it. They'll miss the view." And they have. They will return to the view because that is one of the most spectacular things about it. It is spectacular from the perspective of, "Here I am in Los Angeles; I'm looking out over the basin and I see everything;" but it's also in a sense educationally and scientifically spectacular as well because that view does exactly what we're supposed to do - make the connection between earth and sky. [It] becomes the launch pad for each individual spirit into the sky to make connection with stars, planets, galaxies, and so on. That's what it's about.

Doing It Right

Alive! What do the Observatory and its renovation mean to you personally?

Dr. Ed Krupp: The real personal message for me is the remarkable opportunity to get to do something big and grand and meaningful to people, and do it right. What's really wonderful about the project is it's not just fixing and expanding the Observatory. We're getting to do the thing right, which is a reflection of what was invested in the building in the first place and the thought that went into it and also a reflection of people's respect and use of it. I'll get kind of silly here, but I have watched over the years how people who have gotten involved with the Observatory are transformed by the place because they realize this is one of the neatest things.



Griffith Observatory Renovation

“We look at this place as an instrument because it’s filled with instruments and it operates to transform the visitor into an observer. That’s the mission, that’s our job. By becoming an observer, they become more tuned to nature and what makes nature tick.”

– Dr. Edwin C. Krupp, Griffith Observatory

The whole construction team, everybody who has gone up there has said, “This is a big deal. We’ve got to do this right.” There’s none of that sense of, “Oh, we can shortcut this.” Everybody’s trying to do their best effort, and they always have. That’s the pleasure for me – getting to do something right. Like that’s a miracle, you know?

Alive! But there is part of Dr. Krupp in this renovation, in this Observatory. You’re stamping this with a seal of approval for generations to come.

Dr. Ed Krupp: I appreciate that point, but remember I’m actually operating as – you could call it an enforcer, a mob guy or something. I’m really an enforcer of standards. And those standards come from of course the City of L.A. and what it intends by what it owns and the Department of Recreation and Parks, the astronomical community and the information that astronomy obtains and how it obtains it. There are standards in the integrity of that information and then there are standards of just visitor experience. And so, if I have a job, it’s being able to implement standards that I think everybody understands.

Alive! What’s your favorite part of the building?

Dr. Ed Krupp: It’s a fair question, and the answer changes as we do stuff. Sometimes it’s something very small and sometimes it’s something really very, very big. I can’t give you a fair answer to that. I could easily pick one and say, “Oh yeah, this is it” and be happy to talk about it, but in fact the place is like a three-ring circus with a whole lot more than three rings.

Maybe it’s better to say: Almost everything that we’re doing is unprecedented in the world in the way that we’re doing it. For example, [one new feature] is this 150-foot-long wall, 20 feet high, that will be the biggest astronomical photograph in the world. [You might say,] “Well, that’s neat,” except it’s a threshold to the world of the galaxies beyond the Milky Way. You are looking out into what’s essentially the big metropolis of galaxies outside us in the sticks. We’re way out in the suburbs of this local amalgamation of galaxies, and most people have no clue where we are. This understanding of where we are, just geography, is a product of just the last century and it’s just begin-

ning to filter into the average person’s mind. This is how this fits in. This scene is in fact a way of giving this instant visceral experience to people; but at the same time, it’s got a much more profound message.

Albert Einstein is [represented] on the floor in the room where this is located, the [Richard and Lois] Gunther Depths of Space. He’s there, not only because Einstein’s cool and it will be a bronze statue of him and you get to sit next to him and have your picture taken with him and all that, but Albert is sitting down there with his hand up in the air. The amount of sky that he covers up with his finger is the same amount of sky that this 150-foot-long, 20-foot-high wall is showing you. We’ve taken that finger’s worth of sky, blown it up big, and shown you what’s covered up by his finger. It’s astounding because it’s galaxies and more galaxies. You have no idea how much stuff is out there. This is the first chance to give people a sense. There’s this much stuff. It’s incredible.

It really took a variety of conceptualizations to get to this point, but it also goes very far back to when I was in graduate school, when I was looking at prints off of the 48-inch Schmidt telescope up on Palomar. I was looking for galaxies and mapping them, and I had a little magnifier. [Back in graduate school,] I had a picture on my desk, and I traced and made all these maps and counted things. I did this day in and day out, trying to get out of graduate school. You’re looking in there and you see a galaxy. It’s like a spiral galaxy. You can see this tiny little thing, and it’s got tiny little spiral arms you can hardly see. And you’re saying, well, that little sucker is about as big as the Milky Way that we live in. And then there’s another one, there’s another one, and there’s another one, and there’s another one. All I could think of was, man, there’s a lot of Fords and refrigerators and stuff out there. It’s astonishing how huge the universe is. Just to begin to give a sense of that to people is a treat.

Alive! Is it a Hubble photograph?

Dr. Ed Krupp: No, it’s actually off of Palomar Mountain. Hubble couldn’t take that photograph. The Hubble covers an extremely small amount of sky, much smaller than a finger’s worth, and you



Dr. Ed Krupp in front of the Griffith Observatory under renovation.

couldn’t blow it up that big without it looking really ugly. You just can’t get the resolution. This was a scan done for us with a telescope called the Samuel Oschin telescope on Palomar Mountain. It’s been refurbished digitally, electronically. They did a scan of the region that we want for us to the sufficient level of detail that we’re enabling us to blow this thing up that way.

Why People Look Up

Alive! Why is astronomy important?

Dr. Ed Krupp: It’s actually pretty simple, but I have a feeling that most people don’t necessarily make the connection. People think about astronomy like it’s cool and it’s interesting. It’s much more important than that.

It is a tool for our survival, not that other things aren’t too, but you sort of think of it as very lofty and remote and not having much to do with our everyday lives. But astronomy is obviously the sky, and the sky, the universe is what prompts the biggest questions that we ask, and those big questions then inspire curiosity. Who we are as organisms on the planet gets translated into attempts to understand nature more accurately. We seek more accurate descriptions of nature because of these big questions that prompt the curiosity. Accurate descriptions of nature we know from experience are tools for survival. It’s

just altering the perspective to be able to take in who we are and how we fit into the landscape we inhabit.

A simple case in mind, and this isn’t even the one that normally affects me the most, but we saw the world transformed in 1969 and thereabouts when the first footprint was put on the moon. And everybody said, “Oh, that’s cool,” and all of that, but the fact is, it wasn’t just that it was an achievement that people acknowledged, it changed the way they looked at themselves and what they thought they could do and how they could do it. That footprint on that moon, that blue earth in space, became a new place. We wouldn’t be talking about the kinds of things that relate to the place where we live and the environment if we didn’t have a conception of it, and we couldn’t have had that conception if we hadn’t gone out and looked back at it. Astronomy just extends that kind of mentality to these very large scales and it ultimately always comes back to who are we, where are we going, where have we come from, and what’s the right thing to do.

Let’s put it this way: Astronomy prompts the big questions. Big questions invite wonder.

— continued next page



(Left) Griffith Observatory, prior to renovation. (Above) The front lawn of the Griffith Observatory was temporarily dug up to construct a major expansion underground. The lawn has since been restored.

Griffith Observatory Renovation



The front lawn of the Griffith Observatory was dug up temporarily to construct a major expansion underground. The lawn has since been restored. The beginning of the Leonard Nimoy Event Horizon Theater can be seen.

Renovation

Continued from Page 1

Club Gets Peak at Project

Griffith Observatory is going to be a stunner: more spacious digs, modernized exhibits, better guest facilities and a planetarium that's so state of the art, nothing like it has ever been built.

The project is scheduled to open sometime next year, probably mid-year or after. Funding for the project is coming from a number of sources, including the City, the state of California, the federal government, benefactors, visitors and, substantially, the Friends of the Observatory nonprofit association.

The renovation includes a 35,000-square-foot expansion, largely an entirely new wing and second theater built under the Observatory's front lawn. The terrace will still have plenty of room for leisurely visits; the expansion will be interrupted only for new elevator towers on the side. Also being prepared are five new exhibition halls, the 200-seat Leonard Nimoy Event Horizon Theater, and an education center.

Highlight for many visitors will be the completely modernized Samuel Oschin Planetarium theater, equipped with machinery and seats to create a startling moving likeness of the star field above Los Angeles (or above anywhere, at any time through recorded history). The illusion of looking at an open sky has never been created to this extent.

A restaurant and a shop will provide an enhanced customer experience. Every historic architectural detail is being restored to its original form and, for the first time, the Observatory's rooftop terrace will be accessible to the disabled.

Enjoy your hardhat tour, courtesy Rec and Parks, Jon Kirk Mukri, Dr. Ed Krupp, Bureau of Engineering Project Manager Larry Gonsalves, and Alive! ■

City Icon, continued

Wonder drives the quest for understanding. The quest for understanding invests value in accurate portrayals of nature. Accurate portrayals of nature enhance survival. I am a big fan of survival, and astronomy is a tool for survival.

Alive! What is archaeoastronomy? That word comes up a lot in your books.

Dr. Ed Krupp: That's a word with too many vowels. Archaeoastronomy is a coined term for an area of inquiry that developed rapidly over the last 30 years. It existed before then, where people would look at ancient monuments primarily and say, "Hey, this lines up astronomically. Who knew they lined this up astronomically? I wonder why they did that." And it was relatively unsophisticated inquiry at the start.

Archaeoastronomy is a more disciplined examination of the relationship between culture and the sky, how people have looked at the sky and used the sky – everything from measuring it through serious observation and record-keeping and then using that astronomical knowledge, whether it's for social structure or religious conceptions or art or whatever. We put the sky into everything.

Alive! More so in the past than today?

Dr. Ed Krupp: No, I think it's just different. If you think about it for a second, it's very easy to just look around our environment and see references to the sky, whether they're in the names of automobiles, popular songs or cereal. And we say, "Well, that's kind of stupid." In the old days, they were serious about it. You know, they had gods and stuff. And I don't think it's so different. It's a preoccupation that our imaginations have with the things around us. We take what's around us and we incorporate that into our experience and then make something out of it. Two thousand years ago, nobody would actually produce movies about aliens landing on the earth. That's our story. That's our fable. We wouldn't tell that story if it weren't meaningful to us.

It suggests a different viewpoint about the earth and sky than our ancestors had, but I think we're still very preoccupied with it. The only reason the Los Angeles Times puts a Hubble telescope picture on the front page is because people will respond to it. And people do respond to it. I don't know why it's so. I only know it is so. We have a profound sense of that relationship still.

The Best of the City

Alive! Tell us about all the City departments represented up on the hill there.

Dr. Ed Krupp: I probably won't be able to do a complete job of it, but clearly the Department of Recreation and Parks owns and operates the Observatory, and I work for Recreation and Parks. But the Bureau of Engineering in Public Works is managing the project and doing an absolutely spectacular job of it. I shudder to think how it would be if they weren't involved with it.

Alive! Contract Administration as well?

Dr. Ed Krupp: Yeah. And then obviously Department of Water and Power has a role to play because they're bringing water and power to the place.

Alive! Building and Safety?

Dr. Ed Krupp: Of course. With Building and Safety, it's a whole different issue because you have to get through Building and Safety. I wouldn't call it an adversarial relationship. We clearly recognized each other's value.

And General Services, for gosh sake. Just purchasing alone – stuff you have to buy, you have to bring on board ... The Personnel Department ... It might seem routine. It's not routine. We've got a whole bunch of new classifications of positions that never existed before that have to somehow be brought into the City system. This is a hard thing for the average person to understand, but it all comes down to, "What are you dealing with?" You're dealing with public money. And there's a way that that happens, at least in Los Angeles, and sometimes it mystifies people outside of it. You have all of these things that you have to go through to acquire stuff, to acquire people, and I couldn't do that alone. The Department of Recreation and Parks has support elements obviously for parts of those, but they again need [other City departments]. And we do not want to forget the Fire Department. We will never get in that building without the Fire Department, I guarantee it. And when we open, D.O.T., the Police Department, I mean you start naming them ...

Alive! Is Cultural Affairs involved?

Dr. Ed Krupp: Cultural Affairs has a role because they own the artwork at Griffith Observatory, the murals and the astronomer's monument. They had to review the plans for restoration and approve those plans. And we had to go before the Board of the Cultural Affairs Department with the entire plan in the first place because part of their charter was recognizing and preserving the artistic and cultural heritage of the City and, in particular, Griffith Observatory. And if that is their charter then we have a responsibility to fulfill that with this project. We presented, and passed with flying colors, I might add.

The handicapped access is just another example

of those things. We have legislation that requires us to fulfill certain obligations to make the place available to everybody, and that meant that we had to go to each of those agencies, bureaus, or departments in each case, both to be assured that we were doing the right thing or to get guidance if we weren't. Oh, the C.A.O., and the C.L.A., too.

Alive! Any council people showing an interest?

Dr. Ed Krupp: Oh yeah.

Alive! Anyone in particular?

Dr. Ed Krupp: This is in Councilmember Tom LaBonge's district, and he has been a hero from the beginning, decades before he was a Councilmember. For the times that I've appeared before Council or had just individual action, you find everybody sees this is belonging to the whole City, of course.

Alive! How many City employees will be working for you?

Dr. Ed Krupp: When we are finished, the full-time staff will number 30, approximately. The part-time staff will probably have a roster of between 150 and 200, and they are the real on-the-ground operations people. There will be some full-time operations people, but the people that are the guides, the ticket sellers, you know, the planetarium lecturers, all those people are most likely to be part-time.

Alive! So it's really the best of the City coming together.

Dr. Ed Krupp: It goes beyond the City, though and I think that's the other important thing. Your message for City employees is absolutely correct, but I think it's extremely important to realize that this is a genuine public/private partnership with Friends of the Observatory, an independent community support group. They stepped up to the plate to assist in fundraising. They have done extremely well. They act as stakeholders; they also act as people who help to preserve interests of constituencies, the public, and so on. And so getting that to work – and work in a new way – is actually going to be one of the great stories told about this. You can actually make that happen.

And then you can even carry that beyond [the City] because there is Federal money in this project, which required Congressional Representatives and Senators to get on board. There is State money in this project, both in outright grants as well as competitive grants. There is obviously local tax-base money from the County as well as City sources, where the taxpayers voted and said, "Yes, we want money to go to that," and it did go to that and that's being spent. So it's an extraordinary mix.

I think it is actually a real reflection of the entire community in a way, and that is one of the things that I think is not so well understood except by the person who says, "Yeah, I own it. I own the place." They kind of know it viscerally, whether they know these details or not. ■



Dr. Ed Krupp pretends to be Atlas in "holding up" the old support beams during the excavation of the new Observatory space, under the building's front lawn. New support beams were put in to accommodate the expansion.

Griffith Observatory Renovation

His Moon Vehicle

Alive! Tell me about your car, a 1968 Chevy Camaro.

Dr. Ed Krupp: The car's got 411,000 miles on it now. That means that it has been to the moon, which is 240,000 miles from the earth. And now it's on the way back from the moon. My goal is to get it back to earth safely.

Alive! To do a safe splashdown.

Dr. Ed Krupp: Yeah, that's right.

Alive! It looks like a late '60s color.

Dr. Ed Krupp: Yeah. Triple deep turquoise.

Alive! Did you buy it new?

Dr. Ed Krupp: Yeah. This was my mush mobile, and I had no idea that it would last.

Alive! It did, though.

Dr. Ed Krupp: It did.

Alive! That's great.

Dr. Ed Krupp: People mock me of course, you know. It's a '68.



Is There Other Life Out There?

Alive! The question I really wanted to ask is whether there's life on other planets.

Dr. Ed Krupp: I don't mind answering that, but I'll throw it back at you. That question is, "Do you believe?" And for an astronomer, that verb [believe] is actually the one that you try to avoid, because what I believe makes absolutely no difference.

What you want is to know. Can we know if there is life outside the earth or not? The answer is right now there is no evidence to tell us the answer, one way or the other. And so, for me, what's actually important is not so much the answer to that question, which won't be very satisfying for people, but [instead] knowing if this is a universe that is filled with life all over the place, or it's a universe in which we're it.

It's an extremely strange and interesting universe, and that prompts in either case extraordinary questions. Why is it like that?

I don't know if there's life out there. I think it's very easy to argue that there is, and I think it's very easy to argue that there isn't. I'm not as interested in arguing as knowing.

Alive! Right, finding that out, life as we know it.

Dr. Ed Krupp: Or even the difference between intelligent life and just, you know, single cell [organisms]. ■



Dr. Ed Krupp (left) and Club CEO John Hawkins ponder life on other planets.



ABOUT

Edwin C. Krupp, Ph.D.

Birthplace:	Chicago, Ill.
Education:	Bachelor's degree, Pomona College; Master's and Doctoral degrees, UCLA.
Children:	One son and four grandchildren.
Siblings:	Two brothers, twins.
Title:	Observatory Director
First job with the City:	A part-time job as a planetarium lecturer from 1970 to '72. First full-time job was as curator for Griffith Observatory in 1972.
Favorite movie:	The Wizard of Oz ("easily").
Favorite kind of music:	"Bob Dylan, no question."
Favorite Friday night activity:	"I have no life."
Can you dance?	"No."
Favorite candy:	"There are three basic food groups; chili, chocolate and beer. And chocolate of course is at the top. We're talking dark chocolate, not simply 72 percent cacao, or 80 percent. Have you ever had 99 percent? It's like eating dirt. It's great."
Hero:	"My father and George Abell are probably two real good ones. George was my adviser in grad school. He wrote the first modern textbook on astronomy and was a great showman. Everything that I ever learned – well, almost everything – I learned about what I would call astronomy entertainment I saw George do in front of a classroom on a chalkboard."
Best advice ever received:	"Less wordy."
Favorite quote or saying:	"I Don't Call It Anything" —Bob Dylan.
Hobbies:	"I listen to music, all music, but am most transported by Bob Dylan, all Dylan. I am always grateful to hear live music, especially at small venues. I do read a lot and not just astronomy but also classic literature, comic books, archaeology, anthropology, mythology, and genre literature (ghost stories, horror, terror, science fiction, mysteries, and the rest). I collect a lot of stuff, including bits of popular culture that few regard as collectable. "[But] most of my interests have to do with astronomy, and I consider myself extremely lucky to get to do astronomical things all of the time. So, I write astronomy (I have been contributing a monthly article on astronomy and culture for Sky & Telescope magazine since September 1993, and the enterprise is dedicated to the notion that astronomy is everywhere. I read astronomy. I travel astronomy. I talk astronomy."
Favorite archeological site?:	"The next place I haven't been."
Person most like to interview:	Ancient astronomer Hipparchus. "He was professional, trailblazing, and on the mark, but almost all we know about him is secondhand."
Books authored (partial list):	Skywatchers, Shamans and Kings: Astronomy and the Archaeology of Power (1999) Beyond the Blue Horizon: Myths and Legends of the Sun, Moon, Stars and Planets (1991) Echoes of the Ancient Skies: The Astronomy of Lost Civilizations (1983) The Big Dipper and You (1999) The Moon and You (1993)



Griffith Observatory Renovation

>>>> Touring the Observatory <<<<<

STOP 1 The Front Lawn

Alive! A lot of changes to the building aren't going to be seen.

Dr. Ed Krupp: People will have never a clue about the elaborate engineering that went into this to make the underground expansion happen. Even more amazing than that is the mechanical plant that's on the side because that slope is much spookier than this level ground underneath the building, and they had to build the platform out for that, and they successfully did it.

We brought the food concession into the building and very deliberately dedicated valuable floor space [for it] to have the café operate at an appropriate standard. There will be a small, outdoor restroom to the north of here. The work is going on. The Bureau of Engineering Architecture Division is working on those plans right now.



Alive! You have a 360-degree view from here.

Dr. Ed Krupp: Yeah. That's probably why they call it an Observatory.

There are three major things to think about with this facility. First, it's an observatory, a public observatory, so you got telescopes. Number two, you have the planetarium, the real driver for the project originally. And then number three, essentially the rest of the building, primarily exhibits. And then you have the whole outdoors.

STOP 3 Plaza Elevators

Dr. Ed Krupp: This is one of the new elevators. The place never had elevators and now it is completely permeable in access. This is the exterior elevator that takes people from this level all the way down into the Gunther Depths of Space. And it had to have some character to it that looked like it belonged with the rest of the building.

Alive! And it does.

Dr. Ed Krupp: Oh, it's gorgeous.

Alive! Is it gonna have a little round dome-y decoration?

Dr. Ed Krupp: No little round dome-y on it.

Larry Gonsalves: We're actually standing



over the new expansion right now. But it's underground, so you don't see it. They're starting to put the sidewalks back and the grass lawn just the way it was before. This elevator penthouse for access is a big exception [to the previous lawn]. This is all going to be a plaza over the new expansion.

Alive! It was grass, right?

Dr. Ed Krupp: There will still be grass in these open areas. And now that these terraces will be formally prepared, they're absolutely prime real estate because people would always gather out here, particularly for sunsets and all. Now it's actually much more pleasant, much more easy, and can accommodate people in a much more civilized fashion.



STOP 2 Rebel Without a Cause

Dr. Ed Krupp: This is the Rebel Without a Cause monument, reinstalled. There are actually two reasons for it to be here. One, the

Observatory in fact has a Hollywood connection and we overlook Hollywood. The only difference is here the stars are the stars. We have been in so many motion pictures that we should have a star on the Boulevard and in fact that's where I'm headed. I think we need to get one for the Observatory. But this was the first film. Of all of the films that the Observatory appeared in, this is the first one that portrayed the Observatory as the Observatory.



STOP 4 West Terrace

Dr. Ed Krupp: This is a new feature. It's actually a monumental instrument incorporated into the architecture called the Transit Quarter. You can see a line going out that way. And there are several of these. These lines are gonna be inlaid stone that three of them mark the solstice positions, the extreme positions of

the sunset in the equinox; the other four mark the moon's extreme positions as it changes over an 18.6 year cycle.

It turns out that, right now and over the next several months, we are at the point where the moon is as far out to the sides as it ever gets. What I'm doing right now is checking these alignments with the real moon. We did all the measuring. A Bureau of Engineering survey team came out here and helped put the lines in.

Griffith Observatory Renovation



STOP 5

West Hall/ West Rotunda

Dr. Ed Krupp: This was and still is the West Hall and West Rotunda. It is still the place where the solar telescope, or coelostat, is. That's what that cylinder is. It harbored a wide solar telescope that brought a live image of the sun whenever the sun was out with two other instruments on the side that had beams of

light falling on them that allowed you to see the sun and the special red light, or the spectrum, of the sun.

This is still part of what makes the place an observatory. It is in fact a telescope that operates daily for the public. More people have seen the face of the sun directly like that here at Griffith Observatory than any other place on the planet. More people have looked through the Zeiss telescope on the other dome than any telescope in the world. This area here will also be dedicated to the notion of our sun as a star. It's sort of a cliché, but actually a lot of people don't really register that the sun is just another star. So we talk about stars, about elements, and all the things that make up stars and where they come from.

STOP 6

Hall of the Sky

Dr. Ed Krupp: This moves us into the old historic alcoves on this side. This is the Hall of the Sky. There are six different exhibits here that fundamentally show people the most basic things that people see in the sky and yet don't necessarily have an understanding about. With models and other demonstrations, [the Hall will show] phases of the moon, night and day, the seasons, eclipses [and] tides. All of these are incorporated here, one for each of the alcoves. So if people walk in, look overhead or what's at the back and all of the scenes should be different things.

Alive! Where is the Tesla Coil?

Dr. Ed Krupp: It's in storage now in crates, but it will come back. It's one of the exhibits that will return and it's going down to an alcove. I would be run out of this City on a rail if the Tesla Coil didn't come back.

Alive! Does the Tesla Coil really belong in an Observatory?

Dr. Ed Krupp: Absolutely not. The greatest conundrum of all the things we did was the Tesla Coil. How do we bring the Tesla Coil into an astronomical story? And the answer was, there's no good answer. In going through this with the designers and the renovation steering committee back then, the question would keep coming up. People would say it has no place. And I'd say that doesn't matter. I will not be able to continue working in Los Angeles if it doesn't come back. So it's gonna come back. It's a crowd pleaser.

