

Alive!



LIBRARY

Creativity Within Reach

Central Library's Octavia Lab makerspace expands the limits of learning.

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Octavia Lab

Creativity Within Reach

In the Central Library's Octavia Lab are Lauren Kratz, Librarian III and Octavia Lab Manager (right), and co-workers (from left) Aldrich Linton, Librarian; Elizabeth Williams, Administrative Clerk; and Richard Acero, Library Assistant.

Alive! photo by Glenn Marzano



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Play Is Serious Business

We came to play, in the very best sense. And did we ever. When Association President **John Hawkins** and I arrived at the amazing Octavia Lab makerspace, one of the Central Library's newest offerings, we were set to discover everything about it. I can say that, after more than 200 *Alive!* cover stories, it's different than anything we've encountered.

John and I spent many hours in the lab, hosted by the delightful Lab Manager **Lauren Kratz**, Librarian III, and co-workers **Aldrich Linton**, **Elizabeth Williams** and **Richard Acero**.



From left: Association President John Hawkins, Octavia Lab Manager Lauren Kratz and Club CEO Robert Larios in the makerspace lab.

A makerspace is a modern workshop, a place to create using digital, computer and A/V tools. Do you want to make a podcast or a video? Take high-res photos? Print large-format images? Embroider a hat? Transfer those old media files you have to digital formats, preserving your memories? Yep, got that, and many more.

The Octavia Lab believes that play is serious business, and I agree passionately. Mostly, the lab staff leaves you alone to discover your talents on your own. You do it yourself, and therein lies its magic. All I can say is it took *Alive!* editor John Burnes to urge us please to finish, or we might still be there.

The future belongs to those who make their own way. The Octavia Lab is ready to help make it happen.

I send special thanks to LAPL's **Krystal Ruiz** for her assistance.

Rest in Peace

We bid goodbye to two important Club Members who died recently and suddenly: **Chandra Mosley**, LADWP, Retired after 34 years of City service, who participated in many *Alive!* stories; and **Dawayne Thomas**, LADWP, 27 years, who created the popular LADWP Retirees group on Facebook.



Chandra Mosley



Dawayne Thomas

ROBERT'S BLOG

by Robert Larios, CEO, The Club



In addition, I also mention **Frank Christine**, LADWP, who passed away last year after an astounding *59 years of City service*. That is simply incredible dedication to the City of Los Angeles.

We pass along our condolences to their friends, families and former co-workers. May they Rest in Peace.

Worth Considering

Kindness is a mirror of character, a builder of bridges, and the heart of success and relationships – we truly become our best when we treat others with care.

In a world where talk is cheap, how we treat others says it all.

Finally, I suggest that you rest and enjoy life this August with your friends and loved ones. Fall and its many responsibilities will be with us all too soon.

¡Gracias por leer!

— Robert Larios



#ClubMobile Schedule*

The Club Mobile Team will bring Club benefits and authentic Los Angeles City apparel for purchase at Club prices (hats custom-made on site). It's one of the best ways for staff to feel appreciated. Your employees will be grateful!

The Mobile Team sets up in the Harbor area the first Wednesday of every month:

Wednesdays: Aug. 2, Sept. 6, and Oct. 4
Harbor Boys and Girls Club
 100 W. Fifth St., San Pedro • 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

ADDITIONAL VISITS:

Saturday, Aug. 5
LADOT Crossing Guard Picnic
 4730 Crystal Springs Dr.
 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Tuesday, Aug. 8
LADWP Palmetto Yard
 1212 Palmetto St.
 9 a.m. – noon

Wednesday, Aug. 9
LA County Public Works
 33rd Annual Safety Awards
 5530 W. 83rd St., Westchester
 7 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Thursday, Aug. 10
Harbor Dept.
 100 W. Fifth St., San Pedro
 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Thursday, Aug. 24
Public Works/Street Lighting
 4550 Santa Monica Blvd.
 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

* Mobile Team site visit dates are subject to change due to the pandemic. Make sure to check with your supervisor to confirm dates and times, up to and including on the scheduled day itself.

#ClubMobile is cashless!

For your convenience, now accepting:

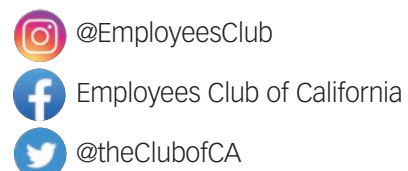


Schedule a Site Visit

Contact Lupe Lira, Club Store Manager:
 (213) 819-0350, or mobile@employeesclub.com



Follow Club social media for other days, times and locations as they are scheduled.



For your continued safety: The Mobile Team is accepting only outdoor set-ups for now.



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COVER STORY:

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Get more *Alive!* content at alive.employeesclub.com

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NEW THIS MONTH
ONLINE!

alive.employeesclub.com

Rest Insured

See the Club's claims paid this month and feel confident in your Club insurance purchase.



Library Top 10

See what your fellow Angelenos are reading, watching and grooving to.



John's Picture Perfect

John's Picture Perfect – see all the winners from this month's contest with the theme "Playing Outdoors."



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Meet the Club Team

The Club Team is here to help you receive the full power of your Membership and bring value, financial confidence and fun to your families. We honor your hard work and service! How can we help you? Contact us, and we'll be in touch with urgency. It's our promise to you!

Contact our help desk for all your Club needs:
help@employeesclub.com

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 Dylan Herrero Customer Service Representative	 Joseph Koralik Member Services Counselor	 Cheryl Martin Member Services Counselor	 Marcus Martin Customer Service Representative	 Genesis Martinez-Flores Customer Service Rep	 Toby Pass Member Services Counselor
 Dylan Noel Member Services Counselor	 Eva Ramirez Member Services Counselor	 Lydia Rivera Member Services Counselor	 Ian Sollenberger Member Services Counselor	 Dalila Vielma Member Services Counselor	 Kati Yniguez Member Services Counselor

Retail Operations

 Guadalupe Lira Retail Operations Manager	 Rebecca DeBolt Customer Service Representative	 Eduardo Escalona Mobile Operations Representative	 Noah Hawkins Customer Service Representative	 Raul M. Salgado Customer Service Representative	 DeAngelo Thompson Mobile Operations Representative
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--	---	---

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 Monica Zamudio Claims Administrator	 Mikayla Sprague Claims Coordinator
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 Ronald Cortez Assistant Quality Assurance Analyst	 Natalia Guevara Data Processing Coordinator	 Rey Hernandez IT Senior Developer	

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 Daniel McAlinden Senior Accountant	 Frank Ochoa Accounting Assistant

LACEA Executive Officers

 John Hawkins President & CEO, Los Angeles City Employees Association, Inc.	 Brian Trent Chief Financial Officer
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Employees Club of CA Executive Officers

 Robert Larios President & CEO, LACEA Insurance Services, Inc., DBA Employees Club of California	 Summy Lam Chief Operating Officer, LACEA Insurance Services, Inc., DBA Employees Club of California
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 Tuyet Pham Senior Accountant
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The Club Is Here to Help

Club 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.

Contact the Club
 if you have an event you want covered in *Alive!* or if you have questions about insurance.
help@employeesclub.com
(800) 464-0452

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 Open 24/7: **employeesclub.com**

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Alive! Staff
 John Hawkins and Robert Larios,
Managing Editors
 John Burnes, *Editor*
 David Jamgotchian,
 JJLA Associates,
Design and Production

LACEA (Association) Board of Directors
 Phillip Chou, *LADWP*
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Life Insurance

FROM THE CLUB

If anyone relies on your income, you need Life Insurance.

Get it today. Here's why:

- Think about your mortgage, children's tuition, funeral expenses and serious unforeseen expenses
- You should be covered for at least four to five times your salary
- Life insurance pays in addition to your City benefits and any individual life insurance policy you have in force.

To learn more about your insurance options, schedule a visit with our Club's insurance expert:



Cheryl Martin
Member Services Counselor
cmartin@employeesclub.com
Work cell: (213) 819-0794
(800) 464-0452, Ext. 136
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LACEA Insurance Services, Inc. ('Employees Club of California') is a licensed insurance agency offering insurance benefits to qualified Club members. The Club's CA DOI Lic. No. is 0B98000.



The LAFD's new Fire 7 helicopter.

Photos courtesy LAFD/John McCoy

Fire 7 on Duty

FIRE DEPT. INTRODUCES A NEW HELICOPTER TO FIREFIGHTING DUTY.

LAFD: The LAFD's newest innovative firefighting rig took to the skies March 29, as the department took ownership of a brand-new \$2.6 million helicopter, badged as FIRE-7.

A ceremony was held at the LAFD Air Operations Center at Airports' Van Nuys facility.

The current LAFD helicopter fleet is a combination of five medium-duty and two light-duty helicopters. The five medium-duty helicopters fulfill a majority of the tactical mission needs including, but not limited to, aerial firefighting (water dropping), hoist rescue, air ambulance, swift water rescue, and high-rise firefighting support and evacuation.

This new light-duty helicopter is the second (Bell 505) aircraft the LAFD uses for HLCO (helicopter coordinator) and observation during incidents, including wildfires and other major emergencies requiring multiple aircraft.



Members of the LAFD Air Operations team.



In front of the new Fire 7 helicopter are Mike Ahmar, Chairman, LAFD Foundation, and Fire Chief Kristin Crowley. The purchase of the helicopter was made possible by funding from the foundation.



Battalion Chief Rick Combs, LAFD Air Operations.

HLCO pilots are responsible for managing the air space and flight communications for all responding aircraft and providing real-time situational analysis for incident commanders.

This purchase was made possible by the generous support from donors to the Los Angeles Fire Dept. Foundation. The LAFD Foundation consistently fills the gap in important equipment and training which our budget can not cover. ●

LAFCU Announces 2024 Board Elections

CREDIT UNION SETS UP LEADERSHIP ELECTIONS.

LAFCU: The Los Angeles Federal Credit Union (LAFCU) is now accepting candidates for its board for 2024.

Those interested in being considered for a nomination to the Board of Directors at LAFCU or an appointment to a Board committee starting in 2024 (and you are an eligible LAFCU member), may send a resume of your qualifications to LAFCU so it's postmarked by Aug. 25, 2023 to:

LAFCU Nominating Committee
c/o Richard Lie, President/CEO
P.O. Box 53032
Los Angeles, CA 90053

Those not nominated for a Board position who wish to run by petition may call the office of LAFCU's President/CEO at (877) 695-2328, ext. 6309, and arrange to pick up a petition and election packet from 10/2/23 to 11/9/23.

