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May 13: Magic Mountain Private Party

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SEE PAGES 46-48

Alive!



Serving over 19,000 City and DWP Employees



Into the Deep

LAFD's dive/rescue team was the nation's first, and continues to lead the way.

SEE PAGE 6

Alive! photo by Angel Gomez.



City Employees Club of Los Angeles
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Los Angeles, CA 90012

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LAFD divers (from left) Chris Curtis, Al Serpa, John Torres and Gil Garcia.

Alive!

February 2011 • Volume 10 – No. 2

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Produced by John Hawkins

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See Back Page For Club Member Prices

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

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* A Message From the CEO *

Member Suggestions Make Great Stories

by John Hawkins
President and CEO, The Club

Thanks to all who congratulated us on our 100th issue of *Alive!* I am happy that so many great Club Members and friends wrote in to add their notes of congratulations, and who personally stopped me to tell me the same thing. My answer to them, and to you, is it's all about you, the City Employees. You make this possible.

So let's get back to the issue at hand – our 101st! One of the best things about doing the paper is the enthusiasm of our Club Members for it. This month's feature on the LAFD's dive/rescue team, is a perfect example. We had always wanted to spend a day with the Fire Dept.'s air operations, run by **Capt. Joe Foley**, and so that's what we did last fall. A few weeks later, I got a cool note from Firefighter/Paramedic Steve Meiche, who asked us to consider doing a story on the dive team down in San Pedro. Heck yeah, Steve; that's right up our alley!

We spent a long day or two with the great guys down at Fire Stations 112 and 49, talking with **Battalion Chief Ray Gomez** and the others (we're sorry we missed **Capt. Steve Tessier**, team leader, who couldn't be there when we were), and were given a great demonstration of the awesome abilities of the crew in the water and the fire-boats. Clearly the staff of the Harbor area fire stations is very proud of what they do. And they should be – the dive/rescue team was the first of its kind in the country, and they continue to provide top-notch service. So, thanks, Steve, for inviting us down!



Battalion Chief Ray Gomez and Club CEO John Hawkins.

In the last few weeks, we've had invitations to cover several other stories of the good things that City Employees do. We'll be getting to everyone as soon as we can. Whew!

Speaking of great City Employees and Club Members, I have to take a moment and wish a very big goodbye and thank you to **Yvonne Liu** in the Office of Finance. She's moving with her family to Chicago, and therefore leaving her City employment. For the last several years, Yvonne has provided *Alive!* with a ton of great material, from Valentine's Day stories to the happenings at the Office of Finance, to her local Toastmasters club, to reviews of movies and books. She has suggested other stories to us, and helped us in getting the materials we needed to do them. She's been important to *Alive!*, and, although we're sad to see her go, we wish her all the success in the world, and we say a very warm thank you.

Here at *Alive!*, we run a number of popular features every month. But I also like our yearly features, too, especially our tributes to Mother's and Father's Day... and our focus this month, Valentine's Day. We love providing this service; we know families are really important to our Club Members, and we're happy to provide a way for you to let your loved ones know how much they mean to you. Enjoy all the sweet nothings!

Meanwhile, lots of good things are happening here at the Club offices. We're getting a lot of great feedback on our Club Cruise, so I encourage you to take advantage of the great Club rates and cash credit benefit... we have other fun events coming up (check out the cover)... our Long-Term Care open enrollment is about to begin for DWP employees... and we can enjoy our sunshine, as the rest of the country gets buried in more winter. Things are good, aren't they!

JOHN

(jhawkins@cityemployeesclub.com)

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The newspaper of the City Employees Club of Los Angeles



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The LAFD's dive/rescue team, the nation's first, keeps the Harbor safe from water-based hazards.

14 Be My Valentine!

Warm up your smile and grab that hanky as *Alive!* proudly presents its annual Club Valentines.

20 The City Parties!

It's an annual tradition here at *Alive!* – covering the City's great holiday parties. Here's another great set of photos.

26 Black History Events

The City's association of African-American personnel plans a number of events this month in honor of Black History Month.

48 Club Cruise!

Announcing the Club's best event ever – a Mediterranean cruise. Act now for a special Club offer!



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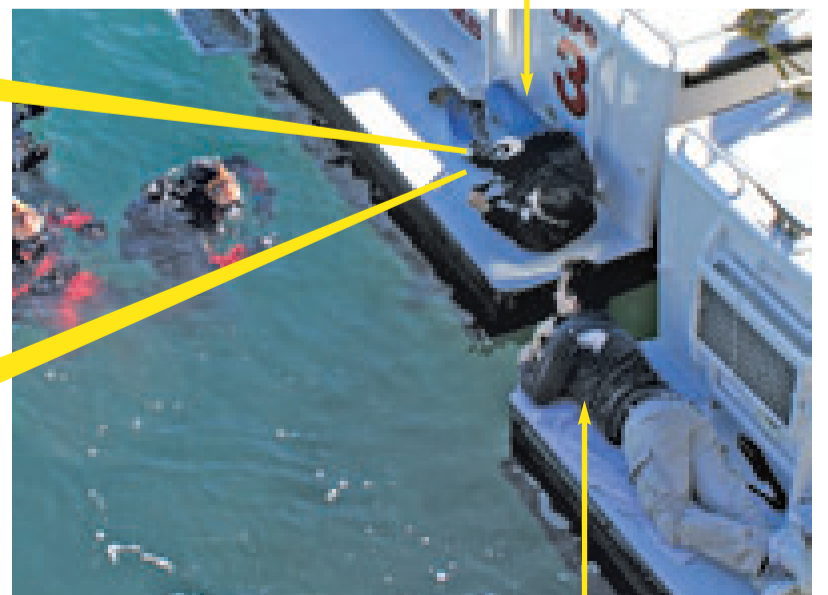
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Alive! Behind the Scenes

Alive! Cover Photo



Angel Gomez,
Director of Member
Services, The Club

Lying on the stern of LAFD Fire Boats 3 and 5, shooting this month's cover shot of the LAFD dive/rescue team, are (bottom) John Hawkins, Club CEO; and Angel Gomez, the Club's Director of Member Services.

John Hawkins, President & CEO, The Club





Cecilia Talbot,
Claims Manager

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

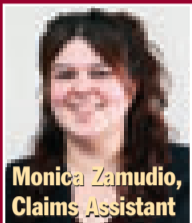
So, to assure you that you are in good hands, from time to time *Alive!* will reprint letters commending the service given by Cecilia and her excellent staff. — Ed.

Service From The Heart... When You Need It Most

Trust the Club's insurance and claims services when you need them the most.



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



Monica Zamudio,
Claims Assistant

Great Service, When You're in Need

The Club's claims service is "very good. The two times I needed to contact you, they were both pleasant and greatly appreciated. [The Fall of Freddie the Leaf, a book the Club sends upon the death of a loved one] was a very nice story, soothing and very reassuring. I plan to read it to my grandson."

— Jacqueline Prescod, May 2010

"Your service was commendable. In our time of extreme need, you were there to treat us with love and respect. I really appreciate all your efforts. The reason is quite clear: Although at times in our modern society people get treated as a number or a commodity, you all went out of your way to treat me and my mother like two individuals. Thank you again for your exemplary service and dedication."

— Orestes Martinez, May 2010

I rate the Club's claim service as "A-plus. I especially appreciate Monica. When I had to call her, she was helpful and understand-

ing. She did not make me feel that my questions were unnecessary. I will share [The Fall of Freddie the Leaf] with grandchildren and other family members."

— Josefina Arvizu, April 2010

The Club's claims service is "very good. I had no problem when I called for help. I gave [The Fall of Freddie the Leaf] to our granddaughter."

— Pamela Clardy, April 2010

Your Club Insurance Dollars at Work

Total claims paid to Club Members so far in 2010: \$4,203,834.19

Claims paid:

Life insurance claims paid this month: **\$366,124.74**

Life insurance claims paid this year: **\$2,224,881.00**

Long-term disability claims paid this month: **\$107,518.78**

Long-term disability claims paid this year: **\$1,461,339.00**

Long-term care claims paid this month: **\$27,045.00**

Long-term care claims paid this year: **\$382,614.00**

Cancer insurance claims paid this month: **\$80,000.00**

Cancer insurance claims paid this year: **\$136,000.00**

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- Comprehensive Long-Term Care Insurance
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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.



Member Services



Tiffany Sy
Member Services
Counselor, In-House



2008 President's Award Recipient
Angel Gomez
Director of
Member Services



Eboné Moses
Club Member
Services Counselor



2003 President's Award Recipient
Arlene Herrero
Club Products
Manager



Brent Urban
Club Member
Services Counselor

Accounting, Bureau of Animal Services
Building & Safety
Chief Legislative Analyst, Office of the City Administrative Officer
City Attorney
City Clerk
City Council
Community Redevelopment Agc.
Contract Administration, Bureau of Controller, Office of the Convention Center
Cultural Affairs
Disability, Department on
DWP-Administration
DWP-Energy Services
DWP-Financial Services Executive
DWP-Integrated Support Services
DWP-Marketing & Customer Svcs
DWP-Water Aqueduct District
DWP-Water Services
El Pueblo De Los Angeles
Emergency Preparedness
Finance
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Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum
Los Angeles World Airport
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Planning
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Administration
Aging
City Employees Retirement Sys.
Community Development Dept.
General Services
Employee Relations Board
Engineering, Bureau of
Environmental Affairs
Fire
Fire & Police Pensions
Information Technology Agency
Library
Neighborhood Empowerment
Personnel
Recreation & Parks
Sanitation, Bureau of
Status of Women
Street Services, Bureau of
Transportation
Zoo



John Hawkins
President & CEO



Brian G. Trent
Chief Financial
Officer



Robert Larios
Director of Operations
"Sports Dude"

Accounting



Leigh Thompson
Controller



Trinh Pham
Senior Accountant



Katie Hesseltine
Application Coordinator



Jennifer Schackelford
Application Coordinator

Claims



2004 President's Award Recipient
Cecilia Talbot
Claims Manager



Monica Zamudio
Claims Assistant



Noelle Kauffman
New Projects
Coordinator

Support

Information Technology



Michael Anderson
Information Technology
Manager



2007 President's Award Recipient
Alan Bound
Information Technology
Programmer



2005 President's Award Recipient
Summy Lam
Director of
Marketing

Club Store



Rachael Brecher
Club Store
Assistant Manager



Lupe Medina
Administrative Service
Representative



Megan Debolt
Club Store Services
Coordinator

(800) 464-0452

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

LETTERS To the Editor

Tell us what you think! talkback@cityemployeesclub.com

LETTERS OF THE MONTH

Be Alive! Feature Hikes Up Bob's Interest in the Outdoors



I look forward to Angel's hiking article each month in *Alive!* [Angel Gomez's Be Alive! feature - Ed.]

I discovered the trails at Arroyo Pescadero earlier this year. What a nice surprise!

I have two comments:

1. The view! On a clear day you can see Santa Catalina and the downtown Long Beach skyline.
2. The animal ironwork on the gate. Also, the ironwork on the gate at the trailhead for Hacienda Hills (Seventh Street and Orange Grove) is impressive.

Keep up the good work!
(P.S.: About bringing your kids on hikes: I "dragged" my kids on numerous hikes in the San Gabriel Mountains. This works until they become teenagers.)

- Bob Pearce, Club Member

Club Sees to It That Her Holiday Candy Was on Time

I ordered two See's certificates yesterday afternoon online. When I went to my P.O. box this afternoon, the certificates were there, waiting for me! Now, that's what I call s-e-r-v-i-c-e. You guys rock!

Thanks for being you!

- Elaine Belk, Club Member

Alive!'s 100th Issue Recalls Lots of Pix, But Who's Counting?

So, *Alive!* gets to 100 issues? That is amazing! There are only a few television shows that get to their 100th episode, and it's a challenge for anyone to stay alive for 100 years.

I can't imagine the number of photos there are in the 100 newspapers combined! Could it be 10,000? That's my guess. That's a lot of work. Great job to everyone involved.

- Roy Gamble, General Services

Hi Roy, you're welcome, from everyone here at the Club. We had a great time putting together the 100th issue, almost as much fun as we had creating all of them in the first place. As to your question of how many photos we've published, well, we could run another one of our fabulous Alive! contests to see who could come closest to the actual number, but ... that means we'd have to count all the photos to know for sure. So, on second thought, perhaps we'll just enjoy having printed them all. - Ed.

Excited for Club Cruise, Tom Won't Go Overboard With Words

Club Cruise? The Mediterranean? I'm there!

- Tom Kindle, Rec and Parks

Best Thing About 'City Parties' Stories Are All the Dept. Smiles

The newspapers with the holiday party pictures of City Employees are my favorite stories of the entire year. I smile when I see all those happy faces, and I am sure most employees that look over the photos also smile. It's healthy to feel good even during these economic times that place burdens on the lives of many.

Kudos to all the supervisors that took the time to coordinate the holiday parties for their employees. And to those that didn't, hopefully you will plan one so that we can see more happy faces.

- Nancy Gorman, LAFD

Chef Larios' Nachos Pan Out With Her Chips Off the Block

Super Duper Nachos! That is what I'm talking about, Chef Larios! I've been looking for a good nachos recipe for my Super Bowl party, and here it is. I even tested it out on my kids before I decided it was the one I was going to use for the Super Bowl. My kids loved it and have been wanting more ever since, so thank you Chef Larios!

By the way, when are you going to make a meatloaf? I've been looking to make one like my mom used to make. I want my kids remember home-cooked meals like I did as child.

- Regina Johnson, LAPD

Hi Regina, thanks for your note. Word has been sent to Chef Larios about your meatloaf request. - Ed.

QUESTION



of the Month



- Collected by Rachael Brecher, Club Store Assistant Manager

Rachael at the Club Store asks Club Members fun questions when they visit to purchase tickets or great Club apparel and gifts. So, stop by and join in the fun!

What is your favorite part of *Alive!*?



"The travel section."

- Theresa Miranda and Carmel Tobin, DWP, 9 years of City service.



"All the great information it gives."

- Michael Lewis, Public Works/Sanitation, 21 years of City service.



"Ticket specials and deals."

- Jeannine Bourbon, Animal Services, 6 years of City services.



"The people who are retiring section."

- Arturo Alonso, DWP, 27 years of City service.



"The discount tickets."

- Leon Wert, Transportation, 10 years of City service.



"Alive! Around the World."

- Angela Yeung, Public Works/Engineering, 10 years of City service.



"Seeing pictures of all my fellow employees, old and new friends."

- Christine Rose, LAPD, 24 years of City service.



"People We See."

- Godfrey Wilson, Harbor, 7 years of City service



"The classifieds."

- Julio Lopez, Rec and Parks, 6 years of City service.



"People We See."

- Katie and Jennifer, Club staff, 4 years of Club service.

The Club Store

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APPOINTMENT SCHEDULE

Representatives from Club partner, United Agencies will be at the Club Store:

Feb. 4	8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Feb. 18	8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
	Rosa Calderon		Rosa Calderon
Feb. 11	8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Feb. 25	8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
	Patty Pulido		Patty Pulido

Your United Agencies Reps: (888)801-5522



Rosa Calderon, Personal Insurance Agent



Patty Pulido, Personal Insurance Agent



Rose Rangel, Personal Insurance Agent



Suzanne Eggli, Personal Insurance Mgr

INTO THE DEEP

The Fire Dept.'s dive/rescue team is specially equipped and trained to extinguish under-wharf fires and make underwater and ship-bound rescues.

Photos by Angel Gomez, Club Member Services Director; Some information courtesy Mark Howell

Water has always been the best antidote to a raging fire. But a lot of water - in the form of a harbor or an ocean - could be too much of a good thing, and actually hinder firefighting. A big body of water places extra hazards into the process.

That was before 1960. Since then, the LAFD has had its own dive/rescue team, the first in the nation. The 18 frontline firefighter/divers place unique water-based duties at the ready, including rescue and fighting fires from below.



HISTORY

In the years following World War II, several major fires occurred in Los Angeles Harbor focusing attention that a well-involved wooden wharf fire was very difficult to extinguish. The Matson

dock fire of St. Patrick's Day, 1960, proved ultimately the genesis of the LAFD's dive/rescue team. The Matson fire caused more than \$3 million in damage.

After that fire, several firefighters who were members of the recreational Neptune Society, a group of recreational divers, were sent on a mission to recover equipment from the Matson activities. Asst. Fire Chief WW Johnston saw how effective the divers were, and put a plan into action that led to the formation of the dive/rescue team.

Incidents in 1963 and 1967, in which major wharf fires were averted due to the team's unique firefighting abilities, cemented the team's reputation and importance.

Diver Chris Curtis splashes for a dive operation while Diver Al Serpa watches.



DEEP

LAFD Dive/Rescue Team

THE *ALIVE!* INTERVIEW

Unique Capabilities

On Thursday, Jan. 13, Club CEO John Hawkins and *Alive!* editor John Burnes sat down for an interview with LAFD Battalion Chief Ray Gomez, who oversees the Fire Dept.'s dive/rescue team. The interview took place at Fire Station 49, which is on the water in Wilmington and houses Fire Boat 3.

BELOW: Club CEO John Hawkins interviews Battalion Chief Ray Gomez aboard LAFD Fire Boat 3.

Chief Gomez, thanks for demonstrating your team's abilities yesterday. You're battalion chief over what jurisdiction?

BATTALION CHIEF RAY GOMEZ: Basically over the Harbor area. Battalion 6 has 10 fire stations, and it encompasses the San Pedro/Wilmington area and the Harbor City area.

How would you describe your duties, relating to the dive team?

RAY: My official title is a battalion commander. I see myself as a glorified cheerleader, because the dive team members are the ones that do all the work. I just need to know how to use them best, and right now my goal is to provide them the best training, the best equipment, and get them out to practice. We recently had a diver test, so we're going to be able to bring on 12 brand new backup divers. And right now, we're facilitating their training.

Not only am I that glorified cheerleader/facilitator, but we procure the equipment and we procure funds for training. And in an incident – and that's where the serious part of our work is – in an incident, I am the incident commander. I should know how to best use that tool or that resource at an incident. That's basically what our job is. Unfortunately, they don't let us grab a hose and put a fire out anymore, as a battalion chief, and that's one of the laments that I have being battalion chief. We don't put the ladders up. But what is very important is when we get to a fire, we're going to use 10, 15, 20 companies – I've been at incidents where we've used 40-45 companies – we have to manage those resources appropriately. And 100 percent accountability of all our resources is a must. That's what our job is.

Are you a diver?

RAY: A casual diver. Casual. I'm actually certified by PADI.



Oh, are you really?

RAY: Yes. But just casual. My wife and I got certified a long time ago here in San Pedro by the same outfit that does some of our training here at Pacific Wilderness in San Pedro, and we dove in Catalina, Hawaii, Costa Rica. Mostly Catalina.

And you were divers before you came down here to be in charge of the dive team?

RAY: Yes. I think I got selected for this spot for a variety of reasons. They have a lot of different programs going on

down here – not only the dive team, but the shipboard firefighting. You need to control or manage the HAZMAT task force. You have to manage the Urban Search and Rescue task force. And then they said, "All right, Ray lives in San Pedro, so we'll put Ray there." Our lives as battalion chiefs are not our own. We don't follow the same protocol that all the other members follow as far as putting in for a spot and you get to stay there based on seniority. If the boss wants me here today, I'm here; if he wants me out in the Valley tomorrow, then I go out to the Valley. If he wants me back downtown, then I go back downtown. That's what you accept as a battalion chief.

– continued page 10

BELOW: LAFD Fire Boat 2 prepares for a wharf sweep.



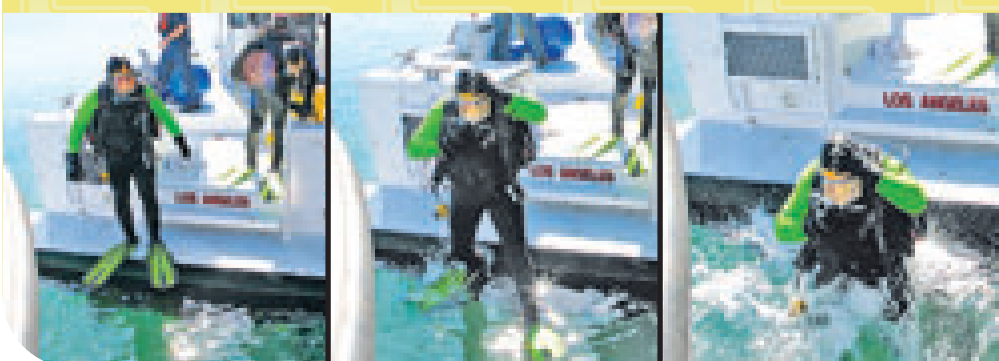
BELOW, FROM LEFT: Fire Boat 3 dive team Al Serpa and Chris Curtis; and Fire Boat 5 dive team John Torres and Gil Garcia.



1

Deployment of the team.