Alive! Wasn't Tesla trying to take energy to the moon?

Dr. Ed Krupp: It was a way of conducting or transmitting energy. He [Tesla] pioneered AC, alternating current, but his notion of having this transmitted through electromagnetic waves through the air of course would have played ... I mean, nobody would have cell phones today. He didn't win out on that part. He was a wild and crazy guy.



And here, this is the Foucault Pendulum. Remember, you walk in and the thing is swinging back and forth? This is in fact the best architecturally integrated Foucault Pendulum in the world. I know 'cause I've gone and looked at 'em all. This is even better than Foucault's Foucault Pendulum. We did restoration work with the glass and the metal and the travertine stone inside.

People walk in and they look at it and they wonder what it is. A great movie would be filming people explaining to their kids what they think this is doing. But it demonstrates the rotation of the earth and so it's an instrument. That's a fundamental principle again of this place as well as the job we're doing. We look at this place as an instrument because it's filled with instruments and it operates to transform the visitor into an observer. That's the mission, that's our job. By becoming an observer, they become more tuned to nature and what makes nature tick.

Alive! Wasn't the gift shop right here?

Dr. Ed Krupp: It was actually an alcove over. This was the entrance to the old office area through here.

Larry Gonsalves: We opened up the walls here for the information and ticket sales. They used to be small little openings.

Dr. Ed Krupp: The alcove that used to be for ticket sales now will become an alcove dedicated just to Colonel Griffith and who he was. The portrait goes back. The City Council proclamation for Griffith Park goes back there, plus some background on Colonel Griffith.

STOP 7

Hall of the Eye/ Keck Central Rotunda

Dr. Ed Krupp: This area now becomes the Hall of the Eye. Once you start going through the Observatory, this is a starting point because this explains and demonstrates and shows how people extract information from the sky – what is it you get with your eyeball, and then where does that lead. And so the first zone you go to is people using the sky in a bunch of theatrical little demonstrations. We have animated little guys coming in and doing stuff where they don't have telescopes.

Then the next thing we do is extend the eye in an area here with a telescope. What does a telescope do? Why do we care? How does it work?

Then you go to observing in California. The story about how California became the Alexandria of modern astronomy is not well known. This is a California story. So we pitched that story to the State Department of Parks and Recreation and they gave us a major grant for this exhibit. So we go through on that side really telling the whole story of California astronomy from the first observatories, the big observatory at Palomar, and now how the tentacles of California astronomy reach up into orbit and out throughout the world. Another story that people take for granted is this whole business of having a public observatory. It was innovative here in 1935. There were pioneering people, and Griffith was among 'em. He left the money for this. As a result, years later, decades later, we all assume it's part of the landscape, but it's a story that is really unique to Los Angeles.

The terraces are really important; [previously] they didn't exist at all. And now we have a terrace on the east side to complement the west side. Telescopes can be set up there.



Alive! The terraces could be for special events.

Dr. Ed Krupp: Absolutely. Yeah. This is just a wonderful addition of real estate. Many people just take it for granted, but I'll [bet] you people are gonna love these open spaces adjacent to the building.

Alive! A special events place.

Dr. Ed Krupp: Oh, yeah. — [One] wall [in this hall] is dedicated to "observing the invisible." [Telescopes are going in there.] We'll be looking at light that our eyes can't see, and that's what this whole side of the room is.

In the Central Rotunda, they've restored all of the paintings. There's nothing in the world like these murals. Up above is sort of the mythological conceptions of the sky, and then around are sort of the eight sciences: eight panels of eight sciences and technology.

So this parable that the building's architecture is telling us is that our imaginations begin with projecting these myths on the sky. They become the science and technology, which in turn become this public observatory, where astronomy is available to everybody. It's an amazing conception they had in the 1930s.

Alive! And above here is the dome, the main dome.

Dr. Ed Krupp: Above here is the cupola. The main dome is over there. There's another mural here, but it's not a figurative mural. It's more like a decorative mural. So this is the old and traditional main entrance to the planetarium theater. And that's what we're going in now.

STOP 8

The Center of Gravity — The Wormhole

Dr. Ed Krupp: Down here, you come down Gravity Stairwell to the Center of Gravity. Over there is the entrance to the wormhole.

Alive! You're scaring me, Doctor. What's the wormhole?

Dr. Ed Krupp: There are two routes to the Gunther Depths of Space and the Leonard Nimoy Event Horizon Theater. There's the long way, which is the Cosmic Connection, and a short way: If you'd go through space/time relativistically, you'd take

a wormhole. So this is the wormhole. You need the shortcut to go straight down here.

Alive! Will I go back like 30 years in time if I walk through here?

Dr. Ed Krupp: You could.



Griffith Observatory Renovation

Tour, continued

STOP 10

The Samuel Oschin Planetarium

Alive! Do you still have a piece of the Laserium show here?

Dr. Ed Krupp: I was there for the whole history of Laserium, and it did many valuable things in the long run for showcasing the Observatory and expanding it back in that era to a wider audience. But a Laserium program won't be coming back.

Alive! I loved that in high school, though.

Dr. Ed Krupp: I understand.

Alive! I hear the Zeiss thing is gone, too.

Dr. Ed Krupp: The old Zeiss, the Zeiss Mark IV, which went in in 1964 and was smoking and sparking when it came out – you couldn't get parts for it, Zeiss wouldn't handle it – that will go on display downstairs in the Depths of Space, not as an example of old planetarium technology, but of how we make a model of the universe. The new Zeiss of course is in the new theater and absolutely superb.

Alive! I never understood. I used to come up here and see the Laserium show, and then one day I realized, "Wait a minute. Why are we here?" It's just a laser show.

Dr. Ed Krupp: Yeah. That's right.

Alive! Why was it here?

Dr. Ed Krupp: 'Cause you need a dome. They needed a dome and this was the biggest dome they found.

Here's a little bit of orientation for the planetarium theater. This of course is a room that's familiar to most people, a place where the stars come out and fill the dome. Even 25 years ago, we knew we had to do something about this room because equipment was wearing out. Everything was wearing out. The last major renovation it had was in 1964.

The idea is to transform this into the most technologically advanced planetarium theater in the world. And in fact we're exceeding the expectation on several different levels. The first thing is not visible. It's the Zeiss projector you'll see when we go downstairs, but that is the state-of-the-art fiber optic Universarium projector of stars and planets from Zeiss in Germany.

We were not fully satisfied with the star field and we did due diligence, going around to everybody that made planetaria. We liked Zeiss, but we said, you know, it's not quite as realistic for the faint stars as it needs to be. They were resistant. As the deal started rolling and they realized we were serious, and they said, "Okay. We will work on this change." And they did.

I can tell you because I've seen it, this theater, when it operates, will produce the most accurate, the most awe-inspiring, the most gorgeous dome full of stars in the world. The theater itself with the dome and sidings and the seats and everything is one of two planetarium theaters in the world that actually has architecture as an interior. The other one is in New York, and they get high marks for pioneering that sensibility. Our sensibility is totally different from theirs in conception. But the intent here is, when people come in, to have their jaws drop by a dome that seems an infinite distance away. Fortunately, this dome technology appeared just when we needed it, and it's doing exactly what we need it to do.

The third primary element of the theater is all of the other special visual effects. Those in the old days were done with slide projectors and motion picture, and then video came in and all of that. It was all kind of hokey and hard to



control a hundred or more projectors. [Then] they started bringing giant Barco TV cameras, but the trouble with those is that, while they could combine a big image onto the screen, they weren't sharp, they weren't rich in color, and they weren't very satisfying.

In the period of time that we've been involved in it, laser video technology has begun to come online. What you get is brighter than any images that could ever be put on a dome this size, and sharper than any images ever put on a dome this size. When this is up and operating, it will be unprecedented on the planet. This will be the best planetarium theater in the world.

Alive! This laser video technology, is that separate from the Zeiss?

Dr. Ed Krupp: It's separate from the Zeiss.

Alive! This is more about color graphics?

Dr. Ed Krupp: It projects all the dome's digital animation. The other thing that remains completely unique to Griffith Observatory, and has been throughout its whole history, is that the presentation in here has been given by a live human being. A real person talks to people and does the presentation. They're canned shows just about everywhere else. And our sense is, like the rest of the place, this is an experience. It isn't like doing this at home on television. When you come here, it's much more like the theater and it needs to be of the moment, so we have preserved that tradition.

It's hard. We've got to train a whole new group of people in how to use this theater. And frankly, we're only beginning to learn what we've got to do. This is the stuff we're just beginning to choreograph now.

Alive! So the mesh covering the inside of the dome causes it to look like there is nothing.

Dr. Ed Krupp: It's a perforated aluminum dome, which they make out of perforated aluminum because that's the material that allows the dome construction. But what you want is something that's seamless. There's a way of constructing and assembling this where they are able to make the seams disappear in combination with correct lighting, so that you just see this smooth surface. If you go to planetarium domes all over the place, you'll see these lines. We want people to come in here and imagine it blue; there may be some clouds floating across. It's the cathedral effect.

Alive! And it will be shown on the entire dome?

Dr. Ed Krupp: On the entire dome.

Alive! And it won't look distorted?

Dr. Ed Krupp: Yeah. The planetarium projector does it just fine. It operates from the center of the room and projects the stars out and everything, no distortion. All dome digital animation is very tricky to do and make it look right. Not only is it projected out, but you've got stuff moving. We're creating environments

in here: You're in Ptolemy's headquarters in Alexandria as he's looking out at the night sky. You're in the middle of the Big Bang of the universe and you're swinging by the Milky Way galaxy. There are actually animation problems being solved that exceed the demands of any other digital composition medium at the moment. Everybody else is on flat screen. And the other places that do this, like Hayden/Rose in New York did not go to the level that we are going in terms of the multiple camera views that bring the image together without distortion.

Alive! So it will be solved.

Dr. Ed Krupp: We're solving it already. Most of those problems have already been solved. Where we're going now is we're moving toward the final rendering of all of these images. You sort of create in a sense

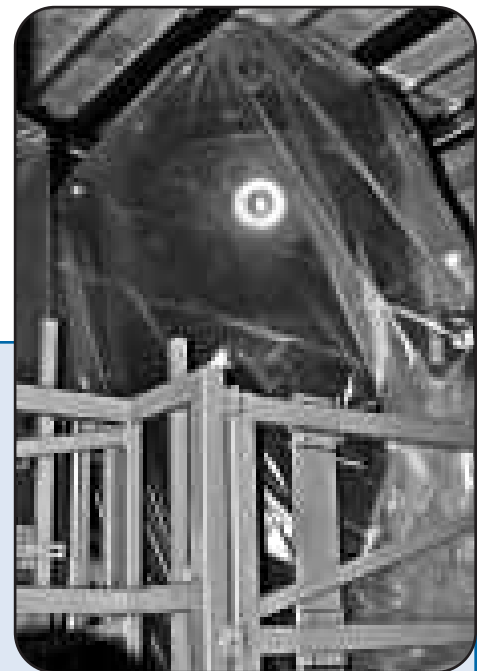
skeletal versions of them and then you fill them out a little bit more and then you do the final rendering for the realistic sense that this is exactly what it looks like. And so we've got rooms full of computers and animators, and all they do is they stare at screens all day and do this.

Alive! And you said the dome is aluminum?

Larry Gonsalves: It's a half sphere. It's got aluminum ribs so it's self-supporting on the perimeter only. The annular space between the ceiling of this projection dome and the roof structure is about 18 feet. So there's a series of catwalks up there to get access to speakers, air conditioning ducts, and all that that you don't even see.

Alive! Fascinating.

Dr. Ed Krupp: Remember, this has to be a perfect hemisphere and it has to be level and it has to be properly lined up and there's a zillion places to make a mistake. Everything behind the mesh had to go black and non-reflective. They had to come up with the best non-reflective black surfacing that you could. Otherwise, you get reflections of things like the sun's disk back through and you get a doubling of the image. We've tested it already. This is again the best I have seen anywhere. You don't get that ghosting of the image because of the work that these guys did in improving what happens behind there.



the work, and then you have an individual lift with a lift for the star projector and for the planet projectors. And they operate at a higher speed or go a lot smoother. You need the two lifts to get to the height you need in the planetarium.

Alive! Is this custom-made or does a company build lifts?

Larry Gonsalves: A company builds them. They specialize in theatrical lifts.

Alive! Did you have to cut a hole in the ceiling?

Larry Gonsalves: Yeah. We had to cut a hole before we had the columns go down.

Alive! Measure twice, cut once, right?

Dr. Ed Krupp: And that was like one of your simpler tasks.

Alive! Amazing.

Larry Gonsalves: We even had to bring German power here. They don't [like] 240 volts.

Alive! They had to put a transformer in? Is it all computer controlled?

Dr. Ed Krupp: Yeah, everything is computerized, so the performer can just go in having rehearsed to the timings and just deliver without having to worry about all of the other stuff that is going on. It's one of the primary goals.

STOP 9

The Projector Pit Room

Alive! Dr. Krupp, do all the planetariums rise from the ground?

Dr. Ed Krupp: No, no. The idea of emerging from below actually did originate in the 1970s; when America and Canada entered a new phase of planetarium design, there were a number of facilities that recognized the value of being able to get the instrument out of the way and so they did that. But most of those instruments were considerably smaller than what we've got in this era. So this is like a monster.

Alive! Does it have to rise from the ground?

Dr. Ed Krupp: It doesn't have to. No, you could just put it into the room, but the room becomes much more versatile and you can do very dramatic things if you just have this option. And then also it comes down here for servicing. When it is lifted up into the room, it has several different positions in which it can lock. So this is very handy. You get it out of the way and then you can use the room for other things too.

Alive! What's the [price] that we're looking at there?

Dr. Ed Krupp: I have to be careful. If you don't take it as an exact quote ...

Alive! Ballpark.

Dr. Ed Krupp: You're in the four million [dollar] ballpark.

Larry Gonsalves: The lift alone is pushing a million [dollars]. It's actually three lifts. It's the mainframe lift that travels up, does most of

Griffith Observatory Renovation



STOP 11

The Cosmic Connection

Dr. Ed Krupp: This is the Cosmic Connection, a very strange exhibit case. It's 150 feet long and about 18 inches wide. There will be an exhibit in here and it's again a very bizarre exhibit. This is fundamentally a timeline of the universe. It will start out basically time zero, the Big Bang and go from 13.7 billion years to now. It will be punctuated with sort of the big deal events that occurred, like when did the first stars occur. But we will punctuate that not with the imagery of modern astrophysics, but with popular culture,

things that in fact show that relationship we were talking about before, stars and planets and galaxies.

And to kind of put the seal on that, the timeline itself is not just a ruled line, it is a ribbon on which there are 150 feet of celestial jewelry, stars and moons and suns. We have a collection of extravagant costume jewelry that was given to us.

Alive!: Where is this being designed?

Dr. Ed Krupp: In-house. The fundamental pieces of it, the racks and such for supports, are by the exhibit designers, but the real work in here will be done by the Observatory staff. Exhibit designers in New York and fabricators in New Jersey are doing most of the exhibits, but there are some that are outside their scope.



STOP 12

The End of the Universe

Dr. Ed Krupp: You're looking here into the café at the End of the Universe, which is where the food service is gonna be. Wolfgang Puck is the concessionaire for this. You think Wolfgang Puck and you think high-end; how can anybody afford it? We get two million people a year and they're just plain folks. In fact, the restaurant did a great job of presenting what they would sell here; good prices, good value. It really was impressive.

that there are a variety of opportunities for making food available, coffee and those kinds of things. And then the concessionaire will also handle catering for either interior activities or rentals or whatever happens along those lines, too. And that can be at whatever level the client decides they want.

Alive!: You buy your soda here, you walk out through these doors.

Dr. Ed Krupp: Yeah.

On the opposite side is the Stellar Emporium and Bookstore, and that will be operated by another concessionaire, Event Networks.

Alive!: Stellar Emporium. Who came up with that?

Dr. Ed Krupp: I'm guilty.

Alive!: I love it.

Dr. Ed Krupp: Everything has a name, and that's very deliberate: It establishes a kind of a sensibility for people, and it helps make it special and memorable. From the very beginning, we developed that as how we're gonna think about things.

Alive!: Will they take credit cards?

Dr. Ed Krupp: I'm sure they'll take credit cards.

Alive!: Thank God.

Dr. Ed Krupp: You'll have the ability to serve people in here, but on the other side of that second glass wall there can be tables. There can be carts up on the terrace or outside so

STOP 13

The Edge of Space/The Richard and Lois Gunther Depths of Space

Dr. Ed Krupp: You have now reached the Edge of Space. When you step out to the edge, you're looking at the Gunther Depths of Space.

Remember I said we needed to fix this building, restore its historic architecture? Number two, we had to do something about the planetarium theater which was just falling down. The third thing we wanted to do was to add additional space to the Observatory to improve the visitor experience, not to get more visitors. Two million a year is enough. And so then the problem became how do you get more space on a building that's on a postage stamp piece of property? The only way to do it and not change the building was to go underground, and that is what created all of Larry's [Gonsalves'] grief.

Alive!: This is amazing.

Dr. Ed Krupp: That far wall is actually all going to be invisible because that's where the big picture is. If you imagine a sloped 20-foot porcelain enamel on steel wall, panels really, 144 panels fit flush all the way down around the corner to here. And kind of all up the ducts and everything. And that is this biggest astronomical picture of the world where you



see galaxies, galaxies, galaxies. It is right off the telescope at Palomar.

Alive!: Oh, that's what you were talking about before.

Dr. Ed Krupp: Among other things up here, there will be telescopes up here so people can make their own observations across the room. From here you see it is filled and then you walk closer and closer and closer and it's more and more filled. The experience just expands as you get closer to it.

Here on the Edge of Space, we primarily spotlight pieces of the sky, so it's a meteorite exhibit.

Alive!: You have a moon rock?

Dr. Ed Krupp: Oh, yeah.

Alive!: Did you always have the moon rock?

Dr. Ed Krupp: No. To have a moon rock put on loan in a facility like this, you have to comply with a variety of restrictions including security. The old building could never comply. We will be able to comply and we will be having a moon rock.



STOP 14

The Leonard Nimoy Event Horizon Theater

Larry Gonsalves: This is the Leonard Nimoy Event Horizon Theater. It's a 200-seat theater. And then we've got the projection room back behind us.

Alive!: Wow. This is cool.

Dr. Ed Krupp: We needed a second venue. You can do a pickup demonstration anytime

during the day for a formal lecture or a video presentation or anything.

Leonard Nimoy and his wife, Susan, donated \$1 million to the project. He was very important in our efforts to get federal money for the project. He came back to Washington with us and has helped us with his wife on other initiatives. They're sweet, wonderful people, both of them. Absolutely superb.

Alive!: Are you a Star Trek fan?

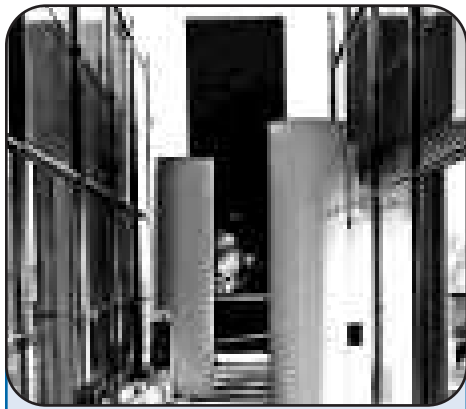
Dr. Ed Krupp: I like it, but I didn't follow it religiously. All science fiction movies, whether they were hokey or not, interested me, but I wasn't ...

Alive!: You weren't a big fan?

Dr. Ed Krupp: No, I wasn't.

Griffith Observatory Renovation

Tour, continued



STOP 15

The Robert J. and Suzanne Gottlieb Transit Corridor

Dr. Ed Krupp: Now you're in another important component of the Observatory, the Gottlieb Transit Corridor. And this is the north-south line that's established by these parallel walls of glass.

Our view is obstructed at the moment, but you can see at the far south end there is a black monolith that rises up like from 2001. When you start at that end of the Transit Corridor and descend the stairs, you are descending at the angle that points up to the north pole of the sky and Polaris. You get down in here and you see what astronomers imagine but people never get to see, the meridian, this ribbon of sky that goes across north to south.

It's called the Transit Corridor because an object, as it moves across the sky on a daily course like the sun, transits when it crosses this north-south line. Noon is the transit of the sun. Every day at noontime the sun will come across here, pass through an apparatus that's sticking up on that monolith that has a "highly complex" device on it ... it's got a hole in it. And the light goes through the hole and shines down on a structure that is a very ancient instrument ... an arc that curves up like this, where the light falls on it. It becomes in that sense a calendar.

We pick that light up as it is falling on the gauge, and we turned this into a 21st-century instrument. The light conducts a signal up to this wall, where there is a giant star map that lights up where the sun is and the stars are. So you have an event with the sun coming and crossing, lighting up the star map in the appropriate place, and then continuing on and the show going.

Alive!: A star map up here?

Dr. Ed Krupp: A star map mounted up on there, yes.

Alive!: Oh, so like a flat screen T.V.?

Dr. Ed Krupp: Yeah.

Alive!: Although it's actually...

Dr. Ed Krupp: ... structural, and the lighting sources will be embedded into the material. That's just the solar component of this. Just as we had sun and moon elements upstairs in the lines, this will have a component for moon events and for star events as well. This becomes a giant instrument that operates daily and on longer time scales for people whenever they happen to be here. It's like the telescope. If it's open, you get to look through it. If you're here at noontime, you get to see the event.

Alive!: Now is that really from the movie 2001?

Dr. Ed Krupp: It's just a black monolith.

Alive!: Well, Doctor, thank you.

Dr. Ed Krupp: Thank you. ■

The Renovation and Expansion Project

Overview

Three strategic goals guide the renovation and expansion of Griffith Observatory:

1. All systems and elements of the Observatory will be rehabilitated to their original grandeur and will be improved for the current level of public use.
2. The Planetarium Theater will be completely renovated and reconfigured to state-of-the-art, world-class technology in support of the most professional educational programming. Griffith Observatory is pleased to announce that in 2004 a generous gift from the Mrs. and Mrs. Samuel Oschin Family Foundation is sponsoring the Samuel Oschin Planetarium theater.
3. The Observatory will be expanded to provide more public program support space in order to improve significantly the quality of the visitor experience at the current level of attendance.

Two objectives support these goals and shape the design and development decisions being made on an ongoing basis.

1. Create an environment that sparks a sense of wonder so that each visitor is inspired to ask "big questions" about human existence in the cosmos: Who are we? Where are we? How did we come to be here? What will happen in the future?
2. Develop exhibit and programming content that supports the acquisition of knowledge, perspective and understanding by accurately exploring, illustrating and explaining fundamental astronomical phenomena and discoveries.

Public Benefit

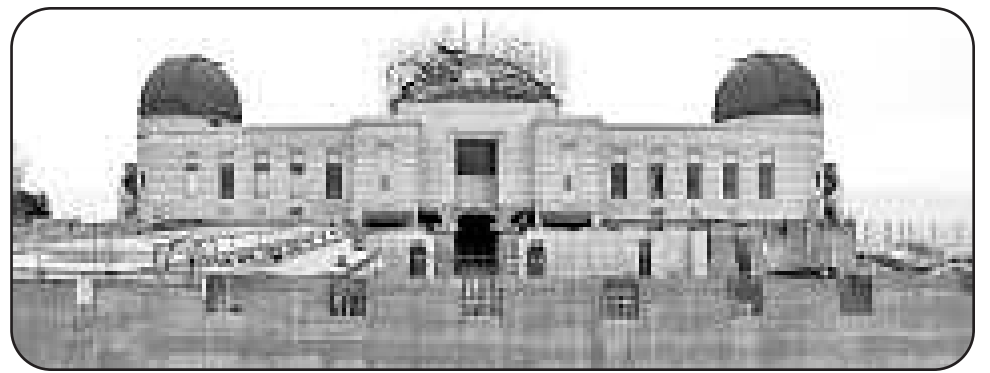
Since opening May 14, 1935, Griffith Observatory has been a unique landmark in the Southern California landscape. Its prominent site, its extraordinary and spectacular architecture, and, most importantly, its mission of exposing visitors to the intriguing and inspiring cosmic wonders of the universe, lodges Griffith Observatory in the hearts of the millions who make the pilgrimage up Mt. Hollywood each year. It is the only public institution in Southern California with a science museum, a major public planetarium, and a public telescope, and one of the few in the entire United States.