Each petitioner needs to collect at least 500 signatures (either on paper OR via a free, secure online petition website provided by LAFCU) from eligible LAFCU members, and the original, completed petitions and election packet (which must include a statement of qualifications in the proper format) must be returned to one of LAFCU's branches by 4 p.m. PST Nov. 9, 2023. Since possibly not all signatures will be deemed valid/verified by LAFCU's Supervisory Committee and/or an outside company, each petitioner is advised to gather 25 percent more signatures (like 625-plus). Filled-out petitions will be reviewed by LAFCU between Nov. 15, 2023 to Nov. 22, 2023. If at least one petitioner is deemed to have enough valid signatures to run against at least one incumbent, then ballots for the 2024 Board of Directors' election will be mailed to eligible LAFCU members on Jan. 26, 2024.

The election results will be announced at LAFCU's Annual Meeting on March 26, 2024 at 4 p.m. at LAFCU's Glendale corporate office and/or via a live video conference. No nominations are allowed from the floor from anyone attending, watching, or listening to the annual meeting. Each Board committee position will be appointed by the Board of Directors.

To be eligible for consideration to be appointed or voted onto the LAFCU Board, candidates must:



- Have \$5 or more in an open LAFCU Share Savings account, be a LAFCU "Primary" account holder, and be age 16 or over.
- Be bondable through LAFCU's bond (insurance) provider.
- Not have caused a financial loss to LAFCU.
- Not have been convicted of a felony or any criminal offense involving dishonesty or breach of fiduciary duty/trust.

Voting for LAFCU Board members is one of the privileges of being a member. If there is an election, paper ballots are mailed to members via the U.S. Postal Service that includes an option to alternatively vote online. You are eligible to sign petitions and/or vote if by Oct. 1, 2023 (petitions), or by Dec. 31, 2023 (vote), you:

- Have \$5 or more in an open LAFCU Share Savings account, are a LAFCU "Primary"

account holder, and are age 16 or over. If you only have a Joint account and want to sign a petition and/or vote, you must open a separate Primary account.

- Have a current address on file with LAFCU (make sure the address is accurate inside online banking, or call us).
- Or have a business account with LAFCU, and the account has a person's name associated with it as an "authorized signer."

The Board of Directors has the ultimate responsibility for the direction, operation, safety and soundness of LAFCU. The Board ensures that this responsibility is met by setting credit union policy and governing this policy through credit union management. ●

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READY FOR RETIREMENT



Resources for Club Retirees and Those About to Retire



YOUR ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO INSURANCE

by Noelle Kauffman, Club Director of Sales CA LICENSE NO: 0H45598

Long-Term Care Insurance Is Asset Protection. Find Out Why Long-Term Care Is Vital!

'Often when you think you're at the end of something, you're at the beginning of something else.' –Fred Rogers

Hello Retirees!

Congratulations on your years of service with the City and the completion of a beautiful career. However, this is not the end, it is the beginning of something new ... which means you must plan for this new season of life!

First step: If you have not contacted the Club yet to complete a form to have your Club Membership and/or insurance deducted from your pension, please do so ASAP! Even if you are not newly Retired, please call (800) 464-0452 or email help@employeesclub.com and let us know that you are a Retiree and need to complete a pension form. Never worry about a

bill or late payment: Pension deduction is the most convenient and easiest to handle of the deductions offered to Club Members.

Second step: Protect your hard-earned savings and assets and protect your family.

- Long-Term Care and Life Insurance are must-have insurances as a Retiree.
- Long-Term Care is asset protection, and Retiree Life Insurance provides financial help in the form of a death benefit or supplement for loss of income.

Do not be a burden to yourself or your family. Find out how below!

Long Term Care Insurance protects your assets and income from the costs of care.

According to a medically reviewed article from 2022, approximately 70 percent of seniors will need some type of long-term care.

Long-Term Care Insurance is Asset Protection

What is long-term care (LTC) insurance?

Long-term care insurance is designed to pay benefits for some of the expenses you may incur if you need supervision or assistance with basic activities of daily living (ADLs), including bathing, eating, continence, dressing, toileting, ambulating and transferring.

You may need this kind of help following an accident or illness such as a stroke – because of older age and frailty, or because you need supervision due to a cognitive disorder like Alzheimer's disease.

Here's why you need Long Term Care Insurance from the Club:

- Your premiums are conveniently deducted through your pension
- Affordable Club Member-only group rates
- Group rates are locked in at the age you apply
- Coverage is available to you, your spouse/domestic partner, parents and grandparents
- Available payout benefits range from \$1,000 to \$5,000 per month

- Your plan pays a monthly benefit directly to you, as opposed to most other programs that pay out on a reimbursement schedule
- Choose from four plans: 1) long-term care facility; 2) professional home care; 3) total home care, and 4) simple inflation protection.
- Available terms: four-year nursing facility/eight years in home. Also available: 10 year nursing facility/20 year in home* (Home care benefit pays out at 50 percent)

Retirees Peace of Mind: Life Insurance Tailored Just for You!

Why would a Retiree need life insurance? Does anyone rely on your income as a Retiree?

- A life insurance payout can help pay for things such as your final expenses, outstanding debt, or the loss of any income you were still providing to your loved ones.
- Life insurance can also be used to replace all or a part of your spouse's pension benefits.

- Have peace of mind knowing that your loved ones will be taken care of in the event of your passing.
- Coverage is available for Members, spouses, and dependent children.
- Benefits range from \$10,000 to \$50,000.
- Accidental Death and Dismemberment (AD&D) Insurance is also available – no health ques-

tions or medical exams. Benefits range from \$10,000 to \$150,000.

Speak to a Retiree Specialist today for guidance on Long-Term Care and Life Insurance and prepare for the beginning of your best retirement!

Do not wait. While you may be healthy today, a change in your health may decrease your chances of getting approved.

Club Life Insurance Designed for Retirees

Spring cleaning also means evaluating the coverages you have on yourself and your spouse to ensure peace of mind and protection.

Let's Discuss Retiree Life Insurance

A life insurance benefit can help pay for things including final expenses, outstanding debt and loss of income.

Life insurance can also be used to replace all or a part of your spouse's pension benefits.

Have peace of mind knowing that your loved ones will be taken care of

in the event of your passing.

The Club provides Group Rated Term Life Insurance for its Members, convenient payroll deduction, and an in-house claims department that works directly with your loved ones to make sure the claims process is as seamless as possible.

Did you know that, as a Retiree, you are entitled to other Club benefits including Long-Term Care Insurance, Funeral Pre-Planning, and the popular MetLife Legal Plan?



Contact the Club today to speak with our Retiree Specialist for guidance on life insurance and other Retiree benefits.

Retired or Retiring Soon?

Call for a FREE insurance benefits consultation with Member Services Counselor:



Cheryl Martin

(800) 464 -0452, EXT. 136

Work cell: (213) 819-0794

23 years of insurance experience

CA LICENSE NO: 0C12823

2023 Events

Sept. 6 LARFPA Membership Meeting

San Antonio Winery
737 Lamar St.
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

\$30/\$40 admission

Deadline: Aug. 22

Reservations, information:
events@larfpa.org

Contact Information

Employees Club of California

Club contact:
help@employeesclub.com

Los Angeles City Employees' Retirement System (LACERS) (City Dept.)

(800) 779-8328
lacers.services@lacers.org

LADWP Retirees Association

Dolores Foley, *President*
(949) 388-1206
vincedolores@gmail.com

Fire and Police Pensions (City Dept.)

(844) 885-2377
pensions@lafpp.com

LA Retired Fire and Police Association (LARFPA)

(888) 288-5073
membership@larfpa.org

Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. (RLACEI)

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Citywide Career Fair

PUBLIC WORKS' CAREER FAIR IS A SUCCESS.

PUBLIC WORKS: More than 1,000 job seekers were estimated to have participated in one of the City's largest recent career fairs.

All Public Works bureaus, including Contract Administration, Engineering, Street Lighting, Street Services and Sanitation took part. Other departments participating included LADOT, Personnel, the LAPD and LAFD, Rec and Parks, the Council office of Tim McOsker, and the office of LA County Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell.

The event was held June 29 at Ted Watkins Park in South LA's Hacienda Village.

"City departments are hard at work to make their hiring processes more accessible to that Angelenos can get hired and help us move LA forward," Mayor Karen Bass said.

LADOT wrote on social media: "Those in attendance had the opportunity to speak with and connect with organizations and employers. Attendees could apply for position on the spot with onsite application assistance as well as personal interviews and testing." Workshops were also presented on proper attire, resume writing and interviewing.

This career fair was targeted mainly at candidates who are not current City employees to join City employment.

The Club looks to promote future job and promotion opportunities as we receive them. ●



At the Public Works Career Fair June 29.



LADOT attended the Career Fair June 29.



At the Public Works Career Fair June 29.



Welcoming #ClubMobile to the barbecue fundraiser were members of the Airport Police Baker to Vegas running team were (some of whom are pictured here): Sgt Roxanna Carlos, Officer Andrade, Officer Magallanes, Officer Eric Brown, Retired Officer Manny Portillo, Officer Santis, Motor Officer Angel, K9 Officer Gardea, Officer Shin and the Club's Arlene Herrero.

A BBQ for B2V

#CLUBMOBILE ATTENDS AIRPORT POLICE B2V FUNDRAISER.

AIRPORTS On July 5, the Airport Police Baker to Vegas running team held a barbecue at Airport Police HQ to raise funds to help defray costs for admission to next year's Baker to Vegas footrace.

The #ClubMobile team was there to help raise funds and support the team. It was also #ClubMobile's first visit to Airport Police's new headquarters adjoining LAX in Playa del Rey. The Club sponsors the Airport Police's Baker to Vegas team.

This Baker to Vegas footrace is an annual event for public safety organizations throughout the world. The relay race is a 120-mile, 20-stage footrace between Baker, California, and Las Vegas and is considered the "Super Bowl" of law enforcement; the champions are the best, in terms of physical fitness and logistics the police world has to offer. The race was created by and is managed by the Los Angeles Police Revolver and Athletic Club, and the Employees Club is grateful for their leadership.

Good luck to the Airport Police Baker to Vegas team, and all Baker to Vegas teams, in next year's race! ●



Security Officer Eduardo Acevedo won a free customized hat for referring a new Club Member sign-up. Making the hat for him was Club Customer Service Rep DeAngelo Thompson (right). It pays to refer new Club Members!

THANK YOU!



The Club thanks Sgt. Roxanna Carlos for welcoming #ClubMobile and assisting us in producing this article.



John's Picture Perfect Contest

John Hawkins, Association President



See more Picture Perfect winners and contest rules.