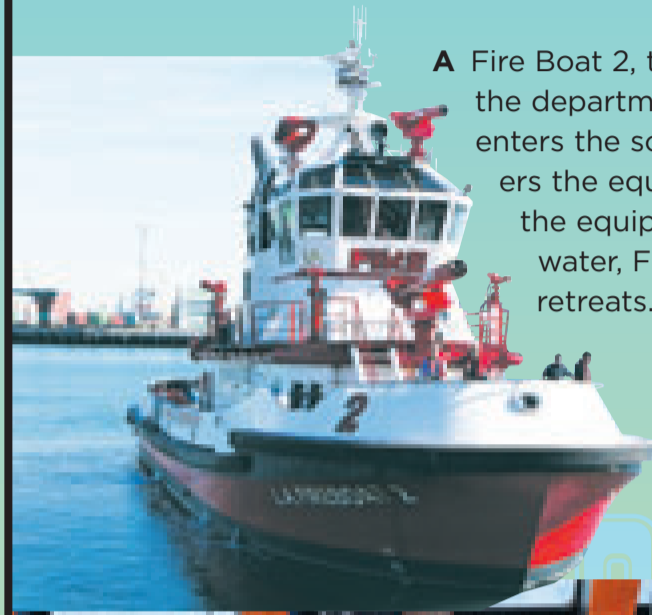
After a call is received, the divers put on their equipment and enter the water.



2

Equipment delivery.

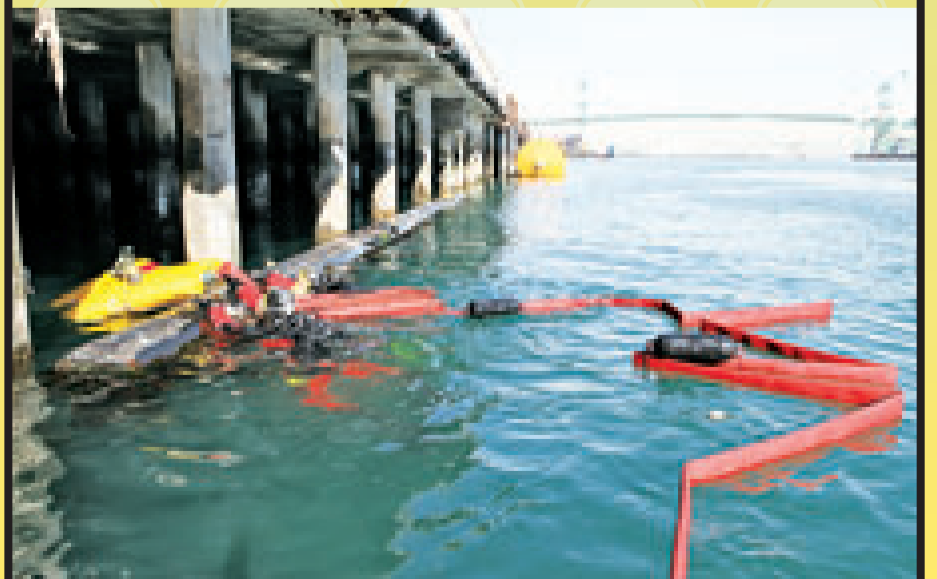
A Fire Boat 2, the largest of the department's fire boats, enters the scene and delivers the equipment. Once the equipment is in the water, Fire Boat 2 retreats.



B The divers retrieve the equipment.



C Using straps, the under-wharf hose floats are stabilized by attaching them to piers or other permanent structures.



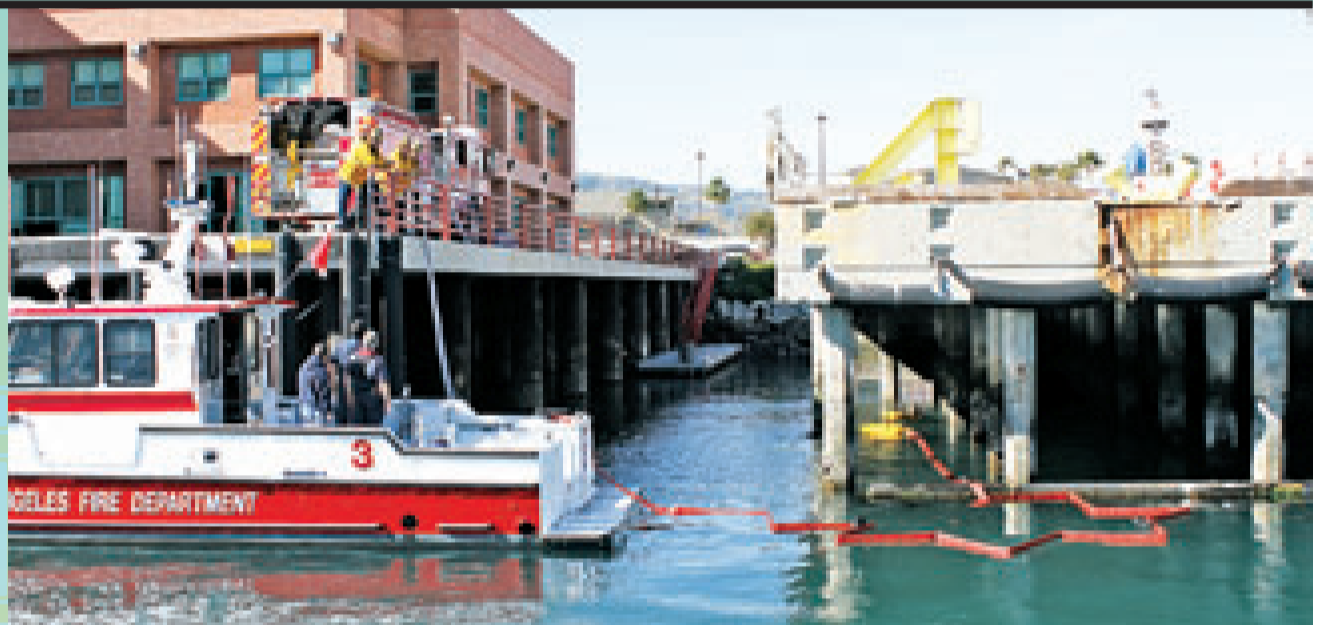
STEP-BY-STEP

UNDER-WHARF FIREFIGHTING

In the Water, to the Rescue

The LAFD dive/rescue team is uniquely trained and capable of these tasks – putting out under-wharf fires by blasting water from underneath; and water-based paramedic rescue.

A The hoses are attached to a water source; in this case, an engine company supplies the water. In this scenario, the land-based fire company plays an important role.



3

Turning on the water.

B The water source is turned on, and the nozzles begin drenching the underside of the wharf, creating a fire containment screen.



4

High-powered spraying.

Once the under-wharf fire has been contained, Fire Boat 2 turns on its high-powered nozzles to put out the fire. The nozzles can spray deep or wide, and can be manipulated up or down, and side to side. Each of the two nozzles can spray up to 500 gallons per minute.



BELOW: Club CEO John Hawkins and Battalion Chief Ray Gomez.



THE *ALIVE!* INTERVIEW

- continued from page 7

Are these new divers from Fire Stations in the Harbor area?

RAY: Not all of them. Generally, yes. The firefighters who want to be divers gravitate to this area. But we test throughout the whole City, and anyone can apply.

But they have to be firefighters first.

RAY: Yes. A requirement is spending four years as a firefighter and having some of the certifications, including being able to scuba dive, and once they pass the test – a written test, a practical test – then they come in our program, and we teach them the specifics of our standard operating procedures. Originally our dive program was for fighting under-wharf fires.

We had a lot of wooden wharves in the harbor. That's what the divers originally trained for. As you know, the Harbor Department is doing away with the wooden wharfs and giving us concrete wharfs. So we got direction from our supervisors to make our dive team more flexible, more diverse.

They do both underwater and surface rescue. Just recently, we had a gentleman jump off a dock. Unfortunately, we weren't able to rescue him in time. We think one of the car carrier [ships] nicked him enough to kill him, and then it became a body recovery.

So we do body and evidence recovery. The LAPD does bomb searches. I want our guys to be able to at least recognize that – not necessarily take a bomb apart but be able to recognize it so we can assist the LAPD and the Port Police with those operations.

We have three on-duty dive teams all the time. But we recognize that if we have any kind of an operation, even just a simple small craft crashing into each other out there, and we get people in the water, we're going to use all those teams. We're going to get Port Police to help us, we're going to get the LAPD to help us. We have mutual aid with Long Beach, and they will come over and help. And we want to do the same. That way, if we're all training the same, if we're all looking at the same thing, we can help each other. You

as a citizen will have not three dive teams, but in theory about 10 to 12 dive teams.

How many divers do you have?

RAY: We have three dive teams, and we do the buddy system. So those three dive teams are made up of two divers on each team.

What about other areas of the City?

RAY: Yesterday, two of our mates, who are also divers, went to Castaic Lake for training. We want to see what our operation would be like at Echo Park Lake, Machado Lake, Macarthur Lake. There could be a reason that our dive team gets called out there. What we have planned now is for a helicopter to pick up the dive team and everything the dive team needs and take them to that area.

So you're looking at the possibility of whether you can provide divers for other areas?

RAY: Yes, we are actively seeking to fulfill all of the requirements to meet FEMA Homeland Security requirements to become a FEMA Type I Dive Team that can be deployed all over the country for natural disasters or terrorist threats. We will be the only FEMA Type I team in the western United States and one of two on the West Coast, along with Seattle. It will take additional training and equipment and will be a component of our existing two FEMA Urban Search and Rescue Teams.

Tell us about your training.

RAY: Every single person in the department, including myself, goes through the same 20-week training academy course. And we're all EMTs. Some of us are paramedics. The position down here is firefighter-diver.

The LAFD dive/rescue team, aboard three of the LAFD's fire boats that are used for at-sea firefighting and rescues.

RESPONSIBILITIES

What responsibilities does the dive team have?

RAY: Basically the dive rescue team has the responsibility of assisting and putting out wharf fires, and they have victim rescue duties, on water or under water body and evidence recovery.

I'll give you an example. A Catalina cruise ship leaves the harbor sometimes eight, nine times a day in the height of their season. They carry 250 to 300 souls. If that ship was to go wayward and crash into the breakwater, I'd be positive that I'd have some victims in the water, some injured people. I need divers to go in there and get them. So our divers would take that task.

I have a rapid intervention company on land, but what do I do on the water part of it? So that's another use for our dive team – a rapid intervention company in the water can assist with multiple victims in the water.

What do you love about what they do?

RAY: What I love about what they do is what I love about our department – every day is different. Yesterday, not only did I have you guys at one of my stations, I had a school presentation. Later on I had two minor incidents. We had a lunch meeting with all the heads of the fireside for the refineries, and for the tank farms in this area. And that was my day, besides visiting the other fire stations for mail and discussion of current events. Every day is different.

AN IMPORTANT TOOL

How important is the dive team, with what they do?

RAY: Very important. It would be like you doing some kind of a project but you don't have that specific tool to do that project. If I don't have the dive team, then I'm limited to surface rescue.

We're 24/7. You can get other dive teams to dive in our Harbor, but you'll get them an hour and a half, two hours later. Now, if that's my family or me in the water, I don't want to wait that long.

That's because they're pulling them from all over the City.

RAY: Exactly. And that's the big difference. That's our selling point. But to answer your question, if I have an issue in the water, and my issue is in the water, I can't just say, "Hey, well, you guys are good swimmers. Go ahead and jump in and just deal with it in the surface." So, to answer your question, having a professional dive team is very important.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

Describe briefly what you see as the worst-case scenario down here. What would be the nightmare that you never want to have to experience?

RAY: The nightmare that we have had is passenger ship

- continued page 11



INTO THE DEEP

LAFD Dive/Rescue Team

THE ALIVE! INTERVIEW

- continued from page 10

fires, some kind of an explosion that brings people into the water. I look at all the components: You have a possible fire, or a confirmed fire. You have a USAR component – Urban Search and Rescue – where you have some kind of structural collapse on the ship. You have injured persons on board whom you have to treat and transport. You have injured persons in the water who you have to get out. And then you have an evacuation issue, not even to mention the HAZMAT issue with fuel and other debris that are going to go into the water. That's most of the elements that we deal with, if you think about it: fire, HAZMAT, search and rescue, multi-casualty incident, and then an evacuation. And the only thing that's missing is a brush fire.



Club CEO John Hawkins and Battalion Chief Ray Gomez aboard Fire Boat 3 at Fire Station 49.

GOOD PEOPLE, GOOD JOB

Talk about the quality of your crew.

RAY: They're all from good stock. They're all firefighters. We've all been to the same training. So I can assure you we're all motivated to help people and to perform to the best of our ability.

And then the other part – they *want* to get into the water and do the stuff that I'm comfortable doing only on land, in a structure – they want to go do it in the water. They're good people. I'm not a water person. Get me on land, get me on a hill any day. But on the water, I'm glad I have them to do it.

You like your job.

RAY: I love it. My wife says I'm sick because if I'm off for four days, I can't wait to come back to work. I'm 54 and guys keep asking me, "Well, when are you going to retire?" Soon, but probably not anytime soon.

Very good. Thanks for your time!

RAY: You're welcome. ■

At-Sea Rescue



The "Victim"

In this small demonstration, the dive/rescue team displays how it rescues a man overboard (here, an LAFD firefighter plays the "victim." Often, victims are placed on a Miller floating backboard for transport to a waiting rescue boat or vehicle.



The victim is "rescued."



LEFT: Sr. Divers from Fire Boat 5, from left: Gil Garcia and John Torres.

RIGHT: Fire Boat 3 Diver Chris Curtis gives the "okay" signal after splashing.



The Club thanks the LAFD dive/rescue team, especially Firefighter/Paramedic Steve Meiche, for making this story possible.

For more information, to go: www.lafddive.blogspot.com



John Hawkins, Club CEO

John's Picture Perfect Contest

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



"Sometimes, we don't need to go far to see the simple beauty in our neck of the woods. We went to the Mission San Fernando Rey de España, and I just have to share the tranquility this place offers. No rush, no stress, take your time and relax on a nice Saturday morning."

- Cecille Consebido, Public Works

John's comments: Talk about superb exposure! Very nice work, Cecille; you captured everything you needed to and nothing you didn't. This is a Mission many of us forget exists, yet it was built in 1797, just 20 years after Mission San Juan Capistrano was built. Thank you, Cecille, for bringing us a bit of Los Angeles history.



"I am submitting what I think was an incredible sight, a double rainbow. Coming home from work Dec. 22, we noticed the double rainbow. We began chasing the rainbow. It was beautiful. I call this picture 'The Storm is Passing Over.' Hope you enjoy."

- Sharon Lovely, DWP

John's comments: An incredible sight, indeed! The last time I saw a double rainbow was at Trader Joe's (it was a pint of Double Rainbow Chocolate Ice Cream!). Thank you, Sharon!



"An 'expression' of wonderment that no video game or a 3D animation movie can duplicate - front-row seats to a live Circus (Vargas) show during the weekend."

- Dominique Daito

John's comments: Yes, getting this expression without the use of a video game or 3D animated movie is quite an achievement these days! Nice work as always, Dominique!



"This is a photo of my granddaughter, SaNae. We ventured out recently to the Museum of Natural History in Exposition Park. SaNae wants to be a paleontologist when she grows up. I call this photo, 'Loving Those Bones.'"

- Debora Fore

John's comments: There's nothing like kids and an educational adventure! And when grandparents get involved, it makes it just that more awesome. Thank you, Debora!

RUNNERS-UP:

Gilberto Barrera, LaTrice Bowen, Richard Radmacher, Mike Aubin, Gema Davis and Demian Wyma.

RULES:

- The contest is open to all Club Members in good standing.
- Non-members are welcome to submit, but only Club Members are eligible to win the monthly prize.
- If your photograph does not win, you are welcome to re-submit.
- Winners are chosen by Club staff. All decisions will be final.
- You must certify (if asked) that you indeed took the picture. No ringers!
- Photos can be submitted either on paper or digitally. Please don't send both.

- If you want your print photo returned, please write your name, address and phone number on the back of your photo.
- Photos can be of any subject matter: vacation, portraits, families, landscapes, still lifes, pets, etc. Subject matter must be appropriate for *Alive!*
- Paper prints can be mailed to:
 Picture Perfect Contest, *Alive!*,
 City Employees Club of Los Angeles,
 120 West 2nd Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

- When you send digital photos through the Internet, please send the full, original digital file yourself, rather than using digital photo software like Kodak EasyShare, Kodak Gallery, Flickr, etc. These programs send very low-resolution images, and they don't look good in print.
- We want you to look your best, so send us the original digital file, please! Thanks!
- Digital photos optimally should be between 100K and 2 megabytes in size and may be e-mailed to: pictureperfect@cityemployeesclub.com
- The contest is all in good fun! The Club cannot be responsible for delays in delivering *Alive!*, or for delays in the transmission of responses.



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LAFD, LAPD

To Baldly Go

It's time for St. Baldrick's! Two fire stations will be used for the head-shaving fundraiser against childhood cancers.



From last year, Mike Cunningham, Fireman, FS 66B.

On Sat., March 12, Los Angeles City Fire and Police personnel – and other City Employees, too – will participate in their eighth annual combined St. Baldrick's event. Participants, or "shavees" as they are known, collect pledges from friends and family in exchange for shaving their heads. The bald heads signify solidarity with child victims of cancer, who often lose their hair while undergoing treatment. All money raised goes to the St. Baldrick's Foundation and is distributed to doctors and other researchers on the front lines of the war on childhood cancer.

The locations are: Fire Station 89, 7063 Laurel Canyon Blvd. in North Hollywood; and Fire Station 112, 444 S. Harbor Blvd., Berth 86, in San Pedro.

The event features a free pancake breakfast, a blood and bone marrow drive, childwatch registration, and more. Entertainment will be provided by magicians, balloon artists, face painters and local radio stations. And as always fire and police apparatus will be present for children to explore and for photo opportunities.

Participants and helpers are needed to staff this event. If you are able to help, please contact Lt. Greg Doyle at (818) 634-6127; Firefighter Danny Wu at (626) 590-6240; or LAFD Engineer Sean Kennedy, (626) 664-8711. If you would like to be a "shavee" or you are interested in pledging, you can sign up at www.stbaldricks.org.

St. Baldrick's Info

Who: LAPD and LAFD Personnel (all are welcome, though)

What: Fundraiser for Childhood Cancer Research

When: Saturday, March 12, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Where:

- LAFD Fire Station 89, 7063 Laurel Canyon Blvd., North Hollywood;
- Fire Station 112, 444 S. Harbor Blvd., Berth 86, San Pedro.

Why: To raise money to fight childhood cancer

How: Sign up or donate at www.stbaldricks.org. Click on "Find an Event," and locate Los Angeles, Fire Station 89 or Fire Station 112.

For more information:

For more information, contact Lt. Greg Doyle, (818) 634-6127; LAFD Firefighter Danny Wu at (626) 590-6240; or LAFD Engineer Sean Kennedy, (626) 664-8711.

Don't Just Take Our Word For It



APRIL HOFF
MEMBER SINCE 1992

MEMBER FEEDBACK

⇒ I was diagnosed with a very aggressive form of Breast Cancer. After the diagnosis, I called the claims department at The City Employees Club, and in just two weeks I received \$50,000. Having this policy pay as quickly as it did brought me a tremendous amount of relief, and eased much of the stress I was experiencing. Because claim was paid as cash, I used the money to spend a week in Hawaii and bonded with my sister.



April Hoff
is a PSE I
Communication
LAFD

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BE MY CLUB



Valentine

Love is in the air at the Club! Thanks to all who chose to share their love here in *Alive!*, and happy Valentine's Day to all who are in love, or hope to be soon!

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!

"To the light of my life and my best friend, I will love you always. Happy Valentine's Day."

- Love, Susie (Susan Rich)



"John, thank you for loving me the way you do. I love you!"
- Your wife, Elena



"Raul, you taught me the meaning of love, and I will forever love you. I can't wait to spend the rest of my life with you!"



"Happy Valentine's Day, Alex. You're my heart, Babe. Like you/Love you."
- Ronda Humphrey, LAPD/Communications



"For my forever Valentino, my husband, Donn, Happy Valentine's Day. Your loving wife, Josie."