Griffith Observatory is truly one of the most effective resources for informal science education in Southern California, attracting nearly 2 million visitors annually into the science museum. An additional 50,000 school children visited the Planetarium on field trips each year. They come because Griffith Observatory is the only public facility dedicated to presenting and explaining the complex astronomical discoveries made in the research observatories and space programs throughout the world. As mandated in the Griffith Trust, the Hall of Science and 12-inch Zeiss telescope are open free to the public nearly every day and every night of the year.

After more than six decades of continual use, however, with few capital improvements, Griffith Observatory, one of the world's premier examples of Moderne/Art Deco architecture, desperately needed restoration, renovation, and expansion.

Visitor Profile

The wonder and curiosity created by the Hubble Space Telescope and Mars Pathfinder images know no demographic or economic boundaries. Griffith Observatory showed Halley's Comet, Comet Hyakutake, Comet Shoemaker-Levy 9, and Comet Hale-Bopp each to more people than any other place on the planet. In one day, July 20, 1994, more than 15,000 children and their families joined in a free celebration of the 25th anniversary of the first moon landing. In one week, more than 25,000 children and their families toured a full-scale mockup of the American section of the International Space Station to experience the liv-



The front lawn of the Griffith Observatory was dug up temporarily to construct a major expansion underground. The lawn has since been restored.

ing space of space. More people – 7 million – have looked through the Observatory's telescope, than any other telescope on earth.

The general public is the heaviest user of Observatory facilities. This is true for both local residents and tourists. Based upon a 1994 visitor survey conducted in the Hall of Science, nearly 80 percent of Observatory visitors live in California, mainly Southern California. Of these, 31 percent live within the City of Los Angeles. In addition, the research indicates that 50 percent of all adult visitors bring children. Of these, half are between the ages of 12 and 18 years, and half are under 12 years of age.

Griffith Observatory is also a showcase for some additional millions of tourists who arrive for the best view of the Hollywood Sign in the City.

Renovation and Expansion

The renovation and expansion project will restore Griffith Observatory to its original grandeur and improve it for the current level of public use. By excavating under a portion of the front lawn and western terrace, the project will more than double the size of the Observatory without changing the classic appearance of the building. The following details the major areas of improvement.

The Samuel Oschin Planetarium theater. Griffith Observatory gives its visitors the original virtual reality experience: it delivers the night sky. It is a show no one else does as well. It is more important than ever in this era of all-pervasive light pollution. A key element of the Griffith experience is a visit to the Planetarium, now the Samuel Oschin Planetarium theater, where the stars are preserved like an endangered species. Audiences spontaneously applaud when they appear overhead. The current planetarium projector was installed in 1964. It is a testimony to Zeiss engineering and manufacturing that it worked as long as it did. When replaced, it will be put on display in the new museum as an important historical artifact.

Everything in the old Planetarium needed to be fixed. Audiences know that Griffith Observatory is world famous for having the most uncomfortable seats in the entire Milky Way Galaxy. The wooden headrests are legendary. The current plan calls for an improved theater with hidden space for new special effects technologies, for the sound system, for computerized control systems, and for a new all-dome laser projection system, as well as a new Zeiss Mark IX Universarium sky projector and all the other elements that modern, cutting-edge planetarium production requires in the 21st century.

The Hall of Science. Critically important to carrying out the Observatory's mission of presenting and explaining astronomy and science, the building and the telescope have been open day and night to the public free of charge since 1935. Despite more than 67 years of advances in both science and technology, the content and configuration of many exhibits had not changed since installation. Only two of the exhibits utilized modern interactive learning technology. Physical exhibit space was so limited that the Observatory's mission to bring science down to earth was severely truncated.

The main rotunda is noted for its massive Foucault Pendulum, custom marble, travertine, and mosaic work. The passage of time and earthquake damage diminished the impact of all these elements. During the project, the main rotunda will be restored to its original architectural grandeur of the 1930s.

The Hugo Ballin murals covering the ceiling of the main rotunda were damaged in the 1994 earthquake and must be repaired to prevent further deterioration. In addition to their artistic and historic significance, they are of cultural importance to Los Angeles and California. Depicted in the panels are the scientific achievements of a variety of national groups, including the English, Italian, Chinese, Egyptian, Greek, Arab and Mexican (Aztec) peoples.

Expansion of Facilities. Griffith Observatory is filled to capacity, serving more than 50,000 school children on field trips and nearly two million additional visitors each year. At these current attendance levels, the demand exceeds available resources. A primary goal of the project is to improve the visitor experience by the addition of approximately 35,000 square feet. Within this new space, flexible programming can permit more school children to participate in discovering the wonder of the universe.

A key element of this new space will be two new exhibit spaces with state-of-the-art exhibits; new exhibits also are planned for the existing, renovated Hall of Science. A new, 200-seat proscenium arch-style presentation theater, the Leonard Nimoy Event Horizon, is planned. Classrooms and a conference room will be added. Also, an expanded bookstore, new elevators to improve access to the entire building, and more restrooms are planned. A modest food service facility will be moved on site.

This information was taken from the Observatory's Website. ■



At the end of the Club-exclusive tour, from left: Club CEO John Hawkins, Dr. Ed Krupp, and photographer Tom Hawkins.



From left: Mark Brown, Rec and Parks City Attorney; Anne Waisgerber, Senior Park Ranger and Griffith Park Visitor Center Project Director; Rec and Parks Commissioner Christopher W. Hammond; and Park Ranger Joe Tafoya.

A Fresh Welcome

■ Visitor Center in Griffith Park is refurbished.

Story by Anne Waisgerber, Senior Park Ranger; Photos by Angel Gomez, Club Member Services Manager

REC AND PARKS — A new welcome awaits those who venture to Griffith Park. Rec and Parks opened its refurbished Visitors Center to the public Sept 22.

After several months of collaborating with Griffith Park Visitor Center Project Committee members Anne Waisgerber and Marie-Claire Sallaberry on planning for refurbishment of the aging and nondescript Ranger Station lobby, the Griffith J. Griffith Trust commissioned a private exhibit design firm, Universal Exhibits, in March 2005 to consult on final project and exhibit design, construction and installation.

Primary project elements included replacing a decayed wood ceiling, adding security and exhibit lighting, retiling stained and worn flooring, creating exhibits that feature park plants, animals, geology, and geography, including a 3D fiber optic map of Griffith Park, installing a multimedia display, historic and current photos of Griffith Park and its benefactor Colonel Griffith J. Griffith, accompanying text panels, and installing and equipping an attendants' station and gift shop.

Supplementing the construction effort was the Rec and Parks facility repair staff, which refurbished a men's and women's restroom by replacing aging fixtures and configuring interior space to allow for wheelchair accessibility in compliance with ADA standards.

The Visitor Center exterior courtyard area was also improved by rebuilding a decayed wooden trellis, repainting walls, repairing security lighting, and replanting decorative landscaping with native specimens.

The Griffith J. Griffith Trust provided the funding necessary to build the Griffith Park Visitor Center. Park staff and visitors are indebted to Trust members Mr. Van Griffith, (great-grandson of Colonel Griffith J. Griffith), Ms. Clare Darden, and

Mr. Mike Eberts for their generous contribution, which has made possible the creation of a modern public space that duly recognizes the remarkable gift which park benefactor, Griffith J. Griffith, bestowed upon the citizens of Los Angeles. This project gives fitting recognition and pays deserved tribute to the unique urban landmarks, attractions, wildlife, geology and recreational opportunity that are now shared by millions.

The grand opening took place Sept. 22. Guest speakers included Councilman Tom LaBonge, Rec and Parks Assistant General Managers Jim Combs and Kevin Regan, and all three Griffith Trust members.

These individuals volunteered their time and talent to assist Marie-Claire and Anne Waisgerber with several aspects of the project: Muriel Kotin from the Audubon Society help to choose the birds on display and assisted with the text on the panel. Anne Mullins is translating our GPVC brochures into Spanish. Susan Immer assisted with the text for the history and Griffith wall displays. Fitz Munoz helped us prepare the history wall photos for display. Paul Wolfe worked with MC to design the door logo. ■



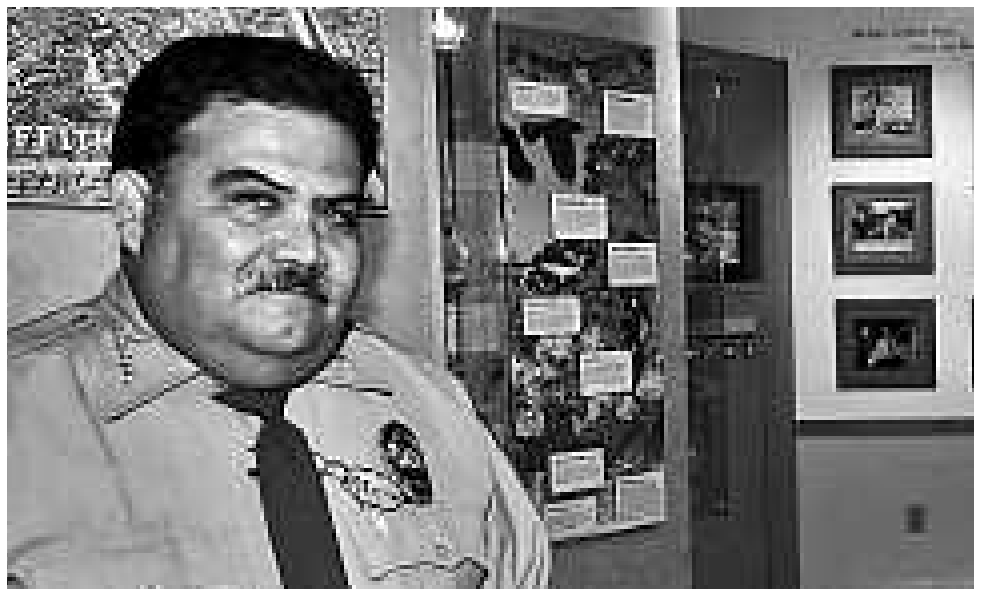
A look inside the new Visitor Center.



Muriel Kotin, San Fernando Audubon Society, helped to choose the birds on display and assisted with the text on the panel.



The front desk at the Visitor Center.



Albert Torres, Chief Park Ranger, 32 years.



From left: Mark Mariscal, Rec and Parks Metro Region Superintendent; Marie-Claire Sallaberry, Griffith Park Visitor Center Project Coordinator; William Maple, Universal Exhibits Senior Designer of the Griffith Park Visitor Center; Anne Waisgerber, Senior Park Ranger, Griffith Park Visitor Center, Project Director; Clare Darden, Griffith Trust Member; and Jon Kirk Mukri, Rec and Parks General Manager.



William Maple stands next to an exhibit.



Captain Andrew Smith welcomes picnic attendees.



Club Member Sonia Vargas with her Puerto Rico jersey enjoys the picnic with her family. Sonia has been a City Employee for 20 years at LAX.



One of the many air bounces available for kids.



From left: Cece Tatum, Clerk Typist, 22 years; Bobbie Telles, Secretary, 20 years, Club Member; and Mary Gonzales, Clerk Typist, 17 years, Club Member.

Central Picnic

■ LAPD Central Area has annual family picnic.

Story and photos by Arlene Herrero, Club Counselor

POLICE DEPT. — The LAPD's Central Area had a fun annual picnic at the Police Academy Sept. 10. This year's theme was a luau.

Guests enjoyed lots of picnic games, including a sack race for both the young and old and musical chairs. Children enjoyed the magic show while everyone enjoyed the Polynesian dancers.

The menu included hot dogs, hamburgers, barbecued chicken, carne asada, corn, cotton candy, snow cones, candied apples, pork rinds, potato salad and pineapple drink. Lots of prizes went to the winners of the picnic games. Picnic-goers were also able to see LAPD displays including SWAT, Metro Mounted and K-9.

The Club thanks Captain Andrew Smith, Captain Jodi Wakefield, Captain Ann Young, Cece Tatum, Priscilla Chavez and Cathy Susim for their assistance.



Welcome to the picnic!



The crowd enjoys the magician.



From left: Sgt. James Baker, Club Member; Cathy Susim, PSR II, Club Member; and Diane and Deputy Chief Lee Carter, Central Bureau.



Standing, from left: Lendell Walker, Custodial Service Attendant, 18 years, Club Member, with daughter Sabrina. Seated: son Deon, granddaughter April and daughter-in-law Tracie.



Back, from left: Sandra and Dale Ziesmer, P2, 8 years. Front: daughters Valerie, 6, and Mia, 3; with son Christian, 2.



From left: Roschon Gonzalez, P2, 8 years; and Marie Kardiban, P2, 15 years, Club Member.



Adults enjoy their turn at musical chairs.



Sgt. Campbell with his Hawaiian lei is hard at work on the cooking detail with his group.



From left: Carmen; Rosa and Miguel were guests of Officer Jesse Mojica.



Back, from left: Marco Villanueva, P2, 4 years; and Shelley Gallegos, Detective II, 8 years. Front: daughter Kylie, 4.

Steve Fisher, P2, 35 years.



From left: Kris Werner, P3+1, 12 years; and Ruben Hunt, LAFD Apparatus Operator, 27 years.



Standing, from left: Kathy Khou, Fiscal System Analyst, 17 years, with Patty and Brian. Seated: Janelle, 5; Christine Pham, System Analyst II, 12 years, Club Member; Michael, 3; Amy, mother of Christine; and niece Aileen.



Back, from left: Georgia, mother of Sgt. James Baker; Wendy Tanaka-Baker, P2, 8 years; and Sgt. James Baker, Club Member. Front: daughters Kaylee, 4, and Kimi, 2.



Captain Smith thanks Cathy Susim, Cece Tatum, Priscilla Chavez for a job well done on the picnic. From left: Cathy Susim, PSR II, 23 years, Club Member; Captain Andrew Smith, Commanding Officer Central Community Police Station, Club Member; and Priscilla Chavez, PSR II, 13 years, Club Member.



From left: Kathy and Herman Kaskowitz, Sgt. II, 33 years.



From left: Dinesha with Eboni, daughter of Club Member Lendell Walker.





From left: Teresa Martinez, P3 Vice Investigator, 12 years, with her husband, Saul Martinez.



Mike Peters, P3, 14 years, with his K9 partner Adjo.



From left: Angel Gomez, P3, 12 years; and Manuel Melgoza, P2, 8 years.



A game of musical chairs helps the picnickers work off their food.



From left: Daryl Lewis, P3, 24 years, with daughter Destiny, 14, and friend Diana.



The food line.



From left: Margarita, Carlos and Aaron were guests of Officer Carlos Garcia.



There were lots of activities for the kids.



Sack Race: Bike Officers vs. Vice Officers.



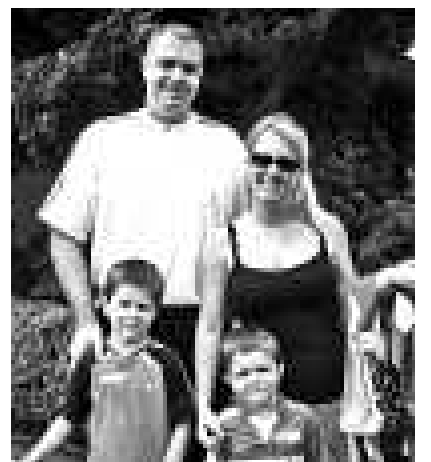
From left: Henry, dad; Lily Gomez, PSR, 10.5 years; and Blanca, aunt.



Back, from left: mom Marlen; Beth Jenkins, P2, 10 years; and dad Elmer. Front: triplets Ryan, Kylie and Jane, all 15 months. Jane, being the shy one, hides her face.



Joe Rios, SWAT Officer, 18 years.



Back: Jamie Bennett, P3, 10 years, and his wife, Jennifer. Front: Sons Andy, 6, and Derek, 4.



Jimbo greets the kids as Officer Garcia looks on.



The sack race for the young.



There were plenty of prizes to choose from.



From left: Ho Minh, P2, 5 years; Craig Rensch, P2, 10.5 years; and Alicia Jordan, SLO, 10.5 years.



From left: Jim LeNoue, P2, 8.5 years, Club Member; and Josh Rice, P3, 8.5 years.



15-month-old Michael, son of PSR Lily Gomez, enjoys being behind the wheel of the SWAT vehicle.



Emmette Badar, Detective 3, 32 years, with his wife, Pam.



Ana Carrasco, Clerk Typist, 3 years, Club Member, with daughter Leslie, six weeks old.



From left: Erica, 6, with Maria Evis, wife of Officer David Evis.



From left: son Jay Nunez Jr.; Sgt. Jay Nunez, 25 years; and wife Rose



From left: Jimbo; Ulysses Gasca, P3+1, 19 years; Montana; and Ed Kinney, P3, 12 years, Club Member.



From left: daughter Kathie, 15; Captain Jodi Wakefield, Commanding Officer Central Patrol Division; and son James, 13



From left: Carlos Garcia, P3, 9 years, Club Member; and Sgt. Leticia Delgado, 21 years.





Club Members got to read about the City's response to Hurricane Katrina first.

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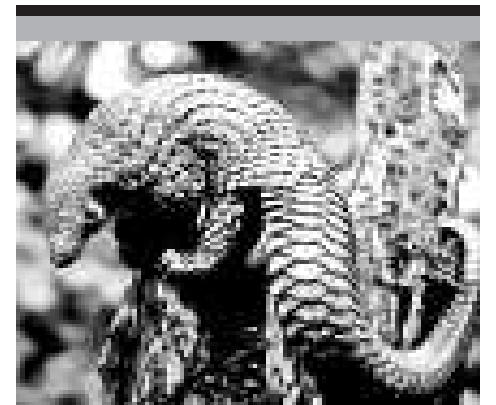
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Zoo's Pangolin Dies

■ Rare animal was confiscated at LAX.

ZOO — The Los Angeles Zoo was saddened to announce that its pangolin passed away Oct. 2. The Los Angeles Zoo was the only zoo in the United States to display this rare species.

In the three weeks to the animal's demise, the pangolin was being treated for serious liver disease, said Dr. Janna Wynne, Associate Zoo Veterinarian for the Los Angeles Zoo. Wynne said that, "Medically, we are still learning a lot about pangolins. Much of its care was derived through anecdotal information and guesses, as there is not a lot of data available about the captive requirements of this species."

The Los Angeles Zoo obtained the pangolin in January after the young animal was confiscated by U.S. Fish and Wildlife officials at Los Angeles International Airport. Originally from the Democratic Republic of Congo, the young animal was purchased for \$3 by a Sherman Oaks family that attempted to bring it into the United States.

"When we receive animals from other zoos, they come with background information about the particular animal's medical history. This pangolin was wild-caught and came without any information whatsoever," said Zoo Director John Lewis. "Over the past 10 months, our animal care staff had the challenging task of researching the natural biology of pangolins. They then had to apply their findings to the husbandry of this animal. Considering what they were up against, I am very proud of what they were able to accomplish in such a short amount of time."

BE HEARD!

Send us your thoughts on politics, the City, life in general ... see page three for the Letters to the Editor.

Talkback@cityemployeesclub.com



Dan Basilgo of LAPD Communications gives stickers to some children.



Engineering.



From left: Captain Bill Williams and Sergeant Mark Pompano.

Pacific's Open House

■ LAPD Pacific Area hosts open house to show off its renovations.

Story and photos by Michelle Moreno, Club Events Guru

POLICE DEPT. — The LAPD Pacific Division held an open house Oct. 1 to celebrate its building renovations.

Among the speakers were Captain Bill Williams, Councilman Bill Rosendahl and Deputy Chief Richard Roupoli. There were several information booths from different divisions of the LAPD, food, and tours of the newly renovated station.

The Club thanks the LAPD Pacific Area for inviting us!



Councilman Bill Rosendahl thanks Sam Tanaka, Engineering, for his services.



Deputy Chief Richard Roupoli thanks the division for its great work



From left: Officers Tim Scully, Michael Baker and Kelly Sandell.



Representatives from the Airport Police, from left: Officer Devin Staten and Officer Ray Woods.



From left: Celestino Mendez, Explorer; Tim Cruz, ITA/LAPD Historical Society; and Hector Morelos, Explorer.



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From left: Bob Ghanes, Roger Langer, Steve Rollands and Victor Franco.



From left: Russ Strong, Central City Association East; George Miyamoto, LAPD Central Traffic; and David Ige, PWC.



From left: Keith LeNoue, John LeNoue, Butch LeNoue and Doug Elffers, guest of Officer Jim LeNoue, Club Member.



From left: Officer Albert Gonzalez, Officer Sergio Sanchez, Mark Dooley and Leo Lopez.



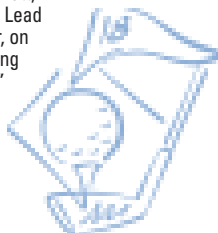
From left: Melissa Horby, Police Officer II; Cece Tatum, Clerk Typist; and Roshon Gonzalez, Police Officer II.



From left: Pat Steet, Volunteer; Marie Kardiban, Police Officer II, Club Member; and Daisy Barajas, Central Booster's Secretary.



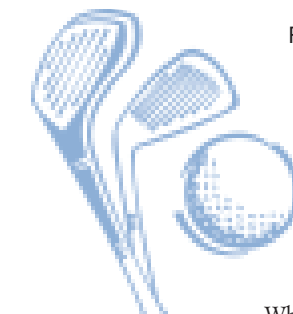
Larry Pratt, Senior Lead Officer, on "cooking detail."



Central Boosters Tee It Up

Central City Police Boosters hosts annual golf tournament.

Story and photos by Arlene Herrero, Club Counselor



POLICE DEPT. — The Central City Police Boosters hosted its eighth annual golf tournament fundraiser Sept. 22 at the California Country Club in Whittier.

The Los Angeles City Employees Club once again participated by sponsoring the closest to the pin contest on Hole 10. The winner, Gregg Fischer, received a \$100 gift card to Golfsmith.

Team winners were:

■ **First Place:** Team 9A from Midnight Mission: Gregg Johnson, Kevin Schmitz, John Vitanza and Ray Valenzuela

■ **Second Place:** Team 4B from International Jewelry Center: Bob Taylor, Tom Magdelino, Ara Atarian and Jeff Miller

■ **Third Place:** Team 7B: Doug Elffers, Keith LeNoue, Butch LeNoue and John LeNoue.

Golfers enjoyed hot dogs, hot links, chips, drinks, chili and bratwurst prior to teeing off.

Each of the 68 players received a goodie bag and a sleeve of logo golf balls, compliments of City Employees Club.

More players have participated each year, according to Officer Marie Kardiban.

A reception dinner followed after the tournament, where awards were handed out to the winners.

Congratulations to the winners and the organizers for a successful event, and thanks to Capt. Andrew Smith, Tom Hyde, Sgt. Dan Campbell and Officer Marie Kardiban for their assistance.



Golf carts and players waiting for the tournament to begin.



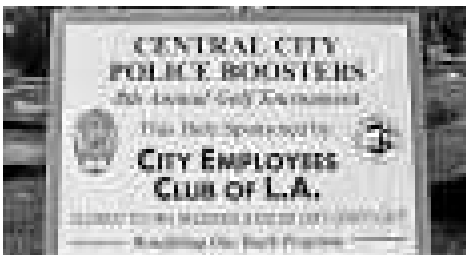
From left: Officer John Malone; John Moreno, Daily News; Sgt. Godfrey Bascom; and Sgt. Aloaf Walker.



From left: Todd Kenthach, Central Boosters Treasurer, CEO Pacific Resources Credit Union; David Garrison; Lee Bird; and Marin Chon.



From left: Officer Jim LeNoue, Club Member; Officer Pernel Taylor; Officer Dave Chapman; and Officer Chris Hoffman.



Hole 10, site of a contest sponsored by the Club.