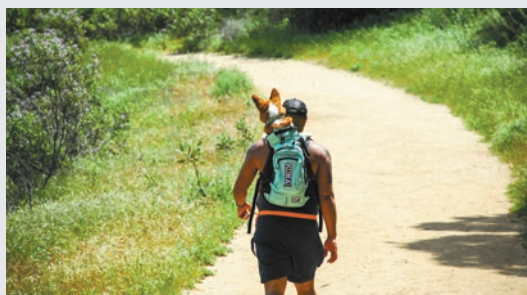
This month's theme was: **Playing Outdoors**



"This is a picture of baby Axel's very first Fourth of July, enjoying the pool."

- Renee Ramirez, LAFD

John's comment: Playing by the pool is certainly playing outside! Classic portraiture - a dying art, but this captures it - the color blocks that frame the face, the off-center focus which creates energy, and that face. Awesome!



"Not really sure who's playing who here, but it seems these outdoor lovers are enjoying themselves and each other's company."

- Yves Didier, Airport Police

John's comment: For my money, I'm going with the dog as the player! Fun photo, Yves; I'm not sure how you got the height, but I like the trail taking my eye into the distance. Thanks!



"When I'm playing outside, I'm sometimes hiking in a National Park. Here I'm at the top of Observation Point overlooking Angels Landing and the valley below in Zion National Park."

- Carlos Aranda, LADWP

John's comment: Oh my goodness, Carlos ... this photo made me gasp! Red clay in the foreground, a green trail in the mid-ground, leading my eye to the purple mountain majesties in the back. As for "playing," I hope your subject didn't take it any further than that!



"Taken on the Fourth of July weekend at the Santa Monica Pier. This is titled 'Gooooooal!'"

- Alex Andrews, Building and Safety

John's comment: And thank you, Alex, for submitting gems like this one. I love the simplicity, which emphasizes the dignity and steadfast pride of the flag at the end. Excellent!



"There's enough light to see the stitches on the ball. Little league Allstar game I helped coach and photographed."

- John Nance, Retired, LADWP

John's comment: I admire your shutter speed, which was fast enough to catch the absolute clarity of that, maybe, curveball. It's the very definition of playing in a park. Well done!

Submit your best photos, and be in the running for a prize.



The next photo contest theme:

Football

DEADLINE: Aug. 15

Submit your best photos online here: alive.employeesclub.com/pictureperfect/ Club Members only. Good luck!



Alive! AROUND THE WORLD

South Dakota



Retired LA Port Police Sgt. Michael Alva and his wife, Maria, a current City employee of 34 years working at the Harbor Dept, traveled to “a bucket list destination to Rapid City, SD. where we visited the fictitious Fort Hayes and onto an eight-hour guided bus tour from the visitors center.

“During the very well detailed adventure, we visited the Mt. Rushmore and Crazy Horse memorial monuments; the Black Hills; Custer State Park ... there are buffalo! – and much more on the tour.

“While in Rapid City, with must-have rental transportation, we toured the city on our own and enjoyed the peaceful setting of downtown. Last but not least, the City of Deadwood, with its rich history of the Western personalities, was well worth the short drive on a freeway that has no rush hour.”

In Fort Hays they caught the Chuckwagon Supper and show.



France and Greece



Paul Ramey, Retired, LADWP, and his wife, Corine, at the wedding of his brother at Chateau du Pin in the South of France (right). Paul and Corine visited Greece (top).



Send in a travel picture holding Alive!



- Snap a high resolution photo of you holding Alive!
- Go to: alive.employeesclub.com/alivearoundtheworld You'll find a convenient online form to send your text and pics for publication.

Letter From Italy, Pt. 1 Italy Awaits You

History, culture, and romance ooze out of every step taken in the fantastic country of Italy, from Pisa's Leaning Tower to the seductive shores of Lake Como nestled at the base of the Alps; from small family restaurants in quiet country town plazas to noisy dance clubs and bars in Milan. No matter how often Italy is visited, the magic never seems to wear off; whether it's a quick day excursion from a cruise ship or brief glimpses on a 10-day European coach trip of operating company David, and the gondoliers, it's all awesome.

For a first-time visit, an organized bus tour of just Italy's major tourist sites gives more bang for the buck, as cities like Florence, Rome and Venice can be visited with time to enjoy them. For 18-to-30-year-olds, a Contiki bus tour is recommended, with fewer churches and more youthful activities (not for honeymooners!). Renting a car is fun for the passengers (but not for the driver, who sees only the road ahead), and

many hours are spent getting lost and looking for parking; plus, most large cities require a separate vehicle pass to enter their central area, and most hotels and Airbnbs do not provide parking spaces.

Euro train passes are cheap, but using them to sleep on overnight does not always work out, as not every Italian train company accepts them. Also, besides Venice and Pompeii, it's quite a walk to visit the sites, with or without your luggage, and cobblestones play havoc on suitcase wheels.

It's hot, humid, and very crowded between July and August as the schools and large industries close for the summer to allow families to vacation together. May-June is fine; late September or early October is less crowded and has much cooler weather.

Saluti il capitano. Travel now before you become just a memory.

Captain's Log

Traveling with Capt. Michael Barnes,
Retired, Harbor



My favorite memories of Italy are:

- Early in the morning as the cities come alive and before the tourists awake;
- Tearing apart a freshly baked beget while strolling across Rome's empty St. Peter's Square at dawn after a night on the town;
- The sound of Vespa scooters tooting their horns as they zoom through Naples' empty streets and whisk their drivers to work;
- Enjoying an espresso at a Milan curbside café as a colorful trolley rumbles by with stylishly clad workers off to start a new day;
- Smelling Florence's early morning sweetly scented street sweepers as the Domo bell's tolls call the faithful to prayer;
- Strolling through the port of Brindisi as crying seagulls chase departing fishing boats as the night ferry arrives from Greece;
- Watching a bride take wedding photos in an empty St. Mark's Square as the sun rises;
- Sipping Prosecco with friends on a veranda after midnight listening to wild boars root in the Tuscany Olive Wood groves behind us;
- Smelling the odor of freshly sprayed leather on the belt and handbag stalls as the vendors set up for another surge of tourists;
- Drinking incredible wines from a 200-year-old historical cellar in Barolo while staying as a guest of the Marchesi di Barolo winery; and
- Strolling the pink marble streets of Verona, as in Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet, after attending a performance of Carmen in the Roman Amphitheater.

These are my memories of Italy that will last forever. I trust that yours will be as memorable as mine, no matter how you visit Italy.



Lunch at Castello Banfi winery located south of Montalcino in one of the world's most famous wine-producing regions, Tuscany.



Props for the Arena Opera in Verona.



Props for the Arena Opera in Verona.



At their graduation ceremony were (from left) Rangers Jalen Woods, Andrew Trejo and Kayleigh Raciak, with Sgt. Frank Barron.

Now They're Rangers

THREE RANGERS GRADUATE FROM LAPD ACADEMY.

REC AND PARKS: Congratulations to Ranger Recruits Jalen Woods, Kayleigh Raciak, and Andrew Trejo of LAPD Academy class 02-23 who received their badges June 30.

Badge ceremonies are memorable for recruits as it is the first time their badges are placed on them, typically by family and/or loved ones. The Ranger Recruits were expected to join the Ranger Division at the end of July and start their training programs with Rec and Parks' Field Training Officers.

Congratulations to Rangers Woods, Raciak and Trejo! ●



The LADWP's winning "Hydro Kings" team and other team members included Chris Torres, Tim Gonzales, Alfredo Sandoval, Josh Madrid and Sergio Barragan.

Story courtesy Paola Adler, LADWP; Photo courtesy LADWP

Hydrant Hysteria Champs!

LADWP'S 'HYDRO KINGS' TEAM WINS INTERNATIONAL SPEED CONTEST.

LADWP: LADWP's "Hydro Kings" team put it all together, literally, at a recent industry conference.

LADWP's Water Distribution division had an outstanding showing at the Hydrant Hysteria competition, held at the American Water Works Association (AWWA) ACE23 conference in Toronto in June. LADWP's Western District "Hydro Kings" team, featuring Water Utility Workers Chris Torres and Tim Gonzales and coach Sr. Water Utility Worker Alfredo Sandoval, placed first out of 24 teams from North America, including Mexico and Canada.

Hydrant Hysteria is a fast-paced competition where two-member teams assemble a specified hydrant as fast as they can, measuring the team's skill at assembling a hydrant quickly, totally and accurately. The "Hydro Kings" assembled the competition hydrant in one minute, 12.44 seconds. The second-place team from New England was three seconds slower.

LADWP's team qualified to represent AWWA's California/Nevada section along with the City of Huntington Beach. Water Utility Worker Josh Madrid and Water Utility Supervisor Sergio Barragan also competed during the conference in the Tapping Competition and Meter Challenge.

Events like these showcase the skills that LADWP employees use on a daily basis to ensure that our customers receive reliable water service. Congratulations to all who represented LADWP!

The American Water Works Association is an international, nonprofit, scientific and educational society dedicated to providing total water solutions assuring the effective management of water. Founded in 1881, the Association is the largest organization of water supply professionals in the world. Its membership includes more than 4,300 utilities that supply roughly 80 percent of the nation's drinking water and treat almost half of the nation's wastewater.

To view a video of the winning performance, see it here:



Congratulations to LADWP's "Hydro Kings!" ●

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2023 MUKAI SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Club Honors 43 With Mukai Scholarships

THE CLUB HONORS 43 WITH JOANNIE MUKAI SCHOLARSHIPS, A RECORD NUMBER.

Read Their Stories

On the *Alive!* Website are brief profiles of the awardees, excerpted from their application materials:

alive.employeesclub.com/scholarshipwinners2023



THE CLUB: The Club honors 43 with Joannie Mukai Scholarships, a record number.

The Club is pleased to announce the winners of the annual Joannie Mukai Scholarship Program for 2023. A record total – 43 – of Club Members and their relatives have been awarded stipends. Some 113 students applied, also a record.

The Club's Scholarship program was named for the late Joannie Mukai, the former Club Board Member and Harbor Retiree who passed away in 2010. This is the 13th anniversary of her death.

"We saw record numbers of applicants this year, and the Club is only delighted to step up the number of awardees, so we can properly recognize these incredible members of the Club family," said Robert Larios, Club CEO. "By every measure, our future leaders have excelled and are eager to continue.

"The Club's scholarship committee and I wish all the success in the world to everyone who applied. Keep achieving ... the future

depends on you."

Those eligible included Club Members, their spouses and their children who are in college full-time or will be attending an accredited college or university in Fall 2023.