"Craig, being married to you for the last 23 years has truly been a blessing. God has blessed our union with children and grandchildren. Thank you for being the best Valentine a woman could ever have. Love, Kim."
- Kim Fogg, DWP



"Happy Valentine's Day, David! Happy that you're still my man after 15 years of marriage."
- Love, Martha

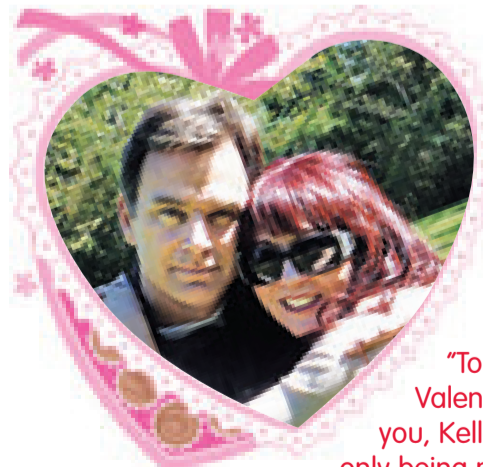


"Jan - To my best girl, thanks for 30 special years."
- Vic Corella, LAPD, Retired



"Happy Valentine's Day, Pa [Larry Lieswald, Retired]. We love you and miss you."
- Brian and Aubrey Dunbar

"Marie, life with you has been entertaining and adventurous. You are the love of my life, and my best friend. With love, your husband."
Chris Fimbres-Garcia, LAPD



"To my eternal Valentine, thank you, Kelley, for not only being my best friend but my eternal soulmate, too. I love you!"
- John



To Jacqui Dreben, LAPD Communications:
"After 21 years, you will always be my queen! I will be yours, now and forever. My love will never waiver. XOXO."
- Iver Dreben



"To my beautiful wife, Camile, you are my best friend, the love of my life, and the apple of my eye. I will love you for eternity."
- Vince Murray, Airports/LAX



"To my Hunney the Tiger, I love you very much and look forward to the future. To my kids, Mama loves you very much. And to our baby on the way, you will be blessed with love from us all."
- Rosie Mares, Public Works/Sanitation



- Jordan Price, Public Works/ Sanitation, and Maricela Price, LAPD



"The second time around is better than the first time. I love you, Daddy!"
- Debbie Rettig, General Services, and Walter Griffin, General Services



"Tom, you are the love of my life."
- Ginger Boylan, for Thomas Boylan, Airports/Ontario

"Happy Valentine's Day to my wonderful husband, William. Looking forward to celebrating two years of marriage. I love you."
- Rebecca Pereida-Lantz, LAPD/Communications, and William Lantz, LAPD



"Oh, that I could shrink the surface of the world.' What seemed impossible stands at the dawn. Happy Valentine's Day, Dearbh."
- John



"Happy Valentine to my beautiful wife, Diane, With love, your Poo."



"To my little ball of fire, who makes everything worth it. I love you, Hannah!"
- John



"Dear Marie: You mean the world to me. I'll love you forever."
- David

"Dearest David, My partner in crime, my best friend, my husband. Our 25 years together have been filled with beautiful adventures that I will treasure! All of my love."
- Marie

DWP

Motorcycle Toy Run

DWP cyclers deliver toys, donation to UCLA Harbor Hospital.



On Dec. 5, Santa and more than 200 riders took to their motorcycles and classic cars in the 7th annual Motorcycle Christmas Toy Run to support the Child Life Services. Many DWP employees helped organize the event and took part.

The group met at Catch 21 restaurant downtown. Toy Run founder Ray Reynoso and committee members Wisam Petch, Ralph Sanchez and Dave Mills received a Certificate of Recognition from Tom Labonge, Councilmember, Club Member, and Eric Garcetti, Council President, for their hard work and dedication for those in need during the holiday season. The awards were presented by Field Deputy Sharon Shapiro.

Traffic escort was provided by the LAPD, Port Police, the Sheriff's Dept. and members of the Sundowners M.C. S.F.V., as the riders followed Santa southbound on the Harbor Freeway en route to the hospital. Rows of motorcycles streamed down the freeway receiving supporting honks and thumbs up from passing drivers.

Upon arrival at the UCLA Harbor Hospital, the riders formed two lines at the parking lot that lead to the hospital entrance. Toys were then passed down from rider to rider as they unloaded four truckloads of toys. Children that were well enough were escorted outside by Melissa Hebron, Director of Child Life Services watched with widened eyes and bright smiles as the collection of toys at their feet kept getting bigger and bigger. These gifts are given to the children as Christmas presents. The remainder of the toys are used throughout the year for birthdays, anniversaries, and special occasions. Aside from the donated toys, a cash donation of \$8,378 was presented to Ms. Hebron.

As part of the yearly tradition, one of the children selected a favorite motorcycle. The rider of the chosen motorcycle received a trophy and had the honor to take his bike inside the pediatric ward for the other children to view. Everyone was thrilled to see this magnificent Blue Road King Harley Davidson in the corridor and in their rooms. There were many smiles and bright eyes on the children faces when they received their presents from Santa Claus and his helpers.

The 8th annual Motorcycle Christmas Toy Run is scheduled for Dec. 4.

Special thanks and recognition for their generous contributions of items and proceeds go out to Wisam Petch for his donation of \$4,705 from T-shirt sales; Robert Larrios, City Employees Club of Los Angeles; PinPros hand crafted custom lapel pins; Philanthropy Realtors Society of Riders; Lift-It Manufacturing Co. Inc.; Sundowners M.C. SFV; Angel City Multimedia; Tanahara Design; Fama Printing; Dino's Pizza; LAPD; Port Police; and the Sheriff's Dept.

Last but not the least, thanks to the event volunteers: Michiko Murakami, Sal Ardon, Victoria Encinas, Mari Murakami, Norma Sanchez, Janel and Janet Petch, Yolanda Ramirez, Dave Morgan, Henry Blas, Buddy Shelley, Ron Wilson, Nancy Angel and Shirlene Mills.

Those interested in participating or supporting next year's Toy Run, or would like to offer new ideas, are welcome to contact Ray Reynoso at (562) 857-9888, Brad Ditzel (818) 251-0431, Ralph Sanchez (818) 400-0652 Dave Mills (661)-993-9631.



Club Club Store

Club Gifts ... For Your Valentine



Buy your City Sweetie a gift from the Club Store for Valentine's Day!

See Page 46

LA GALAXY SOCCER



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Reserved Seating	\$75	\$20	\$10
Preferred Seating	\$95	\$25	\$10

To purchase tickets please visit www.cityemployeesclub.com

For more information contact the City Employees Club of L.A. at 1-800-464-0452





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Something to Think About

“Pretend that every single person you meet has a sign around his or her neck that says, ‘Make me feel important.’”

– Mary Kay Ash,
Founder, Mary Kay Cosmetics


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REST INSURED



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



How Much Can You Save?

Lately, most people are looking to save as much money as they can, and when it comes to your insurance, you don't have to look very far to save some money. Lots of discounts are available.

You can't change many of your factors that determine the cost of your insurance. Your house is a certain size, and it would cost a certain amount to rebuild it in the event of a fire. You have the cars that you have, and you have to insure them. The most common temptation is to reduce your coverage limits, but this is a very bad idea. Sure, you will save some money now, but in the event of a serious claim, having low limits could wipe out your financial future.

But you can save money by taking advantage of discounts that insurance companies offer for behavior that lowers your risk, from driving less than the average number of miles per year to taking a defensive driving class. Certain types of people – senior citizens, for instance – also are eligible for lower rates. You'll also save if you have certain safety or protective equipment installed in your car, like anti-lock brakes or a security system. Make sure inform your agent about the steps you have taken to reduce your risks, and make sure that you get the biggest discounts available to you.

Here are some other money-saving tips:

- **Combine coverage.**
The number-one way to save money is to combine your homeowners (or renters) policy with the same company that writes your auto insurance. As with any product, it's cheaper for insurance companies to sell more to one customer, so insurers often cut premiums up to 15 percent if you link auto and homeowners' policies.

- **Sweat the small stuff.**
Frequent claims are red flags for insurers; some won't renew policies with more than two claims in three years. So try to carry more of the risk yourself by paying for repairs costing under \$1,000 out of your own pocket. Or, if the damage is purely cosmetic, you could just ignore it.

- **Raise your deductible.**
The average driver files a collision claim once every three years, and a comprehensive claim once every 10 years. Increasing a collision deductible on your auto policy from \$250 to \$500 can save up to 30 percent annually. Given the likelihood of filing a claim, you might come out ahead with the higher deductible.

- **Drive safely.**
A clean driving record – for at least 36 months – keeps your premiums low. Completing a defensive driving course can also qualify you for a discount.

- **Pick the car carefully.**
Cars that cost a lot to repair, or that are popular with thieves, can cost more to insure. The National Insurance Crime Bureau has a list of the most frequently stolen cars.

- **Park your teens in one car.**
Name teenagers as the occasional drivers of your least-expensive car, and make sure they drive only that car.

- **Get your records straight.**
Insurance companies have access to all sorts of personal information, including your motor vehicle record, credit record, and your history of claims with other insurance companies. It makes no sense to lie about your background.

Mistakes can happen, however, and a glitch on your report could make you look like a worse risk than you are. If you haven't done so in a few years, consider obtaining your credit report from all three credit-reporting services – Equifax, Experian and TransUnion – to make sure that there is nothing incorrect on your credit report.

Call us if you would like to get a quote for your home policy through us, or would like a question answered on any type of insurance. We offer up to a 15 percent discount if you buy your home and auto insurance from the same insurance company.

Be safe and have fun!

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

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

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

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

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

CA License # 0252636

Life's Important Moments

Share your moments!

Did you get married? Have a baby? (Yea!) Get a promotion? (Hooray!) Retire? (Ahhhh.) We want to hear from you. Share your news with the world! Send all notices and **high resolution photos** with the appropriate information to talkback@cityemployeesclub.com or send paper notices and print photos to: *Alive!*, 120 West 2nd Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012



New Members

Welcome New Members!

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

Airports

Xavier Armenta
Ruth Avalos
Palle Bentsen
Gary Bransfield
Cecilia Cano
Joshua Casanova
Frank Cortinas
Claudio Cruz
Todd Edwards
Fernando Farias
Maxine Garbutt Ford
Gregory Giacomini
Billye Henderson
Martin Hernandez
Walter Husband
Jason Kam
Sandra Kimber
David Lalicker
Brian Lopez
Eliseo Magana
Ariel Molave
Manuel Morales
Abel Moreno
Robert Morrison
Victor Padilla
Robert Pedregon
Erik Perez
Mark Ricks
Rodney Rouzan
Roberto Salamanca
Douglas Scarborough
Martin Schartau
Lawrence Scottini
Zasky Tse
Joshua Ulatowski
Nicholas Van Dragt
Winfred Van Lingen
Keron Wilkerson
John Youngblood

Building and Safety

Kevin Simonds

City Clerk

Rubencio Frivaldo
Daniel Kim

CDD

Ta-Lecia Arbor
Jennifer Martinez

LAFD

Ryan Hall

Fire and Police Pensions

Claudia Rojo

General Services

Tom Freise
Aurora Garcia
Irene Pickens
Ivy Yan

Harbor

Tracey Gutierrez

ITA

Nyeesha Dotson

Convention Center

Carlos Castillo

LACERS

Soledad Cristobal

Library

Bi-Yun Cheng

Personnel

Steve Rivera

LAPD

Erin Camphouse
Shawn Duke
Joseph Fleming
Crystal Griffin
Naila Hay
Brian Hospodar
Genevieve Jackson
Kirk Madison
Randall McCain
Arnedo Pascua
Clayton Simmons
Anselm Yu

PUBLIC WORKS

PW-Engineering
Michael Rubner

PW-Sanitation

Donald Fine
Crystal Mrianda
Patrica Rivera

PW-Street Services

Louie Esqueda
Raymond Hernandez

Rec and Parks

Calah Ashley Brown
Peter Jolly
Robert OConner
Ivan Rodriguez
Saul Sotelo
Sheka Stocker

Transportation

Jose Diaz-Hernandez
Verna Pheifer

DWP

Angelie De Los Santos
Eric Lang
Roy Ortega

Zoo

Dareld Smetana

Retired

Eileen Gray
Betty Kawashima
Joyce Samuel
Dorothy Simmons

Other

Luis Aguilar
Barbara Cole
Jay Guzman
Kimberly Jackson
Kraig Jondle
Festus Nagbe
Rob Roth
Williams Swain
Michael Wilkinson



In Memoriam

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

Active

Butler, Charles, Rec and Parks, 6
Chamagua, Maria, Airports, 5
Corpus, Jason, Rec and Parks, 4
Escoto, Samson, CDD, 10
Holmes, Thomas, DWP, 30
Jawad, Kadhim, Building and Safety, 14
Marquez, Alicia, DWP, 4
Novkovich, Milan, Administrative Unit, 18
Perez, Leopoldo, Rec and Parks, 14
Tyree, Arthur, DWP, 23

Retired

Akins, Percy, Public Works, 33
Allen, George, Transportation, 36
Anderson, William, Airports, 15
Andrews, James, Building and Safety, 20
Balster, Donald, Public Works, 33
Banks, Alice, DWP, 18
Beebe, Lari, Public Works, 23
Benschine, Edward, Building and Safety, 10
Blount, Willie, DWP, 31
Bort, James, Airports, 23
Buckhaus, Roger, Library, 19
Butina, Barbara, DWP, 23
Butler, Robert, DWP, 31
Campbell, Dorothy, LAPD, 17
Cassarino, John, DWP, 20
Charles, Jeri, Library, 26
Coleman, James, Rec and Parks, 32
Cook, Willie, Public Works, 31
Cronin, Michael, Rec and Parks, 33
Dailey, Austin, General Services, 39
Deight, Richard, Public Works, 35
Frazier, Richard, DWP, 31

Griffie, Gaylin, Airports, 32
Hamelin, Richard, DWP, 16
Hernandez, Jimmy, LAPD, 38
Hindman, Robert, DWP, 29
Hiramine, Fumiko, Library, 16
Johnson, Russell, CAO, 43
Kottwitz, Wanda, Transportation, 8
Kvam, Dale, DWP, 12
Lim, Richard Heng Yung, Public Works, 16
Lopez, Espiridion, DWP, 35
Marot, Vincent, Harbor, 28
Miranda, Cesar, Harbor, 20
Myles, William, DWP, 27
Newman, Melvin, Public Works, 40
Nicholas, Leonard, Transportation, 28
Nissen, Henry, Public Works, 34
Olivas, Antonio, Harbor, 26
Oviedo, Roy Cory, Public Works, 15
Patterson, Robert, Library, 33
Perez, Tony, DWP, 21
Pray, Katherine, DWP, 33
Rasberry, Charles, Rec and Parks, 30
Ratican, Thomas, DWP, 20
Resendi, Manuel, Public Works, 23
Satullo, Frank, DWP, 8
Simmons, Brigid, DWP, 13
Smith, Phillip, Public Works, 35
Spiak, Elias, DWP, 22
Stevenson, Robert, General Services, 30
Thompson, John, General Services, 33
Toyoda, Bob, Airports, 7
Turner, Althea, DWP, 29
Underwood, Earl, DWP, 31
Williams, Robert, Public Works, 32

Peace of Mind

BY TIFFANY SY
The Club's Peace of Mind Expert



Ins and Outs of Long-Term Disability

According to the *Nation's Safety Council, Injury Facts 2009*: Tomorrow, 72,100 Americans will be victims of a disabling injury, and more than 26 million Americans are injured each year.

DWP employees: Can you support your current lifestyle if you suddenly could not work? Protect yourself against the worst odds and apply for Long-Term Disability (LTD). The purpose of LTD is to provide a replacement income when you cannot go to work due to an illness or disabling injury.

If you work for the DWP, you do not pay into State Disability Insurance (SDI), so you are not entitled to collect funds from SDI if you are out of work due to a disability. Thus, Salary Continuation is offered to DWP employees, which will pay out a taxed benefit on a step-down scale of percentages until you reach a 40 percent benefit of your salary. The determination of the salary you receive is based upon the length of your continuous service at the time your disability begins. Do you know if you have enough years of service to accrue the hours needed on your Salary

Continuation benefits? Contact the DWP Retirement/Benefits office.

How would you be able to support your livelihood based on only a portion of your income, followed by taxes to top it off?

The City Employees Club's group exclusive Long-Term Disability (LTD) plan offered to DWP employees will pay a benefit to supplement your income if you cannot perform your duties at work. It covers you in the event of an illness or injury, whether on or off the job. You are entitled to a nontaxable benefit of 70 percent of your gross salary or 60 percent of your gross salary without other benefit sources. Since the benefit you receive from us is not taxed, it will closely reflect the amount of income on your pay stub after your tax deductions. The duration of the benefit is paid out until the age of 65 (retirement age) or until you can return to work. (As always, check with your tax professional.)

Our LTD plan offers three waiting periods: 90 days, 180 days and 360 days. The multiple options were designed to establish a time to issue benefits and coincide with your sick

If you sign up for Long-Term Disability insurance within the first 60 days of your hire date at the DWP, you can enroll without medical underwriting.

time/Salary Continuation hours accrued to maximize your benefit and premiums.

If you have recently been hired by the DWP, I have great news about open enrollment! If you sign up for LTD within the first 60 days of your hire date, you can enroll without medical underwriting! That means no health questions are asked, and you are automatically approved. If you have been employed longer than 60 days, you can still apply, but will have to pass medical underwriting.

City Flex: For our City Employees, remember to review your benefits for 2011. The selections you have made last October during your City Flex open enrollment took effect Jan. 1 and will continue as a locked-in benefit until the end of the year unless there are changes in your family status. If you missed your opportunity to make adjustments to meet

the needs of your family, the City Employees Club accepts applications to supplement your benefit changes on a rolling basis throughout the year! We offer a wide variety of insurance to cover the needs of your family. In next month's issue, I will discuss disability benefits specific to sworn Employees (excluding DWP, LAFD and LAPD.)

Note: If you have transferred from the City or have served in the military, contact the DWP Retirement office to assess if you can apply your history of service to your employment.



Contact me at
info@cityemployeesclub.com

Life's Important Moments

Share Your Good News!



Everyone reads Life's Most Important Moments in **Alive!** Share your news... and send in a photo! Have you gotten married? Had a baby? Graduated? Has someone in your family had a quinceañera? Is a family member in the military? Send in a photo and a paragraph, telling us the details. We love to share your good news.

We're looking for:

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

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



Births

Have a photo of a recent newborn? Send a high resolution photo and the appropriate information to talkback@cityemployeesclub.com

Special Achievements

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

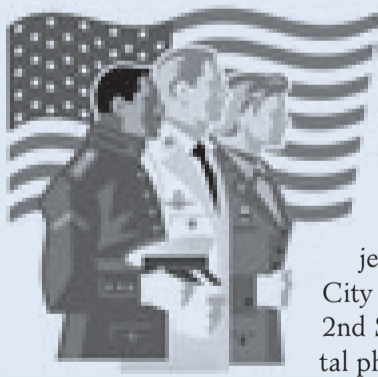
Quinceañera

Have a photo of a recent quinceañera? Send a high resolution photo and the appropriate information to talkback@cityemployeesclub.com

Graduations

Alive! is delighted to publish graduation photos of Club members and their children. Send a high resolution photo and the appropriate information to talkback@cityemployeesclub.com

Military



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

Weddings

Jasmine Dowlatshahi and Amir Eghbal, Oct. 23 in Valencia, Calif. Jasmine is a Facility Director, Rec and Parks.



Have a photo of a recent wedding? Send a high resolution photo and the appropriate information to talkback@cityemployeesclub.com

Retirements

NAME	TITLE	DEPT	YEARS	NAME	TITLE	DEPT	YEARS	NAME	TITLE	DEPT	YEARS
Chondropoulos, John	-	DWP	-	Jorge, Francisco	-	DWP	-	Sibley, Marsha	Clerk Typist	General Services	11
Childers, Kerry	Shift Supv., Wstwr Treat.	Public Works	31	Morgan, Richard	Civil Engineer	Airports	13	Thrasher, Harlin	Wastewater Coll. Worker	Public Works	8
Dilk, John	Equip. Mechanic	General Services	41	Moritz, Caron	Forensic Print Spec.	LAPD	36	Villalovos, Josephine	Clerk Typist	General Services	43
Gonzalez, Randi	Project Assistant	Rec and Parks	9	Nickraftar, Alexander	Maint. Constr. Helper	Rec and Parks	22	Tirota, Joseph	-	Public Works	37
Grant, Ronald	-	DWP	-	Obrien, Susan	Librarian	Library	13	Vu, Due Dang	Accounting Clerk	Finance	10
Gross Jr., Arthur	-	DWP	-	Shafran, Abraham	-	DWP	-				

Special Holiday Party Section

The City Parties!

*It's an annual
Alive! tradition!*

Part 2

All across the City, you celebrated the holidays. And *Alive!* was there!
Here in February, *Alive!* continues its coverage of the City Social Season 2010,
with stories and photos from Club staff... and sent in by you, too.

Don't forget to check out all the photos – from January, too – online!
Go to: www.cityemployeesclub.com (You'll need a password to login.)



General Services Construction



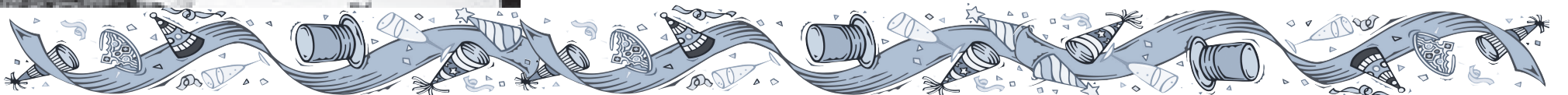
Photos by Maurice Hyett, Peter Inouye, Barry Saizon and John Scott, General Services

General Services/Construction Forces and Building Maintenance Divisions gathered with families Dec. 22 at Piper Technical Center to wish each other best wishes for the holiday season. Employees, spouses, children and retirees had an opportunity to visit the shops and offices and share well wishes with co-workers and their families.

This year, Building Maintenance contingents from North, South, Central, PTC and Citywide Districts attended the potluck lunch, where employees brought a variety of "family favorite" dishes. The center of the celebration is always the children with a visit from Santa Claus and a special present for every child.