From left: Tom Hyde, Central Boosters President; Captain JR Rubert, Retired Commanding Officer, Central Community Police Station; Bob Bandurraga; and Mark Hazan.



From left: Dennis Needleman; Officer Willie Carter, Club Member; Eric Needleman; and Marc Needleman.



Representing Carl Gumpert Inc., were, from left: Walter Feinblum, Lou Ovelbar, Frits Gottlich and Jon Smoller.



Representing International Jewelry Center were, from left: Bob Taylor, Tom Magdelino, Ara Atarian and Jeff Miller.



Representing Sontrol were, from left: Eric Kinoshita, Insop Song, Pat Nakamura and Darryl Nakamura.



From left: Officer Daniel Gonzalez, Officer Tony Gonzalez, Officer Greg Fisher and Officer Marco Villanueva.



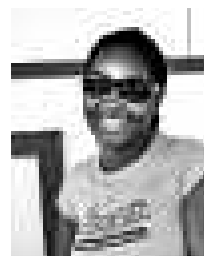
Representing John Martin Associates were, from left: David Choi, Jackie Vinkler and Hiroshi Morita.



Representing Capital Group were, from left: Scott Olson, Sgt. Brad Weiss, Officer Bob Palacios and Gary Campanalla.



From left: Travis Jones, Police Officer II and Leo Borja, Police Officer II.



Tenesha Dobine, Police Officer II.



From left: Officer Marie Kardiban, Club Member; and Captain Andrew Smith, Commanding Officer Central Community Police Station, Club Member.

History Comes Alive!

Tales From the City Archives



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

About the City Archives

A section of City Clerk's Office, Records Management Division.

CITY CLERK: Frank Martinez

RECORDS Management Officer: Todd Gaydowski

ARCHIVIST (acting): Jay Jones

PHONE: (213) 585-3512

LOCATION: C. Erwin Piper Technical Center, 555 Ramirez St., Space 320, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

Photos courtesy the Los Angeles Public Library, Security Pacific Collection; and the UCLA Library Dept. of Special Collections.

When Griffith Park Really Took Off

Hello, dear reader. Are you aware that at one time our beloved Griffith Park had its own airport? Well, it is true, so here is another incredible story in the history of the ever-fascinating City of Los Angeles.

It all began back in 1911 with Van M. Griffith, son of Col. Griffith Jenkins Griffith, the donator of the 3,015 acres that became the core portion of Griffith Park to the City of Los Angeles back in 1896. In 1882, the elder Griffith purchased the Los Feliz Rancho.

Van Griffith had become Motor Bus Transportation Commissioner for the City from 1917-25 and Park Commissioner, like his father 25 years earlier, from 1921-33. Both father and son had an affinity for aviation.

Van Griffith had aviation in his blood. By profession he was a journalist, but his hobby was aviation. At the age of 23, he published an aeronautical magazine, *Aviation*. The magazine remained in existence for only one year, but the purpose was to show fraud and phony stock schemes in the profession.

Father and son, with the affinity toward flying, opened what would eventually be called the Griffith Aviation Park, one of its many titles. The Aviation Park, in 1911, continued to be owned by Col. Griffith as part of the Griffith Reservation. Eventually the City purchased the property as an addition to the Park after the senior Griffith died in 1919. Today, that piece of land consists of the Greater Los Angeles Zoo parking lot, the Gene Autry Western Heritage Museum, the Ventura-Golden State Freeway interchange, and the John Ferraro Soccer Field. This land was also bordered by one of the bends of the Los Angeles River. In 1912, Van Griffith donated 100 acres of that land alongside what is now known as Griffith Park Drive.

According to Griffith Park historian Dr. Mike Eberts from his centennial history book *Griffith Park*, "The flying field was a mile long, 1,000 to 2,500 feet wide, and unpaved ... The old Los Feliz adobe was converted into a clubhouse for the Aero Club of California." Van Griffith had intended on building a 50-foot-high grandstand near today's Greater Los Angeles Zoo. The younger Griffith's intentions were to host monthly air shows on the first Sunday of every month. On May 12, 1912, the airfield opened, and Van Griffith was promoting rental spaces for his facility.

Young Griffith's proposal for the airfield comes from another quote from the Ebert book:

The establishment of a community field for aeroplane factories, branch establishments of Eastern factories, agencies of aeroplanes, motors, and accessories, operation of an exhibition field, schools of aviation conducted by whoever desires, private flights by new owners, etc.

The airfield was never considered a local center of activity for aviation needs. It was viewed as a small, out-of-the-way airfield with three hangars. One of the three individuals who built facilities there was Glenn L. Martin. He went on to fame and fortune in the field of aviation. Backed by Harry Chandler from *The Los Angeles Times*, Martin operated at that site a factory and flying school. One of his students was William Boeing, and Donald Douglas was hired as an engineer. Eventually, Glenn Martin went on to become a partner in the major aviation corporation Martin Marietta, corporate successor to

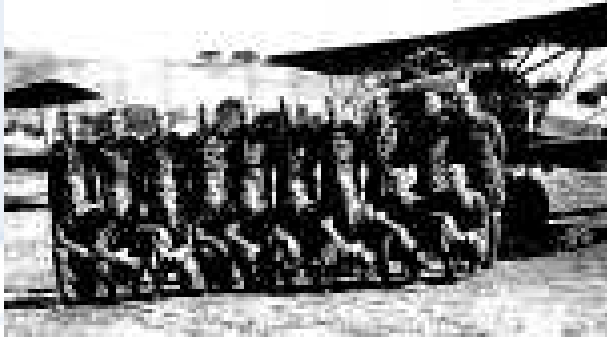
the Glenn L. Martin Aircraft Company, which built large military aircraft. In 1995 Martin Marietta became partners with Lockheed, and the company is now known as Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Co.

In 1916, Glenn Martin left the Griffith Aviation Park to merge with Orville Wright & Co. When Martin left the area, he had become so dominant in his operation that some people referred to the airfield as Martin's Flying Field. Donald Douglas remained for a time, then he, too, left. The airfield was abandoned, and Van Griffith's private management days were over.

After World War I, in 1920, there was an attempt by enthusiasts to once again open the airfield. The proposed name was the Van M. Griffith Flying Field. A proposal was sent to the City's Park Commission. The reply was that the City did not own the Griffith Reservation at that time and could do nothing. Griffith Jenkins Griffith had passed away



Glenn L. Martin.



Non-commissioned officers in training in 1931.



Van Griffith.

the prior year; resolution of property rights would have to wait.

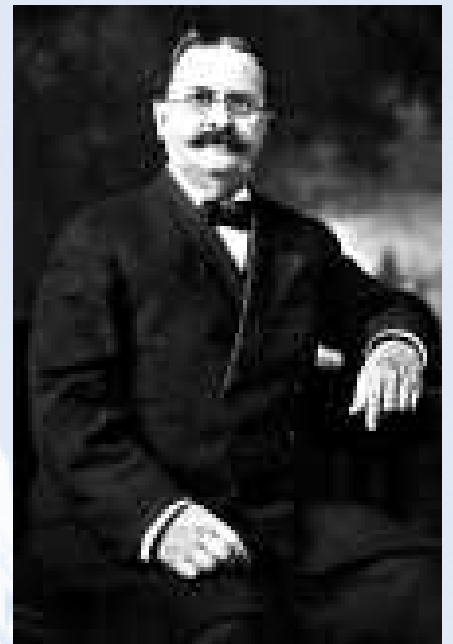
In 1924, Major Corliss C. Moseley of the California National Guard needed Griffith Aviation Field for his 115th Observation Squadron, 40th Division Air Service based at Santa Monica's Clover Field. The latter did not meet the needs of the Squadron. Moseley met with Van Griffith, who appointed him to the Park Commission's Airport Advisory Commission. Moseley's intent was not for social flying clubs or entrepreneurial desires. Moseley's only interest was military aviation.

Moseley quickly applied for a permit to lease the property, which was now owned by the City. He ran into some opposition from the Park Department and others because they wanted the land for a new golf course. But, the City Council wanted the resurrection of the airfield for a number of reasons appropriating \$10,000 for construction. From Volume 147, page 373 of the Los Angeles City Council Minute Books, dated July 23, 1924, the following is an abstract of Council's reasons for their decisions to grant the money:

(1) ... the airport will be of no value to the community until it is equipped and improved; (2) ... it seems quite certain that ... Congress will provide for a regular air mail route if we are equipped to accept the same; (3) ... under the stimulus of your recent designation of the airport the Adjunct General of the State ... authorized the organization of a Divisional Air Service Unit of the California National Guard, subject to the City ... permitting the use of the necessary flying field and ... equipment; (4) ... through the National Guard Air Unit which has been ... Federalized is prepared to supply free of cost, f.o.b. Los Angeles \$250,000 worth of equipment ... to the field will ... place Los Angeles on the air map of America; and (5) ... the field will give Los Angeles ... commercial [and government activities when needed].

As the National Guard used the airfield, Van Griffith disliked the operation. In 1929, he was one of two Park Commissioners who refused to give the Guard a lease extension. He was adamant about the Griffith Park airfield only being a temporary place for the Guard, not a permanent home base. Even more strongly was he opposed to having commercial flights arrive and depart from the facility.

In 1932, the Park Commissioners received a request from The Golden State Flying Service to make occasional passenger arrivals and departures. The Commissioners considered the notion and referred it to the City Attorney. But of much more concern was when Frank Shaw was elected Mayor and wanted to close fog-bound Mines Field, a precursor to LAX, and move the commercial airport to Griffith Park.



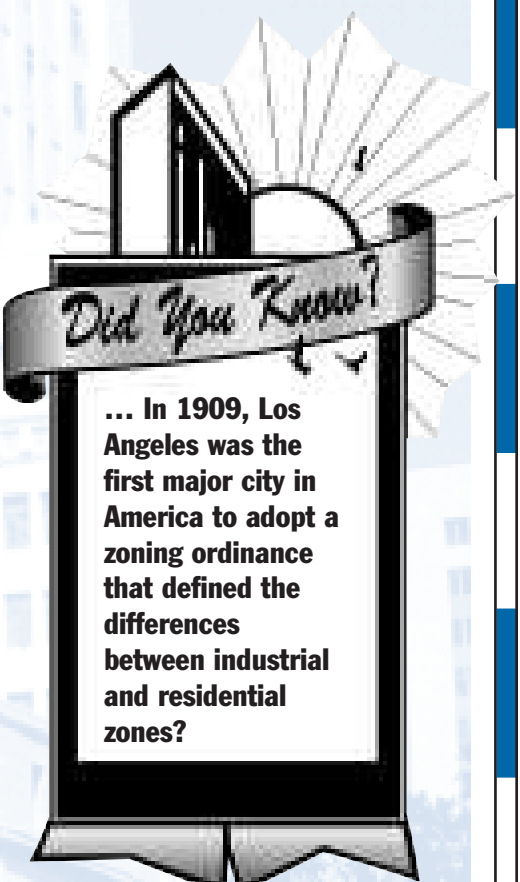
Col. Griffith Jenkins Griffith.

Van Griffith then lobbied the California Taxpayers' Association and other organizations to oppose the commercial airport consideration. Women's organizations and the reform-oriented Municipal League assisted Griffith in denying Shaw's consideration for the Park.

Finally, in 1934, the proposed expansion and commercialization of the Griffith Park Airport collapsed under pressure of economic weight. In March of that year, the airport was abandoned due to cost.

I have heard that whatever remained of the Griffith Park airport phenomena was moved to Van Nuys. But that would be another story.

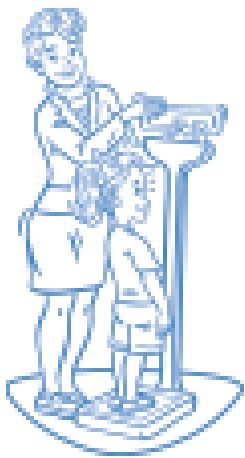
Photos courtesy the Los Angeles Public Library, Security Pacific Collection; and the UCLA Library Dept. of Special Collections.



For the Kids

Valley Plaza Rec Center sponsors fair for child health and safety.

Story and photos by Liz Montes, Club Counselor.



REC AND PARKS — Valley Plaza Recreation Center hosted a Child Health and Safety Fair Oct. 1 to promote awareness of children's health issues in the community. The event included free medical and dental screenings, immunizations, inspections of bicycle helmets car seat inspections, as well as anti-gang information, a petting zoo, pony rides, arts and crafts, food and beverages and live entertainment.

Recreation and Parks, Councilmember Wendy Greuel, Street Lighting, ITA and several other departments took part in the event.

Congratulations to all involved for a successful.



A young boy enjoys a pony ride.



Various exhibits were on display at the fair.



The choir entertains the crowd.



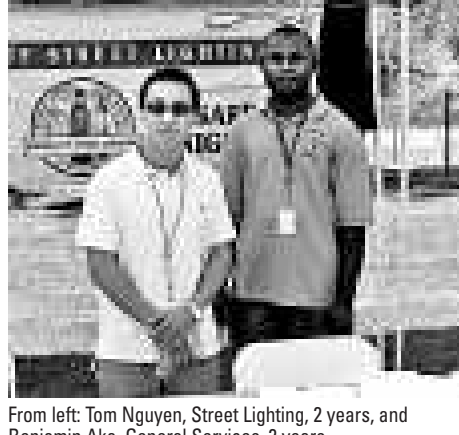
From left: Rosa Otzoy, Rec & Parks, 5 years; Ruben Vega, Rec & Parks, 8 months; and Marco Prado, Rec & Parks, 18 years.



From left: Carlos Juarez, Rec & Parks, 10 years; Rosa Otzoy, Rec & Parks, 5 years; Guadalupe Buenrostro, Rec & Parks, 9 years; and Marco Prado, Rec & Parks, 18 years.



From left: Tina Alo, Sanitation, 5 years, and Marivic Sabillo, Sanitation, 4 years.



From left: Tom Nguyen, Street Lighting, 2 years, and Benjamin Aka, General Services, 2 years.



From left: Karen Estrada, ITA, 3 years; and Robert Cook, ITA, 19 years.



Joe Gonzales, DOT, 28 years.



A Department of Aging representative answers questions.



Benjamin Aka, General Services, 2 years.



From left: Howard Wong, Public Works Water Protection, 4 years, with Ernesto Garcia, Public Works Water Protection, 4 years.



Rock climbing is harder then it looks for this young girl.



Batman entertains the kids with animal balloons.

A D V E R T I S E M E N T

Here's How To Lower Your Monthly Mortgage Payment

FREE Recorded Message Reveals How City Employees Cash In On Lower Interest Rates
1-800-369-1025 ext. 8601

SPECIAL – Could you be overpaying on your mortgage and not even know it?

Many city employees are finding out how they can save thousands of dollars a year by refinancing while interest rates are still low.

This informative FREE Recorded Message will answer a lot of the questions you have about refinancing, and give you information about a FREE Refinance Home Loan Finder Service that shows you:

- How to calculate how much extra interest you're paying on your mortgage every month.
- Exactly where to find lower interest rates that could save you money.
- Where to find loans that can both lower your monthly mortgage payments and give you cash back.
- How to refinance your mortgage with no out-of-pocket costs to you.

You can get all the details in a FREE Recorded Message by calling

A NEW Section for Retired Club Members



The Best Years

INSIDE:

- Upcoming Events Listing
- Members News
- Smart Money Column
- Adventures With Hal Danowitz
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Crossword Puzzle Contest!
- Important Phone Numbers
- Question of the Month Feature
- Thought for the Day Feature

HAVE NEWS?

If you have news about retirement activities that you'd like to share, call **Phil Skarin**

at (818) 784-0130, or write to
5301 Norwich Ave., Van Nuys, CA
91411 or fax (818) 906-3722.



Ed Harding is the President of Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. (RLACEI), one of three major retirees associations for the City of Los Angeles. Contact him: (805) 584-9417.

Ed Harding, RLACEI President



By Phil Skarin, Publicity Chair, RLACEI

Officers Re-Elected at Annual Meeting

Ed Harding, RLACEI President, welcomed a small group of retirees at our annual Meeting and Elections Oct. 6 at the Van Nuys/Sherman Oaks Senior Center. He thanked those who had made reservations for a delicious lunch, but many lunches were left over.

The City Employees Club donated valuable door prizes.

Neil Ricci presented these nominations for Director of the Executive Board, all incumbents (their year of coming onto the Board is in parenthesis): Bob Wilkinson (1995), Hal Danowitz (2000), Americo Garza (1995), Neil Ricci (1999), Phil Skarin (1993) and Tom Stemnock (1996). The nominations were approved unanimously, by acclamation.

Their two-year terms begin on Jan. 1. The Executive Board will select one of the Directors to be the First Vice President for a one-year term beginning on Jan. 1. Bob Wilkinson is the current vice president, whose term is ending.

Officers who have one year remaining on their terms of office are:

- Ed Harding, President
- Ken Spiker – Second Vice President; and

• Jerry Bardwell, Jack Mathews, Helen Salgado and David Wilkins, Directors. The immediate past president position on the Board had been vacant since the passing of Larry Jones.

President Harding said, "As I am completing my tenth year as your president, I want to thank all of the officers and com-

mittees for all doing a great job, year after year, and making me look good, but they deserve most of the credit."

Legislative Update:

Ken Spiker, our elected Commissioner to the Los Angeles City Employees Retirement System Board (LACERS), has expressed his concern that retirees are not getting their benefit requests heard by the City Council's Employee Relations Committee. Only recognized employee negotiations groups can be heard, and retirees don't qualify.

The LACERS Board of Directors unanimously approved increasing the Death Benefit allowance from \$2,500 to \$5,000 on April 26. State and County employees already have this allowance. Ken is hoping the City employees negotiating groups will include this item in their negotiations package. He is also seeking a Dental Subsidy for spouses as well.

Ken also reports that the LACERS Board has approved of his request to allocate funds for an actuary to determine the cost of providing a Part B Reimbursement for surviving spouses who have Medicare Part A and Part B as now provided for other retirees. Ken would like our 3,184

surviving spouses to be treated the same as their spouse is.

The Administration and Benefits Committee, of which Ken is chairman, recommended and approved increasing the health subsidy from \$883 to \$928.

Sandra Dyson, LACERS, urges you to review all the material they have sent your regarding your health plans. For those who are in a LACERS-sponsored health plan, you do not have to do anything to enroll in the new Medicare Part D. They will arrange it. Do not enroll individually!



RLACEI Holiday Party – December 8, 2005

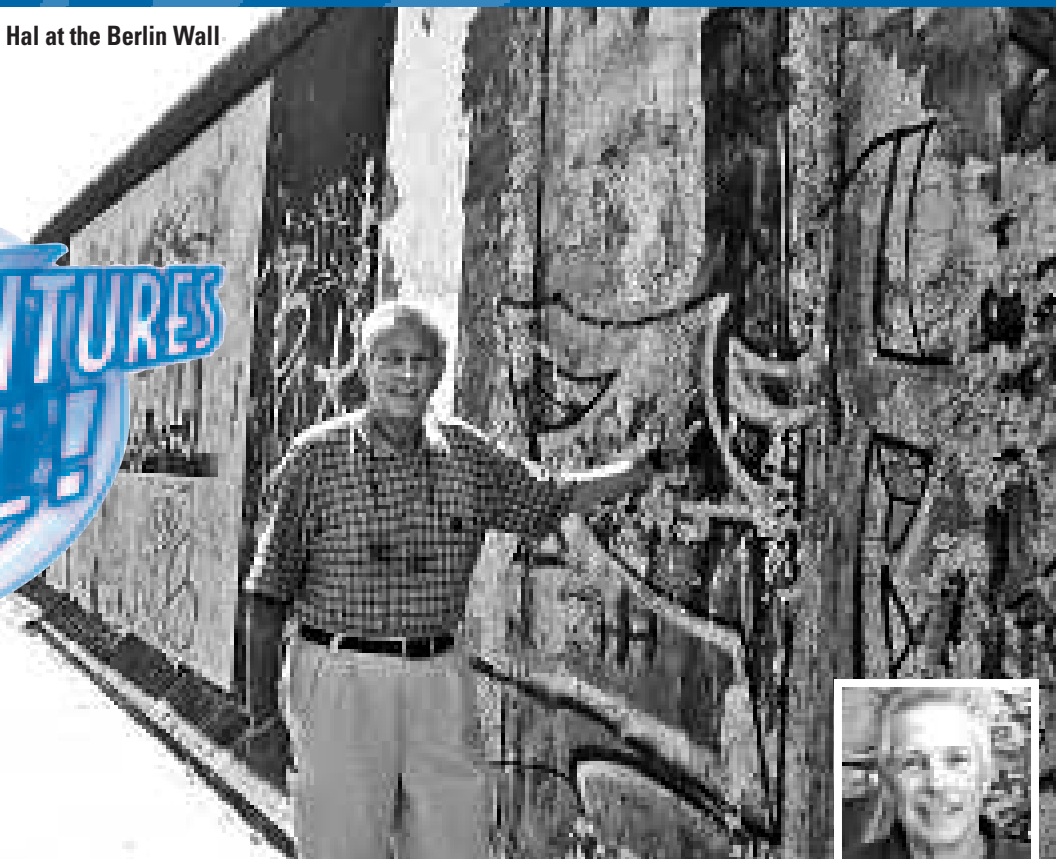
The RLACEI's Annual Christmas Party and Installation of Officers, is scheduled for noon Thursday, Dec. 8, at the Grace E. Simons Lodge. The Lodge is at 1025 Elysian Park Dr., near Dodger Stadium. Chairman Americo Garza has promised a light lunch (sandwiches, salad and drinks), entertainment and valuable door prizes. You must make reservations at least a week ahead. Guests welcome. Call one of the officers on the Retirees Help-lines. Free Taxi service can take you from the parking area to the Lodge.

- SEE "UPCOMING EVENTS," PAGE 69 FOR DETAILS

The Best Years

ADVENTURES
with HAL!

Hal at the Berlin Wall

Off to
Denmark and GermanyBy Hal Danowitz,
Secretary, RLACEI

Retiree Hotlines

Who to call? Following is a list of contacts for RLACEI and for the DWP:

City Employees Retirement System: (213) 473-7200

RLACEI Retirement Counselors:

- Edward Harding (805) 584-9417
- Phil Skarin (818) 784-0130
- Robert Wilkinson (818) 886-1000
- Jerry Bardwell (818) 782-5568
- Harold Danowitz (310) 472-0224
- Jack Mathews (310) 762-1942
- Helen Salgado (323) 728-4930 (membership)
- Americo Garza (562) 928-2051
- Neil Ricci (310) 394-1971

DWP Retirement Plan Office: (213) 367-1722

RLACEI

Officers for 2005

Edward Harding, President
Robert Wilkinson, First Vice President
Kenneth Spiker, Second Vice President
Hal Danowitz, Secretary
Jerry Bardwell, Treasurer

Committee Chairpersons for 2005

Bob Wilkinson, Audit
Jerry Bardwell, Budget
David Wilkins, Bylaws
Ken Spiker, Legal and Legislative
Helen Salgado, Membership
Phil Skarin, Publicity
Tom Stemnock and Phil Skarin, Golf
Americo Garza, Picnic
Americo Garza, Holiday Party and Installation
Jack Mathews, Senior Citizens
Neil Ricci, Health
David Wilkins, Nominating
Neil Ricci, Special Needs for Retirees
Hal Danowitz, Parliamentarian

Directors

Thomas Stemnock
Americo Garza
Helen Salgado
Phil Skarin
Dave Wilkins
Jack Mathews
Neil Ricci

Hal and his entourage
continue their European cruise.

We awakened on Sunday morning to our first day at sea as we sailed the 692 nautical miles from Dover, England, to Copenhagen, Denmark.

Our first stop was the gymnasium for our morning workout. We always start a trip with good intentions on keeping to an exercise program, but most times I fail and Evelyn, as she did this time, sticks to the exercise program. The gym was nicely equipped and had a great forward view.

After our workout we had breakfast in the Seaside Café, open around the clock. On most days we had the breakfast buffet, but you could also eat in the main dining room, which we did twice, or have a full breakfast in your stateroom, which we also did a couple of times.