ABOUT JOANNIE MUKAI

Joannie Mukai was a pioneer as the LA Port's Director of Construction and Maintenance. A passionate supporter in the Employees Club and longtime Club Insurance Board Member, she died in March 2010. The Club's annual scholarship program was named in her honor.

"She believed in education and training, and in preparing for success," Club CEO John Hawkins said. "That's what the Club Scholarship is all about, and we're delighted to name it after her. It's a perfect way to keep her memory alive."



Zorianna Garcia
incoming student at UCLA, and daughter of Carlos Garcia, LADWP, City of Los Angeles



Jenna Guerrero
transfer student at the University of California, Santa Barbara, and daughter of Marco Guerrero, LAPD, City of Los Angeles



Paloma Hashemi
incoming student at the University of California, Berkeley, and daughter of Pauline Chan, Retired, LADOT, City of Los Angeles



Ernesto Escobar
student at Cal State Long Beach, and employee at the Office of the City Attorney, City of Los Angeles



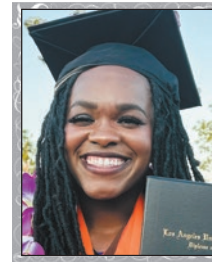
Valerie Estala
student at Cal Poly Pomona, and daughter of Martha Diaz, Dept. of Human Resources, County of Los Angeles



Everet Fink
student at College of the Canyons, and son of Ross Fink, Retired, LADWP, City of Los Angeles



Natalie Avalos
incoming student at UCLA, and daughter of Juan Avalos, LADWP, City of Los Angeles



Kiara Belcher
incoming student at Howard University, Washington, DC., and daughter of Genae Evans, Dept. of Motor Vehicles, State of California



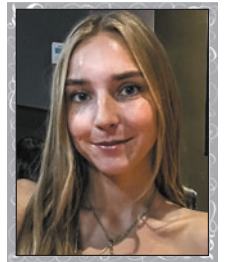
Isabella Bernaldo
incoming student at Boston College, and daughter of Rodney Bernaldo, Public Works/Sanitation and Environment, City of Los Angeles



Andrew Herrera
incoming student at Cal State Long Beach, and son of Art Herrera, Retired, LAPD, City of Los Angeles



Christian Herrero
incoming student at Cal State San Marcos, and nephew of Arlene Herrero, Club employee



Emily Hibma
student at Cal State Long Beach, and daughter of Firefighter Dan Hibma, LAFD, City of Los Angeles



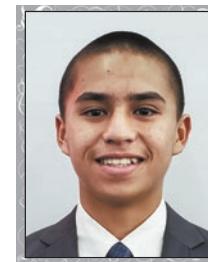
Chloe Brantley
incoming student at Cal State San Bernardino, and daughter of Vincent Jackson, LADOT, City of Los Angeles



Brent Brewster
incoming student at UC San Diego, and son of Catherine Pelonero, LADWP, City of Los Angeles



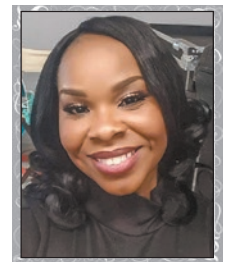
Madison Brown
student at Howard University, Washington, DC, and daughter of Larry Brown, LADOT, City of Los Angeles



Anthony Hom
incoming student at the United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland, and son of Capt. Japhet Hom, LAPD, and Officer Roselia Hom, Retired, LAPD, City of Los Angeles



Dre'londe Johnson
incoming student at Cal State San Marcos, and son of Lynetta Johnson, LADWP, City of Los Angeles



Andrea Leger
a student at the University of La Verne, and wife of McKandy Leger, Dept. of Human Resources, County of Los Angeles



Maya Cereceres
student at San Diego State University, and daughter of Alfred Cereceres, Public Works/Sanitation and Environment, City of Los Angeles



Aneesa Cole
incoming student at UCLA, and niece of Navon Kinsey, LAPD, City of Los Angeles



Cassidy Connor
a transfer student at Cal State Fullerton, and daughter of Charles Connor, LADWP, City of Los Angeles



Sally Melendez
student at the University of California, Davis, and daughter of Cesar Melendez, Dept. of Corrections and Rehabilitation, State of California



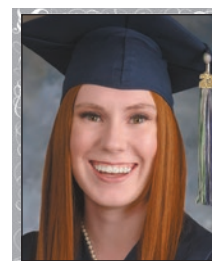
Leonardo Mesinas
student at the University of California, Davis, and son of Concepcion Mesinas, Los Angeles Public Library, City of Los Angeles



Giselle Montiforte
incoming student at Chaminade University in Hawaii, and daughter of Phil Montiforte, LADWP



Officer Jeffrey Coprich Jr.
student at USC, and employee at the LAPD, City of Los Angeles



Katherine Drummond
incoming student at the University of California, Riverside, and employee at Airports, City of Los Angeles Public Works, City of Los Angeles



Christine Eckford
student at National University in San Diego, and employee at Personnel Dept., City of Los Angeles



Isabella Moreno
student at Cal State Long Beach, and daughter of Kimberly Williams, California Highway Patrol, State of California



Crystal Nunez
student at Cal State LA, and daughter of Adriana Delgado, Dept. of Social Services, County of Los Angeles



Nathan Pa
incoming student at the University of California, Irvine, and son of Gia Pa, General Services, City of Los Angeles



Cameron Palacios

student at UCLA, and son of Shirley Palacios, Harbor Dept., City of Los Angeles



Jack Patschull

incoming student at the University of California, Irvine, and grandchild of Delbert Patschull, Airports, City of Los Angeles



Angelica Pena

student at the University of California, Berkeley, and daughter of Patricia Pena, Dept. of Public Social Services, County of Los Angeles



Monica Ramorino

student at Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, and daughter of Monti Ramorino, LADWP



Cruz Romero

student at Cal State Fresno, and employee at the California Regional Water Control Board, State of California



Nancy Ruiz

a transfer student at Cal State LA, and daughter of Guil Cortez, Metropolitan State Hospital, State of California



Nicole Salazar

student at Soka University of America in Aliso Viejo, and daughter of Zaida Arroyo, Probation Dept., County of Los Angeles



Isabel Sanchez

student at Cal State LA, and employee of Recreation and Parks, City of Los Angeles



Caleb Taylor

student at Biola University, and nephew of Jonathan James, Los Angeles Port Police, City of Los Angeles



Patrick Venezia

student at Pasadena City College, and son of James Venezia, Public Works/Street Services, City of Los Angeles



Amira Villaneda

incoming student at Cal State Fullerton, and daughter of Daniel Villaneda, Office of Finance, City of Los Angeles



Jordan Washington

student at Cal State Northridge, and grandson of Angela Franklin, Retired, LADWP, City of Los Angeles

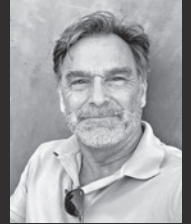


Kristina Sabad

incoming student at USC, and granddaughter of Red Medina, Retired, Public Works/Contract Administration, City of Los Angeles, and Lupe Medina, Retired, Administrative Service Rep, Employees Club of California

People We See

Shelterless in Los Angeles.



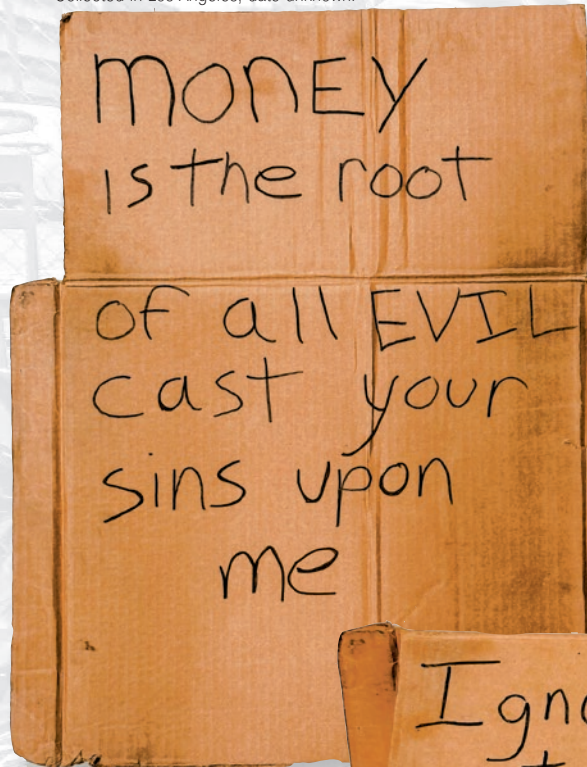
John Hawkins, Association President



SPECIAL EDITION

Signs Around Us

Collected in Los Angeles, date unknown.



Association President John Hawkins, who produces *Alive!*'s "People We See" series of stories about the shelterless on LA streets, collects signs and posters created by the homeless humans he meets. He pays them for their posters so they can use the funds in their daily struggle, and he also gives them fresh cardboard and Sharpies to create new signs; "these signs reveal their best effort to survive," he says.

John has kept most of the signs he has collected.

Recently, John has been preparing his collection in anticipation of what the Club plans to be an upcoming video about the history and impact of "People We See."

Here are a few.

Collected in Washington, DC, 2004.



The Club asks that you reach out and help those in need when you can.



A monthly photo from the *Alive!* archives looking back at the men and women whose hard work helped build LA. Thank you!

Throwback Thumbs Up



FROM FEBRUARY 2007:

At Black Rock, Clayton Anderson (left), LADWP Maintenance Construction Helper, and LADWP Building Repairers Todd Bunn (middle) and Jeff Roberts (right) build a new channel from the LA Aqueduct to rewater the Owens Valley.



Octavia Lab

Creativity Within Reach

Tour the Octavia Lab
PAGE 15

The Club visited the LAPL's Octavia Lab June 9.

The *Alive!* Interview

The Confidence to Create

On May 31, Club CEO Robert Larios and *Alive!* editor John Burnes interviewed Lauren Kratz, Librarian III and Managing Librarian of the Octavia Lab at Los Angeles Public Library's Central Library. • The interview was conducted via Zoom.

Welcome, Lauren! So you're speaking to us from a lab kiosk actually in the Octavia Lab.

Lauren Kratz: I am!



Lauren Kratz, Librarian III and Octavia Lab Manager

And you're just finished giving an orientation of the lab to a student group.

Lauren: Right! I had 71 juniors from Eastside Academy.

All part of the regular business at the Octavia Lab.

Lauren: Yes, at the do-it-yourself makerspace at the Library. I'm back now.

Lauren, tell us your path to becoming the Manager of the Octavia Lab at the Los Angeles Public Library.