Throughout the year, the divisions sold sodas and snacks and recycled the cans and bottles to pay for the gifts and lunch.

Special thanks to Maurice Hyett for his information and assistance.



The City Parties



From left: Officer Joseph Arthur, FED, Club Member; Officer Tyler Hammon, Marine Unit, Club Member; Tamara Armstrong, Port Police Dispatcher, Club Member; Officer Logan Braun, FED, Club Member; and Officer Jerome Niles, K9, Club Member. Back: Lt. Kenneth Hawkes, Club Member.



From left: Retired Officer Porfirio Blas, Club Member, and Retired Lt. Daniel Aleman, Club Member.



From left: Officer Lloyd Sub, 2 years of City service, Club Member; Rebecca Lee, fiancé; and Officer Andrew Sklarsh, 2 years of service, Club Member, with his wife, Sandra.



Officer Ken Hobbs, Club Member, with his wife, Margie.



From left: Ron Young, guest; Connie Young, guest; Betty Nash, guest; Emmanuel Nash, guest; with Lt. Anita Hayden, Club Member, and her husband, Barry Smith.



From left: SLO Cheryl Morris-Dorries, 15 years of City service, Club Member; Capt. Don Farrell, 33 years of service; Kathleen Connor, guest; and Safiya Ali, guest.

Port Police



Story and photos by Arlene Herrero, Club Products Manager

The Port Police held their annual holiday party Dec. 11 at the Dalmatian American Club.

Entertainment was provided by Rick's Jamnesia and holiday carolers. There was lots of great food and prizes.

Special thanks to Sr. Lead Officer Cheryl Morris-Dorries and Officer Livani Pilitsis.



From left: Lupe Castro, guest, with Officer David Cervantes, 8 years of service, Club Member.



Harry Hunold, Retired, Club Member, with his wife, Carol.



From left: Sandra Alvarez, guest; Det. Victor Fernandez, 4 years of City service, Club Member; Det. Michael Belo, 6 years of service, Club Member; and Gaby Arce, GSD PD, 6.5 years of service.



Lt. Ken Hawkes, Club Member, with his wife, Sue.



From Left: K9 Officer Ismael Flores, 5 years of City service, Club Member, with his wife, Diana.



From left: Officer Jamey Stearns, 2 years of City service, Club Member and spouse Ronya; and Mileibi and Officer Charles Sanderson, 3.5 years of service, Club Member.



From left: K9 Officer Alfredo Moya, 3 years of City service, Club Member; Lt. Titus Smith, Club Member; Vianey Moya, spouse of K9 Officer Moya; Det. Jose Magana, Club Member, with his wife, Melissa; and Lucy and Officer Omar Cuevas, 4 years of service, Club Member.



From left: Pang Xiong, guest; Arthur Kurkowski, P2, Club Member and his wife, Barbara; and Tracy Harris, fiancé of Officer Mike Glimpse.



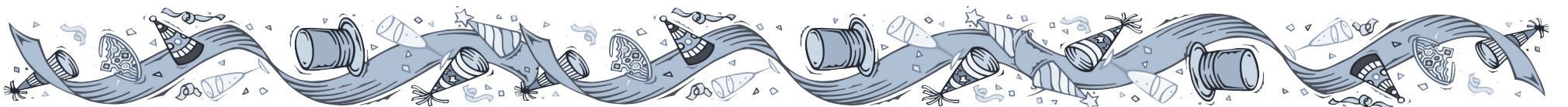
Back, from left: Adrian Retiz, guest; Sgt. Robert Myers, Club Member. Seated, from left: Motor Officers Mark Velasquez, Club Member, and Tom Yamamoto, Club Member.



The holiday carolers.



From left: Lt. Daniel Aleman, Retired, Club Member; Officer Rudy Meza, Club Member; and SLO William Price, 5 years of City service, Club Member, and his wife, Xiomara.



The City Parties



From left: Laura Azamar, Customer Relations, 9.5 years of City service, Club Member; Barbara Guillory, Custodian Supervisor, 22 years of City service, Club Member; Inez Wade, Real Estate Trainee, 13 years of City service; Sandy Smith, Management Analyst, 14 years of City service, Club Member; and Mignon Thomas, guest.



Jimmy Sparks, AAE President, Club Member, and his beautiful wife, Régence.



From left: Oscar Smith, Retired, Former AAE President; Chris Sparks, Custodian Supervisor, 25 years of City service; and Michael Dear, Airport Police, 12 years of City service.



Maria Sarullo, Civil Engineer, 18 years of City service, and Michael Sarullo, Sr. Civil Engineer, 22 years of City service, Club Member.



From left: Raenel Potts-Heath, Sr. Clerk Typist, 23 years of City service, Club Member; and Deanna Smith, Sr. Clerk Typist, 22 years of City service.

Airports/Assoc. of Airport Executives



Story and photos by Eboné Moses, Club Counselor

The Association of Airport Executives group at LAX held its annual holiday bash Dec. 18 at the Westin LAX.

The evening kicked off with a red carpet, photo op, and cocktail hour. Attendees enjoyed a holiday buffet dinner of salmon, roast beef and ham with all the trimmings as well as a full array of dessert specialties. Entertainment included a special dance medley performance, fantasy casino and dancing into night.

Special thanks go to Jimmy Sparks, AAE President and Club Member.



From left: Kerry Henderson, guest; and Eileen Schoetzow, Airport Planning, 16 years of City service.



From left: Karen Daniels, Custodian, 10 years of City service, Club Member; Elbert Locke, Custodian, 9 years of City service, Club Member; Deborah Bradely, guest; and Ray Foote, guest.



Eddie Pastran, Sr. Plumber, 25 years of City service, Club Member, and his wife, Jackie.



Janice Guevara, Sr. Management Analyst II, 23 years of City service, Club Member, with her husband, Rudy.



service, Club Member; Jackie Jones, Risk Manager, 29 years of City service, Club Member; Kenya Wiley, Clerk Typist, 6 years of City service, Club Member; Rosalind Spears-Nash, Risk and Insurance, 20 years of City service.



Top, from left: Lita Jacobs, AAE Vice President, 14 years of City service, Club Member; Stephanie Young, AAE Special Events Coordinator, 25 years of City service, Club Member; and Laronda Echols, AAE Correspondent, 11 years of City service, Club Member.



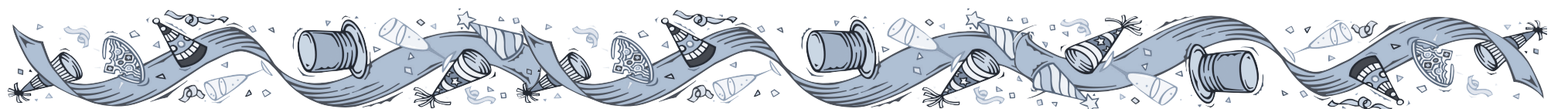
From left: Ingrid Alexander, guest; Wayne Williams, CBPO, Federal; Kellie Ratner, spouse; and Nels Hansen, Security Officer, Airport Police, 23 years of City service, Club Member.



Korey Holmes, Airport Police, 12 years of City service, and Rolanda Dates, guest.



From left: Jose Martinez, Plumber, 26 years of City service; Maria Vizcarra, Construction and Maintenance, 13 years of City service; Valentina Siping, Maintenance Labor, 5 years of City service; Diana Solis, guest; and Xavier Garcia, Construction and Maintenance, 1 year of City service.



The City Parties



Michael Kayton, DWP, 15 years of City service, and Keisha Kayton, guest.



The dance troop performs the Macarena.



Sgt. Robert Foston, Airport Police, 10 years of City service, Club Member, with Linda Jones, guest.



From left: Phyllis Hayes, Airport Police, Retired, Club Member, and Crystal Hickman, guest.



From left: Tom McHugh, Airport Maintenance Supervisor, 25 years of City service, and his wife, Teri McHugh; Janet Hackney, Executive Assistant, 16 years of City service; Fiji Joe, Mechanic Superintendent, 24 years of City service; Heidi Hubner, Management Analyst II, 6.5 years of City service, Club Member; Richard J. Connolly, Director, Airport Construction and Maintenance, 30 years of City service; Stephanie L. Monico, guest; and Sandy Miller, Comm. Executive Assistant, 32 years of City service, Club Member.



Laura Harvell, guest, with Roger Tom Hempel, OPS Superintendent, 3 years of City service.



From left: Mable White, Customer Service, 15 years of City service, Club Member; and Marilyn Payne, Sr. Clerk Typist, 25 years of City service.



Lori Gutierrez, Principal Clerk, Club Member since 2003.



Mary Maher, Supervisor, Tax Compliance Officer.



From left: Vern Lapuz, Supervisor, Tax Compliance Officer III, Club Member since 1994; Heidi Hubner, Management Analyst II, 6.5 years of City service, Club Member; and Mas Yokota, Tax Compliance Officer.



Spiritt Garret, Club Member since 2002.



Dorothy Aitchison, Customer Service.

Finance

Photos by Emilio Salamanca

On Dec. 22, two units within the Office of Finance celebrated the holidays with a party at their Van Nuys office.

The two units were Customer Service and Tax Compliance. Twenty-five employees attended.

The supervisors who put the event together were Lori Gutierrez, Principal Clerk and Supervisor of the Customer Service unit; Vern Lapuz, Tax Compliance Officer III; and Mary Majer, Tax Compliance Officer.



Debra Riley, Tax Compliance Officer.



From left: Rhoda Herrera, Tax Compliance Officer; Randy Manglicmot, Club Member since 1993; Tax Compliance Officer; John Hicks, Club Member since 2007, Tax Compliance Officer; Tom Szabo, Tax Compliance Officer; and Jeanette Santoni, Customer Service Specialist.



Erica L. Nicholson, Custodian.



From left: Carol Rolewski, Customer Service Specialist; and Dorothy Aitchison, Customer Service Specialist.



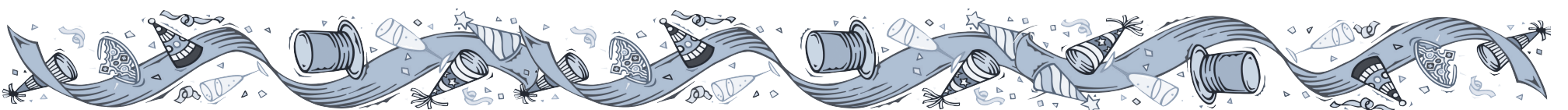
Vern Lapuz Supervisor, Tax Compliance Officer III, and his wife; and Emilio Salamanca, Customer Service Specialist.



Manja Rajappan, Customer Service Specialist.



From left: Haliza Zal, Tax Renew Assistant; and Jeanette Santoni Customer Service Specialist.



The City Parties



Top, from left: Eleanor Chang, Club Member; Min Chen; Carrie Hu; April Ho; and Fulber Tang. Bottom: Mike Fong, Club Member; Marie Yeh; Zeny Go; Lita Young; and Jenny Chu.



Top, from left: Beverly Anderson, Club Member; Larry Tamashiro, Club Member; and Richard Tan. Bottom: Constant Mok; Dorothy Tamashiro, Club Member; Shirley Tan; Mei Yee, Club Member; and Carol Takafuji, Club Member.



Joe Quan, Club Member, and Marie Yeh.

LACEAAA

Story and photos courtesy Eboné Moses, Club Counselor



The Los Angeles City Employees Asian American Association rang in the holidays Dec. 7 at CBS Restaurant in Chinatown. In addition to a scrumptious Chinese feast, the party included the festive crowd taking part in a series of games that tested their memory skills, knowledge of holiday carol lyrics and patience. In one game, guests were instructed to blow up balloons and stuff the balloons into tightly knit panty hose, creating reindeer antlers in which a lucky team member was selected to model. Guests were also treated to a slew of door prizes, including gifts that were generously donated by the City Employees Club.



Top, from left: Janice Chang, Daryl Han, Steve Mar, Emily Mayeda and Eboné Moses, Club Counselor. Bottom: Janeshia Robinson, Club Member; Grace Hsieh; Annie Chao, Club Member; and Maychelle Yee.



Top, from left: Beverly Anderson, Club Member; Mei Ong; Mike Fong, Club Member; and Marie Yeh. Bottom: Jerry Waggoner, Club Member; Ditas Waggoner; Sheung Quan; and Sandy Eng.



Top, from left: Phyllis Yogi, Club Member; Joann Kishi; and Janeshia Robinson, Club Member. Bottom: Cathy Tanaka, Anne Wu, Emily Lo and Diana Lozano, Club Member.



Supply's got talent! Hester Tolentino twirls with ease.



Back row, from left: Martin Brooks, Raul Juarez, Margaret Whittiker, Anthony Popper, Leslie Herring, Alex Rodriguez and Mark Jenkins. Middle: Hester Tolentino, Frances Chuatoco, Marcia McKell, David Medina, and Jimmy Warren (retired). Front: Latrease Buford, Anna Robinson, Sonia Pereda, Laura Luna and Elena Nihoa-Asucan.



Terry Carter.

LAPD Supply Section

Story and photos courtesy Chris Rose Beatty, LAPD

The LAPD/Supply Section sure knows how to celebrate during the holidays. It started at Thanksgiving with a catered lunch. Then the Supply Section planned a great potluck for the holidays. Fun was had by all, as Supply employees revealed a side that was unknown to many during a "Show and Tell" segment of the party. There were comedians, pianists, baton twirlers, singers/dancers, bike enthusiasts, photographers, genealogists, sports enthusiasts and Belizian travelers. Each employee shared a bit of their history.



Nice try guys. Tony doesn't quite make it on Jimmy's shoulders.



We are all winners: David Sanchez and Martin Brooks.



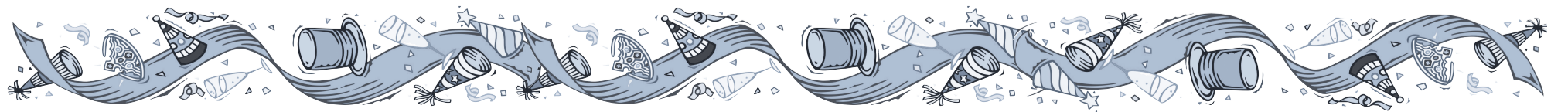
Mark Jenkins creates a puzzle from wood.



Do I know you? Sonia and Leslie are at the top when it comes to winning games.



Anna and Latrease: Bowling for fun!



The City Parties



Standing, from left: Ora Owens, guest; and Clora Hicks, SDO, 25.5 years of City service, 77th. Seated: Pamela Hicks, guest; Debra Weatherall, guest; and Dorsan Carey, SDO, 26 years of service, VJS, Club Member.



Lt. Roger Mora, 30 years of City service, 77th Jail, with his wife, Maria.



Chris Voge, PDO, 23 years of City service, 77th, with his wife, Nancy.



From left: DO Maria Gambino, 10.5 years of City service, 77th, Club Member; DO Reaunna Bratton, 4 years of service, 77th, Club Member; SDO Victor Ladd, 27 years of service, 77th; KDO Katrina Arreola, 9 years of service, 77th, Club Member; and Dave Gois, guest.



From left: Juan Sanchez, SDO, 9 years of City service, 77th, Club Member; Gary Canales, SDO, 26 years of service, 77th, Club Member; and Roberto Soriano, PDO, 8 years of service, 77th, Club Member, and his wife, Isis.



From left: DO Greg Reed, 21 years of City service, 77th; DO Lamont Marshall, 8 years of service, 77th, Club Member; Dmetric Bradley, DO, 5 years of service, 77th; Krystal Garner, guest; Marcell Anderson, DO, 4 years of service, 77th, Club Member; and Stephanie Williams, DO, 9 years of service, Pacific, Club Member.



From left: Michael Potter, DO, 7 years of City service, MJS, with his wife, Monica; Danette Cedeno, guest; and Juan Cedeno, guest.



From left: Hilda Zavala, DO, 3 years of City service, 77th, Club Member, with her husband, Rodolfo Gonzalez, Labor, with Marine OPS, 4 years of service at Port of Los Angeles, Club Member; and Justin Flanagan, DO, 1.2 years of service, 77th.

LAPD Jail Div.



Story and photos by Arlene Herrero, Club Products Manager

The Police Dept. Jail Division held its annual holiday party Dec. 18 at the Quiet Cannon restaurant.

Despite the heavy downpour, many came out to celebrate. There was an abundance of prizes for attendees to win by dropping their raffle ticket in the corresponding box. Some of the prizes were donated by City Employees Club of Los Angeles.

Special thanks go to Detention Officer Jenny Garrett.



Standing, from left: Martha Jones, SDO, 25 years of City service, Club Member; Kathi Divney, SRO, 26 years of service, Club Member; and Sgt. Steve Bailey, 23 years of service. Seated: Ruby Anderson, SDP, 30 years of service, Club Member; Lorenzo Jimenez, DO, 9 years of service, Club Member; Connie Randle, DO, 15 years of service with the 77th, Club Member.



From left: Theresa Zaragoza, DO 8 years of City service, Van Nuys, with her guest, Greg Bush.



From left: Carlos and Martha Jacobo, Detention Officer, 1.5 years of service, VJS.



From left: Valerie and Lt. Rick DeMartino, 36 years of City service; Marie Farrell, D2, 20 years of service, Harbor; Capt. Clay Farrell, 33 years of service; Lt. Roger Mora, 30 years of service, and his wife Maria; and Manal and Pierre Kallah, La Marquise Jewelry.



From left: DO Orlando Ochoa, 20 years of City service, MJS; Andrea Apodaca, guest; and DO Edgar Palacios, 3 years of service, MJS.



From left: Jose Chavez, guest; Rebecca Rodriguez, guest; and DO Joe Chavez, 3.4 years of City service, MJS.



From left: Ramil DeLeon, SDO, 10 years of City service, VJS, Club Member, with his wife, Gina; and Manny Hernandez, DO, 8 years of service, VJS, Club Member, with his wife, Liza.



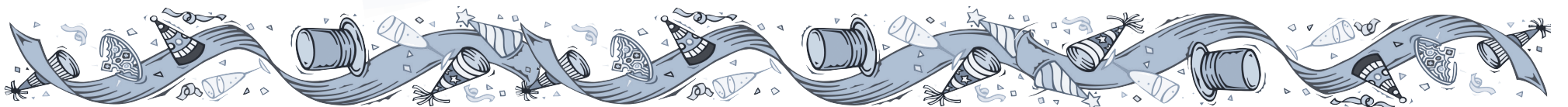
From left: Sr. Detention Officer Cloris Hunt, 15.5 years of City service, Club Member, with her husband, Harold.



From left: Jorge Carpio, DO, 2.5 years of City service 77th; Natalie Benitez, DO, 2 years of service, 77th, Club Member; Jessica Quintero, DO, 3 years of service, 77th; and Sergio Ochoa, DO, 4 years of service, 77th, Club Member.



From left: Melissa and SDO Dennis DeLeon, 10 years of City service, VJS; and Alan DeLeon, PDO, 22 years of service, VJS, Club Member, with his wife, Lou.



LAABP

Black History Month Events

Join the LAABP (Los Angeles Association of Black Personnel) for several festive, meaningful events honoring Black History Month.

Story and photos courtesy LAABP

The Los Angeles Association of Black Personnel (LAABP) continues its tradition of providing relevant and entertaining cultural events during our February African-American Heritage Month celebration. In celebration of our past, present and future, LAABP will host the following events:

■ **Literary Event and Book Fair:** Feb. 9, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., City Hall South Lawn. The Los Angeles Association of Black Personnel (LAABP) will host a Literary Event and Book Fair for African American Heritage Month. Meet authors and local writers. There will be many current release books available for purchase and City employees with published books and recorded CDs will also showcase their projects. Free. Visit www.laabp.org or call (213) 978-7254 for information.

■ **Trailblazer Reception:** Feb. 16, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., City Hall's Tom Bradley Room. The Los Angeles Association of Black Personnel (LAABP) will present and give tribute to African American City employees who have made strides in leadership, professionalism and mentorship opening the doors for other African Americans in City government. Free. Reservations required due to limited space. Contact Shawn McGee at (213) 485-2491 and visit www.laabp.org.

■ **Kuonja: Flavors of Soul and 10th annual Marketplace:** Feb. 22 and 23, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Fletcher Bowron Square, Temple Street between Main and Los Angeles Streets. Annual two-day celebration of African American Heritage Month will host cultural entertainment Feb. 22 and present the highly anticipated Afrocentric Fashion Show Feb. 23. There will be music, food, art, crafts and more. Free.

Sponsored by the Los Angeles Association of Black Personnel (LAABP). Visit www.laabp.org or call (213) 978-7254 for information. www.laabp.org or Join us on Facebook!



City Employees enjoy the food and gift items available at the Marketplace.



The annual Afrocentric Fashion Show at the Marketplace features many City workers as models.

Newsbrief

ALLEY IMPROVEMENTS:

Jan. 10, Los Angeles officials led by Councilman Tom LaBonge of the 4th District marked the official start of construction on the North Hollywood Alley Improvement project. The retrofit of the alley just west of Vineland from Oxnard to Hatteras in North Hollywood is both a water quality and conservation project that will capture stormwater and allow it to infiltrate into the ground to help recharge the San Fernando Groundwater Basin. The new alley will also relieve flooding in the area while minimizing urban runoff that will drain into the stormwater pipes and out to the Los Angeles River.