After breakfast we decided to explore the ship. The *GTS* (gas turbine system) *Constellation* was built in France in 2002. It weighs 90,280 tons and is 965 feet long and 107 feet wide, with a top speed of 24 knots. It has eleven decks and can hold 2,449 passengers in 1,019 staterooms. The nationality of the officers was Greek, and there are 999 crew members.

In addition to the San Marco Restaurant and Seaside Café, there are the Sushi Café; the Pizza Café; the Seaside Grill, which made hamburgers and hot dogs; the Cove Café for pastries and coffee; the Aquaspa Café, which served healthy choices all day long (I tried not to go near the Aquaspa Café); and the Ocean Liner's Restaurant, which had a la carte dining each night for a \$30 per person cover charge. Between 11:30 p.m. and 12:30 a.m., waiters passed trays of bite-size snacks in the public lounges. Believe me there was no way you would go hungry on this ship.

The Celebrity Theater had nightly entertainment, and there also was a movie theater that showed movies during the day. The ship had a full-service spa and an acupuncture clinic.

The first thing we noticed about the ship was the wonderful art and the large number of fresh flowers through out public areas. On our tour we discovered a large floral boutique like a greenhouse and another area that was an art gallery. Park West held art auctions and, of course, we ended up buying two small pictures.

There was both an Internet café and a computer center. There were a number of Internet access packages you could purchase, and they offered computer classes for a fee for beginners. I never saw the computer training area without people. There were a number of Internet connection hot spots around the ship so if you had a laptop you could go wireless.

There was a large swimming pool and a therapy pool, a sauna and whirlpools, both indoors and outdoors.

I also heard there was a deck for topless sunbathing, but I never found it.

In the evening besides the regular entertainment there were many lounges with different types of music and dancing in each, and of

course a full-service casino.

The *Celebrity* is a very pretty ship, and is well maintained by the crew. Even with more than 2,000 passengers it never seemed overcrowded; I could always find a private space to be alone.

The evening was a formal night, and we got decked out in our tuxedos. A lot of cruise ships have become less formal, but the *Celebrity* still has an evening dress code. During our cruise there were three formal (tux or dark suit) nights, five informal (coat and tie) and six causal (sport shirt and pants). I enjoyed the formal nights

because I was able to use my tux, which has stayed in style for more than 20 years, with just a few alterations in the waistline. The rest of the nights should just have been causal, because a lot of passengers didn't bother to follow the dress code and the ship did nothing to enforce it.

Monday was our first port, Copenhagen. Denmark is a constitutional monarchy covering more than 16,600 square miles of the Jutland peninsula, of which Copenhagen is the capital. I had been to Copenhagen before so we decided not to take a ship tour, but to do it on our own. It also helped that you can walk to most of the sights and that English is spoken by many of the citizens. After World War II, most of the old center of Copenhagen was made accessible by foot, making it easy for visitors to enjoy the Danish hospitality and of course to shop.

The ship provides a lot of information on our ports, so we were armed with maps and pamphlets when we left the ship. After getting our bearings we walked toward the old part of town along the waterway. Our first stop was the statue of the Little Mermaid, where we took our picture with the statue in the background. Less than a mile from the Little Mermaid are the four state mansions that comprise the Amalienborg Palace, home to the royal family.

Following the white-painted footprints on the sidewalk we reached the main shopping area called Stroget. It is one long street, which runs from the old town waterfront to the Tivoli Gardens. A lot of the museums are closed on Mondays so we spent most of our time walking and stopping in the different shops. At the Tivoli Gardens, we stopped for lunch at a small restaurant on the waterfront. After lunch we took shuttle provided by the ship back to the dock.

Evelyn was disappointed that she had not seen more of the attractions of the city, and we decided that we would take at least the basic

city tour in each of the ports. In hindsight we should have taken the Copenhagen tour and forgot about the rest of the small ports, but more about that later.

The ship departed Copenhagen for the 220-nautical-mile sail to Warnemunde, Germany, at 6 p.m. The port is in the northeast part of Germany on the estuary of the Warnow River. Warnemunde, together with Rostock, form one of the country's major shipping centers. For us it was the starting point for our trip to Berlin.

The ship offered five different excursions to Berlin, and we chose the 20th Century Experience. The duration of the tour was 12 and-a-half hours, and it began at 7 a.m. Tuesday morning with a two-and-a-half-hour train ride to Berlin, the capital of Germany. During the ride we had a chance to see the countryside, which consisted mostly of farmland and a few small towns. On our arrival we boarded tour buses and drove through what was East Berlin on our way to the Berlin Wall.

The buildings in the East sector were the ones built by the Soviet Union and were in the process of being repaired. We saw the same style of buildings in our visit to St. Petersburg and the Baltic countries that were once part of the Soviet Union. It is interesting to note that most of Berlin's attractions are in the old East sector.

Our first stop was to see what was left of the Berlin Wall, built in 1961 to divide the American, French and British part of Berlin from the Soviet sector and to stop the flow of East Germans into West Germany. The wall served as a barrier between the two countries and the city until it was taken down in 1990 and East and West Germany were reunited. We stopped at Checkpoint Charlie, a passageway into East Berlin, and took our pictures.

After Checkpoint Charlie, we stopped at Temple of Air, famous for the Berlin Airlift, which kept the city supplied after the Russians cut off

access by road and train.

After lunch at a hotel we continued our tour, passing by Schoeneberg Town Hall, where President Kennedy made his famous "Ich bin ein Berliner" speech. We stopped at the Brandenburg Gate, designed by Carl Gotthard Langhans, as a symbol of peace. The gate has been restored to its pre-war condition and is very impressive. After leaving the gate we walked passed the Reichstag, now the home to the Germany Parliament.

We made a shopping stop in the Kurfurstendamm area and brought a few souvenirs to take home.

Our last stop was the Allied Museum, which focuses on the Allied occupation of Berlin from 1945 until 1994.

We caught our train for the ride back to the ship; because of a heavy rainstorm, the ride took almost three hours. By the time we got back to the ship we were really tired. We had missed dinner, so we ate in the buffet and then went to sleep, because tomorrow was Stockholm.

More next month.

Retiree adventurer Hal Danowitz writes a monthly column on his travels and welcomes your questions or comments. Send them to adventureswithhal@cityemployeesclub.com

Hal's first Formal Night dinner aboard the *Celebrity* included, from left, Evelyn, Hal, Pierre, Effie, Myrna and Don.

From left: Effie and Evelyn on the Copenhagen waterfront.

Retiree Question of the Month

Alive! asked retirees...

What are you most thankful for?

And, what is your favorite thanksgiving food?

The Best Years

To be alive and healthy. Cranberry salad.
— Wilma Rebbe



Being alive. Sweet potato pie.
—Beverly Etheredge



Thank the Lord that enabled us to rise up this morning and come to this meeting. Pecan pie a la mode.
—Sylvester Warsaw Sr.



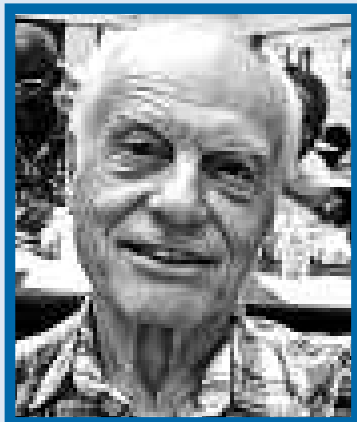
Being provided a good life by working for the City. Turkey.
—Paul Jamgochian



Great granddaughter, Bonnie, and having this music on a compilation CD: 'Aura of Indigo. Turkey.
—Fred Hoepfner



A wonderful wife. Turkey with dressing.
—Henry Gervais



Beautiful friends. Pork.
—Tony Alvarez



To be alive. Sweet potatoes.
—Marilyn McPherson



RLACEI Upcoming Events:

Christmas Party and Installation of Officers

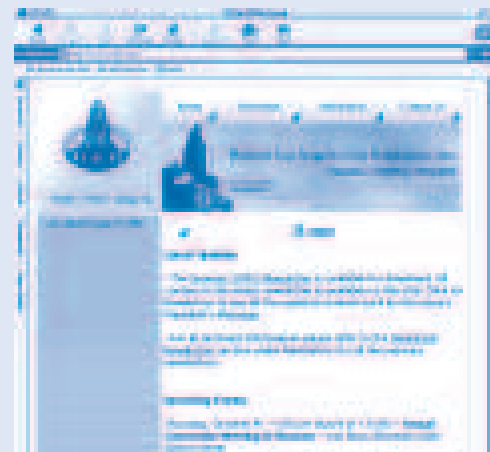
— Thursday, Dec. 8, noon to 3 p.m. at the Grace E. Simons Lodge

28th Annual Retirees Golf Tournament

— Tuesday, June 6, 2006 at the Alhambra Golf Course.

Change of Address?

If you change your address, notify Helen Salgado, Membership Chair, at 323-728-4930, or write to her at 5423 Dewar St., Los Angeles, CA 90022. Also notify LACERS.



RLACEI Website

Hal Danowitz asks you to visit our Website at: www.rlacei.com to find out the latest retiree news.

The Best Years

Financial Advice



Planning and Managing Your Retirement

The Smart Money



Eric Garcia, Smith Barney

Your Club Financial Partners

The Club wants to make planning your financial future easier and more confident. To that end, there are now two separate Club partners to choose from: Eric Garcia, Smith Barney; or James Ocon and Kevin Wright, Wachovia Securities.

Remember that all financial decisions are yours; the Club offers these partners as a courtesy to you and offers no financial/securities advice of its own.

Alive! will feature these two partners in this space in alternating months. As the two partnerships may or may not have separate views on financial matters, they don't necessarily endorse the others' views. But they stand by what they write in the columns with their name(s) on them.

Feel free to contact them at your earliest convenience:

Eric Garcia: (626) 683-4621

James Ocon and Kevin Wright: (818) 907-4209



Eric Garcia



Kevin Wright

Housing Prices: Should You Be Worried?

As a homeowner or residential real estate investor, you may have a high percentage of your net worth invested in your home or other properties. If so, you are no doubt following news reports of escalating U.S. home prices. Should you be worried about a bubble?

To be sure, today's real estate market is anything but typical: the Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight reports that the average U.S. home increased in value by 13.4 percent between the second quarters of 2004 and 2005. Even the average increase doesn't tell the full story. In Nevada, homes appreciated by 28.1 percent. In California, prices increased by about 25 percent.

What a Bubble Is—and Isn't

As property prices continue to move higher, some economists and other observers are voicing concerns about price bubbles—and the risk that prices in some markets might drop substantially. If the drops are significant and widespread, the impact could spread beyond home prices and potentially slow the U.S. economy.

Definitions of a housing market bubble vary, but the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation's perspective is often used. According to the FDIC, a local real estate market is considered a "boom" market when prices have appreciated by at least 30 percent in the previous three years. According to the FDIC, 55 of the 362 U.S. metropolitan markets met this definition in 2004, and those boom markets comprise 40 percent of the value of residential real estate in the United States.

Property prices rarely drop suddenly—it typically takes a combination of both supply- and demand-related factors to reverse an upward trend. Here are some factors to keep in mind if you're concerned that your local market is overheated:

Declines need catalysts

The past few decades have shown that it takes a significant economic event to reverse strong housing markets. For example, Southern California's price declines in the early 1990s were exacerbated by job losses in the defense industry and a national recession. But when that area's technology industry slowed recently, property prices continued to increase based on sustained demand from homeowners and investors.

Prices can soften without plummeting

The Australian real estate market experienced a string of double-digit price increases in the early 2000s, as real estate became the investment of popular choice. The country's

central bank responded by raising interest rates—as our own Federal Reserve Board has done—and the state of New South Wales imposed a transfer tax on the sale of investment properties in a bid to dampen property speculation. These efforts popped the bubble but didn't cause a crash. Home prices have been largely unchanged for the past year, although some major cities have seen slight declines. Property owners who cannot receive their asking price are pulling properties from the market, leading to a reduced supply even as demand falls.

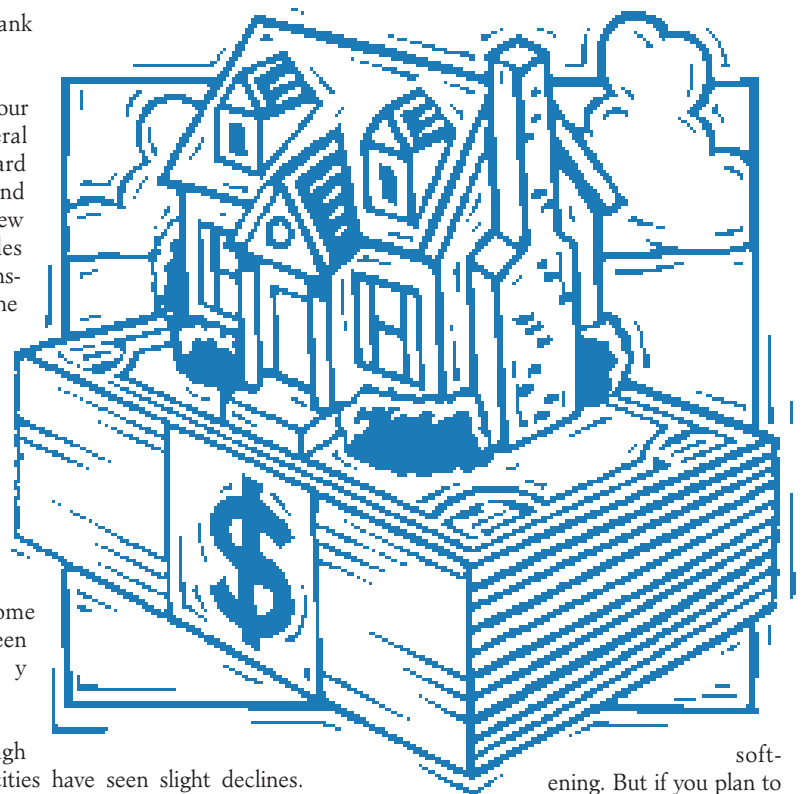
Choosing your mortgage

Your mortgage plays a role in the loss exposure if your property's value declines. Each mortgage type has a unique set of advantages and risks, and your specific circumstances and needs will determine which mortgage works best for you.

If you own property in a boom market and are concerned about potential softness, however, you should consider a loan that requires regular principal payments. The logic: If you finance a property with an interest-only or negative amortization loan and subsequently need to sell during a market decline, you'll face a loss that may require an outlay of cash. In contrast, if you had been making principal payments during the life of the loan, you would have reduced the loan's balance and softened the loss's impact. The economic results will be essentially the same in either scenario, but periodic principal payments reduce the cash-flow impact of selling at a loss.

Looking Ahead

Real estate investors and homeowners who live in boom markets and plan to sell their properties within the next five years should monitor their local markets closely for signs of



softening. But if you plan to hold your property for the medium or long term, the media's obsession with national property bubbles shouldn't be a cause for concern. Real estate prices move in long-term cycles, and property owners whose mortgages fit their financial circumstances will be in a good position to sit tight through the cycles.

Information is power. If you're concerned about your exposure to a potential real estate bubble, consult your advisers to discuss the options available to you.

Eric Garcia is a Financial Planning Specialist with Smith Barney located in Pasadena, Calif., and may be reached at (626) 683-4621.

Smith Barney does not provide tax and/or legal advice. Please consult your tax and/or legal advisors for such advice. Smith Barney is a division and service mark of Citigroup Global Markets Inc. Member SIPC.

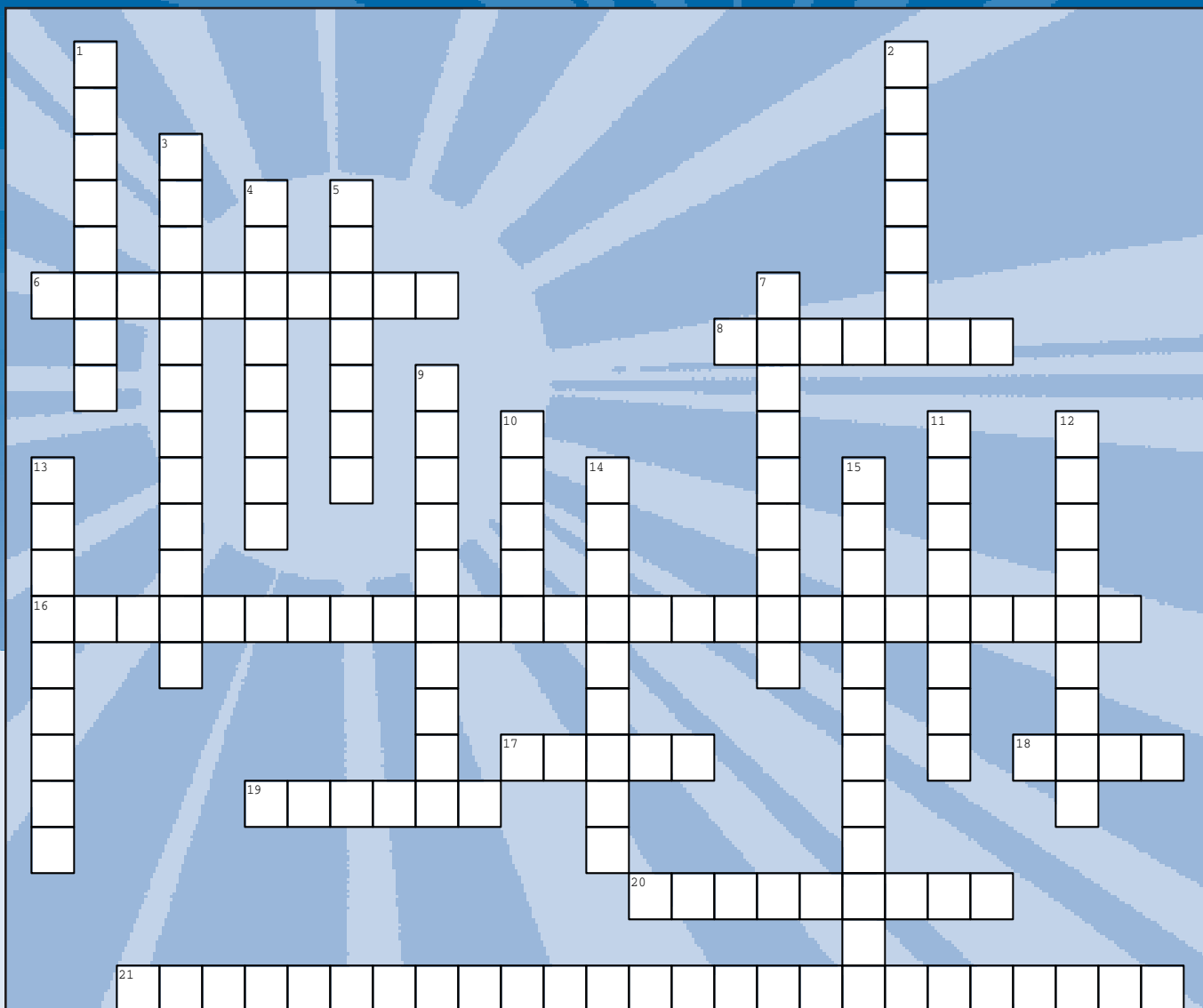
This article is based, in whole or in part, on information provided by the Planning Services Department of Smith Barney.

Send Eric your questions at smartmoney@cityemployeesclub.com. Use "Smart Money" in the subject line.

The Alive! Crossword Puzzle

For Retired Members, Created by Club Events Guru Michelle Moreno

THE BEST YEARS



Here's a new fun feature for Alive's retired readers... and a new contest!

Introducing the *Alive!* Crossword... a monthly puzzle with a theme relating to the City of Los Angeles and the Club. We'll print the answers the following month.

And here's the contest:

The first retired Club Members to complete the puzzle and send in the correct results will win a Ralphs grocery gift certificate for \$25.

But: You also have to tell us what the theme is. The theme could relate to:

- The City
- The Club
- A topic of interest to retirees, from the past (or the present)

So grab your pencil, and let the fun begin!

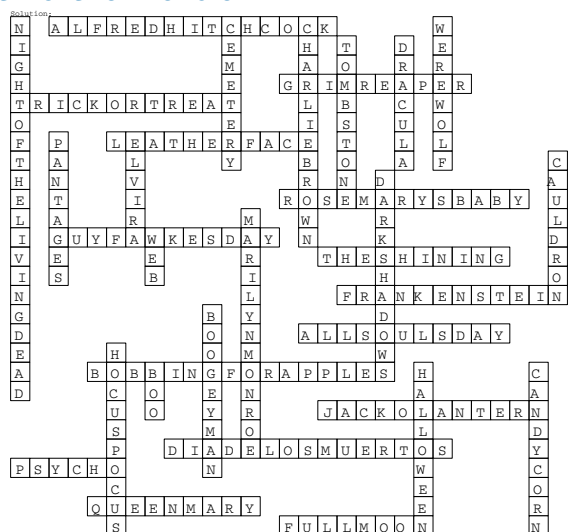
ACROSS

8. First President to issue a Thanksgiving Day Proclamation
16. (4 words) Famous 1987 film starring Steve Martin and John Candy
17. Number of days that the "First Thanksgiving" lasted
18. Popular Thanksgiving side dish 19 Most popular food to have in November holiday
20. Name of ship where pilgrims traveled on
21. (4 words) Movie of the Month in "Who's Got The Popcorn"

DOWN

1. Part of the turkey used for wishing
2. Name of "Indian" that helped the Pilgrims survive
3. Holiday observed on the 4th Thursday in November
4. Month where the "First Thanksgiving" took place in
5. (2 words) Location where Pilgrims first landed
7. State first in turkey production
9. (2 words) Famous November dessert
10. Famous November Parade celebrated in New York
11. Most popular sport to watch in November holiday
12. Which President did not want to have a national Thanksgiving Day
13. Native American tribe involved in the "First Thanksgiving"
14. Wisconsin leads in production of this berry
15. (2 words) Name of location where Pilgrims settled--

Last Month's Answers



This month's theme:

Crossword puzzle contest rules:

1. Mail your completed puzzle (and your guess at the theme) to the Club Headquarters, 350 S. Figueroa, Suite 700, Los Angeles 90071
2. Deadline: The 10th of the month.
3. Anyone can enter, but only Club members with valid Club registration numbers can win.
4. This puzzle is for retired Club Members.
5. It's all in good fun: The Club is not responsible for delays in delivery of *Alive!* or the transmission of entries.



THOUGHT FOR THE DAY:

The recent hurricane Katrina resulted in many deaths. Many of the survivors have lost everything.

Homes, jobs, clothing – all gone.

They have lost many of the things that hold a human life together. Basic necessities including institutions that anchor them such as churches, schools, neighborhoods, friends, family members, personal treasures.

What people can't take away from you is your education, training, drive or your faith.

In our lives we may experience a variety of crises such as: loss of a family member or close friend.

Financial or employment problems.

Mental or physical impairments .

Inability to live and function with independence.

When any of these situations occurs,

we may feel shock, anxiety and

psychological distress. Will we have a safety net of

levees to keep us from becoming overwhelmed?

Are your relationships with your family, friends, neighbors and God in good repair?

RLACEI MEMBER NEWS:

Here are some recent wedding anniversaries:

- 59th: John and Marguerite Shadle, Burbank
- 59th: Merlyn and Barbara Grable, Apple Valley
- 59th: Ray and Miriam Norman, North Hollywood
- 55th: Philip and Miriam Skarin, Van Nuys
- 50th: Al and Rosa Jue, Los Angeles

Sid Cheshire, 90, lives on a ranch in Wellington, Nev. He raises sheep, horses, goats, but no cane.

Sampson and Ruth Wilson have moved to an assisted living facility: Claremont Place, Apt .260, 120 West San Jose Ave., Claremont, VA 91711.

James Ogg is back at his apartment in North Hollywood, after a bout with amnesia. Give him a call at (818) 982-6791.

Gary Boehm, Van Nuys, works as an LVN at the VA Hospital in Van Nuys.

Hal Danowitz, Santa Monica, is pictured on the cover of *Alive!*, holding two huge dead fish, which he claims to have caught in British Columbia. Call him at (310) 472-0224 if you want to know the "reel" story.