Lauren: I've worked for the City coming up to seven years, but I've been a children's librarian for nearly 17 years. I'm from Queens, New York City. I worked at the New York Public Library there for seven years, then I moved to Los Angeles. I was at the LA County Library system for almost two years, and now I've been at LAPL for six years. It will be seven in November.

Have you been with the lab since it opened?

Lauren: No. I've been in the lab for a little more than a year. I was the children's librarian at the Studio City branch, and then I've been at Octavia Lab for a little over a year. Vi Ha, the Sr. Librarian at International Languages, opened the lab in June 2019.

About the Lab

Describe the Octavia Lab space. We should define a makerspace in general for those people who are not familiar with them – it's basically a communal public workshop where people can create small personal projects. What are the cardholders able to accomplish in the Octavia Lab?

Lauren: The Octavia Lab is a do-it-yourself makerspace for all Los Angeles Public Library cardholders. To become a member of the Octavia Lab, you'll need your physical library card and a photo ID. You sign a membership agreement, and in that agreement it says, "We're going to be polite to each other. This is a space to work on creative artistic projects. We're going to take care of the equipment." And then we note in their library card account that they're a lab member. Then they can reserve and use any piece of equipment in the space for free.

What can they accomplish?

Lauren: The most popular areas in the lab are the 3D printers and the recording studio. We have one recording studio where you can record music and audio projects and also edit films. Then we have two podcasting studios where you can record podcasts and with capabilities to livestream, and then we have a photography studio, where you can use cameras and lighting equipment, which we provide, with different backgrounds and tripods for photography projects.

We had a lab member, Charles, who used the sewing machines to make his own designs and T-shirt line, and he calls it Upper Class Urban Outwear, and then he used the photography

studio to then create a website to sell his shirts and to promote them. We have lab members who learn how to use one piece of equipment, and then they will transfer that knowledge and use everything in the space.

We also have a lot of families that use the space together. For instance, one family on a Saturday used the 3D printer to print bowling pins for a birthday party; used the poster printer, because lab members get one free poster print a week, to decorate for the birthday party; and then used the vinyl cutter to make stickers to give away at the birthday party. We have a lot of people who use the equipment together. We have a father and son who use the vinyl cutter a couple times a month to make gifts – they'll make the design, heat-transfer it onto T-shirts and make that as gifts for other family members. It really is a community space where people learn and use the equipment together.

It sounds like people are way past the experimental stage like "Hey, let's check that out." It's being used as an everyday resource.

Lauren: Yes, but I would say both. When anyone walks into the room, our lab staff immediately engages with them. "Do you have a reservation today? Do you have any questions about the space?" And we provide tours, so a

'It unlocks people's spirit and confidence.'

– Lauren Kratz

lot of our time is giving tours for people who have never been inside the lab to show them around the equipment, and then they become lab members. Half the time is recruiting and showing people the space, and the other half is taking care of the people who are already members.

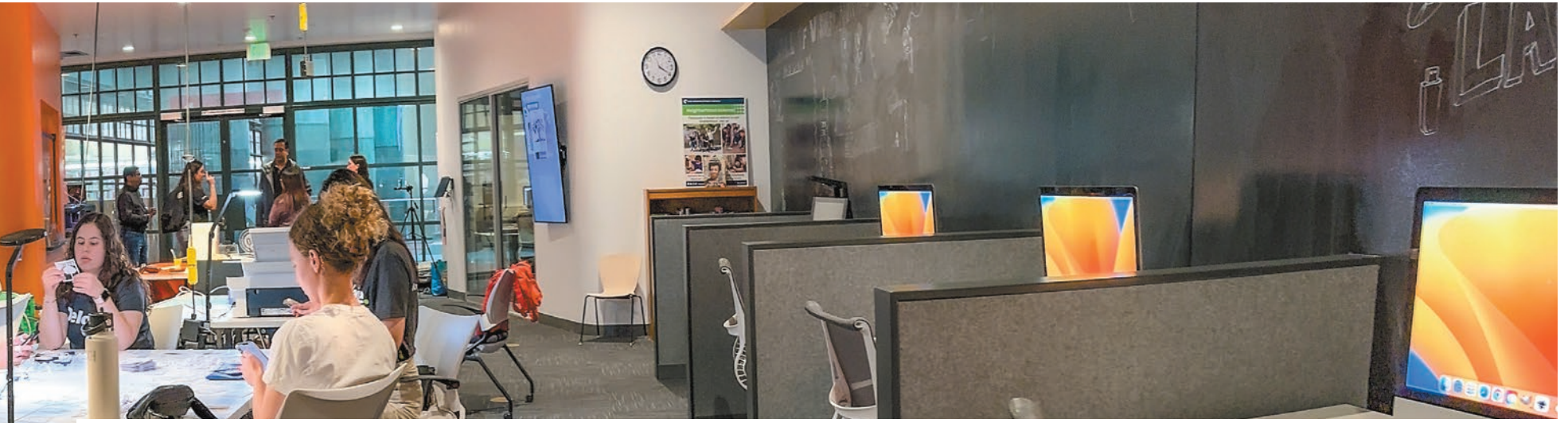
How big is the staff at the lab?

Lauren: With me is Richard Acero. He's the Library Assistant of the lab. He's full-time as well. Then we have Aldrich Linton, a Librarian I, who works in the space with us, and we have a rotation of Administrative Clerks from other departments around the building who also work in the space when we're open to the public.

— Interview continues page 14



Association President John Hawkins (left), Octavia Lab Manager Lauren Kratz, and Club CEO Robert Larios.



Photos for *Alive!* by Glenn Marzano and Club Social Media Manager Dearbhla McNulty; and courtesy LAPL

Alive! Feature

LIBRARY

Creativity Within Reach

Central Library's Octavia Lab makerspace expands the limits of learning.

Learning experiences at the Los Angeles Public Library are all in the making. That's the idea of the expanding Octavia Lab, a makerspace (enhanced workshop) that's a growing part of how the library sees its role in serving LA citizens.

The Octavia Lab, named after the award-winning science fiction author Octavia E. Butler, is a do-it-yourself makerspace located inside the Los Angeles Public Library's historic Central Library. Octavia Lab provides library cardholders free and unlimited access to state-of-the-art design, fabrication, preservation and story-telling technologies.

The lab reflects the growing emphasis on entrepreneurship – learning to make it yourself – and creativity. Many schools now feature makerspaces to complement their curricula, and the LAPL is right there.

The lab opened in 2019, and expanded in May with new podcast and photography studios.

PANDEMIC PROBLEM SOLVERS

A year after the Octavia Lab opened, it had to close again because of the pandemic (the whole library closed to the public, of course.) But Library personnel got busy – they used the Octavia Lab to create face shields to keep people safe.

Quoting the Library blog: "With encouragement from Library administration and the Mayor's Office, we have been making face shields for the medical community since April and with our partners' and vol-

unteers' help, we have donated to 20 area Los Angeles hospitals, with more than 15,000 face shields.

"How did the Octavia Lab, a space where library users experimented with 3D printing and dabbled in graphic design, become a mini-factory getting thousands of medical-grade face shields into the hands of hospital workers treating COVID-19 cases?

That transition wasn't easy and we fell back to doing what libraries do. We tapped into the community of users that has formed around the Octavia Lab. As library spaces go, we pride ourselves in our community connections that include our lab users, volunteers, nonprofits, and other like-minded organizations, such as other libraries, schools, and maker groups."

OCTAVIA E. BUTLER

Octavia E. Butler (1947-2006) was a writer, creator, world-builder and genius who made room in the white male-dominated science fiction world for works with

African American female leads. In her 30-year career as a published author she wrote 12 books and one collection of short stories) of monumental depth, thought and execution. How did Butler become this masterful creator of universes? Libraries, of course. Butler's ability to be creative and to be continually

inspired to create is deeply tied to her library habit. Libraries helped to shape Butler into a writer, and her relationship with the Central Library, in particular, served as an environment that allowed her to flourish. According to Butler, "Public libraries ... are the open universities of America."

She is said to have written her first novel at the Central Library, and she became an adult literacy volunteer. She helped the Library in its rebuilding efforts after the fire of 1986 devastated the library building and collection.

After her death, her works concerning Black futurism are now growing rapidly in prominence, and several are being adapted into films and television. ●

EQUIPMENT

The Octavia Lab's equipment includes:

- 3D printers
- Podcast suite, including software
- Recording studio, including software
- Video editing suite, including software
- Digital media stations
- Photo studio
- Laser cutter
- Poster printer
- Sewing machines (embroidery-enabled with computer link)
- Vinyl cutter
- CNC mill (engraving, design of circuit boards)
- Virtual reality suite
- More!



The entrance to the Octavia Lab on the Library's lower level two.



The Octavia Lab. Volunteers make stickers before the doors open to the public for the day.

LIBRARY Creativity Within Reach

The *Alive!* Interview — continued from page 12

Who uses the space? Do they tend to be on the younger side, or older? What are you seeing?

Lauren: This is my favorite thing to talk about. In public libraries everybody's always saying, "No one uses the library." They say this because first you have story time for the babies and toddlers, and then they start school. And then you have our power users of older people who use the libraries. But that group from 18 to 45 is very hard to engage in the library, that's their thinking. But that middle group is our demographic — 18 to 45. They are the lab's power users. We have programs and hosting of field trips to engage our children and teens. We also have older people who use the space, too, but our main demographic of everyday users is 18 to 45.

What kind of training do lab members receive about using the equipment?

Lauren: We have a portal, Niche Academy, offers tutorials on how to use some of the equipment in the space. But we also describe the Octavia Lab as a learning space; I taught myself to use the equipment, and I always say, "If I went and learned, everybody can do it."

I caution people that this is a learning space. There's not going to be one-on-one instruction, but if you take the time and teach yourself you will get it, and again if you learn one thing you could transfer some of those skills into something else in the room, and that tends to be what happens. We are here to troubleshoot. But the lab is meant to help people learn on their own.

The Deeper Purpose

What's the deeper purpose? The lab's subtitle is "creativity within reach." That's a great phrase.

Lauren: It starts with the fact that some of this equipment is very expensive. You're not going to want to purchase this equipment to use at home. This is equipment that most people would use maybe a couple of times a month or even a couple of times a year. Your library card gives you access to using equipment that you're not going to be able to access in most places, especially for free, here in the lab. That's where "creativity within reach" comes from, because it's in reach with your library card to use for free. Easy access goes with the library's mission statement of "easy access, and free and easy access to technology." That's what the lab is.

Have you seen people open up? Have you heard people say things like, "Look at what I can do now"?