Paula Daniels, commissioner of Public Works, said, "Los Angeles has 7,500 miles of streets, and paved thoroughfares are necessary in our way of life in this city. However, we can change the way we pave our streets by implementing permeable pavement and other stormwater solutions that will help keep the water from flowing down our streets and into our waterways. This is the way we are changing Los Angeles' texture to become a more sustainable city!"

Funding for this \$800,000 alley improvement project was mostly provided by the DWP. James McDaniel, senior assistant general manager of the DWP said, "Once this project is complete, each drop captured here in the San Fernando Basin will be a drop that we will not have to purchase from expensive imported sources. This alley will capture approximately 30 acre-feet of water annually—enough to serve 60 households each year. That's enough water to serve the homes that line this alleyway and then some."

Area resident Roberta Romero who participated in the event demonstrated her support of the improvement. "This new alley will beautify our neighborhood, solve our flooding problem and also help the environment," she said. "We are very excited to see this project come to our community."

Construction on the multi-benefit project began today at the southern end of the project at Hatteras. Work will transpire Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. for two months at each alley reach. Work will be completed in the summer. Impacts to the community include noise, vibration and alley closures.


The North Hollywood Alley Improvement project was designed by Public Works/Sanitation Watershed Protection Division. Construction will be managed and implemented by Street Services. For more information about the project, please call the Department of Public Works Public Affairs Office at (213) 978-0333.



LACERS
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RETIREMENT SYSTEM

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What Are You Doing To Secure Your Retirement Dream?

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

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- The City's Deferred Compensation plan


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

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IN MEMORIAM

Remembering Andrew Lowkis



Andrew Lowkis, who retired from the Emergency Preparedness Department in April 2005, was killed Nov. 26 in an automobile accident.

He started with the City in 1987 and was involved in emergency management for 15 years, beginning with the Office of the City Administrative Officer and then in the Emergency Preparedness, now Emergency Management Department.

Andrew was the consummate professional and

took pride in health, family and good wine. Born Andrzej M. Lowkis in 1939 in Warsaw, Poland, he survived World War II and began a career as Principal at the High School of Fine Arts in Poland. Andrew and his wife came to the United States in 1982 after fleeing to a refugee camp in Austria, while martial law was declared in Poland.

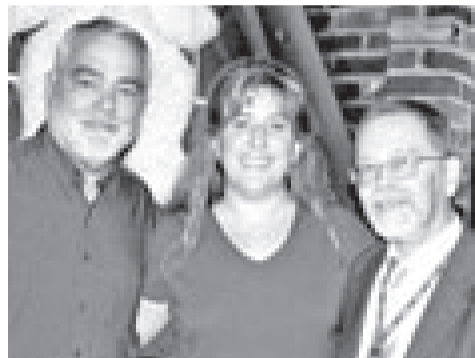
Throughout his career, he assisted fellow immigrants in their adjustment to life in the United States and fostered his Polish heritage by

being an active participant in "Modjeska," a Polish-American social club dedicated to Polish culture, music, the arts and international affairs.

Following his retirement, Andrew and his wife settled in Florida.

After his death, friends and family said their farewells, and the Lowkis family took Andrew home to be buried in a family plot in Poland.

Andrew kept in touch with many colleagues and will be greatly missed.



Newsbriefs

RENEWABLE ENERGY AWARD:

The City of Los Angeles Terminal Island Renewable Energy (TIRE) biosolids (bio-slurry) injection project has received a National League of Cities (NLC) 2010 Award for Municipal Excellence. The award recognizes cities and towns for outstanding programs that improve the quality of life in America's communities. The City of Los Angeles accepted its Silver Award for the more than 500,000 population category earlier this month at the NLC's Congress of Cities and Exposition in Denver, Colorado.

The City of Los Angeles in partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Terralog Technologies has pioneered the TIRE project, the nation's first and only full-scale application of biosolids injection technology that adapts petroleum industry technology to convert biosolids into a new source of alternative green energy. The City of Los Angeles has been granted a five-year demonstration permit from the EPA to evaluate the viability of injecting biosolids into deep geological subsurface. The project has been in operation for more than 30 months.

The project site is at the City's Terminal Island Water Reclamation Plant in San Pedro, California. TIRE is processing approximately 190 tons of biosolids per day, or 25 percent of all biosolids produced daily within the City. Until recently, these biosolids were trucked for land application at the City's farm 120 miles away.

"The City of Los Angeles is honored to have been selected by the National League of Cities for this award. The Terminal Island Renewable Energy Project improves air quality, protects water quality and reduces greenhouse gases by using wastewater treatment byproducts as a renewable resource in an innovative and environmentally safe manner," said City of Los Angeles Mayor Antonio R. Villaraigosa.

"TIRE is an excellent example of the creative thinking we have at work in the Bureau of Sanitation, offering an innovative solution to an environmental challenge while also providing economic benefits," added Bureau of Sanitation Director Enrique C. Zaldivar.



Personal Finance Series

Investing Basics: Increasing Retirement Income

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

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

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

Investing Basics: Increasing Retirement Income

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

LACERS
360 E. Second Street, 8th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90012

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

Reserve your seat today.



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



PORT TESTS

EMISSIONS SCRUBBING:

An innovative air pollution-reduction device called the "seawater scrubber" will be tested for the first time on a container ship visiting Southern California in a \$3.4 million project co-sponsored by the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach and starting in Spring 2011.

The technology uses seawater to filter pollutants from ships' auxiliary engines and boilers. It is expected to reduce a ship's sulfur oxide emissions by up to 99.9 percent and particulate matter by as much as 85 percent.

"The seawater scrubbing technology shows tremendous long-term potential for reducing emissions at our ports and improving the environment," said Port of Los Angeles Executive Director Geraldine Knatz, Ph.D. "We're excited about testing this innovative equipment and evaluating its promise for more widespread use."

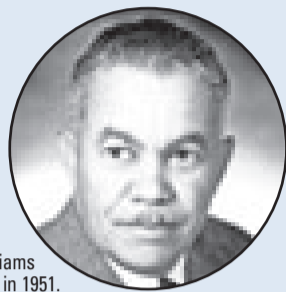
Funded in part by a \$1.65 million grant from the Technology Advancement Program (TAP), a joint initiative of the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, the seawater scrubber filtering technology will be tested on an APL container vessel starting in 2011. The entire demonstration project is expected to span 36 months.

History Comes Alive!

Tales From the City Archives



by Hynda Rudd
City Archivist (Retired)
and Club Member



Paul R. Williams
in 1951.

Paul Williams Flourishes

■ **In part two, noted African American architect Paul R. Williams comes into his own style and fame.**



The Second Baptist Church, designed by Paul R. Williams, was built in 1924.

Photos courtesy the Security Pacific and Herald-Examiner collections, Los Angeles Public Library photo archive, Christina Rice, Acting Sr. Librarian.

As stated two months ago, Paul R. Williams was one of the most well known 20th century African American architects. His early forte had been designing exceptional homes. In the 1950s and 1960s, he designed some of the most distinctive buildings in the Los Angeles area. PRW, as he was referred to by this time, was best known for designing the spidery, futuristic Theme Building at Los Angeles International Airport with William Pereira, another architect who was considered the "Dean of local architects in Los Angeles." They also worked on other projects together.

PRW had designed exceptional, glamorous homes, occasionally for famous movie stars. Within the next four decades, Williams' life was filled with glitz and glamour. He became known as the "architect to the stars." He designed homes for legendary celebrities including Frank Sinatra, Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz, Tyrone Power, Lon Chaney, Bert Lahr and Zsa Zsa Gabor, to name a few. PRW once made an interesting paraphrased statement about the bitter irony of his position during those times. He was allowed to design and oversee the construction, but on the deeds were included segregation covenants barring blacks from purchasing the properties.

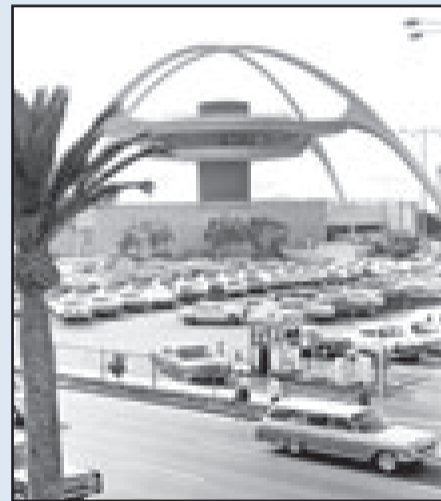
Here are abstracted descriptive designs of homes of some of the above listed celebrities. Also included are institutional buildings familiar to most Angelenos.

Frank Sinatra residence in Trousdale Estates, 1956: This was a small functional home. PRW designed it as the consummate bachelor pad. It had push buttons galore, being able to give an indoor - outdoor effect with a sunken dining room and a tropical lanai style. The colors of the house were off-white and charcoal, with ebony wood set off by white fabrics.

Desi Arnaz and Lucille Ball residence in Palm Springs, 1954: This house was a perfect getaway from the rigors of the entertainment industry and the urban life. This weekend home for the two entertainers melds into the desert landscape. Its modernist interpretation gave way for functional planning without wasted space.

Los Angeles County Courthouse, circa 1950s: PRW designed the County Courthouse with other architects. He was the first African-American architect of a county structure in Los Angeles when he was commissioned to design a building at the County General Hospital.

The famous, and previously noted, Theme Building, Los Angeles International Airport, circa 1960s: PRW, in association with other architects, designed new terminal facilities and the futuristic theme building at Los Angeles International Airport.



The LAX Theme Building, shown just after its completion in the early 1960s.

First A.M.E. Church, Los Angeles, 1963: Paul R. Williams took particular pride in the design of the First American Methodist Episcopal Church. This church is where he was raised and where he remained a devoted member throughout his life.

During the 1960s, PRW became an architect for major public buildings in Los Angeles and other places within the United States. During the same decade, he received licenses to practice in Nevada and Tennessee along with past licenses from New York, Washington, D.C., and of course Los Angeles. Notably:

St. Jude Hospital, Memphis, Tenn., 1961: Entertainer Danny Thomas envisioned a hospital for children of all races with critical illnesses. PRW shared the same feelings and donated his time and services for the first building of what is now a larger complex. Upon the death of PRW in 1980, the first building was dedicated to him for his generosity.

PRW received many memorable awards and commemorations during his adult life. But one relates to our City government. From 1953 through 1965, he served as a member and was president for 11 years on the Board of Municipal Arts Commissioners, precursor to the current Cultural Affairs Dept. I have a friend, Eddy Feldman, an attorney and an articulate spokesman, who was a member and served on the same board with Mr. Williams, but joined in 1963. Someone convinced PRW

that after being president for 11 years, he should give others an opportunity to have the position. Believe it or not, Eddy Feldman, my friend, became the next board president.

One of the most fascinating aspects of PRW's life comes from his granddaughter's volume, *Paul R. Williams, Architect: A Legacy of Style* by Karen E. Hudson. Throughout the book, Quotes from her grandfather's speeches and writings are woven throughout the book. The quotes that impressed me the most were his feelings about being black. I will quote from an article written by PRW in July 1937, entitled "I Am a Negro," in *American Magazine*.

"During the early years of my practice, prospective homebuilders frequently came into my office without being aware of my color Most of them were obviously serious in their intention to build. Yet, in the moment that they met me and discovered they were dealing with a Negro, I could see many of them "freeze." Their interesting discussing plans waned instantly, and their one remaining concern was to discover a convenient exit without hurting my feelings.

But I knew that the proposed cost, in each case, must seem to be a fortune I used that knowledge for a deliberate trick designed to startle my visitor "I am sorry," I would say, "but I have been forced to make it a rule never to do houses costing less than \$10,000 — but won't you sit down for a moment. Perhaps I may be able to give you a few ideas." ... Theatrical tactics? Of course—but I had to win a hearing.... The trick worked. Frequently it gave me needed clients."

Naturally, I encountered many discouragements and rebuffs, most of which were predicated upon my color. I survived a few financial hardships, which might have been avoided had my face been white. But I do not regret those difficulties, for I think that I am a far better craftsman today than I would be had my course been free."

Finally, the following is the last paragraph of a lengthy "A Letter to My Grandfather: *The Legacy*" by Karen E. Hudson:

"How could I have ever thought that this was my gift to you? Remembering your smile and gentle touch, you were always with me guiding the search. The people I have met, the



From 1953: Then-Mayor Norris Poulson (center) poses with the four new commissioners he appointed, from left: Arthur J. Rendon, Health Commission; Paul R. Williams, Municipal Art Commission; Poulson; Mrs. Rudolph Polk, Municipal Art Commission and Lloyd A. Menveg, Harbor Commission.

I came to realize that I was being condemned, not by a lack of ability, but by my color. I passed through successive stages of bewilderment, inarticulate protest, resentment, and, finally, reconciliation to the status of my race. ... However, as I grew older ... I found an inspiring challenge. Without having the wish to "show them," I developed a fierce desire to "show myself."

The weight of my racial handicap forced me, willy-nilly, to develop salesmanship. The average, well-established white architect, secure in his social connections, might be able to rest his hopes on his final plans; I, on the contrary, had to devote as much thought and ingenuity to winning an adequate first hearing as to the execution of the detailed drawings.

[Prospective clients would comment:] "Just shopping around a bit" ... "Really not intending to build right now" ... "Thinking of spending about \$8,000..." The average figure was low, for clients able to build expensive mansions were not yet patronizing my office.



A private residence designed by Paul R. Williams.



A 1958 architect's rendering of the County Courthouse downtown.

For Retired Club Members



The Best Years



By Mary Beetz,
RLACEI Publicity Chair

City Retiree Associations:

DWP Retirees Association



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

Los Angeles Retired Fire and Police Association

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

Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. (RLACEI)



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

Change of Address?

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

Have News About Yourself?

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

RLACEI UPCOMING EVENTS:

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

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

June TBA: Golf Tournament, Alhambra Municipal Course

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

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

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

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

RLACEI:

Retirees Health Subsidies Are Being Reconsidered

President, Ed Harding reports:



Ed Harding

Edward Harding, RLACEI President, reports: "On Dec. 17, the LACERS Board interviewed those who were interested and qualified to be General Manager of our Retirement System. At a later Commission meeting, Tom Moutes, Assistant General Manager and currently the interim General Manager of our Retirement System, was recommended for appointment, subject to the Mayor and City Council approval. Congratulations, Tom you deserve it, and we are very

happy for you, and looking forward to working with you.

"On Jan. 7, Americo Garza, Chairman of LACERS Entertainment Committee, and I met at the Friendship Auditorium, 3201 Riverside Dr., and paid the fees for the April 14 and Oct. 5 general membership meetings, as well as the Dec. 1 holiday party and board meeting.

"The Christmas holiday party for year 2011 has been moved from Grace E. Simons Lodge in

Elysian Park to the Friendship Auditorium. At our holiday party in December, we had more than 200 in attendance. The Grace E. Simons Lodge capacity is only 200, where the Friendship Auditorium capacity is 400. Americo and I also went to the Grace Simons Lodge and paid the fees for the Aug. 11 picnic."

RLACEI also reports some new leadership positions: Hal Danowitz, Secretary/Treasurer; Mary Beetz, Publicity Chair; and Phil Skarin, Director.

Pension Issues by Michael Karsh:



Michael Karsh

Health Subsidy Up for Grabs

"There appears to be considerable comment about amending the health subsidy that the pension system pays for its members. No one person is known for advancing this as a remedy, among many others, to the financial stress in the overall City's budget and the pension system. Charter and decisional law generally protect the pensions that everyone expects to get or is now getting. Most of the proposed reforms in the pension area focus on new hires (drastically lowering the

promised benefits, or changing to a defined contribution plan), or on those employees who are not near their retirement (increasing their contribution to the pension plan, aiming at a percentage level of seven to ten percent of salary). But the health care they also expect to receive, or (for retirees) are receiving, seems to have less sanctity, hence attention is also focusing on several strategies, including increases in the co-payments, and doing something to control the ever-increasing cost of medical care by the health care plans. What seems to be gaining

currency is to freeze the level of health care subsidy by the pension system and force members to pay for any increases in said health care in the future. The health subsidy by Los Angeles is hovering around \$1,000 per month per employee and retiree; hence increases by the plans of 10 to 20 percent would mean \$100 to \$200 per month per person. This is just in the discussion phase, with nothing formally announced or written, and no one person is named as advancing it. We will keep you informed of any decisions.

RLACEI Website

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

Contact LACERS

The Los Angeles City Employees Retirement System is at 360 E. Second Street, second floor, Los Angeles, CA 90012. Phone (213) 473-7200 or (800) 779-8328. Contact them to arrange direct deposit of your retirement checks, change your tax withholding or beneficiary, or for questions about your health plans.

The Best Years

ADVENTURES with HAL!



The Golden Princess.



By Hal Danowitz,
Secretary, RLACEI

Retiree Hotlines

Who to call? Call the Helpline and reach the officers of the Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. If you move or change your address, contact Helen Salgado. Also notify LACERS, ACEBSA, and LAFUCU.

City Employees Retirement System:
(213) 473-7200

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

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

RSVP: Ext. 701

DWP Retirement Plan Office: (213) 367-1722

RLACEI:

Officers

Mary Beetz: Publicity Chair
Hal Danowitz: Secretary/Treasurer
Edward Harding: President
Michael Karsch: Treasurer
Phil Skarin: Director
Kenneth Spiker: First Vice President
Tom Stemmok: Second Vice President

Committee Chairpersons

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

Directors

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



Island Breezes

■ Hal and Co. cruise to the 50th state.

After 2009's 35-day trip on a European cruise, my wife, Evelyn, and I decided not to do a big trip in 2010. That didn't mean that we didn't travel: We spent a week in Mexico with the grandkids; a few days in Palm Springs to see the *Follies*; Napa and San Francisco; and a number of trips to Las Vegas. For a sort-of big trip, we took a 14-day cruise to Hawaii.

At first I mentioned a week cruise to the Mexico Rivera, but no one was very interested. Our cousins, Myrna and Don, wanted to go with us and suggested the Hawaiian cruise. All of us have been to the islands many times, so the important part was the cruise over and back. Both Princess and Holland-America have 14-day cruises to Hawaii, but we picked Princess because it departed and returned to San Pedro. Not having to take a plane, we could take as much luggage as we liked.

We both booked mini-suites on the *Golden Princess*. Our travel agent was able to get us a very good fare and upgrade, using my American Express Platinum card.

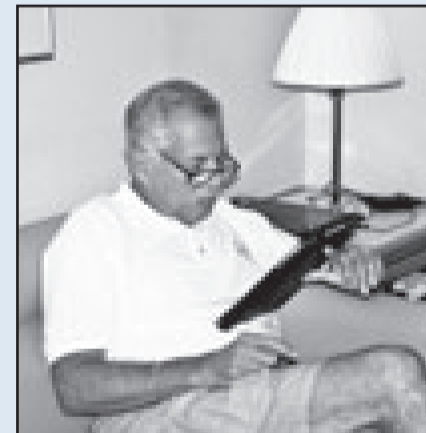
We all have been on a number of Princess cruises, and that provides a level of status in the Captain's Circle, the passenger loyalty club. Don and Myrna are gold-level members, and Evelyn and I are platinum. You'll read some of the benefits further on in the article.

Our cruise's itinerary was: departure from San Pedro on Oct. 13; four days to cruise to Hilo on the Big Island, the first port; then on to Honolulu, Kauai and Maui; four days back to Ensenada, Mexico; and then home the next day. We stopped in Ensenada because of the Jones Act, which prohibits foreign carriers from departing from a United States port and then returning to a United States port without first stopping in a foreign country.

The *Golden Princess* was built in Italy in 2001, weighs 108,865 tons and is 950 feet long. Its maximum passenger capacity is 3,500 and has a crew of 1,150. This is the biggest ship that we have been on. There are three dining rooms, two specialty restaurants, the grill, a pizzeria, the Horizon Court

buffet, the International Café and a lot of bars. Even with more than 3,000 passengers, it didn't feel crowded.

Packing for this trip was easy – we took whatever we wanted. I didn't have to yell at Evelyn at all. The biggest problem was how we were going to get our liquor on board for our evening cocktail time. There were a number of formal nights on the ship, so I took my tux. We would also be celebrating our 21st wedding anniversary, so I brought two bottles of very good wine. Princess allows you to bring a bottle of wine for each passenger.



Hal on the iPad.

Don and Myrna drove to our house, and then I drove to San Pedro to board the ship. We left the car at the parking lot at the dock. The cost was \$12 a day. I dropped our luggage at the curb, and a porter took it aboard the ship. We have platinum status with Princess, so check-in and boarding were quick. All cruise lines want repeat passengers, so they have a loyalty club, which provides a number of perks to return passengers. After dropping our carry-on bags in our cabin, we walked up four decks to the Horizon Court buffet for a bite to eat. After lunch, we found the Internet room and signed up for my 250 minutes that come free with our Platinum status, a savings of \$100.