If you have any news about a retiree that you would like to share, send it to:

Phil Skarin

5301 Norwich Ave.,

Van Nuys, CA 91411

or call (818) 784-0130.

The Best Years

Elections, and a Party

■ RLACEI elects new officers, has annual meeting and party.

Story by Arlene Herrero, Club Counselor
Photos by Michelle Moreno, Events Guru

RLACEI — The RLACEI (Retired Los Angeles City Employees Inc.) held its annual meeting and elections luncheon Oct. 6 at the Van Nuys/Sherman Oaks Senior Center. Several attendees received raffle gifts sponsored by the City Employees Club.

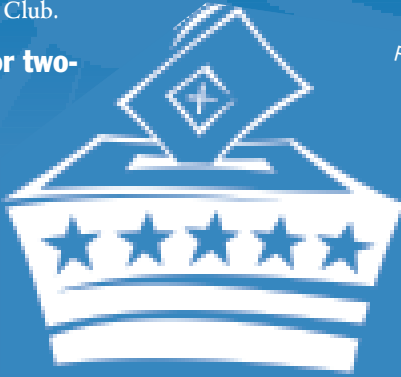
The following directors were re-elected for two-year terms beginning Jan. 1:

- Harold Danowitz
- Americo Garza
- Neil Ricci
- Phil Skarin
- Tom Stenmoch
- Robert Wilkinson

Other director positions will be up for re-election next year. Officers are named directly by the directors.



From left: Rene O'Malley, Wilma Rebbe and Olga Suppa.



Helen Gervais wins a \$25 Ralphs Gift Card, courtesy of the City Employees Club.



Beverly Etheredge wins a \$25 Albertsons Gift Card, courtesy of the City Employees Club.



Cleone Vrabel wins a \$25 Ralphs Gift Card, courtesy of the City Employees Club.



Ray Norman wins a \$25 Ralphs Gift Card, courtesy of the City Employees Club.



Ken Spiker, Second Vice President and LACERS commissioner, provides the legislative update.



RLACEI President Ed Harding begins the meeting.



From left: Julian Gottlieb and Howard Steinberg.



Henry and Helena Gervais.



From left: Ray Norman and *Alive!* columnist Hal Danowitz.



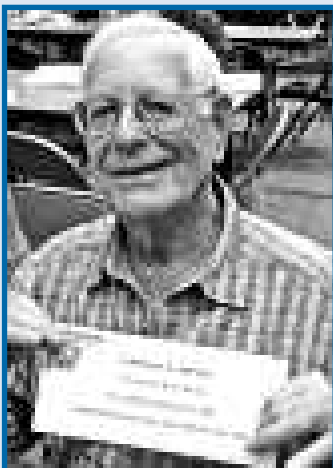
Ella Garza and Martha Harding.



Paul Jamgochian wins a \$25 Albertsons Gift Card, courtesy of the City Employees Club.



Wilma Rebbe wins a \$25 Albertsons Gift Card, courtesy of the City Employees Club.



Leonard Rosstent wins a \$25 Albertsons Gift Card, courtesy of the City Employees Club.



From left: Sylvester Warsaw Sr., Leroy Richards and Robert Perry.



Beverly and Joe Etheredge.



From left: Cleone and Mike Vrabel with Sam Hochberg.



From left: Jinny Peebles, Tony Alvarez and John Peebles.

A NEW Section for Retired Club Members

The Best Years



Retirees on the Move Get Involved!

By Michelle Moreno, Club Events Guru

Thanksgiving Provides Ways to Volunteer

By Michelle Moreno, Club Events Guru

Hello retirees!

Once again, welcome to Retirees on the Move, your guide to some great volunteer opportunities that are just waiting for wonderful people like yourselves, to participate in. Once again, I'm Michelle, a.k.a. Events Guru. I hope you enjoyed last month's issue and found some great ways to help out your community. If not, but still would like to, or if you're eager to do more, let's find something perfect for you.

Since Thanksgiving is almost upon us, there are some great ways for you to help out those who are less fortunate, including creating a gift basket for a low-income family or helping to feed the homeless. I've listed three places looking for help, but I'm sure you can find more in your communities: schools, shelters, animal shelters, missions, churches, etc.

If you're looking for other great things to do, a great place to go is the Volunteer Center of Los Angeles. Here they have a Retired and Senior Volunteer Program that matches folks like yourself with the perfect volunteer opportunity. They have hundreds of opportunities available and are looking for eager people with a heart of gold.

If you are currently volunteering somewhere and would like to share your experience with your fellow retirees, please send me a letter or e-mail. I would very much enjoy posting stories of retirees who are helping out the community.

That's it for me for this month. Always keep an eye out for Retirees on the Move every month, and if you would like to list some events or opportunities, please send them in to retirees@cityemployeesclub.com or 350 S. Figueroa St. Suite 700, Los Angeles, 90071. You can also call me at (800) 464-0452. Thanks for reading and have a great Thanksgiving.

Some of the listed volunteer opportunities were found at:
www.idealists.org
www.volunteermatch.org
L.A. Works
(323) 224-6510
www.laworks.com

Volunteer Center of Los Angeles
Retired & Senior Volunteer
Program
(818) 908-5070
www.vcla.net

November

Please note that some events are ongoing and run through December. *Events subject to change.

Sponsor a Family for Thanksgiving

The St. Francis Center in Downtown Los Angeles is looking for Thanksgiving baskets to distribute to low-income families around the area throughout November. Some suggested items include: one large can of meat (ham, chicken, roast beef, or tuna), gravy mix, vegetable oil, canned yams, instant potato mix, cranberry sauce, package of biscuits/rolls, canned fruit/vegetables, cereal, jello/pudding mix, beans, fruit mix, and rice. Their goal is 500 baskets. Please contact Christine for further information.

Date(s): Through Nov. 23
Location: 1835 S. Hope St.,
Downtown Los Angeles
Contact: (213) 747-5347 or
www.stfranciscenterla.org

Thanksgiving Celebration for Homeless Youths

Covenant House California is a multi-service agency that provides a wide variety of services to runaway and homeless youth ages 18-21. Our annual Thanksgiving Celebration, usually held the Tuesday before Thanksgiving, spreads the holiday cheer to our residents, who often do not have family they can reach out to at this very special time. Volunteers are needed to help with: Food preparation, Set up, Food service, decorations, donation drives, and clean up

Date(s): Nov. 21 and 22
Event time: 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. (Nov. 21);
9 a.m. – 9 p.m. (Nov. 22)
Location: 1325 N. Western Blvd., Hollywood
Contact: (323) 461-3131 or
www.covenanthouse.org/about_loc_la.html

Twelfth Annual Thanksgiving Homeless Feeding in Playa del Rey

"One Incredible Family is a charitable service organization that produces and facilitates community service projects. This project benefits our homeless 'family members' in shelters throughout the County of Los Angeles. Volunteers will prepare more than 1,600 meals, create artistic and uplifting banners, assemble and package meals, deliver and serve meals at shelters, and clean-up facility." Volunteers must be at least eight years of age.

Date(s): Nov. 26
Event Time: 7:30 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Volunteer Time: Three hours
Location: Westchester Masonic Lodge
7726 West Manchester Ave.,
Playa del Rey
Contact: (310) 313-0123

December

Gift Wrapping for Holiday Gift Giveaway for Connections for Children

"Every year we host a Holiday Gift Program, distributing unused gifts to more than 1,000 children who otherwise might not receive a gift at holiday time. We need volunteers to help wrap and label all the wonderful gifts that are donated." (Website)

Date(s): Dec. 5-15
Event Time: 9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Location: 2701 Ocean Park Blvd., Suite 253,
Santa Monica
Contact: (310) 452-3325 or www.cfc-ca.org

Ongoing

*Events subject to change. Please call or visit Website to confirm.

Friends of Animals Foundation – Volunteer

"The Friends of Animals Foundation is a no-kill shelter that rescues abused, abandoned and needy dogs and cats and places them in good homes. We will be walking dogs, feeding cats, and socializing both dogs and cats." (L.A. Works Website)

Date(s): Daily
Event/Volunteer Time: Varies
Location: West Los Angeles
Contact: (310) 479-5089 or
www.foafla.petfinder.com

Los Angeles Zoo Volunteer

There are several volunteer opportunities available at the L.A. Zoo, from docents to office work to special events. If you like animals and kids, this event is for you.

Date(s): Daily
Event Time: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Volunteer Time: Varies
Location: 5333 Zoo Dr., Los Angeles
Contact: (323) 644-4703 or
www.lazoo.org/volunteering.html

Project Angel Food

"Project Angel Food's mission is to nourish the body and spirit of men, women and children affected by HIV/AIDS and other serious illnesses. The Project Angel Food Program delivers free nutritious meals prepared with love." Volunteer opportunities include: delivering meals, preparing meals at the Hollywood location, assisting in the office and participating in events.

Date(s): Mon. – Fri., Sun.
Event Time: 8 a.m. – noon, 1 - 4 p.m.
Volunteer Time: Two to four hours
Location: 7574 Sunset Blvd., West Hollywood
Contact: (323) 845-1816 or
www.angelfood.org

Tutor at the Remedial Reading Center

This organization is looking for volunteers to help tutor inner-city youths with math, reading or writing skills. Grades 1 - 7.

Date(s): Daily
Event Time: 3 – 7 p.m.
Volunteer Time: Varies
Location: 2239 W. Washington Blvd.,
Los Angeles
Contact: (323) 732-1350

Reading to Kids

If you like reading and like helping kids learn, then this opportunity is perfect for you. The Reading Club meets every Saturday and provides children with a great educational experience.

Date(s): Saturdays (call to confirm)
Event Time: 9 a.m. – noon
Volunteer Time: Three hours
Location: Elementary schools near
Downtown L.A.
Contact: (310) 479-7455 or
www.readingtokids.org

Feed the Soul While Helping Feed the Hungry at L.A.'s Food Bank

"We need to make care packages for women with infants, children and senior citizens. If you want to volunteer this is a great way to help out your community."

Date(s): Saturdays (call to confirm)
Event Time: 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Volunteer Time: Three hours
Location: L.A. Food Bank, 1734 East 41st St.,
Los Angeles
Contact: (323) 234-3030 or www.lafightshunger.org

PetSave: Animal Interaction – Rabbits

"PetSave and the spcaLA helped to rescue 400-plus neglected rabbits in 2002. PetSave's mission is to continue to care for these rabbits until all have been adopted into good homes. Volunteers are needed to help with the daily care of the rabbits, including assisting with feeding and cleaning cages, brushing and socializing the rabbits, and helping to clean and organize the shelter."

Date(s): Saturdays
Event Time: 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Volunteer Time: Two hours/week
Location: 522 West Ninth St., San Pedro
Contact: (310) 833-7333 or www.petsave.org

Mentor for the "I Have A Dream" Foundation

"Mentors provide a window to the world. They motivate and coach their mentees to create and achieve their dreams. Mentors are matched with individual dreamers and commit to at least a year of monthly in-person visits and weekly phone or mail contact. This is not a financial commitment, but rather an opportunity to expose a child to new cultural and educational experiences and opportunities outside their communities."

Date(s): Monthly
Event Time/Volunteer Time/Location: Varies
Contact: (213) 572-0175 or www.ihadla.org

Hospice Volunteer Opportunity

"Do you enjoy working with an energetic team in the office? This is an opportunity to enjoy being with an energetic team who are each working to serve each patient and family member we have during the end of life's journey." Several volunteer opportunities are available.

Date(s): Thru Dec. 20
Event Time: 9:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Volunteer Time: Four hours/month
Location: Odyssey Healthcare,
1900 W. Garvey Ave. #200,
West Covina
Contact: (626) 851-4005 or
www.odysseyhealth.com

Retired Teachers for Pawprints Literacy Plus Foundation

"Pawprints Literacy Plus Foundation helps fight illiteracy by using animal stories to involve kids -- and adults including seniors -- in reading and creative writing, plus listening and speaking exercises. We are looking for: ability to work effectively with youngsters grades 1-12 (any combination of grade level useful). Must be proficient in language arts, able to manage discipline without a heavy hand. Ability to talk with others in the L.A. community, to help in fund raising efforts -- training provided for both program and fundraising."

Date(s): Thru Dec. 31
Event Time: Varies
Volunteer Time: 10 hours per week
Location: Brentwood Village
Contact: (310) 471-5048 or
www.inaspawprints.com

Public Education Ambassadors for Multiple Sclerosis Association of America

"Public Educational Ambassadors use their communication skills to represent the Multiple Sclerosis Association of America and America's Charities at public speaking events. These events include workplace-giving campaigns, health fairs and regionally organized public education events. We are looking for people who have good public speaking skills and can convey our mission to people in a public setting."

Date(s): Through Dec. 20
Event Time: Varies
Volunteer Time: Three hours
Location: Varies
Contact: (800) 532-7667 or www.msaa.com

Angela Sets Sail

■ **Club Member Angela Birkenbach retires after 31 years. She was the first woman to be Chief Wharfinger at the Port.**

Story and photos by Arlene Herrero, Club Counselor

HARBOR — Angela Birkenbach retired from the Harbor Dept. after 31 years of City service. The party was held Sept. 1 at the Los Angeles Yacht Club in San Pedro.

Family and friend helped celebrate. Angie asked that all proceeds to her retirement be donated to the YWCA of the Harbor Area and South Bay.

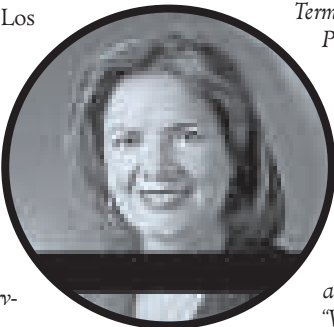
The Harbor Commission presented a resolution, which read:

"Whereas, Angela Birkenbach is retiring after 31 years of dedicated service to the City of Los Angeles; and

"Whereas, during her three-decade tenure at the Port of Los Angeles, Angie successfully implemented new technology that revolutionized cargo tracking in the harbor, aiding customers and workers, while boosting Wharfinger morale; and

"Whereas, Angie began her City career in 1974 as a Clerk Typist and advanced to the position of Wharfinger in 1980 before promoting to Chief Wharfinger in 1990, and seven years later assumed the responsibility of division director; and

"Whereas, she was the first female in Port of Los Angeles history to ever hold the position of Chief Wharfinger, and in 1990 was named 'Women's Equality Day Honoree' by the City of Los Angeles



Commission on the Status of Women for serving as an inspiring role model for women in public service; and "Whereas, she remains an active member of several maritime organizations, Angie was named 'Maritimer of the Year' by the Los Angeles-Long Beach Propeller Club and was awarded the Port's Management Forum Outstanding Service and Committee Appreciation Awards; and

"Whereas, she holds certificates in commerce, business, management and leadership from the California College of Commerce, Los Angeles Harbor College, University of Phoenix and University of California, Los Angeles, and completed the Marine Terminal Management Training Program at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, N.Y.; and

"Whereas, a San Pedro native, Angie belongs to a multi-generational family employed by the maritime industry and is a staunch supporter of the United States Navy; and

"Whereas, Angie balanced her busy Hail to the Chief! Port career with community service undertakings, volunteering her own time to support Harbor Area and South Bay youth programs organized by the YWCA and Banning High School:

"Now therefore be it resolved, that the Los Angeles Board of Harbor Commissioners extends its sincere appreciation and gratitude to Angela Birkenbach for her service to the City and Port of Los Angeles, and extends to her and her family its best wishes for health and happiness in the years to come."

Congratulations, Angela, for a great career. Enjoy your retirement!

The Club thanks Cathy Lozano, Rachel Campbell, Jennifer Mosher and Martin D. Chavez for their assistance.



Angela Birkenbach poses with the colleagues who helped organize her retirement reception.



From left: Josetta Spychaj, Lucille McArthur and Julia Tracey all went to high school with Angie.



The Allen family came to help celebrate their Aunt Angie's retirement.



From left: Christine Piechura, guest; Emma Gonzalez, Secretary, Club Member; and Julie Bond, Wharfinger Secretary, 19 years.



From left: Estelle and Bruce Seaton, Interim Executive Director, Club Member; Angela Birkenbach, Chief Wharfinger, Retiree, Club Member; and her husband, Adam Birkenbach, Retired Chief Harbor Engineer.



From left: Mary and Vicki Savage, good friends of Angie



From left: Juliet Garcia and Dominic Portillo, guests.



From left: Sara Portillo-Valencia, daughter, and Carlos Portillo, GSD Building and Construction Superintendent, Club Member



Bonnie and Mike Dino, guests.



From left: Ed Gorman, Retired, Club Member, and his wife, Orpha. Ed Gorman retired 17 years ago as Chief Wharfinger.



From left: Olga Roje, Retired, Port Pilots; and Linda Jimenez, Wharfinger, 30 years.



Angela and her husband of 23 years, Adam, met at the Port of Los Angeles.



Standing, from left: Angela Birkenbach, Retiree; Laurie Strong, Sr. Clerk Typist, 28 years; and Damien Young, former Student Worker. Seated: Margaret Hernandez, Director of Contracts and Purchasing, 24 years, Club Member; and Lajuan Kennedy, Wharfinger II, 23 years.



Margaret Hernandez, Director of Contracts & Purchasing, 24 years, Club Member.



Lonnie Tang, Director of Maritime Services, thanks Angie for a job well done.



Consuelo Rivera, mother of Angela Birkenbach.



Chuck and Cathy Lozano, Assistant Chief Wharfinger, Club Member.



From left: Arley Baker, Director of Public Affairs, 14 months; Guadalupe Diaz, Management Analyst, Club Member; and Jennifer Zivkovic, Office of Assembly Member Betty Kernet.



From left: Bruce Seaton, Interim Executive Director, Club Member; Ed Gorman, Retired Chief Wharfinger, Club Member; and Bill Stein, past Director of Administration. Bruce told Alive! that this was an important photo, since he was hired by Ed.



Back, from left: Angela Birkenbach, Club Member, Retiree; and Cathy Lozano, Assistant Chief Wharfinger, Club Member. Seated: Linda Vigil, Assistant Chief Wharfinger, Club Member; and Jeanette Argentin, Wharfinger.



From left: Dr. Don Hugh, dentist of Angie and Adam; Joane, spouse; Gat Lum, Retiree, Club Member; and Gerald Lum, Retired, who worked for Adam Birkenbach for 23 years.

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WORKING MATTERS

by JACKIE DAVID, Public Information Director, Public Safety Division, Personnel



Packaging Yourself Is First Key to That Job, Promotion

The holidays are coming and, like it or not, we will be faced with activities of the season: planning, partying, cooking, shopping and, yes, the tedious task of wrapping gift after gift after gift. We all do it because we recognize the importance of appearance. After all, it wouldn't be very nice to present a gift stuffed in a brown paper bag. (Can you imagine the response? "What is that, lunch?") You want your gift to stand out under that tree or wherever one places presents amongst many – especially when your gift is to someone truly special.

So it is with dressing for a job interview. You've topped the exam. You've done your homework. You are good at what you do. So, just like the present, you must wrap yourself in appropriate attire that says, "I shine and I'm the one you need to hire."

Here are a few suggestions to help you wrap yourself up for an interview:

- **Make sure people cannot smell you before they see you.** This is a rule that is often overlooked. If you must, then a slight dab of aftershave or cologne ought to do the trick. More often than not, though, a good shower and shampoo should suffice. Remember that the person interviewing you may be allergic to fragrances and (since I happen to be one of those people) I can assure you that you will not make a good impression. (I was stuck in a doctor's waiting room today when I smelled it before I saw it – overpowering and offensive. I thought I was going to faint. A lady, I mean woman, walked in smelling like she had doused herself with perfume. I got an instant headache and had to cover my nose the whole time. Okay, that may have been rude – but so is just pouring that stuff on and then subjecting the rest of us to it!)
- **Ladies – don't clown around.** Folks want to see your face, not what you've put on it. Leave the colors and the glitter in the make-up drawer. Opt instead for a natural look – light mascara, light blush, light to natural lipstick.
- **Get a good manicure.** Keep your nails clean and clear and at a reasonable length. (Ladies, even if red is your favorite color, don't wear it. Colored nail polish just does not work for an interview.)
- **Hair tops it off.** It is your crowning glory, so don't walk into an interview with a crooked or dull-looking crown! Simple, clean and away-from-your-face would be the general rule to follow. Leave the hair dye and spiking gel in the cabinet. Keep the bangs out of your eyes. A wild or scruffy or even sexy hair-in-your-face-look will not get you the job. A cutesy pigtail won't do it, either.
- **Gentlemen, watch the facial hair.** If you have an afternoon interview, make sure the five-o'clock shadow doesn't darken your

interview. If you wear a mustache or a beard, then keep it neatly trimmed.

- **Go with the demure look, ladies.** You are not going to a nightclub, so showing skin and/or wearing a revealing blouse or tight, short skirt is just "not okay." (Ask yourself: Will a female interview panel be impressed?)
- **Gentlemen, do go for the white or neutral-colored shirt.** Leave the shiny gold or silver shirt in the closet. Hide that large gold chain under your shirt. You are not going to a nightclub. (Ask yourself: Will a male interview panel be impressed?)
- **Invest in a good suit and make sure it is tailored to fit.** Stay away from trends. Stay away from tight (you'll be more comfortable). No baggy pants and jackets. No wild prints. Instead, keep the suit conservative. Keep it neutral. Dark colors work best: navy, gray or black.
- **Stay away from putting on anything distracting.** It will take away from what you are saying and who you are. Neckties that are alive and jump out at your interview panel tend to do this. So will large or dangling or noisy jewelry. Ladies, pearls or small diamond earrings will work just fine. Gentlemen, lose the earring(s).
- **Shoes. Shoes.** Shoes. Make sure they shine and match your outfit. Ladies, no sling-backs, platform or open shoes and to both genders: definitely no sneakers!
- **The red flag:** If you're not sure about whether or not to wear something (whether it be a shirt, tie, suit or jewelry) then consider it a red flag and don't wear it. Opt instead for something you don't need to worry about.
- **Give yourself time.** Arrive a few minutes early for your interview. Get a drink of water. Check yourself out in the mirror – from head to foot. Make sure you like what you see. If you do, then so will others. Your confidence will see to that.

Packaging your physical self may seem trivial, but when you stop to think about it, first impressions do count. How you look (and smell) when you walk into a room to face a panel of professionals ready and waiting to interview you can spell the difference between success and failure. If you want that job, or that promotion, then dress the part and, I can't say it enough: Keep it simple. Keep it comfortable. Keep it conservative. Keep it understated. Learn this and you've got the first key to a series of doors that can land you that job or much awaited promotion!

Jackie is happy to answer personnel questions from *Alive!* readers, or direct you to the correct source for answers. E-mail her: talkback@cityemployeesclub.com



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John's Picture Perfect Contest



For November, there are three winners.

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WIN \$25 TARGET Gift Card

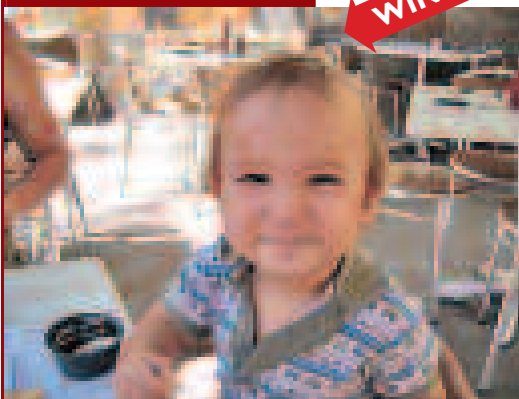
Three PRIZES



WINNER!

The Gardner kids at play in the snow: The photo was taken in the Barton Flat area of the San Bernardino Mountains during winter 2004. From left: Gillian Gardner (now 12, then 10); Alessandra Gardner (now 6, then 4); and Garrett Gardner (now 10, then 8). "This photo is a favorite of mine. It was a sparse snow day, and it took us a while to find anything decent. But the kids made the best of it."

-Renne Gardner, -Housing



WINNER!

Baby Alex Guder, 18 months, has his first taste of tarter sauce at the Karl Strauss Restaurant at Universal City Walk.