Lauren: Every day! Especially when someone figures it out, especially when they finish a project. They used the sewing machine. They finished their pillow. They finished their bag. They used the vinyl cutter. They finished their sticker. When they finish I can feel their confidence and the joy that inspires them to go try something else new. It unlocks people's spirit and confidence. People don't have that access to different opportunities to feel joy and confidence like they do when we're younger, and this space helps you do that.

Origins

How did the lab come about?

Lauren: The Library administration had wanted this since maybe since 2008 or 2009. They'd been talking about this for a very long time. Makerspaces had been popping up in universities for the last 10 years. Public libraries, especially LAPL, always like to be in the forefront of technology and anything new to give to their patrons. That's why they were talking about it for so long. The high school that visited us this morning were planning on creating a makerspace at their high school. These makerspaces are going to be popping up everywhere. The



Volunteers help prepare the lab before the doors open to the public for the day.

LAPL's Koreatown Media Lab just opened at the Pio Pico branch, so I feel like this will be a trend that will be happening throughout the years.

Is there a plan to have them in other branches?

Lauren: They're definitely working on a plan. Nothing concrete yet, but I know that their future goals are to have more makerspaces throughout Los Angeles Public Library.

Makerspaces seem very entrepreneurial, reflecting the way things are done these days. What are the similarities between a makerspace and an old-school workshop?

Lauren: When most people think "makerspace," they think of wood tools and big CNC [computer numerical control; basically any computer-driven machine] industrial mills to cut wood and things like that. But I feel like a makerspace is a place to make more than that, to make anything, and that's why we have so many different types of equipment in the space. It could be recording equipment, sewing machines, lighting, so much. "Makerspace" is a big umbrella term, which I like. You can make almost anything that you can imagine.

Success and Sewing Machines

Are your numbers growing?

Lauren: Yes. We have a weekly spreadsheet, and we update the numbers and keep track of the tours, the lab usage, how many people become members each week, our field trips and programs, things like that.

In a nutshell, at the end of April, the lab had 3,409 members; we've given more than 10,000 tours; and we've had more than 22,000 visitors.

Coming out of the pandemic, we average 650 visitors per month. More than 2,000 people visited the lab in February, and in February and March, we gave more than 400 tours. In February, we signed up more than 1,200 new members. And in March, our equipment was used for more than 600 sessions. We're busy!

How would you describe its success?

Lauren: It is very busy. Our busiest days are Friday and Saturday. Packed. The lab is always well used. We have a constant flow of people visiting the lab. The lab reflects LAPL as a whole, because it's constantly busy and in use.

Is there ever a time where you would recommend someone might be able to come on in when it's not busy?

Lauren: Mondays!

How are you keeping the lab up to date?

Lauren: We have a budget. We are indebted to the Library Foundation of the Los Angeles Public Library — they secure the grants and a lot of the funding. The summer reading program — that's them. The Aloud series — that's them. So they provide a lot of funding for the library, and they

secured funding for the lab as well. So we have a funding budget every year, and for this year my colleague Richard and I worked really hard in getting new equipment. That's how we stay current. There are going to be more 3D printers and more sewing machines, because the sewing machines have gotten very popular.

The sewing machines have gotten more popular?

Lauren: Very much so!

We just opened the podcasting studios and the photo studio. Other additions will be a photo printer, sublimation printer and a bigger embroidery machine, so we're constantly trying to update the equipment and also purchase new equipment for lab members to continue to learn how to use.

'If I learned, everybody can do it.'
— Lauren Kratz

What supplies does the lab pay for, and what should people bring in on their own?

Lauren: When people reserve the laser cutter, they're bringing in their own materials; we don't supply the wood or the acrylic. For the sewing machine, we provide the bobbin and needles, but users would have to bring their own material for whatever they're going to make, including their own thread; we might not have the color they need. We do supply the filaments for the 3D printer.

That's all listed somewhere, I would imagine.

Lauren: Yes, on our website. There's so much good information on the website. Every question you can think of is answered on the webpage.

Octavia E. Butler

Who was Octavia Butler, and why did you name the lab after her?

Lauren: So Octavia E. Butler is a well-loved science-fiction author who was ahead of her time. It was named after her precisely because she was ahead of her time. She was an African American woman author in the 1970s, '80s and '90s. Her books were always about the future, and the lab is about your future. That's why we're always trying to see what's new so people can have access to the future of new technology. It goes perfectly with her legacy.

What was her connection with the LAPL?

Lauren: She wrote her first book, *Pattern Master*, here. She did some of her writing in the Central Library. Then, she was an adult literacy

volunteer. In 1986 when the Central Library had the devastating fire, she was here as an adult literacy volunteer, and the very next day she saved some of the books and help put them in the freezer. To this day, people actually make appointments with the Rare Books department to see some of the books that she saved.

She was born in Pasadena.

Awesome Projects

What have been your favorite projects that people have created in the lab?

Lauren: Some of my favorite projects I've seen are created when groups come together. I had a wedding party come in. The couple were lab members, and they brought their wedding party as guests, and they used the laser cutter to laser-cut their guests' initials into the wine and champagne glasses. Instead of buying them, they designed and laser-cut them in the lab. The whole wedding party worked together around the laser cutter.

And then there was the dad and son. The son's train tracks broke, so they designed an exact replacement train track and 3D-printed it to fix his train set.

Those are just two of them.

A Passion for Projects

It's almost as if the sky is the limit on what can be accomplished in a makerspace. What do you love about what you do?

Lauren: I love working in the lab because we have children up to seniors using it. I love the opportunity to work with people of all different generations. That's my favorite part.

And helping them.

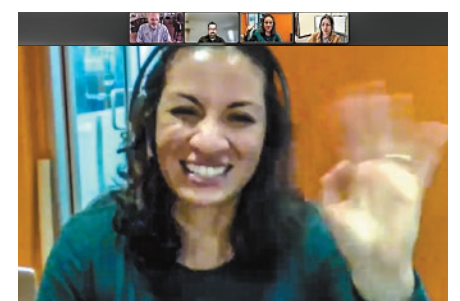
Lauren: Yes. People should know that everybody belongs here and can learn. You don't need to be trained. You can come in here and learn and figure it out. It really helps our minds and our confidence.

That's what it's all about, learning and confidence.

Lauren: Right.

Lauren, thank you for your time to talk to us on a busy day.

Lauren: Oh, of course. Thank you for taking the time to promote the Octavia Lab! ●



Lab Manager Lauren Kratz greets the Club from a lab podcasting studio during a Zoom interview.

Tour the Octavia Lab

Come along as Octavia Lab Manager Lauren Kratz leads Association President John Hawkins and Club CEO Robert Larios through the lab's many production stations.

Note: There are many usage restrictions and limitations on each piece of equipment. Access the lab's website (<https://www.lapl.org/labs/octavia-lab>) for complete information.

Podcast Studio



With the explosion of podcast production in the world, many library patrons requested a location to produce their own. Here it is; it's one of the Octavia Lab's newest offerings.

DIY Memory Lab



The DIY Memory Lab contains archival-grade equipment for digitizing personal archival collections. At the DIY Digital Memory Lab, patrons can digitize multiple formats of material, including documents; photos, slides and negatives; Super 8 and 8mm film (picture only, no audio); compact audio cassettes; CDs and DVDs; DVs and MiniDV (SP); 3.5-inch floppy disks; Minidiscs; reel-to-reel audio tapes; VHS tapes (SP and EP); and vinyl records (LP and 45). To use the DIY Memory Lab, patrons must have a Los Angeles Public Library card in good standing, attend an online orientation, read and agree to Octavia Lab policies, sign a release form, and make a reservation.

Other Gear Not Pictured

- Laser cutter
- Poster printer
- Vinyl cutter
- CNC mill
- Virtual reality station

3D Printers



Lab Manager Lauren Kratz displays a model of a duck (right) and a 3D-printed duck.



The Octavia Lab has two MakerBot Replicator+ 3D printers. Only one print request per person will be accepted and printed at a time. Equipment is available on a first-come, first served-basis.

Digital Media Stations/ Video and Audio Studio



Members can design their own graphics, 3D modeling, sounds, and more at one of the lab's Digital Media Stations. They're equipped with Apple Mac computers and Adobe Creative Cloud. A video and audio suite, shown here, is equipped for video and audio editing.

Deloitte volunteers Lily Lee (front left) and Manny Tovar prepare graphics options for future lab guests. Observing are (from left) Robert Larios, John Hawkins and Lauren Kratz.

Sewing Machine



Patrons can explore crafts involving textile creations with the lab's sewing machine and computerized embroidery machine.

Photo Studio



Patrons can create scenic photos and videos with a backdrop of your choice. Have your own T-shirt design? Photograph it here for your website.

Octavia Lab

Los Angeles Public Library makerspace

LOCATION

LAPL Central Library
630 W 5th St downtown
Lower level 2 next to the
Science, Technology and
Patents Dept.

HOURS

Monday, Tuesday, Friday,
Saturday: 1 – 5 p.m.
Wednesday, Thursday:
3:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Sunday and City
holidays: closed

LAB MEMBERSHIP

To use the Octavia lab, patrons must first become a member of the lab, which requires a library card in good standing, a photo ID, and a signed user agreement. Lab applications must be filled out and submitted in person during lab hours.

RESERVATIONS

Call the Octavia Lab, (213) 228-7150, to set up a reservation or have any questions.

Equipment reservations are accepted only by phone or in person, not by email.

Lab tours are available during hours of operation, and do not require a reservation.

CLASS VISITS AND FIELD TRIPS

Students of all ages are welcome to the lab to learn and explore the various forms of creative technology available in the Octavia Lab!

To schedule a date and time for a class contact Lauren Kratz, lkratz@lapl.org

ABOUT



Read more about Octavia E. Butler and her Library connection on page 13.



Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc.

RLACEI

For Retired
Club Members

CONTACT INFORMATION

Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. (RLACEI)



Ruth B. Perry

Ruth B. Perry, President
Terminal Annex
P.O. Box 86264
Los Angeles, CA 90086
PHONE: (800) 678-4145, ext. 717
EMAIL: Ruth.Perry@RLACEI.org
ON THE WEB: www.RLACEI.org

2023 Executive Board of Directors

- Ruth B. Perry, *President*
- Beverly J. Clark, *First Vice President*
- Mark Blunk, *Second Vice President*
- Loucin (Lucy) Artinian, *Treasurer*
- Nancy Hammoudian, *Secretary*

RLACEI DIRECTORS

Dial (800) 678-4145 plus extension

- Beverly Anderson, *Director* Ext. 702
- Loucin (Lucy) Artinian, *Treasurer* Ext. 718
- Mark Blunk, *Audit Chair* Ext. 704
- Beverly J. Clark, *Publicity Director* Ext. 716
- Nancy Hammoudian, *Secretary* Ext. 705
- Tom Moutes, *Director* Ext. 710
- Verkin (Vicki) Keoseian, *Director* Ext. 719
- Ruth B. Perry, *President* Ext. 717
- Ann Seales, *Membership Director* Ext. 706
- Elizabeth Torres, *Entertainment Director* Ext. 703

RLACEI RETIREE HELPLINE:

(800) 678-4145, Ext. 0

For retirement assistance, call the Retiree Hotline and leave a message. A Director of RLACEI will return your call and assist you with your concerns.