After the mandatory lifeboat drill, which

took place before we left the dock, we headed back to our cabin to see if our luggage had arrived. We had mini-suites, which are nice-sized and well appointed. We had a walk-in closet, a tub in the bathroom, two flat-panel televisions and lots of storage space. We found a bottle of champagne and a plate of chocolate-covered strawberries, a gift from the Princess public relations department.

The ship sailed at 4:30 p.m., and we were on the upper deck for the sailing. Afterward, we went to the Sky Bar, where they had a private cocktail party for passengers in suites, and platinum and elite (highest status) members.

That night was very casual, so we didn't change for dinner. We had the "anytime dining" plan, so we could set our own dining schedule; we had dinner in the Donatello dining room. Princess has both traditional dining – seating at 5:45 and 8 p.m. – and anytime dining, which provides a lot more flexibility. Both the service and food were good. We saw the 8:30 p.m. show in the Princess Theater. It was an overview of what we will be seeing over the next two weeks.

That night, we gained an hour as we sailed west.

Both Evelyn and I slept pretty well, and we woke about 7 a.m. The next day was the first of four sea days. We found the workout room and exercised. Both of us have been using the stairs instead of the elevator. There are a lot of big people on this ship; if Princess charged passengers by the pound, they would make a lot more money.

After I finished my workout, I had breakfast in the buffet – standard bacon and eggs. The weather was overcast and cool, and the seas were calm with just a little roll. We were told it was to warm up after tomorrow.

We had wireless Internet in our cabin. I brought both a laptop and an Apple iPad with us. At first, the laptop seemed easier to use, but in the end I used the iPad almost all the time. On one happy note, Evelyn also received 250 free minutes on the Internet.

The ship had cell phone service, but it is very pricey. It would have been cheaper to use



Skype to call home, but the Internet manager told me the ship's Internet service was not strong enough to support Skype video and audio.

There was a bridge lesson at 11 a.m., and both of us attended.

That night we had dinner reservations in the Crown Grill, a specialty steak house; it cost \$25 extra per person, but we had a comp from American Express because we used our Platinum card to book the trip. The Princess platinum status and American Express Platinum card are not the same, but each gave us benefits.

We had our first bridge lesson, and the

teacher was Tom Hammond. There was to be a one-hour lesson each of the eight sea days, and each afternoon there was duplicate bridge playing for two hours. Princess does not have a card or game room, so we met in one of the dining rooms. You would think a ship weighing 100,000 tons could have at least a card room.

After the bridge lesson, we had lunch on the lido (pool) deck. That's the location of the buffet, the pizza place, and the hamburger and hot dog stand.

I will pick up the trip next month and finish our crossing to Hawaii.



Our cabin.

LACERS Update:



Mary Beetz

Mary Beetz, LACERS representative, reports:

"New Medicare Part D IRMAAs for 2011:

As part of the recent federal health care legislation, effective in January (last month), an income-related monthly adjustment will be made in the premiums for enrollees in Medicare Part D (for prescription drug coverage).

"Like Medicare Part B premiums, retired members whose annual income is greater than \$85,000 (if a single filer) or \$170,000 (for joint filers) will be assessed an Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount (IRMAA). Members will be notified by Social Security about their Medicare premiums and whether they are required to pay Medicare Part B and Part D IRMAAs. The Social Security notification will refer to Medicare Part D as "your prescription drug coverage." Retirees who receive a Social Security benefits check the IRMAAs will be deducted from their Social Security checks. Retirees who do not receive a Social Security benefit check will be billed directly for their IRMAAs by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

"It is important that members who are assessed for Medicare Part B and Part D IRMAAs in 2011 pay them. LACERS requires its members to maintain their Medicare enrollments to continue receiving their medical plan premium subsidies. Failure to pay their IRMAAs may result in the termination of their LACERS medical benefits.

"Members who are enrolled in LACERS Anthem Medicare Supplement, SCAN, Secure Horizons, or Kaiser Permanente Senior Advantage plan (requiring enrollment in both Medicare Parts A and B) are

automatically enrolled in Medicare Part D, and therefore their medical plan premiums cover the cost of their Medicare Part D basic premiums.

"Dental Plans: As LACERS entered its new health plan year last month, here are a few reminders that members need to know with regard to their dental plans:

"Before authorizing your dentist to begin any treatment, make sure it is pre-approved and covered by your LACERS dental plan (MetLife Dental PPO or SafeGuard Dental HMO);

"Know how much of the cost you will be responsible for and the maximum coverage amount your dental plan allows; and

"Don't feel pressured to agree to treatment that you find questionable. If necessary, take the time to call your dental plan for benefit information or request to get a second opinion from another dentist.

"For more information on your plan benefits and to discuss your options, contact your dental plan MetLife PPO at (866) 526-0981, TDD (888) 638-4863, www.metlife.com/dental; SafeGuard HMO at (800) 880-1800, TTY (800) 880-3165, www.safeguard.net; or LACERS at (800) 779-8328, www.LACERS.org

"Spring Wellness Workshop: The first of two annual LACERS wellness workshops is tentatively scheduled to take place in this spring. More information and invitations will be sent to retired members by mail. Because seating is limited and reservations are on a first-come, first-serve basis, LACERS will begin taking reservations on the day stated in the flyer in order to allow enough time for all retirees to receive their invitations."

—F O R R E T I R E D C L U B M E M B E R S

Sprint wins top two!



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

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



Geoff Jaime
Sprint Govt Account Executive
Mobile: 310-704-6677
Geoff_Jaime@sprint.com

To purchase online or to view phone offers, go to:

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Get a \$50 invoice credit with an online device purchase & new line activation. Credit applied within 3 invoices. Free shipping and activation* online too!

Discount Code:
Corporate ID: GLLCA_CLA_222

{ Who are the people you see every day? }

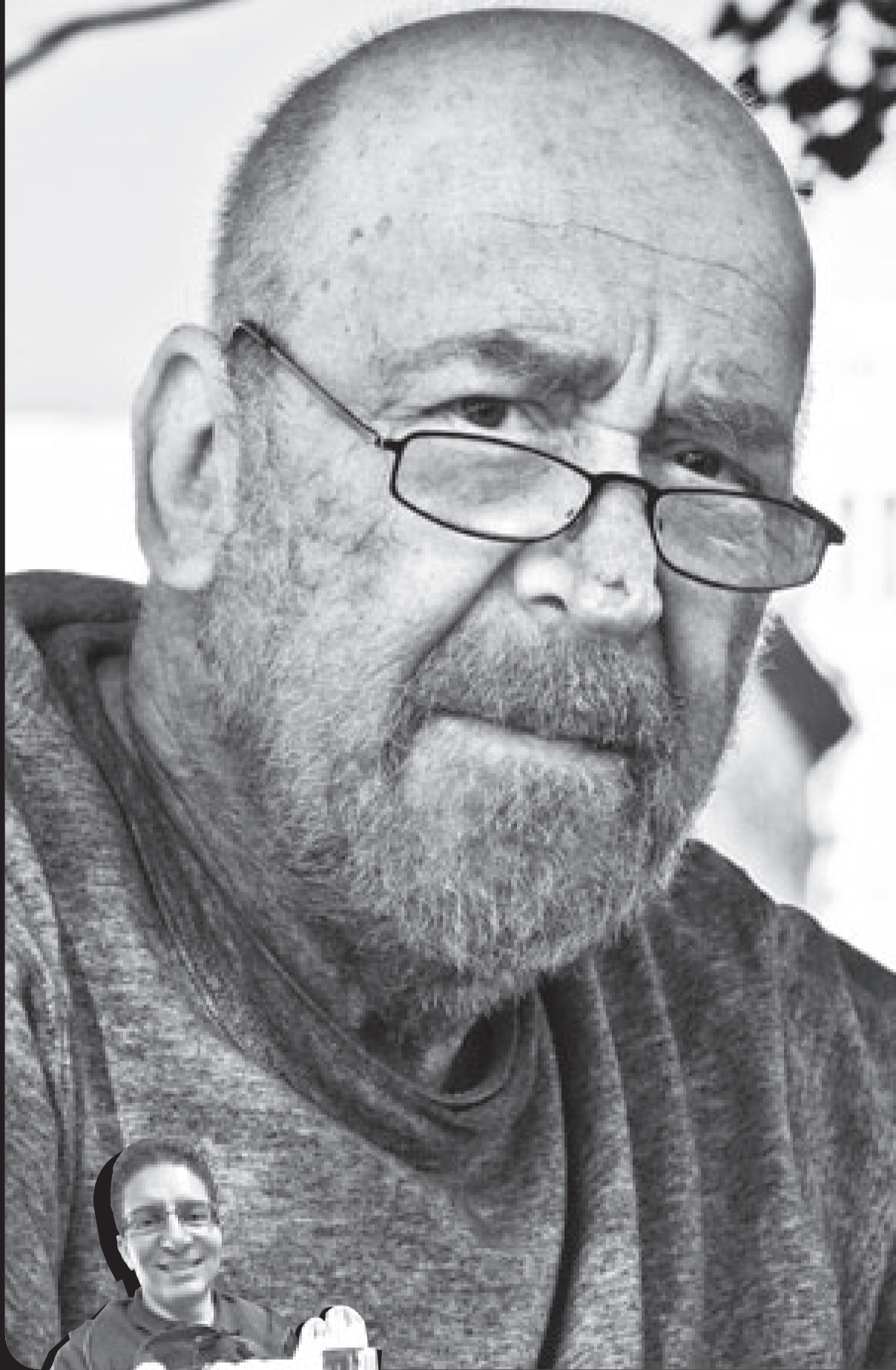
No. 35 in a series.

People We See

in downtown Los Angeles.



Meet Bill Holt.



AGE: "I'm 67."

BIRTHPLACE: "I was born in Washington D.C. but grew up in Lock Haven, Pa. and in parts of New York."

MARITAL STATUS: "I was married, but I have been divorced for 40 years now."

FAMILY: "I have one half brother and two foster brothers."

MILITARY SERVICE: "No."

WHEN DID YOU MOVE TO LOS ANGELES? "In 1956, when I was in seventh grade. I came here to live with my stepmother."

EDUCATION: "I went to Beverly Hills High."

FAVORITE CHILDHOOD MEMORY: "Growing up on the family farm in Pennsylvania."



AWARDS OR MEDALS: "I won one track race once, but I smoked at 15 [years old] so I wasn't good at competing. I was best at the hurdles 'cause that required technique more than stamina."

RELIGION: "I am spiritual, but organized religion? No. I believe in good and evil and mostly follow the Buddhist ideal."

POLITICAL STANCE: "None, just cynical."

DO YOU HAVE FRIENDS? "Yes. I have a couple of friends that live here, under the tree with me."

WHERE DO YOU LIVE? "Right here, under this tree."

FAVORITE PLACE IN THE CITY: "I don't really have one anymore. I guess under this tree because I like to feed the birds."

WHAT WAS THE LAST JOB YOU HAD? "I had two businesses – an attorney service and a gardening service."

FAVORITE SPORT: "I ran track and played football and baseball. I was too short for basketball."

FAVORITE ACTOR: "John Wayne and Morgan Freeman."

FAVORITE MOVIE: "A Bronx Tale."

FAVORITE CANDY: "Reese's Peanut Butter Cups."

FAVORITE FOOD: "Egg noodles with a little garlic, olive oil and tomatoes."

FAVORITE MUSIC: "Oldies, standards and the blues."

WHAT'S THE LAST BOOK YOU READ? "The last book I read was a Stephen King novel, *Dolores Claiborne*. I love to read. In fact I just bought four books from a bookstore down the street. It's called the Last Book Store, and these books here were just a dollar each. After reading these I'll be able to teach the first and second semester of a college course."

ADVICE FOR EVERYDAY PEOPLE: "Pay your rent on time, keep a roof over your head, keep your mouth shut, and don't yell at powerful people. No matter how bad things are, they can always get worse."

LAST THING EATEN: "A bologna and cheese sandwich."

MOST PRIZED POSSESSION: "My Swiss Army Knife and my can of mace. The Swiss Army Knife is the Tinker model. I'm using the Phillips screwdriver feature all the time to tighten up my wheel chair."

WHO OR WHAT ORGANIZATION HAS BEEN THE BIGGEST HELP TO YOU? "None of them."

IF YOU COULD WISH FOR ANYTHING, WHAT WOULD IT BE? "A home."

IF YOU HAD \$1 MILLION, WHAT WOULD YOU DO WITH IT? "Get a van and fix it up for living."

IF YOU WERE THE MAYOR OF LOS ANGELES, WHAT WOULD YOU DO TO HELP THE HOMELESS? "Build houses and get rid of poverty."

WHERE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF IN FIVE YEARS? "Right here or in jail."

The Club gave Bill shaving cream, a toothbrush and toothpaste, soap, two pairs of socks, shampoo, hand wipes, some food, \$20 and some bottled water.

The interview took place Jan. 18 downtown and was conducted by Club staffer Noelle Kauffman.

Photos by Angel Gomez

How to Help

You can make a difference.

Donate items to "People We See," and the Club will deliver them to an upcoming subject. Great items include socks, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrush, toilet paper, hand wipes, shaving cream and razors. Just drop them off at the Club Store (120 W. 2nd Street, downtown Los Angeles), and we'll take it from there.

We want to thank Lorena De La Torre for providing socks.



{ In this monthly feature, Club CEO John Hawkins, Director of Member Services Angel Gomez and New Project Coordinator Noelle Kauffman, introduce you to people you see every day, but you might not know who they are. }

The Club reminds you that we all have names and stories to tell.



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COMPANY	(90041 Zip Code)
Farmers	\$2,375
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Allstate	\$1,310
State Farm	\$1,248
21st Century	\$1,113
United Agencies	\$964

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

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

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

the pet club

Your friend is waiting for you!



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

This Month's Pets For Adoption:

picasso

Picasso is a 1-year-old neutered domestic short hair cat. He is very sweet and affectionate and would be great in a home with other cats. He is already neutered and ready to brighten your home today!

ID #A1167518: East Valley Animal Care Shelter



Miclo

Miclo is a year-and-a-half-old white neutered American bulldog. He is very friendly and good with other dogs. Miclo loves people, especially those he can convince to play with him! Please adopt this handsome boy!

ID #A1174678: East Valley Animal Care Shelter.



sparta

Sparta is a two-year-old neutered German shepherd. He is good with other dogs, loves meeting new people, and already walks great on a leash. He is definitely a gentle giant!

ID #A1180361: East Valley Animal Care Center.



LENNY

Lenny is a one-year-old neutered Norwich terrier poodle mix. What a doll! Lenny is very active and loves to play chase. He is great on a leash, good with other dogs and loves meeting new people.

ID #A1179672: East Valley Animal Care Center.



susie

Susie is a six-month-old female rabbit. She loves to be the lady of the house. She is a sweet gentle little girl that will sit in your lap and let you pet her. Susie is also litter-box trained and friendly with other rabbits.

ID #A1178751: East Valley Animal Care Center.



Meet your New Hope coordinator!



All of the following animals are available at the East Valley Animal Care Shelter, 14409 Vanowen St., Van Nuys, CA 91405. The New Hope Coordinator and Bottle Baby Foster is **Veronica Perry**, (818) 756-9323

Don't miss the special Valentine's discount Adoption Days, Feb. 8 - 13. Find a love that lasts!



The trail begins. Angel Jr., Kathy and Aden are already having fun.

SCHABARUM REGIONAL PARK

— in Rowland Heights

Happy New Year Everyone! It's good to "Be *Alive!*"

The Schabarum Regional Park is right off the 60 Freeway on Azusa Avenue, next to the Puente Hills Mall in Rowland Heights.

I really like this park simply because there are so many activities – jogging, hiking, biking, horseback riding, bird watching and also tai chi exercises. The walkway is really nice, and the hiking trails are very well kept and easy to follow. I will be going back because we went through only about half the park on my first visit. Make your New Year's resolution to get out of the house and enjoy the outdoors – for only \$6. Outstanding!

Features

Peter F. Schabarum Regional Park, in Rowland Heights, is a 604-acre facility south of the Pomona Freeway at Azusa Avenue. Seventy-seven acres of the park have been developed for picnics, youth camping, soccer and tennis. Youth tennis lessons are offered year-round. Exercise classes take place in the park every day and are free. There is a new "life trail" exercise area, geared for use by seniors but available to everyone, near the entrance to the park. The walking-jogging path runs the length of the park and have been completely resur-

faced. There is equestrian access to the natural-area trails at the south end of the park's main road and parking for horse trailers.

There are two large covered picnic areas that can be rented for larger family gatherings and several smaller areas that can be rented in advance. There is a covered outdoor amphitheater and adjacent picnic area suitable for weddings, family reunions and corporate events. A free summer concert series is held each July and August. Two special features of the park are the ume tree grove, which blossoms this month, and the memorial cherry tree path, blooming in March and April.

A federally protected blue-line stream runs throughout the park. The remaining 563 acres of the park have been left in their natural state and are crisscrossed by hiking, biking and horseback riding trails that connect to the historic Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail, a portion of which is located within the boundaries of Schabarum Park.

The Hike

We started by paying our \$6 parking fee and asked which direction took us to the trail. The lady in the guard shack gave us a nice map. She told us to go toward the equestrian section straight up the road. So we followed the road and alongside it we saw a beautiful walking path through the park that led to the trails. Along the way we found exercise equipment and playgrounds for your young kids. We parked in the area next to the horse stables and began to walk on the trail. The path is easy to follow and has many options.

We saw lots of forks in the road going right or left.

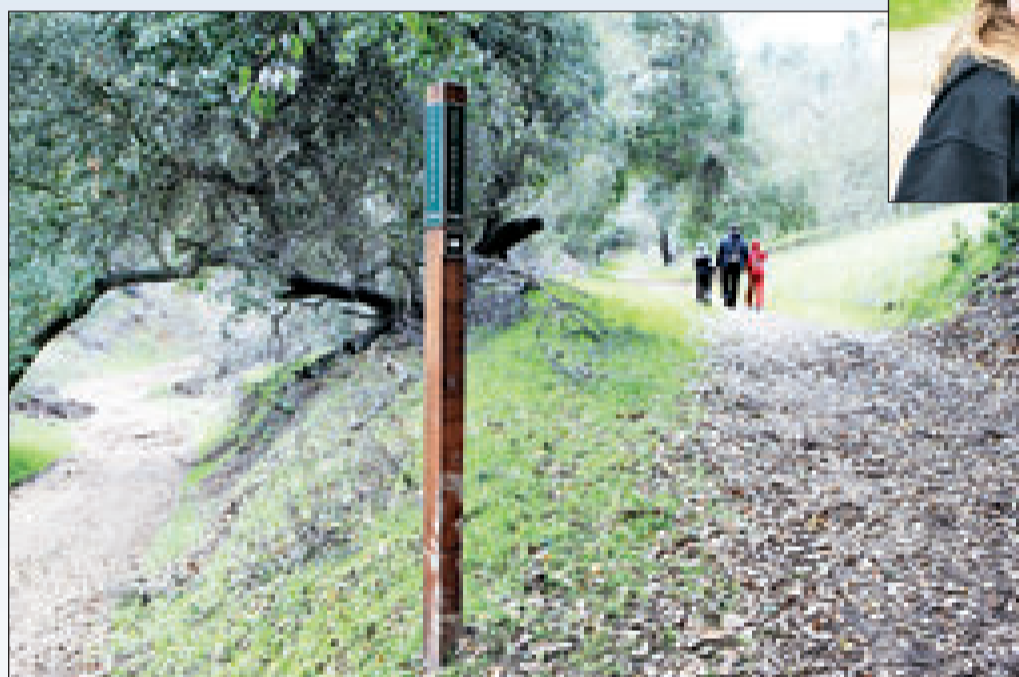


Schabarum Regional Park.

Send your photos to me at agomez@cityemployeesclub.com. I would love to see them!



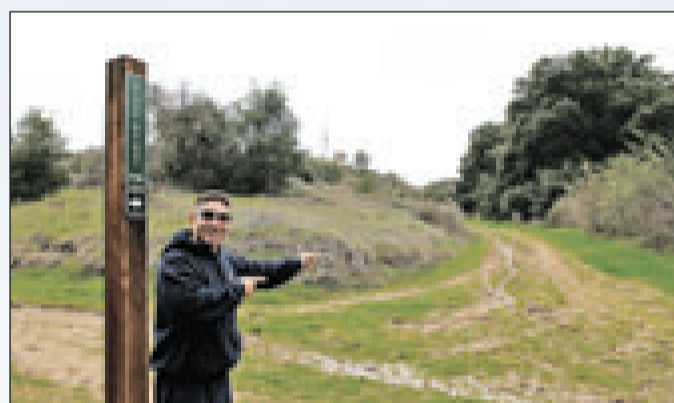
Multiple trail signs.



Which path is best? Powder Canyon or Gray Squirrel?



Aden and Angel Jr. found an animal that doesn't bite.



Black Walnut Trail was this way.



Angel Jr. and Aden next to a really big tree trunk.

No matter where you go, you will see lots of hills, beautiful trees and fantastic views from the hilltops. We had only about an hour to explore because of rain.