-Karl Guder, Gen. Services

We have winners ... and lots of great images!

Start snapping today, and send us your best results! Three winners will receive a gift certificate to Target.

NEXT DEADLINE: November 15
Read the rules below, and happy snapping!

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, 350 S. Figueroa St., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90071

- Digital photos optimally should be between 100K and 2 megabytes in size and may be e-mailed to: pictureperfect@cityemployeesclub.com
- The contest is all in good fun: The Club cannot be responsible for delays in delivering *Alive!*, or for delays in the transmission of responses.



WINNER!

"This was taken while on vacation in Yosemite at Glacier Point in the late afternoon. I call this picture 'Gateway to Heaven.'"

- David Casian, Housing

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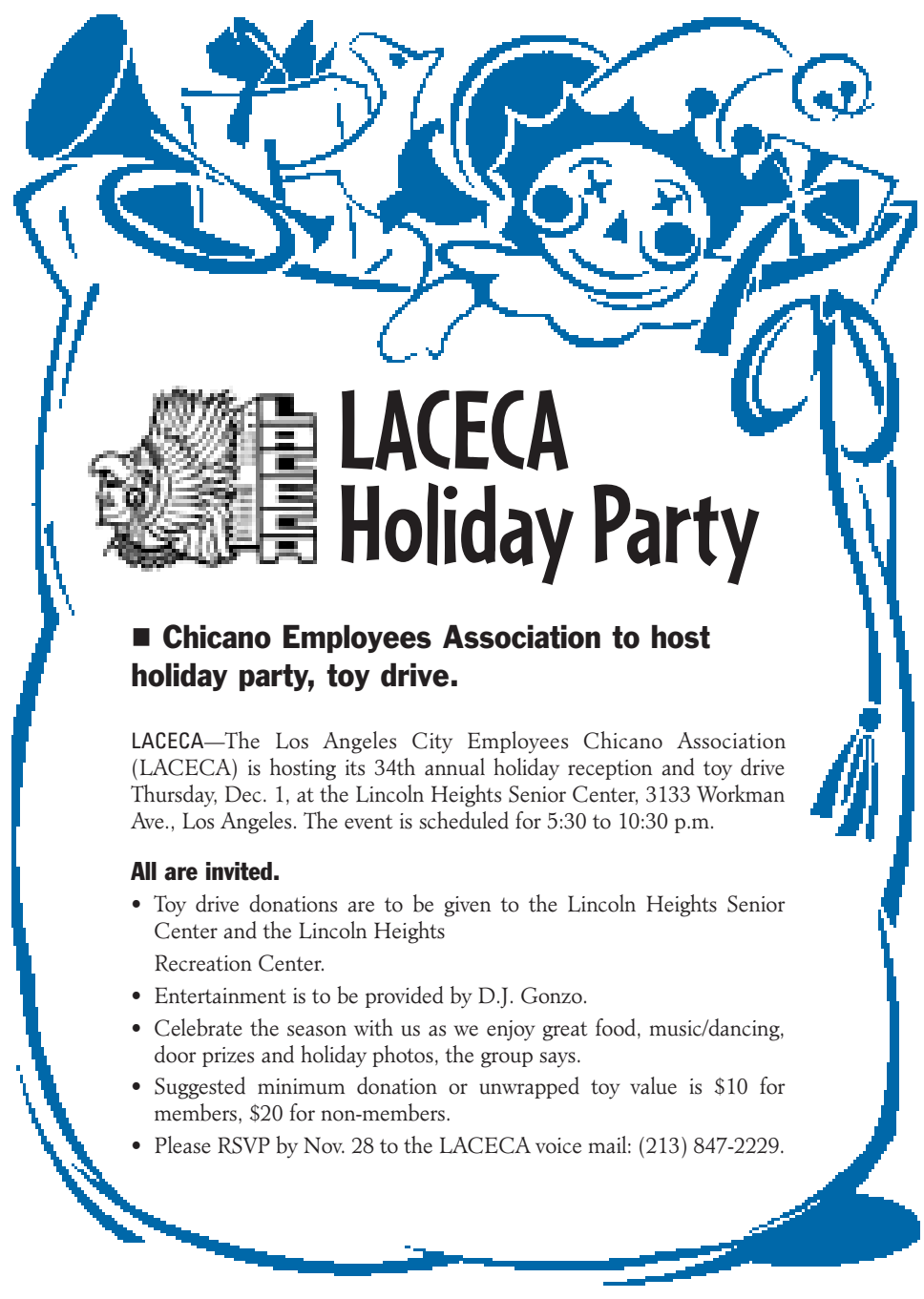
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LACECA Holiday Party

■ **Chicano Employees Association to host holiday party, toy drive.**

LACECA—The Los Angeles City Employees Chicano Association (LACECA) is hosting its 34th annual holiday reception and toy drive Thursday, Dec. 1, at the Lincoln Heights Senior Center, 3133 Workman Ave., Los Angeles. The event is scheduled for 5:30 to 10:30 p.m.

All are invited.

- Toy drive donations are to be given to the Lincoln Heights Senior Center and the Lincoln Heights Recreation Center.
- Entertainment is to be provided by D.J. Gonzo.
- Celebrate the season with us as we enjoy great food, music/dancing, door prizes and holiday photos, the group says.
- Suggested minimum donation or unwrapped toy value is \$10 for members, \$20 for non-members.
- Please RSVP by Nov. 28 to the LACECA voice mail: (213) 847-2229.



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Where in LA?

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 We wish you could all win!

For November, we're offering a great prize: a \$50 gift certificate for Shell Service Stations. All you have to do is send in a correct and substantial answer (in your own words) to talkback@cityemployeesclub.com, and you could win!

What is this? Where is this?



The Club member who gives us the most complete, detailed description of the object related to the City of Los Angeles wins the great prize!


- This month's deadline: November 12. See complete list of rules.
- Thanks for playing, and good luck!

Send your response along with your Club card number by e-mail (whereinla@cityemployeesclub.com), by fax (213-620-0398) or by surface mail (350 S. Figueroa, Suite 700, Los Angeles 90071).

The winner of last month's contest is:

Larry Randolph, Gen. Services

Here is his response: In front of Fire Station 88 in Sherman Oaks, this is a monument to the World Trade Center that was attacked Sept. 11, 2001. This is a piece of the structure that was given to our City for the efforts that our firefighters did in helping out New York City in our most tragic event in history. Along with this piece of the World Trade Center is a piece of the Pentagon that lies next to it but is not shown in the picture.



Honorable mention goes to Ken Moody, IIA.

Thanks Larry!

Contest Rules:

1. Winning contestants must be Club members in good standing. Everyone is welcome to submit responses, however. (Responses without Club membership numbers will be accepted but not eligible for the winning prize.)
2. Responses can be delivered by mail, fax, e-mail or in person (phone responses will not be accepted). E-mail address: whereinla@cityemployeesclub.com
3. Winning responses will be determined by official Club personnel. All decisions will be final.
4. 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.

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L.A. City Employees

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A new Consumer Awareness Hotline describes three new home loan programs that enable Los Angeles City Employees to purchase \$350,000 to \$1,000,000 Old Spanish to Contemporary style homes in L.A. County without a down payment. For more information, call this 24-hour hotline for a FREE recorded message:

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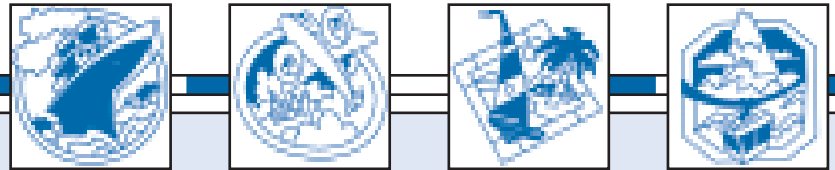
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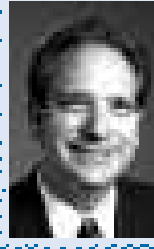
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OFFICIAL CLUB PARTNER



Travel Talk

by Tony Adler, President,
Cruise and Resort, Inc.
Club Travel Partner



Tony Adler

Planning Your Winter Ski Trip

I must confess, I have always been much more of a "sunshine and beach" kind of a guy. The swaying palms in Hawaii and the reggae music in the Caribbean have always seemed more inviting than colder destinations. But, as many of you know, having children can strongly influence the vacation decision-making process.

My kids (ages 8 and 10) have seen the snow only two times in their lives, and those were day trips to Big Bear. They have asked about trying a longer cold weather vacation, but it had never really appealed to me before. Learning to ski sounds like fun, but I need much more than that for a good vacation.

Then at the Virtuoso convention last August, I was fortunate to have met with representatives from the Fairmont Chateau Whistler and the Four Seasons Whistler, two top hotels at this famous ski resort in Canada. They presented a picture that was much more enticing than I had ever imagined. Not only is there an excellent ski school and plenty of places to rent ski equipment, but there is an abundance of other possible activities to choose from. Beautiful, with no boredom factor! And it is easy to get to from Los Angeles. Nonstop three-hour flights to Vancouver are available, and Whistler is just 90 minutes from downtown Vancouver. So, I did my research and planned a five-night Thanksgiving vacation for my family.

After landing, we will pick up our four-wheel-drive SUV rental and make our way to the Four Seasons in the heart of Vancouver. The waterfront hotels are not a good choice right now due to excessive construction noise related to the 2010 Olympics projects. The Four Seasons location allows for easy navigation of Vancouver by foot, even if we should encounter less than perfect weather conditions. We will have a somewhat relaxing first day in Vancouver by doing our own walking tour, a little shopping, and dinner at one of the city's fine restaurants.

On day two, we will visit Stanley Park, a suspension bridge, possibly swim in an indoor pool at the hotel, and then take our scenic 1.5-hour drive to Whistler. The first of our spectacular hotels will be the Fairmont Chateau Whistler. There is much more to Whistler than world-class skiing. The Fairmont is home to The Wildflower restaurant, known as one of Canada's top dining spots. It is also home to the Vida Wellness Spa. The hotel looks like a classic European chateau, and it has a reputation for being one of the country's premier resorts. The ski in/ski out facilities and free ski storage in the lobby make it possible to ski for part of the day, and easily choose other activities for the balance of the day.

We booked a Gold junior suite, which offers some additional amenities like in-room fireplaces and a private lounge with complimentary continental breakfast, post-ski appetizers and an honor bar.

A few days later, we will move a short distance away to the Four Seasons Whistler, a smaller deluxe property with a terrific golf course to enjoy during the spring and summer months. For now, it is geared toward winter activities. It is also an excellent family property. They go out of their way to make the younger guests feel welcome. They provide the kids with their own child-size bathrobes, and they will



childproof the rooms for families with very young children. They have their own ski concierge, who arranges everything related to the slopes. Again, fine dining and spa treatments are readily available, but our busy schedule may not allow enough time to do everything.

During our stay in Whistler, we plan on taking our beginning ski classes in the mornings, followed by fabulous lunches and dinners. There are even several restaurants serving one of my favorites, cheese fondue. Afternoons will include a series of adventures including dog sledding, snowmobiling, ice-skating and possible Ziptrekking between the trees in the forest. Sometime during the trip, we are committed to try at least one spa treatment. One special evening will start with dining on top of the mountain, and end with a horse-drawn sleigh ride, complete with bonfires, smores and sing-alongs!

So now I am really excited about this trip! We are not ready to give up on our tropical holidays just yet, but it was about time our horizons were expanded. I am out of my rut and will let you know in a few months how our family enjoyed this vacation.

My company is Cruise and Resort. We are honored to be the Club's travel partner. Cruise and Resort can help you with all sorts of vacations, including winter adventures. Please give us a call at (888) 652-6400 with any questions and for reservations. We appreciate all your business, including leisure, business and meeting planning! Not only can we book your member reservations at any hotel, resort or cruise line, we can often save you money and offer you additional Club benefits. Your Club membership means you never pay extra for this service.

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Julie, David or Kristy – to talk about any travel destination. Be sure to mention that you are a Club member for your maximum discounts. We value your business and look forward to the opportunity to assist you.



Classic Movies: A Part of Thanksgiving

■ Talking Turkey: A Charlie Brown Squabble

By Ticket Guy (Navin Cotton) and Events Guru (Michelle Moreno)

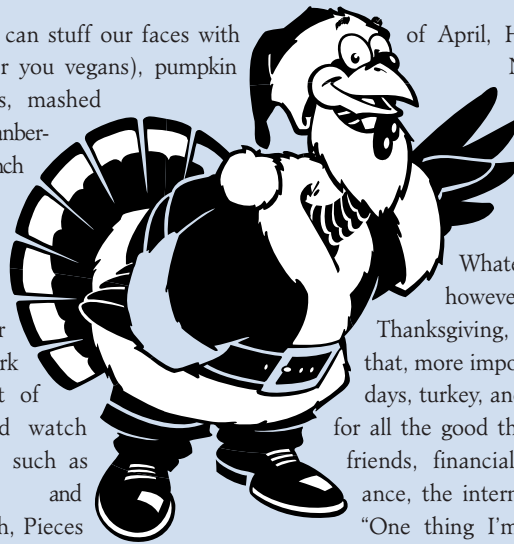
"Happy Thanksgiving, Charlie Brown," and Happy Thanksgiving, Club Members.

Once again this is TG and EG bringing out the popcorn and renting movies of the past. As we sit here, we think about Thanksgiving and why it's so special for us.

First and foremost, it's two days off of work (who can't appreciate that?), and secondly, it's

the time where we can stuff our faces with turkey (tofurkey for you vegans), pumpkin pie, sweet potatoes, mashed potatoes, stuffing, cranberry sauce, etc. (Is it lunch time yet?)

So yes, Thanksgiving is a special time where you and your loved ones can park yourselves in front of the television and watch great some movies such as Planes, Trains and Automobiles, Dutch, Pieces



of April, Home for the Holidays, National Lampoon's Holiday Reunion, Bugs Bunny's Thanksgiving Diet and many other great classics.

Whatever movie you chose or however you want to spend your Thanksgiving, we must acknowledge that, more important than extra vacation days, turkey, and movies is giving thanks for all the good things in your life: family, friends, financial security, health insurance, the internet, caller ID and more. "One thing I'm thankful for - this is

Ticket Guy - is that after 25 years, I no longer have to sit at the kid's table. Now that's a great Thanksgiving!"

This is TG and EG saying: "Was that seat hot or what? I feel like a Whopper. Turn me over, I'm done and ready." Happy Thanksgiving!



Join in the Fun

Ticket Guy and Events Guru want you to join in the fun. If you do, you could win a prize! Here are the details:

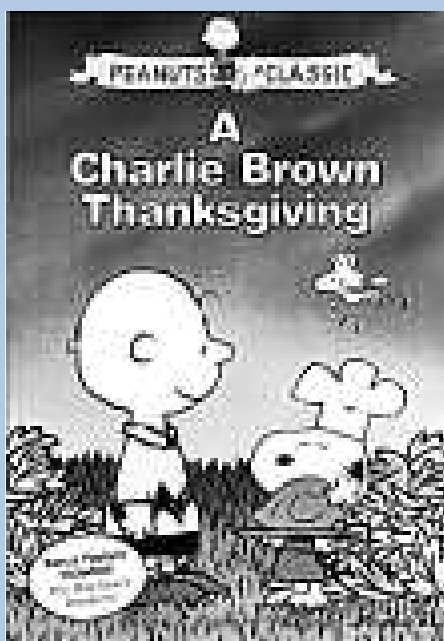
1. Submit a review (100 words or less, with a rating between 1 and 5) of a fun movie (either because it's really great or really bad). Make sure it's on next month's theme. Be creative! If we print your review, we'll send you a \$10 Blockbuster gift certificate. Send reviews to popcorn@cityemployeesclub.com
2. Answer the trivia questions. The first five Club members to answer correctly will win a \$10 Blockbuster gift certificate. Send your responses to popcorn@cityemployeesclub.com
3. Anyone can respond, but only Club Members with a valid Club membership number are eligible to win.
4. The feature is all in good fun: The Club is not responsible for delays in delivering *Alive!* or in the transmission of replies.



Rating System

- Must See/Must Buy
- Rent
- Watch on cable
- Wait for it on Network TV
- Break out the home videos and make your own movies) please e-mail it to popcorn@cityemployeesclub.com

Movie of the Month



A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving

Description: The Peanuts gang gets together to learn about and celebrate Thanksgiving. Rated G

EG: I used to love Charlie Brown as a child - I had the entire Peanuts gang collection. Watching this movie brought back those memories. It's a great, small cartoon classic that teaches a great lesson to kids without the violence of current cartoons. I may not buy it, but I'll definitely catch it on TV. I give it a 3.5

TG: EG, are you crazy? It's a definite 2. I would have enjoyed it if it were longer than seven minutes. Why is Peppermint Patty's voice done by a man? I give it a 1.867.

Capsule reviews of other movies to watch this month:



Yours, Mine and Ours

My Score: ●●●●●

When I think of Thanksgiving, I think of family. One of my all-time favorite family movies is Yours, Mine and Ours. Lucille Ball and Henry Fonda are the stars, and their characters both have too many children. They end up meeting, falling in love and getting married. The children are not too happy about this and the fun really begins. A remake of this movie is coming out soon starring Rene Russo and Dennis Quaid. I can't wait to see it!

- Gail Seltzer, DWP

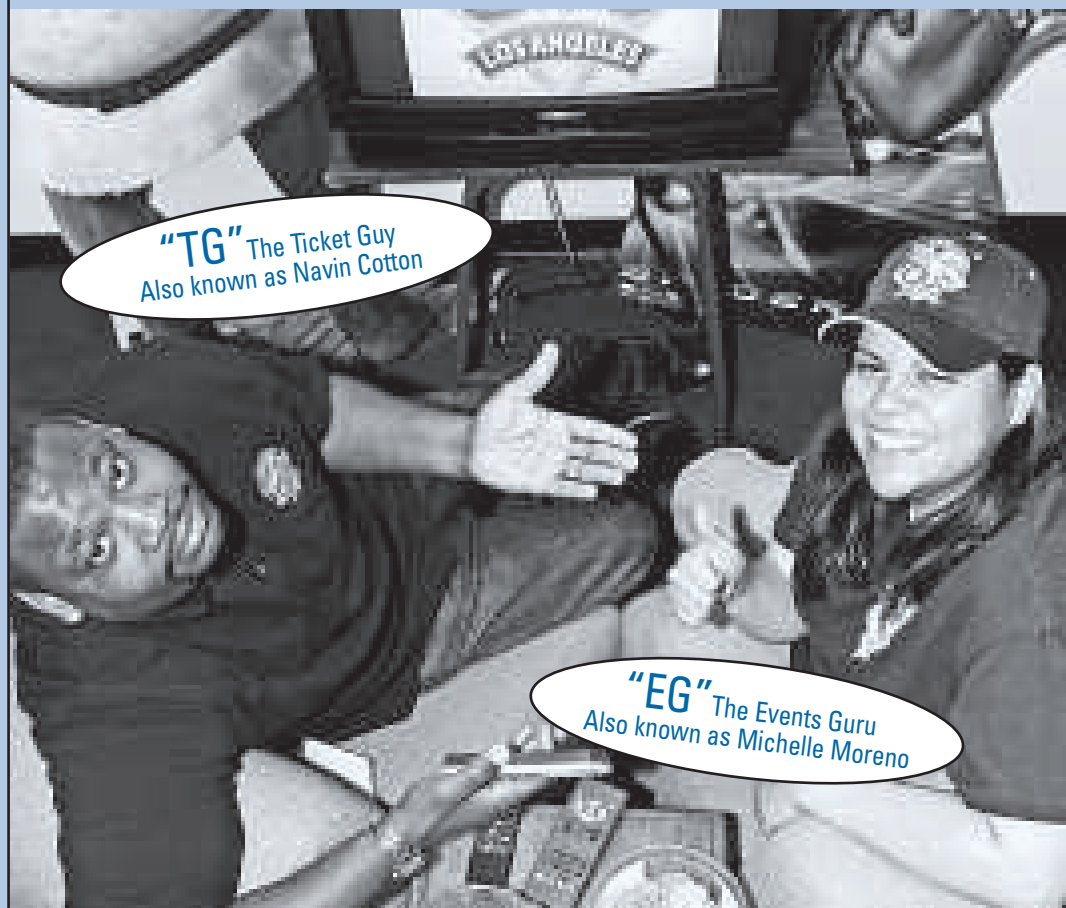


Planes, Trains and Automobiles

My Score: ●●●●●1/2

In this John Hughes movie, Steve Martin and John Candy play two very different business travelers trying to get to Chicago for Thanksgiving. Their plane gets diverted, and they are grounded with no way to get home on time. The movie follows them through a series of hilarious misadventures involving just about every type of transportation ... cars, semi-trucks, buses and trains. Steve Martin and John Candy are perfect in their roles. This movie is touching and heartwarming, yet it is also very funny. It is a truly great Thanksgiving film that everyone in the family will enjoy. We watch it at our house every Thanksgiving!

- Debbie Winger, DWP



"TG" The Ticket Guy Also known as Navin Cotton

"EG" The Events Guru Also known as Michelle Moreno

100 Words or Less!

IN THEATERS

Movie Reviews by Fellow Club Members



TRIVIA CONTEST

Congratulations to three Club Members who answered our trivia questions correctly: **Maria A. Gambino-Gudino, Angel Frias, Animal Services, and Kecia Brooks, Port of LA.** They win a gift certificate for answering last month's questions correctly. The correct answers are at the bottom of the page.

Trivia for November:

1. Who created Charlie Brown?
2. Who does Peppermint Patty's voice in *A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving*?
3. Name Club CEO John Hawkins' favorite Peanuts gang character. (jhawkins@cityemployeesclub.com)
4. What amusement park features Camp Snoopy?
5. What film was quoted in the end of our intro paragraph?

See "JOIN THE FUN" for details on submitting your answers.

Trivia Answers from October:

1. 10
2. Jamie Lee Curtis
3. Hannibal Lecter
4. The Lost Boys
5. Seven

With Six You Get Eggroll
My Score: ●●●●●

Another one of my all-time favorite family films is *With Six You Get Eggroll* starring Doris Day and Brian Keith. It is a lot like *Yours, Mine and Ours*, except with a lot less children! But not fewer laughs and fun. This is another great old family comedy I love to watch again and again. I also rate this movie 5 out of 5 popcorn kernels.

— Gail Seltzer, DWP

Pieces of April
My Score: ●●●●●1/2

This is one of the best Thanksgiving movies ever! Katie Holmes plays April, the black sheep of her family, who invites her very dysfunctional family over for a traditional Thanksgiving dinner. April is no Martha Stewart but pulls off the dinner after just about anything that could go wrong, does. I was pleasantly surprised at how much I enjoyed this film. A great cast includes Oliver Platt, Patricia Clarkson and Sean Hayes, just to name a few of the actors. Rent this one this Thanksgiving ... you won't be sorry!

— Debbie Winger, DWP

Next Month's Theme:

We have chosen Christmas for December's Theme of the Month. Please submit your review (100 words or less) to popcorn@cityemployeesclub.com. If we publish it, we'll send you a \$10 certificate to Blockbuster!



Just Like Heaven, My Score: 5 (out of 5)

Rated PG-13, Adults and adolescents



I loved it, loved it, loved it. Did I mention I loved this movie? What a sweet, charming romantic comedy/drama. Reese Witherspoon and Mark Ruffalo have a nice chemistry and make an adorable couple. The story was new, which was refreshing. I laughed. I cried. I thoroughly enjoyed this movie. It's a great date movie/chick flick. I cannot imagine anyone not liking or loving this movie. This is one I definitely will see again.

— Gail Seltzer, DWP

Flightplan, My Score: 5 (out of 5)

Rated PG-13, Adults and adolescents

Jodie Foster gives an Academy-award-level performance in this movie. But who would expect anything less from this amazing actress? The drama and story were excellent. I was glued to my seat wondering who took her daughter and why or is there really even a daughter. The movie also surprised me, which I loved. I thoroughly recommend this movie for teens and up.