RLACEI WEBSITE

Visit the RLACEI website www.RLACEI.org to find the latest news. Call (800) 678-4145 Ext. 0 to make suggestions. EMAIL: Contact@RLACEI.org

MAILING ADDRESS:

Retired Los Angeles City Employees Inc.
Terminal Annex
P.O. Box 86264
Los Angeles, CA 90086

Change of Address?

Please notify Ann Seales, Membership Chair, at (800) 678-4145 ext. 706 or Ann.Seales@RLACEI.org for a change of address or to add or change your email address. Also notify LACERS, ACEBSA, LAPCU, and LAFUCU as applicable.



RLACEI 2023 Annual Picnic

Open to Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. members only.

Join today!

(To join RLACEI, call (800) 678-4145 EXT. 717)

Thursday, September 14, 2023

11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Friendship Auditorium • 3201 Riverside Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90027



RSVP to (800) 678-4145 EXT. 701 no later than September 1, 2023.

RLACEI member plus one (1) guest at no cost.
No additional guests allowed at this time.

We look forward to seeing you!

RLACEI Reservation Form

Name _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Number of Attendees _____

Email to Contact@RLACEI.org or mail to RLACEI, P.O. Box 86264, Los Angeles, CA 90086

****Limited to first 100 RSVPs—Free Mask to those in attendance—Only RLACEI members will be eligible to win prizes.****



Beverly J. Clark

Send in your Interesting News Contributions!

Contact: **Beverly J. Clark**, Publicity Director
Email: Beverly.Clark@RLACEI.org
Phone: (800) 678-4145 ext 716

RETIREE EVENTS

Sept. 14 Annual Picnic
Friendship Auditorium
3201 Riverside Dr.
11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Dec. 14 Holiday Party
Friendship Auditorium
3201 Riverside Dr., Los Angeles
11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

RLACEI EVENTS RESERVATION LINE:
(800) 678-4145, ext. 701

Due to staffing, telephone confirmation cannot be provided.

RETIREES UPDATE

by Tom Moutes, *RLACEI Director* • Tom.Moutes@RLACEI.org



Tom Moutes

Does the City Care About Its Retirees?

You worked hard during your City career and maybe made less money by working for the government, but you knew you would have a relatively good retirement benefit. Because of the better retirement security, this was a tradeoff you were okay with taking. But once your career ended, the accolades given, and your retirement began, does the City still care about you?

As a former General Manager of LACERS, I can tell you that LACERS cares about you. Overall, LACERS staff does a great job for Retirees, including a state-of-the-art wellness program. The current LACERS board also showed how much it cares about Retirees by adopting a staff recommendation that the City Council and mayor pass an additional 2.6 percent (“discretionary”) cost-of-living increase to help Retirees through this period of high inflation – the highest we have seen in 40 years.

So, what about the elected officials? Do they care? The lack of action on the proposed 2.6 percent discretionary COLA would indicate they do not. The recommendation by the LACERS board was transmitted to the CAO. Since that time,

the City process has gone quiet. Council committees have not taken up the issue. The Council has not even given the courtesy of a thumbs up or thumbs down vote so that the 20,000-plus Retirees and beneficiaries know where they stand. The Mayor’s Office has not intervened.

Even a 2.6 percent discretionary COLA will not come close to the financial hit that the recent inflation has inflicted on our country. But a small discretionary COLA could play an important part in helping make ends meet for all Retirees and especially the 36 percent of LACERS Retirees and beneficiaries who receive less than \$36,000 per year.

It’s time for the City’s elected officials to break their silence. The City’s Retirees, many of whom have spent decades of service to the citizens of the City and, in doing so, made their elected officials look good, deserve better. At a minimum, Retirees deserve formal consideration of the 2.6 percent discretionary COLA and, at best, the adoption of the COLA. What will the City’s elected officials do? So far, their silence has been deafening. ●



RETIREES ON THE MOVE

by Beverly J. Clark, *Publicity Director*
Beverly.Clark@RLACEI.org

Meet Ahmad Hooshmand

Ahmad Hooshmand retired from Public Works/Engineering in 2010 after 30 years of service as a Civil Engineer Associate.

Ahmad says, "I had a wonderful, long career in the Bureau of Engineering and worked in a variety of technical design offices."

His strong background in street, storm drain, and sewer design qualified him for working in Public Works' private development as a Sr. Associate Plan Checker and a Construction Coordinator.

"I reviewed and coordinated several important projects in the City, including the Disney Concert Hall and the Staples Center.

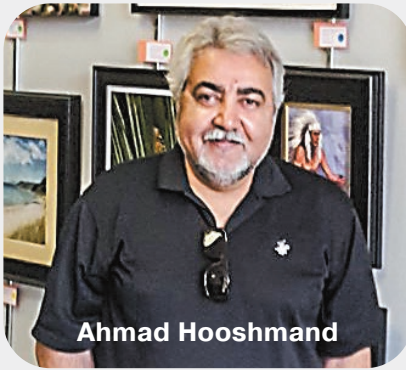
"Working as a Sr. Associate for Public Works gave me great pleasure. I was able to meet and work with other Engineers, Architects, contractors, Inspectors and developers and most importantly was part of a team."

Ahmad states that being a part of a team and working together on projects are what he misses most from his long, wonderful career working for the public.

"I graduated from the University of Tennessee with a Master's degree in civil engineering in 1980. My wife Cheryl passed away in 2011. We have two daughters, Sarah and Farrah."

What are your passions?

"I have always had a passion for painting since I was young. Now, after retirement, I have more time to paint. Most of my oil paintings are in impressionist style. I love the Vincent Van Gogh and French painters' work, but I use my own style with brushes and knives."



Ahmad Hooshmand

Since retirement, have you joined any organizations?

"I am a member of several art associations locally (Simi Valley, Thousand Oaks and Santa Paula).

"We have an art club at the City Center in Simi Valley, and I enjoy painting with other artists at the center; we sometimes travel to paint. I also participate in several local art shows every year, and I absolutely love the art museums."

Ahmad has included some of his paintings of South Utah and Arizona for publishing in *Alive!*

How do you fill your days in retirement?

"COVID definitely changed our lives but gave me more time to paint at home. I work two days a week from home for the City of Beverly Hills as a Civil Engineer Consultant. Since retirement, I have had the fortune to travel to many countries."

Any words of wisdom?

"My words of wisdom for my fellow Retirees: travel as much as you can, fill your days with your passions, listen to music, walk in the nature ... life is great, my friends." ●

Some of Ahmad's paintings.



LACERS BOARD UPDATE

by Michael R. Wilkinson,
LACERS Commissioner
MikeWilkinson4LACERS@gmail.com

LACERS Renews Commitment To Private Real Estate

LACERS recently renewed its commitment to the private real estate asset class as part of a regular review of the real estate investment plan, as well as maintaining its long-term goal of a 7.0 percent allocation of the total portfolio of nearly \$21 billion (as of 12/31/2022).

The Townsend Group, LACERS Real Estate consultants, made recommendations to the Board to continue its investment in both core and non-core real estate.

Core real estate represents the highest quality investments, which are generally fully leased. Non-core refers to investments that have some additional risks such as being partially leased or in need of rehabilitation. To have a highly diversified set of investments, LACERS invests in a mix of core investments for their high quality and dependable income, along with non-core investments, which are more challenging, but also offer higher returns.

Since 2014, the LACERS Board has been moving from a 30 percent core exposure and 70 percent non-core to a more conservative (lower risk) 60 percent core and 40 percent non-core allocation. Currently, we are at a 59.0 percent core and 29.4 percent non-core allocation.

The recommendation for the upcoming 2023-24 fiscal year is to make additional investments of up to \$100 million in core funds and up to \$200 million in non-core investments of between \$50 million and \$75 million each. While we are currently underweight to non-core and overweight to core investments, we are within the range of plus or minus 2 percent for the targets.

Some of the buying goals for the upcoming year are:

- Apartment buildings in the United States to increase this class
- Distressed assets where LACERS can find properties at a deep discount
- Specialized exposures in life sciences, industrial outdoor storage, data centers and others.

Finally, why is LACERS invested in real estate? Real estate provides both income from rents and the possibility of appreciation in value. Looking at the core real estate gross returns since 2000, only in the years 2008 and 2009 did the total returns come in negative. The average return over this period was 8.3 percent, with 2.7 percent coming from income and 5.6 percent from appreciation. The 8.3 percent return exceeds LACERS' assumed rate of return of 7.0 percent. ●



RLACEI MEMBERS

Not an RLACEI member?

Join and like us on FACEBOOK

Call (800) 678-4145 x717 or visit our website at RLACEI.ORG

Become an RLACEI Member!



RLACEI is dedicated to advocating for retiree interests. We are over 6,300 strong! Members of the Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. enjoy all RLACEI events such member picnic and holiday party with FREE membership to the Employees Club with access to all group benefits (insurance, discounts, etc.).

Call (800) 678-4145 Ext. 706, or visit our website at RLACEI.ORG and join today!

Looking for a Board Member With Computer Skills



Computer savvy RLACEI Board Director needed!

Experience and skills in Webpage maintenance, Facebook management and extensive Microsoft Office proficiency particularly wanted. Other computer skills greatly appreciated. If you enjoy working with and assisting City Retirees, join us.

For more information on this position contact: Beverly Anderson at: Beverly.Anderson@RLACEI.org or (800) 678-4145 ext. 702

Photos courtesy LAFD



Pictured are some of those whose promotions were celebrated at the April 21 event.



Families supported their loved ones who were promoted.



Chief Kristin Crowley addressed those in attendance.

53 Promoted

FIRE DEPT. PROMOTES SWORN, CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES.

LAFD: On April 21, LAFD employees and families gathered to honor the promotion of 53 employees, including 40 sworn and 13 civilian members, and celebrate their perseverance, dedication hard work and passion.

Expressing her pride in their accomplishments, Fire Chief Kristin M. Crowley oversaw the formal promotion ceremony at the LAFD Frank Hotchkin Memorial Training Center in Elysian Park.