With the rain, we had to stop and go back to the car. But let me tell you where we went in our limited time there. We started where the stables are and took the Schabarum Trail until it turned into Powder Canyon; we passed the Purple Sage Trail (we'll do it next time) and then turned up Gray Squirrel Trail, which dead-ends on Fullerton Road. We doubled back and continued on

Powder Canyon until we reached the Nogales Trail, went up and connected with Black Walnut Trail (a loop that took us back to Powder Canyon, 1.74 miles) and then back up Schabarum Trail to the horse stables.

By the time you read this, I will have gone back and hiked around Purple Stage Trail (3.2-mile loop) and the Schabarum extension trail, a.k.a. Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail (2.7 miles), which also ends at Fullerton Road.

This is a bargain for only \$6, offering outdoor fun for the entire family.

Bring a lunch and have a picnic; the kids can run around and you can enjoy the tranquility of nature and all its relaxing visual gifts – hilltops, valleys and playgrounds for the kids, to name a few. Lastly, I would encourage you to also bring your dog – don't forget about man's best friend.

If you take your family or friends, I would love to see your pictures. So send them to me at agomez@cityemployeesclub.com.

Bring plenty of water and snacks, and maybe spend a little time at the waterfall having a picnic.

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

Angel's
Be Alive!

Angel Gomez, Director of Member Services



Schabarum Regional Park

17250 E. Colima Rd., Rowland Heights
(626) 854-5560

HIGHLIGHTS: Parking areas, restrooms, picnic and grass areas, water fountains and plenty of running space for dogs.

HIKE TIME: 2 hours

DIFFICULTY: Hikes of various difficulties and distances are possible at Schabarum.

SPECIAL NOTICE: Rattlesnakes and mountain lion signs are posted.

"FAMILY BIRD WALKS": Offered on the third Sunday of each month at 8 a.m. This free walk is led by an experienced naturalist. All ages are welcome.

Directions:

From downtown, take the 60 Freeway east to Azusa Avenue and turn left on Colima Road.

Hours: Sunrise to sunset.

October through March: 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

April through September: 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Closed on Christmas Day.

Parking:

\$6 a day. Vehicles are subject to vehicle entry fees on weekends and holidays.

Alive! AROUND THE WORLD

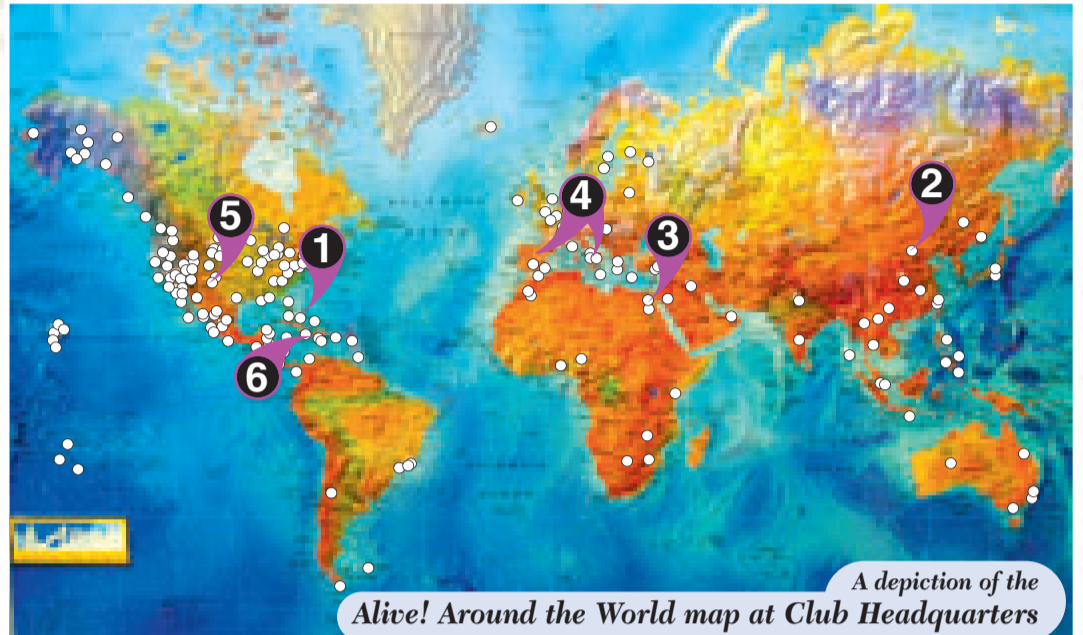


1 Bahamas



"I went on a transatlantic cruise and kept forgetting to bring the paper. I missed Cartagena, Spain; Gibraltar; and the Canary Islands; but at the last stop on Nassau when we were heading for an undersea view of the coral reef and the fish I remembered that the paper was in my camera bag. It was a great trip for my 81st birthday."

- Gary Whittington, Retired, Street Maintenance Superintendent



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

When you send digital photos through the Internet, please send the full, original digital file yourself, rather than using digital photo software like Kodak EasyShare, Kodak Gallery, Flickr, etc. These programs send very low-resolution images, and they don't look good in print. We want you to look your best, so send us the original digital file, please! Thanks!

2 China



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



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

3 Egypt



Leticia Yapana, DWP, visited Israel and Egypt.

"In the background is the great pyramid of Giza, which was one of the oldest and largest of three pyramids in El Giza, Necropolis, Egypt. It's one of the seven wonders of the ancient world and the only one remaining largely intact."



Nazareth, Israel.

4 Mediterranean

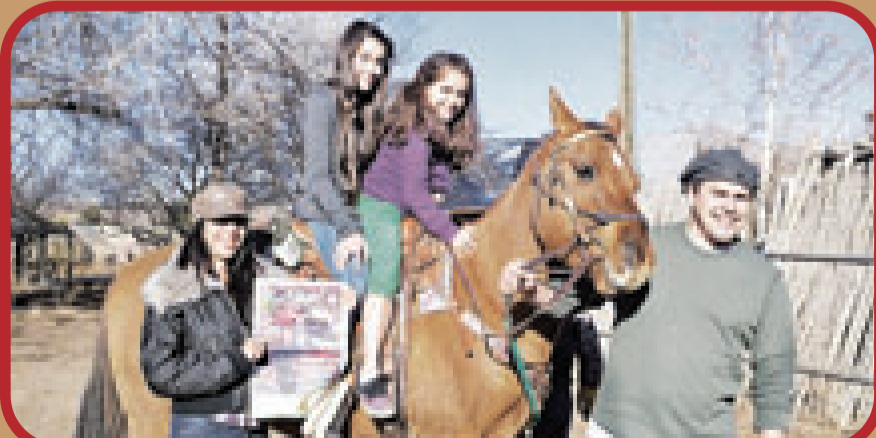


Villefranche, France.

Pisa, Italy.

Karen Norman, LAPD, and daughter, Shinetha Scott, Transportation, on their recent Mediterranean cruise, The Royal Caribbean *Voyager of the Seas*.

5 New Mexico



The Avila family visited the Corrales Ranch in Corrales, N.M., over the holidays. The family is Alfonso Avila, Housing Inspector, Housing, with wife, Judy; and daughters, Mercedes and Alexandria.

6 Haiti



Yolana Young, LAPD, in Haiti.

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

HARBOR

Harbor Toy Giveaway

Port Police Assn. reaches out to those in need.

Story and photos courtesy Cheryl Morris, Port Police

The 2010 Holiday Toy Giveaway took place Dec. 19 at the Banning's Landing Community Center, 100 Water St. in Wilmington.

The Holiday Toy Giveaway Event was created through the vision of Port Police Officer Cheryl Morris as an outreach to the community for those families in need. The event was hosted by the Los Angeles Port Police Association in partnership with the Gang Alternatives Program (G.A.P.). The event was sponsored by donations from businesses in the community who share the vision in helping others and bringing holiday cheer to families during these tough times. The event included a reception, a luncheon, raffles, arts and crafts, holiday photos, and toys, toys, toys!

The following were sponsors of the event: Ace Roll Off; Adopt a Storm Drain Foundation; Berg & Associates, Inc.; Councilwoman Janice Hahn, Council District 15, Club Member; California Sulphur Co.; Fast Lane Transportation, Inc; ILWU Credit Union; JAKKS Pacific, Inc.; Juanita's Foods; the Los Angeles Airport Peace Officers Association; Plains All American; the Port of Los Angeles; Potential Industries; Shawnan; Spirit Cruises; Wilmington Chamber of Commerce; Wilmington Coordinating Council; and VOPAK.

The Port Police Association thanks all the volunteers, sponsors and specifically the Port of LA Harbor Dept. Employees Assn. And special thanks to the volunteers who are not in the photos: Cecilia Moreno, Housing; Officer Tou Moua and his wife; Officer Kiyohiko Amano and husband.; and all those volunteers who helped. Most of the volunteers were citizens from the community!



Event co-coordinator Victor Medina of the Gang Alternatives Program with a raffle item.



Linda Vigil, Harbor, Club Member and Retired Port Police Officer Pat Montano.



Margie Hernandez, Harbor (Retired), and her daughter.



Camille Creations provided the face painting. The service was sponsored by a donations.



Port Executive Director Geraldine Knatz, Ph.D., Club Member, with her son and Santa (Port Police Officer Kent Hobbs), Club Member.



From left: Port Police Officers John Legaspi, Club Member, Michael Gimpse, Club Member, Keli Baldwin, Club Member and Officer Cheryl Morris, Club Member, with volunteer Elizabeth Lee.



From left: Port Police Officers Masaki Imoto, Club Member, Guillermo Lopez, Club Member and Aldo Morales, Club Member.



Volunteers: Port Police Officer David Cervantes, Cadet Anthony Lewis and an unidentified reserve officer.



Port Police Officer Livani Pilitsis, Association President, Club Member.



Port Police Officer Andrew Sklarsh.



Port Police Officer Keli Baldwin, Club Member.



The wife and son of Port police Officer Kiyohiko Amano.



Port Police Support Staff Jayme Troung and Port Police Capt. Don Farrell.



Port Police Officer Art Kurkowski, Club Member and his wife (right).

2 0 1 1

AFRICAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH CELEBRATION

Presented by the
Los Angeles Association of Black Personnel
For more information,
please go to www.LAABP.org or (213) 978-7254

JAZZ BY THE SEA

WHEN: Wednesday, Feb. 2
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
(City ID required)

WHERE: Hyperion Wastewater Treatment Plant
12000 Vista Del Mar
Playa Del Rey, CA
90293

LITERARY EVENT & BOOK FAIR

WHEN: Wednesday, Feb. 9
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

WHERE: Main City Hall
South Lawn
East 1st Street
between Main St. & Hill St.
Los Angeles, CA
90012

ANNUAL TRAILBLAZERS RECEPTION

WHEN: Wednesday, Feb. 16
5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

WHERE: City Hall
Tom Bradley Tower
201 N. Main Street,
27th Floor
Los Angeles, CA
90012

KUONJA: FLAVORS OF SOUL AND MARKETPLACE

WHEN: Tuesday, Feb. 22 and
Wednesday, Feb. 23
11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

WHERE: Fletcher Bowron Square (Triforium),
between Main St. & Temple St.
Los Angeles, CA
90012



For all the latest scores and schedules, go to:
www.cityemployeesclub.com/t-C2_Sports_BBall.aspx



Semifinal Highlights!

CLUB SPORTS



MORE SPORTS COMING YOUR WAY!

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

Call today!

VOLLEYBALL



Volleyball for men and women. Sign up today!

RUNNING



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

CYCLING



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

STATS Team Standings

(as of January 16, 2011)

	WINS	LOSSES	FORFEITS	TOTAL POINTS
Rec & Parks Hoopers	10	0	-	20
DOT Outlaws	9	1	-	18
Poi Dawgs	5	5	-	10
Traffic Jam	5	5	-1	9
Smashers	5	5	-1	9
Ones & Zeros	4	6	-	8
105 West	3	6	-1	5
LAX Ballers	2	7	-1	3
Hydropower	0	9	-2	-2

OVERALL LEAGUE CHAMPIONS:
 Rec & Parks Hoopers

LOWER DIVISIONS CHAMPIONS:
 Poi Dawgs

Game Scores

Dec. 16, 2010
GAMES RESCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER 30, 2010

Dec. 30, 2010
7pm - North Gym SCORE
 Traffic Jam WF
 Smashers LF

7pm - South Gym
 Hoopers WF
 Hydro Power LF

8pm - North Gym
 Outlaws WF
 LAX Ballers LF

8pm - South Gym
 Ones & Zeros 57
 Poi Dawgs 63

BYE: 105 WEST

Jan. 6, 2011

7pm - North Gym SCORE
 Smashers 61
 Hoopers 70

7pm - South Gym
 Smashers 58
 105 West 44

8pm - North Gym
 Traffic Jam 45
 Outlaws 48

8pm - South Gym
 Outlaws 43
 Hydropower 27

BYE: Hydropower

Jan. 13, 2011

7pm - North Gym SCORE
 Hydropower NG
 Traffic Jam NG

7pm - South Gym
 Smashers 51
 105 West 58

8pm - North Gym
 Outlaws 37
 Hoopers 43

8pm - South Gym
 Poi Dawgs 50
 Ones & Zeros 37

BYE: LAX Ballers

WF = Won by Forfeit LF = Lost by Forfeit NG = No Game

CLUB SPORTS



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

Season Two Champs!

The Club crowns Hoopers as basketball champions.

Photos by Tom Hawkins, Club Photographer, and Sunny Lam, Club Director of Marketing



Club Basketball Season Two ended with the two premier teams – Rec and Parks Hoopers and the DOT (Transportation) Outlaws – meeting in the League Championship Finals game.

The Outlaws had been the first team in Club history to win the title and were defending their title against the undefeated Hoopers. In a closely contested battle, the Hoopers outlasted the Outlaws, 43-37, to

become the new League Champions.

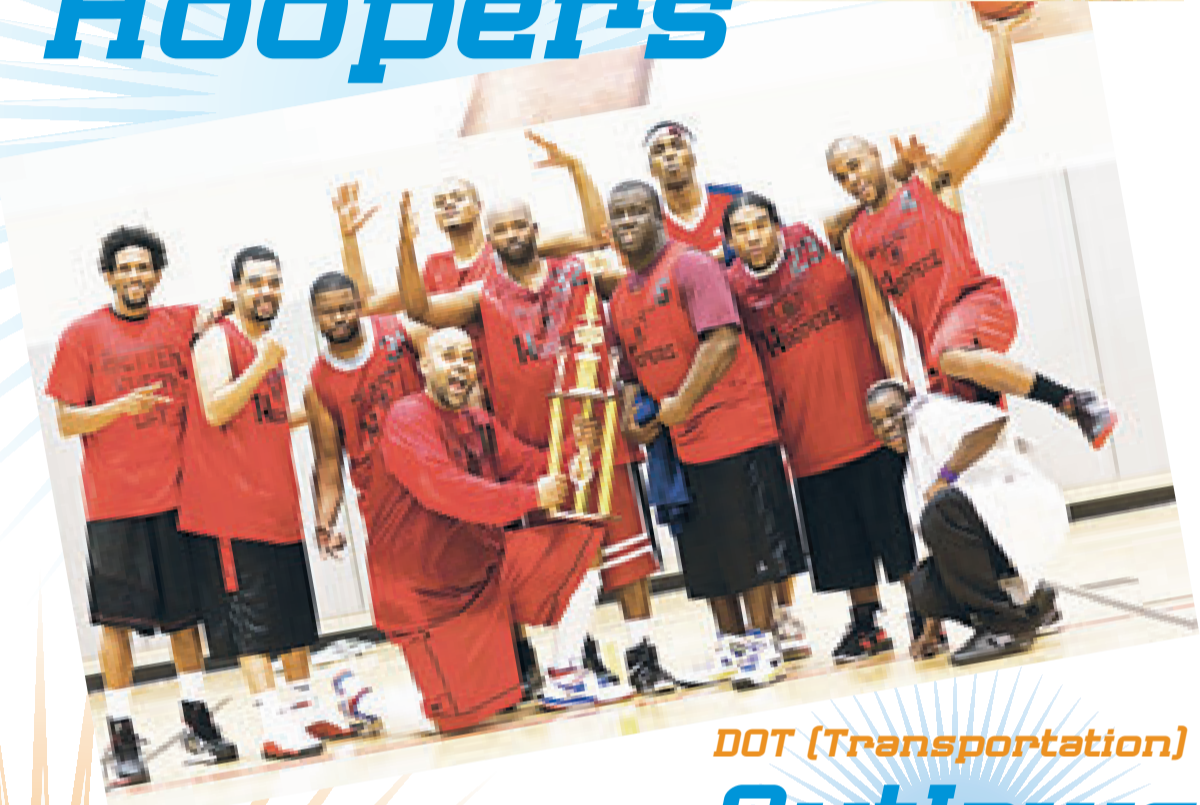
The City Employees Club of Los Angeles congratulates the Hoopers for a great season and is proud of the Outlaws for their terrific defense of their title. We know that both teams will again return for Season Three with great expectations. Mychal Lynch of the Hoopers remarked, "We had so much fun this season, and we were honored to play against the defending champions in the Outlaws – they are a great team and we know they will be back stronger than ever next season!"

The Poi Dawgs were crowned the lower division Champions by defeating the Ones & Zeros, 50-37. Congratulations to Poi Dawgs manager Wilson Wang and his team for ending their season on a high note.

The games took place at the Expo Center north and south gyms, 3980 S. Menlo Ave., Los Angeles.

Rec and Parks

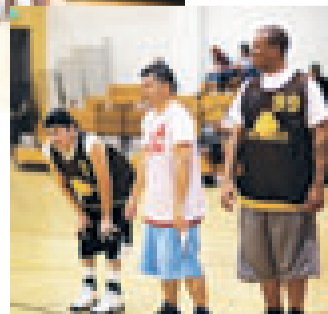
HOOPERS



DOT (Transportation)

Outlaws

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PUBLIC WORKS



Public Works Toastmasters members (from left): Ivan Gerson, Elliot Kim, Irene Moon, Yukari Iwai, Kola Ajibola, Jeanette Smith-Hall, Nisheeth Kakarala, Yvonne Liu, Dominic Buenaventura and Chelsea Li.

Pioneers' New Leaders

Pioneers Toastmasters selects new officers.

Story by Elliot Kim, Public Works/Engineering;
Photo courtesy Pioneers Toastmasters

On Dec. 15, Pioneers Toastmasters members elected recent speech contest winner Dominic Buenaventura and Jeanette C. Hall-

Smith as their new club co-presidents. Dominic and Jeanette will lead 19 new and experienced City Employees at the weekly meetings. The new presidents will use their enthusiasm to draw more members from all of the bureaus of Public Works. Ivan Gerson, Secretary, and Nisheeth Kakarala, Vice President, will continue in their former positions. As the Sergeant at Arms, Irene Moon Rhyu will help set up each meeting and greet guests. Ivan Gerson will send the minutes out promptly until his term ends, with the other officers, on June 30.

Now in their eighth year, Public Works' Pioneers Toastmasters unit had a successful 2010, hosting two speech contests and adding three new members. The outgoing officers were: Dominic Buenaventura and Jeanette C. Hall-Smith as Co-Presidents; Niseeth Kakarala, as Vice President, Education; Kola Ajibola as Vice President, Membership; Elliot Kim as Vice President, Public Relations; Ivan Gerson as Secretary; Yukari Iwai as Treasurer; and Irene Moon Rhyu as Sergeant at Arms.

Toastmasters is an internationally acclaimed program that helps thousands of members to obtain and hone communication and leadership skills every year.

Everyone is invited to visit and then consider joining the Public Works Pioneers, catch exciting speakers, pick up tips on oral communication and leadership, and build confidence in their next presentation or job interview. The club meets each Wednesday at 12:05 p.m. for approximately 30 minutes in conference room 6004 at the Public Works Building, 1149 S. Broadway in downtown LA.

For more information, contact Elliot Kim, (213) 485-5373, or Dominic Buenaventura, (213) 847-0593.

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– SEE PAGE 13

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REVIEWS BY FELLOW CLUB MEMBERS

ENTERTAINMENT

MOVIE REVIEWS



Burlesque
Rated PG-13
My Score: 4 (out of 5)

I loved it, loved it, loved it. I did deduct from a perfect score because I was a little disappointed that Cher did not have a couple more musical numbers. If you enjoy Broadway musicals, I am

sure you will enjoy this wonderful movie. It has a lot of great sexy musical numbers and dancing, along with a nice romance.

The cast was great, especially Cher, who looks and sounds amazing, and Christina Aguilera, who really can belt out the songs as well as dance and act. I will definitely be buying the soundtrack and DVD. I feel the show is suitable for mid-teens and up. This is one movie I look forward to seeing again and again.

– Gail Seltzer, DWP

Burlesque

My Score: 2 (out of 5)

Christina Aguilera is a small-town girl who goes to Los Angeles and finds her place in a financially troubled burlesque club run by a former dancer (Cher). *Burlesque* is a faux-Fosse rip-off of the great musical *Cabaret* and completely misses the mark. Christina Aguilera can sing and dance, but her acting is flat. And Cher apparently has had so much plastic surgery to her face that we need subtitles to let us know what she is feeling. Wasted in this film are Alan Cumming, Stanley Tucci and other major talents who I bet would rather remain anonymous.