— Gail Seltzer, DWP

The Constant Gardner, My Score: 2.5 (out of 5)

Rated R, Adults

This movie was supposed to be a thriller, but it was more of a mystery. The first hour was very difficult to follow, and I almost walked out. The movie was about a man (Ralph Fiennes) who works for the British government in Africa. His wife (Rachel Weisz) was investigating Africans being poisoned by a large chemical company. The chemical company would stop at nothing to protect its interest. The movie was hard to follow because it jumped around. I would wait for it to come out on DVD.

— Stephanie Lazarus, LAPD

Lord of War, My Score: 2.5 (out of 5)

Rated R, Adults

This movie was about an arms dealer (Nicolas Cage). Cage sells guns all over the world to anyone who will buy them. This movie was very violent with people being shot with the guns Cage sold. The movie tried to portray the morality of what Cage was doing. It almost seemed like a propaganda movie against guns. There was a lot of drug usage and of course violence. I definitely would not take anyone under 18 years old to see this movie, and unless you're really into guns you can probably skip this movie altogether.

— Stephanie Lazarus, LAPD

In Her Shoes, My Score: 4.5 (out of 5)

Rated PG-13, Adults and adolescents



I really enjoyed this movie from start to finish. Cameron Diaz plays a disgusting, crazy, funny, pathetic, sad and sexy woman. It is a little hard to like her, but even harder not to. The bond that these two sisters share was amazing to me. Toni Collette, who I love from *Connie and Carla*, was excellent in her role. You really felt for her and rooted for her. And it was great to see Shirley MacLaine; as a main character, she was of course superb. I think adults, especially female adults, will really enjoy this movie.

— Gail Seltzer, DWP

In Her Shoes, My Score: 4.5 (out of 5)

I loved this movie! Cameron Diaz and Toni Collette are both excellent as two totally different sisters who can't live with each other, and they can't live without each other. Cameron Diaz's role as the wild-child with learning disabilities is probably her best role to date. Toni Collette is perfect as the more sensible sister who finally discovers herself. Shirley MacLaine is excellent as their loving grandmother who wasn't given the opportunity to be a part of the girls' lives when they were growing up. What a great cast! What a wonderful movie! Don't miss it.

— Debbie Winger, DWP

Elizabethtown, My Score: 4 (out of 5)

Rated PG-13, Adults and adolescents



Usually, the opportunity to see a Cameron Crowe film is all the incentive I need (*Almost Famous* is one of my all-time favorite movies), but add into the mix Orlando Bloom (drool, drool), Kirsten Dunst and a great story, and you have a winner! I especially loved the last part of the movie, when Drew (Orlando Bloom) takes a unique road trip, which takes him across the country with locations and music put together by Claire (Kirsten Dunst). This is a truly wonderful film that makes you want to live life to the fullest and take time to smell the roses! The music is great, too. I can't wait to buy the soundtrack.

— Debbie Winger, DWP

Book Reviews

Book Reviews by Fellow Club Members



100 Words or Less!

To all our movie (in theaters), book and theater reviews, here are the rules: Keep it short and fun!

- Keep all reviews to 100 words or less (but try to come close; try to write more than a sentence or two)
- 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).
(And not everything is a five!)
- Make sure to give us your name and City department (or retired)
- Have fun!

Derailed, My Score: 4 (out of 5)

James Siegel, Warner Books, 400 pages, Adults

"So, you married?" she asked me. "No."

This is a creepy tale, a twisted, sordid story of a dangerous type of betrayal. It should scare any man who thinks about having an affair. I liked it but at the same time I was shocked, surprised and riveted to the pages. Know that it is not for those with a queasy stomach. When a married man misses his train and takes a chance on a stranger who pays him attention, he is in for a ride, especially when it hits the fan after they've consummated their affair in a hotel he only thinks he has chosen ...

— Barbara Johnson, Personnel

Life of Pi, My Score: 5 (out of 5)

Yann Martel, Harcourt, 336 pages, Adults and adolescents

Wow! What a story, what an amazingly vivid imagination, with eloquent writing. This book transports you out of time and places you very gently into a 16-year-old boy's heart and soul. A fabulous read about zoos, religion and survival in a lifeboat after the cargo ship goes down.

— Barbara Johnson, Personnel

Little Children, My Score: 3 (out of 3)

Tom Perrotta, St. Martin's Press, 355 pages, Adults

I don't get the humor in this book. Not that it goes over my head, I just read it differently, I guess. It takes a man to make a hero out of a handsome, unemployed husband who is supposed to be studying to take the bar and watching their child, but has an affair instead. The main characters are an interesting subset of our population, with lots of weird plot action, but I didn't care for it.

— Barbara Johnson, Personnel

Plan of Attack

Dale Brown, Aton, 448 pages, Adults

My Score: 3 (out of 3)

Okay, so it is probably an excellent book with lots of facts, but it was so difficult to get through. If you are a fan of military weapons then you will be thrilled to read this book. The story is good, but it had too many weapon names and numbers for me. Otherwise a cool ride, literally, while you fly through the skies with some amazing machinery and weapons!

— Barbara Johnson, Personnel



Ed Ebrahiman

Light Shines on Ed

■ **Ed Ebrahiman named director of Street Lighting.**

PUBLIC WORKS — Ed Ebrahiman was named director of Public Works' Bureau of Street Lighting Sept. 21 by Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa.

Ebrahiman has been a member of the Bureau of Street Lighting since 1986 and has served as its interim director since December 2004.

"The Bureau of Street Lighting provides essential community services that impact everyone who lives in or visits this City, and Mr. Ebrahiman has demonstrated his ability to lead such a vital organization in an outstanding manner," Mayor Villaraigosa said when making the announcement. Ebrahiman's appointment becomes effective immediately.

As director, Ebrahiman is responsible for oversight and management of all polices, programs and activities of the Bureau of Street Lighting, including design and construction, maintenance and repair operations, street lighting maintenance assessment procedures and administration and control of all budgetary resources. The year's Bureau of Street Lighting budget is \$18.6 million.

Ebrahiman joined the Bureau of Street Lighting as an engineering associate in 1986, coming to that position from a private firm in Chicago, where he was employed as a structural engineer.

After entering Los Angeles City service, he advanced to division manager in 1992, to senior engineering manager in 1998 and assistant director in 2001 before assuming the position of interim director.

Ebrahiman received a Bachelor of science degree in civil engineering from Cal State Northridge, and was registered as a civil engineer in California in 1983. He is a member of the National Society of Professional Engineers, the Illuminating Engineering Society as well as a host of other professional organizations.

Public Works is responsible for construction, renovation and operation of public facilities and infrastructure ranging from curbside collection and graffiti removal to maintenance of sidewalks, bridges, sewers and streetlights, maintenance of wastewater treatment plants and design of public buildings.

SHHHH!

Listen to what other City employees are saying. See page 3 for the Letters to the Editor.

talkback@cityemployeesclub.com

OPPONENT	DATE	TICKETS AT PRICE
Cleveland	1/12/05	\$25
Miami	1/16/05	\$25
New Jersey	11/27/05	\$25
Philadelphia	1/6/06	\$25
Minnesota	3/15/06	\$25
Houston	4/2/06	\$25
Clippers	4/9/06	\$25

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CLIPPERS

OPPONENT	DATE	TICKETS AT PRICE
Cleveland	12/3/05	\$80 each
Miami	12/5/05	\$80 each
Lakers	1/7/06	\$80 each
Philly	3/17/06	\$80 each
Denver	1/28/06	\$70 each
New Jersey	1/25/06	\$60 each

Clipper Tickets All lower level seating! Seating is limited.

Cooking with the Club

by our own
Robert Larios



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.

Food Prep Critical for a Great Holiday

Thanksgiving Day is one of the most widely known and celebrated holidays in the United States. The day after is perhaps one of the most widely recognized days – for the medical community. Why? Hospital emergency rooms across the country get extremely busy treating people for food-borne illnesses from food consumed at Thanksgiving dinner and from leftovers. And I know that many of you who have read *Cooking with the Club* for the past three years realize that food-borne illness prevention, especially during the holiday season, is an obsession of mine.

Food-borne illness is caused when large amounts of bacteria grow on protein-based foods including chicken, turkey, etc. The risk of food-borne illness is a very real problem, and it happens when people do not pay special attention to the handling and preparation of foods. Those at the highest risk – the elderly, children and individuals with weakened immune systems, including pregnant women – should be mindful of the potential risks.

For your Thanksgiving dinner, thawing turkey completely before cooking is important and necessary to reduce the risk of getting sick. If a turkey is not properly thawed, the outside of the turkey will be done before the inside, and the inside will not be hot enough to destroy disease-causing bacteria. Allow the correct amount of time to properly thaw and cook a whole turkey. For example, a 20-pound turkey needs two to three days to thaw completely when thawed in

the refrigerator at a temperature of no more than 40 degrees F. A stuffed turkey needs 4.5 to 5.5 hours to cook completely. Here are several tips to reduce the risk of the most common food-borne illnesses.

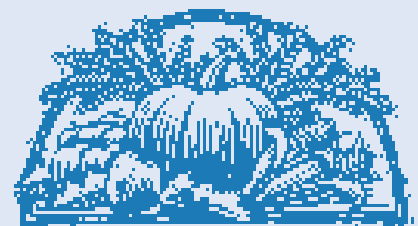
Clean: Wash hands and food-contact surfaces often. Bacteria can spread throughout the kitchen and get onto cutting boards, knives, sponges and counter tops.

Separate: Don't cross-contaminate or let bacteria spread from one food product to another. This is especially true for raw meat, poultry and seafood. Experts caution to keep these foods and their juices away from ready-to-eat foods.

Cook: Cook to proper temperatures. Foods are properly cooked when they are heated for a long-enough time and at a high-enough temperature to kill the harmful bacteria that cause food-borne illness.

Chill: Refrigerate promptly. Public health officials advise consumers to refrigerate foods quickly because cold temperatures keep most harmful bacteria from growing and multiplying. Refrigerators should be set at 40 degrees F and the freezer at 0 degrees F, and the accuracy of the settings should be checked occasionally with a thermometer.

Take these and other precautions so that your holiday season is spent joyfully and not miserably. Once again, I want to thank all of our *Alive!* readers for this month's recipes. These are fantastic dishes for your Thanksgiving feast. Try them! Happy Thanksgiving!



THANKSGIVING



Baby Creamed Onions — Betty Gunther, City Clerk

INGREDIENTS:

- 3 pounds small white onions, peeled
- 6 tablespoons butter
- 3 cups milk
- 6 tablespoons flour
- 1 teaspoon sea salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper



DIRECTIONS:

Cook onions in boiled salted water for 20 minutes or until tender; drain and return to saucepan. While onions cook, melt butter over low heat. Blend in flour, salt and pepper. Cook, stirring constantly, just until bubbly. Stir in milk, continue cooking and stirring until sauce thickens and boils one minute. Pour over drained onions; heat slowly just until bubbly.

Baked Apples

INGREDIENTS:

- 12 Delicious or baking apples
- 1/2 cup firmly packed brown sugar
- 3/4 cup margarine or butter
- 1 teaspoon nutmeg
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon



DIRECTIONS:

Heat oven to 375° F. Peel upper half of each apple. Core to within 1/2 inch of bottom. Place apples in ungreased baking dish. Add 1 scant tablespoon brown sugar, 1 teaspoon margarine. Pinch freshly grated nutmeg and pinch cinnamon to center of each apple. Sprinkle remaining spices over apples. Pour 1/4 inch water into baking dish. Bake 30-40 minutes, basting occasionally. To test for doneness, pierce with fork; they should be tender.

Oldie-But-Goodie Home-Style Gravy

— Henry Morgan, Retired Club Member

INGREDIENTS:

- Pan drippings from roast turkey
- 1/4-cup all-purpose flour
- Chicken broth or water



DIRECTIONS:

Transfer turkey to a serving platter. Strain pan drippings into a large measuring cup. Skim fat from drippings; reserve. Place 1/4 cup of the fat in a medium saucepan. Stir in flour. Add enough broth or water to drippings in the measuring cup to equal 2 cups.

Add all at once to flour mixture. Cook and stir over medium heat until thickened and bubbly. Cook and stir one minute more. Season with salt and pepper. Makes two cups (8 to 10 servings). Recipe may be doubled.

Gerald's Crock Pot-Perfect Potatoes

— Gerald Higgins, Gen. Services

INGREDIENTS:

- 1/4 pound bacon, diced
- 2 medium onions, thinly sliced
- 4 medium potatoes, thinly sliced
- 1/2 pound cheddar cheese, thinly sliced
- Salt and pepper
- Butter



DIRECTIONS:

Line a crock pot with aluminum foil, leaving enough to overlap potatoes when finished. Layer half each of the bacon, onions, potatoes and cheese in the crock pot. Season to taste and dot with butter. Repeat layers of bacon, onions, potatoes and cheese. Dot with butter. Overlap with remaining foil. Cover and cook on low setting for 10 to 12 hours.

Turkeylicious Nachos

— Tina Guetierrez, Rec and Parks

INGREDIENTS:

- 3 tablespoons lime juice
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 2 cups cooked turkey, coarsely chopped
- Salt, to taste
- Black pepper, to taste
- 1 10-ounce package large tortilla chips
- 16 fluid ounces refried beans (or regular)
- 2 cups shredded Monterey Jack or Cheddar cheese
- 2 cups salsa
- Sour cream



DIRECTIONS:

Heat oven to 425°F.

Whisk together lime juice, olive oil, cumin and garlic powder; toss with turkey in a small bowl and season with salt and pepper.

Make a layer of tortilla chips to cover the bottom of a large 12- to 14-inch round or oval baking dish. Evenly spoon refried beans over chips. Top with turkey and sprinkle

with 1 cup shredded cheese.

Make another layer of tortilla chips. Spoon half the salsa evenly over chips. Top with remaining cup of cheese.

Bake nachos 15-20 minutes or until heated through and cheese melts and begins to bubble.

Serve hot with remaining salsa, sour cream and cilantro, if desired.

MEMBER BULLETIN BOARD

Mark Pineda:

Elect. Craft Helper, DWP, will be participating in an **Evangelism Crusade** to Nigeria, Africa for 3 weeks in November. As part of Victory Outreach International, he will be evangelizing and reaching out in the worst neighborhoods of Lagos, where crime and drugs as well as gangs are notorious.

Interested sponsors can donate to:

M. Pineda c/o Victory Outreach
 8672 Sierra Vista Rd.
 Phelan, CA 92371
 (Memo: Africa Crusade)
 www.victoryoutreach.org

Dancers Wanted!

Like to dance? Consider joining the **DWP Dance Club**. And just in time for the annual holiday show Dec. 1! Men especially welcome. Call Lourdes Zerrudo, (213) 367-1405, or send an email to Lourdes.Zerrudo@ladwp.com

Hello City Employees,

I am enjoying my retirement. I have started a **Bed and Breakfast** in Klamath Falls, Ore., with my partner, Helen Hall. For the best view of the lake come and the most competitive price going, come stay with us when traveling through or visiting Klamath Falls. Would love to have you! —Jerry



Contact Jerry and Helen:

Jerry Klippness and Helen Hall
 2371 Lakeshore Dr.
 Klamath Falls, OR 97601
 (541) 850-2586

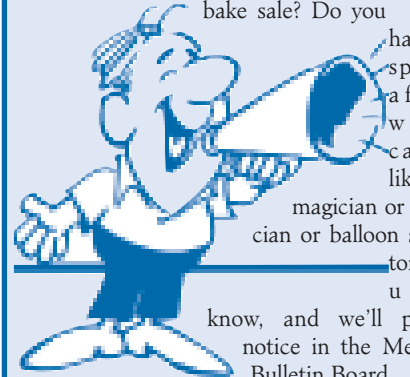


PLEASE READ

Introducing a new feature to *Alive!*:
 The Member Bulletin Board

Do you have a personal notice that you want to share with other Club Members? This is the place!

Are you raising money for a charity? Singing in a concert? Selling raffle tickets for a good (and legitimate) cause? Having a yard sale or bake sale? Do you



have a special after-work career like a magician or musician or balloon sculptor? Let us

know, and we'll put a notice in the Member Bulletin Board.

Remember, though, that if you're selling an item, please use our great (and effective) Classifieds. The Bulletin Board is for news about your doings.

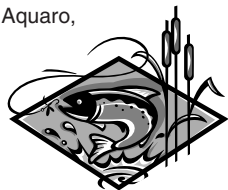
Send the notice to:
 bulletinboard@cityemployeesclub.com

CLUB CORNER Join These Groups

Alive! offers this space every month for Club members to invite other Club members to join their group. It could be work-related, or social, or all about your hobbies. Whatever it is, send us a notice at talkback@cityemployeesclub.com, and we'll post the notice free ... as a service to our members!

Fly Fishing Enthusiasts

A club is forming in the Santa Clarita area for fly fishing enthusiasts with all levels of skill. Call Theodore J. Aquaro, (661) 513-1595.



LA City Employee's Asian American Association



Douglas Shur, President

Established in 1971, the Los Angeles City Employees Asian American Association (LACEAAA) was formed to represent employees of Asian/Pacific Islander descent and assist in protecting them from discriminatory acts in their application to, and employment, with the City; and advance employment, education, economic, and social concerns of Asian/Pacific Islanders in City service; and resolve unique work-related problems of any Association member. Call (213) 847-2229 or write to LACEAAA, P.O. Box 86323, Los Angeles, CA 90086 or visit us at www.laceaaa.org.

Los Angeles Filipino Assoc. of City Employees

In 1980, the Los Angeles Filipino Association of City Employees (LAFACE) was organized to serve as an advocate to the fast-growing number of Filipinos in City service. Its primary goal is to promote the general advancement of Filipinos in the City. LAFACE works cooperatively with other minority groups in promoting equal employment opportunities in the City. LAFACE does not limit its function to assisting Filipinos in acquiring employment, promotion, and passing examinations in the City, but also to promoting the economic, educational, social, and cultural advancement of Filipinos in the community.

Association of City Employees with Disabilities

The Association of City Employees with Disabilities (ACED) is committed to the recruitment, employment, retention and promotion of persons with disabilities. Also, ACED counsels and represents employees faced with discrimination on the job. Call Joe O'Toole at (213) 847-9213.

Los Angeles Association of Black Personnel

The mission of the Los Angeles Association of Black Personnel (LAABP) is to motivate, encourage and educate individuals to realize their dreams and move forward in their career within City government. Contact Steve King at (213) 580-5387 or write to LAABP, P.O. Box 53822, Los Angeles, CA 90043-0822.

Los Angeles City Employees Chicano Association (LACECA)



Jackie Zarate, President

The Los Angeles City Employees Chicano Association (LACECA) was established in 1971 and was the first City recognized employee Affirmative Action Association. Membership is open to anyone interested in supporting the goals and objectives of

the organization. LACECA is dedicated to promoting equal employment opportunities in our workplace, City government and community. It sponsors and supports a variety of training events and seminars to assist employees in their career development. Meetings are usually held the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 5:30 p.m. in the second floor conference room of the Personnel Department Building, 700 E. Temple Street. Contact Carlos Portillo, (310) 547-4610, email portillo2339@sbcglobal.net or write to LACECA, P.O. Box 53590, Los Angeles, CA 90053.

Affirmative Action Association for Women

Established by the City Council as the official representative for female City employees, the Affirmative Action Association for Women (AAAW) has been representing women for more than 25 years. The AAW is an employee advocate organization that gives particular attention to the advancement of women and minority employees of the City of Los Angeles. Its members, both male and female, serve on association, department, and Citywide committees that focus attention on personnel policies and practices and support a continuing commitment to equal employment opportunities as a basic principle of the City's merit system. Call (213) 847-AAAW, write to AAW, P.O. Box 53488, Los Angeles, CA 90053, or visit the Website at www.la-aaaw.org.

Los Angeles Municipal Accountants and Auditors Assoc.

LAMAAA is a professional organization of municipal and local government accounting, fiscal and auditing practitioners with a membership of more than 300. The conference was a City-sponsored event. All those who participated were either City or DWP employees.

THE GROUP'S MISSION IS:

- To develop members and assist them acquire the necessary skills to promote themselves towards better positions and responsibilities.
- To promote and perpetuate the prestige and professional status of municipal accountants and auditors.
- To assist each other and develop professional camaraderie, team spirit and cooperation among its members.
- To develop and improve educational techniques in management, commercial, proprietary, governmental accounting and auditing.

IT ACCOMPLISHES ITS MISSION BY:

- Present experts as guest speakers at monthly meetings.
- Host trainings, seminars and other educational programs.
- Publish online newsletters and other informational materials.
- Provide opportunities for members to know and network with their colleagues in other agencies and departments.

BE A MEMBER:

LAMAAA membership is open to all current employees of the City who are either performing accounting, auditing or fiscal functions or have the required educational background or degree in accounting but are in a different job classification. Applicants must fill out a membership application form and submit it with a \$10 donation to the LAMAAA representative in his/her department

The British and Dominion Social Club



Michael Barnes, President

Anglophiles, unite! Join President Michael Barnes (who works for Harbor Dept.) in celebrating all things British, with fun social events and networking. "We do all kind of different things, from watching live soccer, playing cricket and teaching

Highland dancing, to name a few." The Club meets in Garden Grove. Go to www.britclub.org for more info.

DWP Dance Club

The DWP Dance Club is for anyone (men, too) who likes to dance. The club, in its sixth year, practices Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:30 – 12:15 p.m. during lunch hour. The annual show for employees is scheduled for Dec. 1 in the cafeteria. The following styles are taught: salsa, cha-cha, rumba, bolero, swing, samba, tango, swing and other ballroom dances. Free to all DWP employees and City employees. Contact Lourdes Zerrudo: (213) 367-1405, or Lourdes.Zerrudo@ladwp.com.

Public Works Toastmasters

The Public Works Pioneers Toastmasters Club meets each Wednesday at noon at 650 S. Spring St. in the 12th floor Giannini Room. Guests are always welcome. Joining the club is inexpensive, educational and fun. Toastmasters International is an internationally well-known, non-profit organization that helps its members to improve their communication skills, lose their fears of public speaking and learn skills that will help them succeed in their personal and professional goals. For more information, contact Ivan Gerson at (213) 847-8844.

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- Movies - all major screens (up to 70% off)
- Plays, musicals, the arts, sports events

Alive! Newspaper

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- Retirees Corner
- Department of the Month
- DWP news
- Opinion column
- Movie reviews
- Organized Club information
- Cooking Recipes

Group Rated Insurance Products

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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.

Need help? Find your Counselor

When contacting the Club, ask for the counselor that handles your department.



Beverly Haro
Member Services Counselor

Aging, Department of Community Development Department DWP Admin. DWP Financial Services Executive DWP Marketing and Customer Service DWP Water Services Employee Relations Board Environmental Affairs, Department of Fire Department Library Department Neighborhood Empowerment, Department of Pensions, Department of Fire & Police Personnel Department Transportation, Department of Street Services, Bureau of Zoo Department, Los Angeles



Arlene Herrero
Member Services Counselor

Building and Safety, Department of DWP Energy Services DWP Water Services (Aqueduct So. District) Engineering, Bureau of General Services, Department of Harbor Department Information Technology Agency Police Department Retirement System, City Employees' Sanitation, Bureau of



Liz Montes
Member Services Counselor

Accounting, Bureau of (Formerly) Animal Regulation, Department of Airports, Los Angeles World Chief Legislative Analyst, Office of the City Administrative Officer City Attorney City Clerk Coliseum, Los Angeles Memorial Community Redevelopment Agency Contract Administration, Bureau of Controller, Office of the Convention Center, Los Angeles Council District # 1-15 Cultural Affairs, Department of Department on Disability DWP Integrated Support Services El Pueblo De Los Angeles Finance, Office of Housing Department Management/Employee Services, Mayor, Office of the Planning, City Recreation and Parks, Department of Street Lighting, Bureau of



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Cecilia Talbot
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Alan Bound
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Summy Lam
IT Business Analyst



Sara Fama
I.T. Coordinator



Lupe Medina
Administrative Services Representative



Michelle Moreno
Administrative Assistant



Howard Pompel
Member Services Counselor



Angel Gomez
Member Services Manager

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

(800)464-0452