– Lou Loomis, Rec and Parks



Little Fockers
Rated PG-13
My Score: 4 (out of 5)

Little Fockers stars Robert De Niro, Ben Stiller, Dustin Hoffman, Teri Polo, Owen Wilson, Blythe Danner and Barbra Streisand.

The movie was third in the series, after *Meet the Parents* and *The Fockers*.

The story just continued after being married, and now they have two children. The actors were great together. It was funny and entertaining.

– Pat Saucier, Retired

Little Fockers

My Score: 3 (out of 5)

All the usual suspects are back (Ben Stiller, Teri Polo, Robert De Niro, Blythe Danner, Barbra Streisand, Dustin Hoffman and Owen Wilson) and are in rare form. Jessica Alba is an interesting addition to the cast.

Although I enjoyed the movie, I did not find it nearly as funny or as good as the first two. I probably would have enjoyed it more if there were more of Barbra and Dustin. I just love them as the Fockers. If there is a fourth installment, I really hope it will center around Grandma and Grandpa Focker.

– Gail Seltzer, DWP



The Fighter
Rated R
My Score: 5 (out of 5)

The Fighter is based on the true and inspiring story of boxer "Irish" Mickey Ward (Mark Walberg) and his trainer brother, Dick Eklund (Christian Bale). It tells the tale of the brothers' early days in working-

class Lowell, Mass., through Eklund's battle with drugs and both brothers' ability to overcome adversity.

The acting in the film is superb, most notably from Christian Bale, who steals every scene, and is the heart of this wonderful and highly entertaining film. Also worth mentioning is Amy Adams as Ward's girlfriend, whose determination and spirit helps Ward through a difficult comeback.

– Lou Loomis, Rec and Parks

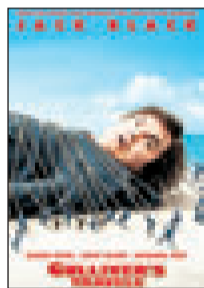


True Grit
Rated PG-13
My Score: 5 (out of 5)

True Grit teams the Coen Brothers as writers and directors with the esteemed Jeff Bridges as Rooster Cogburn in this excellent remake of the John Wayne classic

Western of a young girl with "grit" who's out to bring her father's killer to justice. Hailiee Steinfeld is Mattie Ross, who hires Cogburn to track the killer. She is joined by Texas Ranger La Boeuf (Matt Damon) on their adventure. A violent and surprisingly touching film, this *True Grit* is different than the 1969 version, but in many ways is just as enjoyable.

– Lou Loomis, Rec and Parks

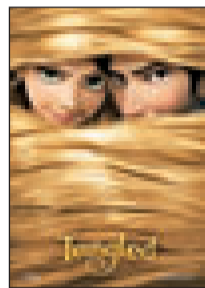


Gulliver's Travels
Rated PG
Our Score: 5 (out of 5)

We waited a long time to see *Gulliver's Travels*. As you may know, movies that star Jack Black are really funny. In this movie, Gulliver (Jack Black) thought he was a failure. One day he got lucky and

was sent on an assignment to sail the Bermuda Triangle, got pulled into a cyclone, and blacked out. When he awoke he saw little people. They called themselves Lilliputs. Shortly after arriving, a rival kingdom attacked the Lilliputs and Gulliver was their savior. The language is very mild and we recommend this movie to families. It was definitely worth the wait.

Devyn, 13, and Christopher, 10, children of Catherine Cordero, DWP



Tangled
Rated PG
My Score: 5 (out of 5)

A baby princess is kidnapped by an evil hag (Mother Gotham) who pretends to be her mother and raises her in solitude, using the princess' hair as a fountain of youth and as an entrance and exit to the tower where they live. The princess is discovered by a protagonist who has stolen a crown. She makes him a deal – if he leads her to the lights of the nearby village, she will return the crown.

This animated Disney feature is well-written and suspenseful, and not only for children. I particularly enjoyed the thugs and criminals in the bar, and the one-liners by Mother Gotham.

– Erin Knight, Public Works/Sanitation

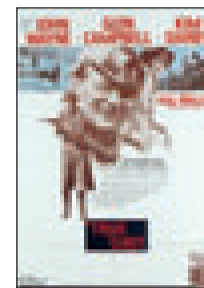


Tron: Legacy
Rated PG
My Score: 4 (out of 5)

This sequel was amazing to watch in IMAX 3D. It's not riddled with in-your-face 3D effects; what I really enjoyed was the attention to detail and lights with the subtle 3D effects (no headache). I barely remember the original, but this story mostly takes place in the "Grid" or computer world, where Jeff Bridges as Kevin Flynn has been stuck in there for 20 years. His son, Sam (Garrett Hedlund), a free-spirited rebel, is lured into the Grid to find his father and bring him back. The story is not much, but all you techno-geeks will love this flick as I did.

– Chuck Beas, DWP

DVD Reviews



True Grit (1969)
Rated G
My Score: 5 (out of 5)

True Grit was one of John Wayne's most highly acclaimed films of his career, for which he earned his one and only Academy Award for best actor. Wayne is Rooster Cogburn, a drunken, hard-nosed U.S.

Marshal who helps a stubborn young woman (Kim Darby) track down her father's murderer in Indian Territory. They are joined by Texas Ranger La Boeuf (Glen Campbell), who wants the man for a different murder. The film's greatest pleasure is seeing Wayne as a gruff, slovenly coot with a heart, and still with the ability to "get his man."

– Lou Loomis, Rec and Parks



Temple Grandin (2010)
Rated PG
My Score: 5 (out of 5)

Temple Grandin is the HBO biopic of an autistic woman who has become one of the top scientists in the humane livestock handling industry. With an uplifting performance by Claire Danes as the frustrated genius Grandin, struggling to overcome her disability and prove her worth, this film has a wonderful supporting cast (including Julia Ormond as her loving and highly intelligent mother); this is the rare movie that breathes optimism and hope in every frame. We all fall into self-pity from time to time, but Temple Grandin's story is a great antidote.

– Lou Loomis, Rec and Parks

Valentine's Day DVDs!

Here are two DVDs recommended for a Valentine's Day romantic evening!

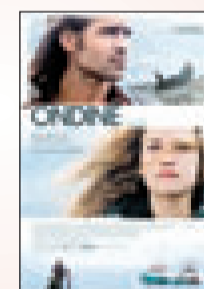


Kate and Leopold (2001)
Rated PG-13

This romantic comedy tells the story of a duke who travels through time from New York in 1876 to the present and falls in love with a career woman in the modern New York. I like this

movie because Hugh Jackman plays an old-fashioned gentleman, and he was convincing. He was charming, but not arrogant; eloquent, but not false. He stole the show. Meg Ryan's character could have been more interesting.

– Yvonne Liu, Finance



Ondine (2009)
Rated PG-13

Fisherman Syracuse catches a woman in his net in Irish waters. I like this movie because the first half is like the mermaid fisherman folktale, and everyone wants to believe the fairytale. The

second half tells the truth of both characters, and they test whether they are caught merely in the romance of the situation or committed to stay together.

– Yvonne Liu, Finance

Your Reviews

You can be a reviewer! Have you just seen a great movie or DVD? Read a great book? Been to a great play or musical? Write a brief review. It's easy! See the instruction box.



100 Words or Fewer

Here's how to submit your review. *Alive!* accepts entertainment reviews of 100 words or fewer. We might not print them all, especially if we receive multiple reviews for the same movie or DVD. Follow these rules:

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- Have fun!
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- Give us your score on a scale of 1 to 5. Use this format: *My Score: X (out of 5)*.
- Make sure you give us your name and City department (or retired).
- Submit your review to: talkback@cityemployeesclub.com
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Cooking with the Club

by Chef 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

Lobster and Scallop Fettuccini Alfredo a la Valentine's Day

Here's a special recipe that can be made for your sweetheart they will especially love on Valentine's Day – fettuccini alfredo with lobster and scallops. There are more ingredients in this recipe than in previous columns, but embrace them! It makes this recipe magically delicious.

There is much room for substituting ingredients including shrimp for lobster, cayenne pepper for red pepper flakes, and pappardelle pasta for the traditional fettuccini.

Also, as a bonus this month, I'm introducing a recipe from **Terry Gray, General Services** – Terry's Spicy Macaroni and Cheese. Thanks for sending it in, Terry!



DIRECTIONS:

Terry's Spicy Macaroni and Cheese

Terry's Spicy Macaroni and Cheese

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 block 8 oz. pepper jack or jalapeno cheese
- 1 16 oz. sharp cheddar cheese block
- 2 eggs
- 3/4 cup milk
- 1 lb small elbow macaroni
- Salt and pepper



- Use a heavy medium pot. Fill with water about half way. Bring water to a boil, and put in a little cooking oil (to prevent macaroni from sticking together.) Stir in the macaroni and stir occasionally.

- Don't cook the macaroni all the way; taste occasionally to make sure the noodles are firm. (They will finish cooking in the oven). Strain macaroni into a colander.

- Butter a baking dish, approximately 15 inches by 9 inches.

- Put a layer of macaroni into the dish.
- Layer with both cheeses generously.
- Add black pepper and seasoned salt.



- Continue layering until the dish is full, making sure the last layer is cheese.
- Mix eggs and milk in a measuring cup and whisk.

- Pour egg wash over noodles evenly.

- Cover the dish with foil, and pop into the oven at 350 degrees.

- Check every 10 minutes or so.

- After all the cheese is melted and the macaroni is bubbling, remove from the oven.

Note: If you like a little brown crust on top, remove the foil and let the dish stay in the oven for approximately five additional minutes, keeping an eye on your dish. (Nobody likes burnt mac and cheese.) Enjoy!

[A Cook's Dictionary]

Fettuccini Alfredo:

Roman restaurateur Alfredo di Lello is credited with creating this dish in the 1920s. The fettuccine is enrobed in a rich sauce of butter, grated Parmesan cheese, heavy cream and plentiful grindings of black pepper. Other noodles may be substituted for the fettuccine.

– From the *The New Food Lover's Companion*, Sharon Tyler Herbst, 1995, Barron's Educational Series.



DIRECTIONS:

Lobster and Scallop Fettuccini Alfredo



Place the lobster, scallops and olive oil in a saucepan on medium heat. Cook for about 10 minutes so that the frozen lobster and scallops are cooked through. Add a pinch of salt and pepper.



Add the garlic, onion, cinnamon, parsley, basil, thyme, and red pepper flakes and another pinch of salt and pepper. Stir and let simmer for about five minutes, then add the Alfredo sauce.



Cook your pasta, strain and return to the large pot. Add the Alfredo sauce. Mix lightly while adding more green onions, parsley and olive oil.



Plate the pasta and add the diced red pepper and parsley for decoration. Don't forget the Parmesan cheese!



Chef Larios says, "Enjoy!"

Lobster and Scallop Fettuccini Alfredo

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
- 1 cup lobster pieces (can be frozen)
- 1 cup scallops (can be frozen)
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 1/2 white onion, diced
- 1 teaspoon sea salt
- 1 teaspoon pepper
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon powder
- 2 cups Alfredo sauce (store bought is okay)
- 2 tablespoons dried parsley
- 1 tablespoon dried basil
- 1 teaspoon thyme
- A pinch of red pepper flakes
- 1/4 cup green onions (diced)
- 1 tablespoon red pepper (finely diced)
- 1 bag (about 8 oz.) dried fettuccine pasta (or similar)
- Grated Parmesan cheese, to taste
- Salt and pepper, to taste

Makes 2 Servings



Cooking TIDBIT:

If you don't have fettuccini pasta or you want to use another variety, do so. I use pappardelle, a very large and wide version of fettuccini.



Food Factoid:

"There is one thing more exasperating than a spouse who can cook and won't – one who can't cook and will." – Robert Frost

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2-Day Park Hopper	Child (3-9) \$136.00	\$94.05	X	=
	Adult \$161.00	\$103.55	X	=
<small>Expires 5/14/2011.</small>				
Annual Passport (SoCal Select)	Child (3-9) \$146.00	\$103.55	X	=
	Adult \$184.00	\$174.80	X	=
<small>Valid 1 year from date of activation. Must be activated before 12/31/2011. Valid 170 days.</small>				
Annual Passport (SoCal)	\$239.00	\$227.05	X	=
<small>Valid 1 year from date of activation. Must be activated before 12/31/2011. Valid 215 days.</small>				
Deluxe Annual Passport	\$329.00	\$312.55	X	=
<small>Valid 1 year from date of activation. Must be activated before 12/31/2011. Valid 315 days.</small>				
Premium Annual Passport w/Parking	\$459.00	\$436.05	X	=
<small>Valid 1 year from date of activation. Must be activated before 12/31/2011. No blackout dates.</small>				
K1 Speed Racing				
Admit one	\$25.95	\$17.50	X	=
<small>This pass entitles the owner to one 14 Lap race and a annual license for the day. Minimum height requirement 4'10".</small>				
Knott's Berry Farm				
1-Day Ticket	Adult \$51.99	\$29.99	X	=
	Child (3-11) \$30.95	\$20.99	X	=
<small>Expires 12/31/2011.</small>				
Season Pass	Adult/Child \$69.99	\$59.99	X	=
Legoland				
Adult	\$69.00	\$52.00	X	=
Child (3-11)	\$59.00	\$52.00	X	=
<small>Expires 12/31/2011.</small>				
Sea Life Resort Hopper	Adult \$89.00	\$62.00	X	=
	Child (3-11) \$79.00	\$62.00	X	=
<small>Expires 12/31/2011. Pass includes admission to Legoland, Sea Life Aquarium and the new waterpark. Ticket comes with a second day free to all 3 attractions.</small>				
Los Angeles Zoo				
Adult	\$14.00	\$11.00	X	=
Child (2-12)	\$9.00	\$8.00	X	=
<small>No expiration.</small>				
Madame Tussauds Wax Attraction				
Adult	\$25.00	\$17.50	X	=
Child (4-12)	\$18.00	\$11.50	X	=
<small>Expires 12/31/2011.</small>				
Magic Mountain				
Adult	\$59.99	\$25.99	X	=
Child (under 48")	\$34.99	\$17.50	X	=
<small>Expires 12/31/2011.</small>				
Medieval Times				
Adult	\$57.95	\$43.50	X	=
Child (0-12)	\$35.95	\$31.50	X	=
<small>Not valid 12/31/2011.</small>				
Mountain High SPECIAL!				
1-Day Lift Ticket	Adult \$65.00	\$45.00	X	=
Mulligan's Family Fun Center				
All Day Pass	Adult/Child \$23.99	\$16.50	X	=
<small>Restrictions: Pass gives 1 Adult or Child unlimited use of Laser Tag, Miniature Golfing, Go-Karts/Speedway and the Rock Wall. This ticket is valid Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, major holidays and everyday during the summer. Attractions vary per location. Certain height, weight, restrictions may apply. This ticket is accepted at Mulligan Torrance, Murrieta, and Palmdale.</small>				
Gift Certificate	\$15.00	\$10.00	X	=

Attraction Tickets, continued

	RETAIL PRICE	CLUB PRICE	QUANTITY	TOTAL	
Pirates Dinner Adventure					
Adult	\$56.95	\$36.00	X	=	
Child	\$37.95	\$27.50	X	=	
Queen Mary					
Adult	\$24.95	\$19.99	X	=	
Child (4-11)	\$21.95	\$10.25	X	=	
San Diego Safari Park					
Adult	\$40.00	\$32.00	X	=	
Child (3-11)	\$30.00	\$24.00	X	=	
2-Visit Pass	Adult \$70.00	\$57.00	X	=	
	Child (3-11) \$50.00	\$42.00	X	=	
San Diego Zoo					
Adult	\$40.00	\$32.00	X	=	
Child (3-11)	\$30.00	\$24.00	X	=	
2-Visit Pass	Adult \$70.00	\$57.00	X	=	
	Child (3-11) \$50.00	\$42.00	X	=	
Sea World San Diego					
1-Day	Adult \$69.99	\$45.00	X	=	
	Child (3-9) \$69.99	\$45.00	X	=	
Buy 1-Day, Get 2nd Day Free	Adult \$69.99	\$55.00	X	=	
	Child (3-9) \$69.99	\$48.00	X	=	
<small>Available only in-store. Expires 1 year from date of purchase. Comes with 2nd day free.</small>					
Speedzone					
Admit one	\$39.99	\$25.00	X	=	
<small>Includes use of all tracks and 1 round of miniature golf. Expires 9/2/2011.</small>					
Universal Studios					
Buy 1-Day, Get 6 Months Free Ticket	Adult/Child (under 48")	\$72.00	\$62.00	X	=
<small>Expires 12/31/2011.</small>					

Gift Certificates

24 Hour Fitness					
Annual Pass	Adult	\$533.97	\$199.00	X	=
See's Candies					
Gift Certificate (1 lb.)		\$14.75	\$12.50	X	=

Shipping & Handling

Tax (Only applicable to Hats, shirts, books, clocks, watches, lapel pins and stuffed bears.)					
	X		9.75%		=
Tickets: Standard Mail*					
	\$2.75	X	1		=
Tickets: Certified Mail					
	\$3.99	X	1		=
Tickets: Priority Mail (2-3 Days)					
	\$7.00	X	1		=
Hats, Watches, T-Shirts, Books, Clocks					
	\$6.49	(any quantity)			=

SUBTOTAL

\$

Merchandise

ITEM:	SIZE	COLOR	PRICE	QUANTITY	TOTAL
ITEM:					=
ITEM:					=
ITEM:					=
ITEM:					=
ITEM:					=

TOTAL (please include shipping)

\$

*When using Standard mail, please be aware that the Club cannot be responsible for tickets lost in the mail.
**Please be aware that black-out dates and restrictions may apply to the use of discounted tickets.

To Order:

BY MAIL:		BY PHONE: (888) 777-1744	
Complete the order form below and mail to:		BY FAX: (213) 617-1294	
Tickets			
City Employees Club of Los Angeles 120 West 2nd Street Los Angeles, CA 90012			
		BY WEB SITE: Go to www.cityemployeesclub.com and click on Club Store.	

Member Information

Member's name		
Home Street Address		
City	State	Zip
Home Phone	Work Phone	
Club Member Number		

Payment Method

Check or Money Order enclosed (please paper clip to order form)
 Make checks payable to **City Employees Club of Los Angeles**
 Credit Card
 Please charge \$_____ (enter total from above form) to my credit card.
 MasterCard VISA CVV Code:* _____
 No. _____ Exp. ____/____
 Cardholder Name _____
 Cardholder Signature _____

- ALL TICKETS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY. PRICES MAY CHANGE.
- DO NOT SEND CASH - ALL SALES ARE FINAL - NO REFUNDS.
- All checks and credit cards have to be issued by the member. Third party checks and credit cards will not be accepted.
- When visiting Club offices, only the first 15-minutes of parking will be validated.
- Orders will be processed as soon as received.
- Tickets must be mailed to your home address.
- City Employees Club of Los Angeles cannot be held responsible for money or tickets lost in the mail.
- For your convenience, the Club accepts VISA or MasterCard.
- **Maximum 12 tickets per event/theatre/attraction per order.**
- Allow 3 to 7 days for delivery.



2011 Mediterranean Cruise

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

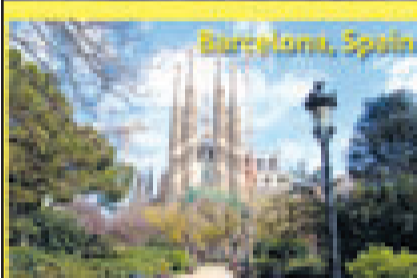
Club Signature Event

OCT 3, 2011

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



12 Night Adventure



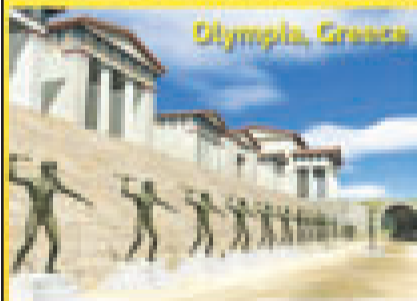
Barcelona, Spain



Venice, Italy



Messina, Italy



Olympia, Greece



Monte Carlo



Rome, Italy



Corfu, Greece

Club Cruise Special

Join us aboard Holland America's newest ship, ms Nieuw Amersterdam for a 12 Day luxurious cruise around the Mediterranean.

Discover the magic and the rich history of this old world elegance as we set anchor to some of the world's most lively ports such as Barcelona, Monte Carlo, Messina, Civitavecchia, Corfu, and Venice.

This is a VERY LIMITED Club Signature Event available only to Club Members.

Signup today to ensure your spot on this amazing adventure and earn generous shipboard credits for doing so.

For more information, please contact:

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



**City Employees Club
Member Exclusive Prices**

Price Per Person

Room	Reg Rate	Club Rate
Inside Room	\$2,219	\$1,099
Obstructed Ocean View	\$2,439	\$1,399
Ocean View	\$2,639	\$1,519
Balcony View	\$3,199	\$1,999
Suite	\$4,249	\$3,999

3rd /4th guest sharing a cabin pay \$99
Government Fees are \$71.93 per person
Air transportation from Los Angeles is \$1299 + \$21 air tax
Roundtrip airport transfers are \$106

Incentives Per Cabin

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