Individually honored at the event were:

SWORN:

Joseph Bannan
Daniel Barrera
Roland Bonada
Michael Campana
Victor Chavez
Justin Draeger
Christopher Dupertuis
Ricardo Garcia
Javier Gonzalez
Thomas Griffith
Andrew Guzzard
Eldon Karrati
Matthew Kasparian
Carlos Limon
Arturo Martinez
Luis Ochoa
Gage Oetgen
Michael Pellegrini

Brant Pulliam
Ian VanGerpen
Alan Almaguer
Amanda Avery
Ellery Beltran
Manuel Castaneda III
Michael Contreras
Justin Dettorre
Christopher Elguea
Joel Fien
Jacob Fryer
Borys Gudiel
Cody Hass
Justin Lahr
Christopher Napper
Calvin Ngo
Robert Price
Taylor Rappaport
Jeffrey Rodner

Gregory Zaccaro
Jason Teter
Greg Whitmore

CIVILIANS:

Adam Blasey
Gregory Brown
Lenora Caldera
Mercedes Orellana-Farias
Tom Hoang
Maria Lozano
Brittany Medina
Nam Nguyen
William Nguyen
Mauricio Ramirez
Arman Serobyian
Amabel Torres
John Warner

Congratulations to those who were promoted!

... and 5 Assistant Chiefs

FIVE IN LEADERSHIP PROMOTED.

In another ceremony, this one held May 12, the LAFD honored the achievements of five LAFD uniformed members who have successfully completed the demanding process of promoting in rank within the Department.

Fire Chief Kristin M. Crowley oversaw a formal promotion ceremony at the LAFD Frank Hotchkin Memorial Training Center in Elysian Park.

Individually honored at the event (with their new rank) were:

Assistant Chief Luis Aldana
Assistant Chief Melford Beard
Assistant Chief Jason Hing
Assistant Chief Peter Hsiao
Inspector II Patrick Perez

Congratulations to the new leaders!

The newly promoted Assistant Chiefs (front row) pose with existing leadership May 12.



THANK YOU!



The Club thanks all those who were promoted for their tireless dedication to Los Angeles, and to their families for supporting them!



FOR ACTIVE AND RETIRED MEMBERS

LACERS Sets Temporary Hours - 7 a.m. - 1 p.m.

LACERS welcomes all current and Retired City employees to its new headquarters at 977 N. Broadway. Temporary hours are now in effect: 7 a.m. - 1 p.m. Monday-Friday. No appointments are needed.

A current government-issued photo identification or City employee badge is required to enter the building except when attending public meetings of the LACERS Board of Administration. Also, parking is not available at the building. Paid parking lots, public transit, and street parking are available nearby.

Additionally, online options will continue to be available to you. Use the LACERS' Secure Document Upload found at lacers.org/secure-document-upload to submit forms or required documents, visit our website at [LACERS.org](https://lacers.org) to obtain benefits information; log onto your MyLACERS account at <https://mylacers.lacers.org> to view your account details; and visit the found LACERS' YouTube channel at youtube.com/lacersyoutube where you can find a wealth of benefits videos. Stay up to date on LACERS announcements by checking our website periodically at [LACERS.org](https://lacers.org), contacting us by email at lacers.services@lacers.org, and by phone at (800) 779-8328. ●

In Step With LACERS Well

GROUP WALKS RETURN WITH FIRST SPIN AROUND SILVER LAKE RESERVOIR.

Photos by Katherine Thompson and Dawn Moore, LACERS Admin Interns

It's time to get moving again, if you haven't already!

The pandemic is over, and LACERS Well has begun scheduling outings again for fitness and fun.

On June 22, LACERS Well hosted its first in-person 5k Hike-Walk-Run at the Silver Lake Reservoir led by fitness coach Sean Foy. More than 40 Retirees and guests participated to get their bodies moving!



LACERS provided a boxed light breakfast before the event.

LACERS provided a light breakfast, and attendees participated in dynamic movements and stretching. Participants split up into three different groups (beginner, intermediate and advanced). The advanced group was led by champion Benjamin Gaetos; the intermediate group by staff member Edelize Fang; and the beginner group by Sean Foy. All groups embarked on their hike journey at their own pace.



The route took participants around Silver Lake Reservoir.

Toward the end of the hike, participants were provided a boxed lunch to replenish their body fuel, and most everyone stayed to socialize before parting ways.

LACERS hopes to do more of these in the future.

Thanks to the LACERS Well staff for making the event happen!

Follow all LACERS Well events listed monthly here in *Alive!*, and also on your myLACERS account at [LACERS.org](https://lacers.org). ●

FOR RETIRED MEMBERS

LACERS Well Events Coming This Month

Register for these virtual events below through your MyLACERS account at <https://mylacers.org> or by calling LACERS. If you need assistance, email LacersWell@lacers.org. Space is limited for each event so be sure to sign up early. To view additional dates and information, visit: lacers.org/lacers-well-events. ●

Mom's Computer Technology Webinar (virtual) Mom's Computer, in partnership with the LACERS Well team, is hosting an in-person Technology workshop Wed., Aug. 9, at 2 p.m.

empower you with ongoing inspiration, training, tools, and coaching to help you realize your desired personal health and fitness goals in 2023.

Anthem Benefit Webinar Series (virtual)The Anthem team is excited to conduct their monthly webinar at 9 a.m. Fri., Aug. 11. The subject: Anthem's Sydney Health app.

Silver and Fit (virtual) - Tues., Aug. 22 at 10 a.m.

Fitness Made Simple - Exercise Class (virtual) - Join Coach Sean Foy Wed., Aug. 16 at 9:30 a.m., as he helps you train in the comfort and convenience of your home to realize your health and fitness goals. Coach Sean will show you how simple it can be to get fit and stay fit anytime, anywhere and

Anthem Benefit Webinar Series (virtual)The Anthem team is excited to conduct their monthly webinar at 10 a.m. Wed., Aug. 23. The subject: in-home support/adult day care.

Brain Health Class (virtual) - Video and discussion via Zoom at 2 p.m. Wed., Aug. 23.

Active and Fit Webinar (virtual) - Subject: Know the scams; don't be a victim. Thurs., Aug. 24, 9 a.m.

Photo by Noah Hawkins, Club Customer Service Rep



Rosie and Henry Robles surround Club CEO Robert Larios (center) at Club HQ.

Meeting a ‘Celebrity’

LOOK WHO MEMBERS MET WHEN THEY CAME FOR AN APPOINTMENT!

THE CLUB: Last month, Club Members stopped by Club HQ to make an appointment for account management.

They rang the bell at the office door ... and were so stunned when they were greeted by the Club CEO himself, Robert Larios, they were rendered nearly speechless!

Henry and Rosie Robles are big fans of Robert’s in *Alive!* and in Club social media. They humbly requested a photo so they could show their friends and family!

(Truth be told: Robert Larios meets Club Members all the time. It’s all part of the Club’s stellar customer service.) ●

Story courtesy LADOT

2 Brians Appointed

TRANSPORTATION APPOINTS NEW CHIEFS.

LADOT: The Dept. of Transportation recently appointed two new chiefs – Brian Hale as Chief of Parking Enforcement and Traffic Control; and Brian Lee as Chief of Transit (emergency appointment).

Brian Hale has six years of service with LADOT, initially joining the department as Deputy Chief of the Parking Enforcement and Traffic Control Division. In early 2017, Brian was appointed Chief and served in this capacity until he left City employment in 2018. In December 2020, Brian accepted an offer to return as Interim Chief. Chief Brian Hale has a diverse law enforcement background that spans more than 30 years.

Brian Lee is a graduate of the University of California Irvine with a Bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering and has a Professional Engineering License from the State of California in traffic engineering. Brian has spent 21 years working for LADOT, starting his career with the ATSAC Design team. In this role as the Chief of Transit, Brian will manage the second-largest transit agency in Los Angeles County. His responsibilities will include a large portfolio that includes assessing the City’s transit service post-pandemic; coordination of LADOT’s services with Metro and other transit agencies; preparing for the 2028 Olympics, and more.

Congratulations to Brian Hale and Brian Lee on their new appointments! ●



Brian Hale



Brian Lee

Story and photo courtesy LAPD

Lt. White, FBI Grad

LT. SHANNON WHITE GRADUATES FROM FBI ACADEMY.

LAPD: On June 8, LAPD Lt. Shannon White graduated from the prestigious FBI National Academy. She was selected for exceptional leadership and completed an intensive 10-week course on intelligence, terrorism, management, law, behavior science, communication and forensic science.

Congratulations, Lt. White!



Lt. Shannon White

EXCLUSIVE CLUB DISCOUNT

Adventure Awaits

Club Members SAVE on San Francisco Boat Tours!



Save up to 30% on three select tours featuring famous landmarks and sights!



San Francisco Bay Cruise

Sail beneath the majestic Golden Gate bridge, see PIER 39 sea lions, and pass the mysterious Alcatraz island on the most popular boat cruise.



Escape from The Rock

Circle the infamous Alcatraz Island to get an in-depth view of the prison while hearing stories of real life escape attempts and learning about the history of the landmark.



Sausalito (one-way)

Sail across the bay to the charming Mediterranean seaside village of Sausalito while enjoying the stunning views of San Francisco.



We’re serious about ZERO FEES!
We’ll refund any ticket fees you incur.

▶ MORE DETAILS ONLINE



Book Your Tour
EmployeesClub.com

Best in Class

Save with Club back-to-school deals on Lenovo, Apple and Samsung tech!

Go to:
employeesclub.com

AUTO & PERSONAL INSURANCE



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St.
Baldrick's

Sat., Aug. 5

9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

At a previous St. Baldrick's head-shaving fundraiser.

Fund Razor

ST. BALDRICK'S FUNDRAISER IS BACK SATURDAY, AUG. 5!

LAPD/LAFD: The St. Baldrick's head-shave event – a fundraiser managed by members of the LAPD and LAFD – returns for its second year in person after a pandemic hiatus.

St. Baldrick's invites to people to have their heads shaved bald, and to raise sponsors for their endeavor. The event raises funds nationally to fight childhood cancers.

The 21st annual LAPD/LAFD event has been scheduled for 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 5 at The Vineyards at Porter Ranch, 20065 Rinaldi St. The event includes a free breakfast, face-painting and rides for the family, live music, and more.

To register as a shave-ee or donor, go to: www.stbaldricks.org/events/lafdlapd

Councilmember John Lee and the Council District 12 office sponsors the event. This is the 21st annual local event; original Co-Organizers were Retired LAFD Capt. Waldie Brangham and Retired LAPD Lt. Greg Doyle. The 2023 event co-organizers are once again LAFD Capt. Danny Wu, Club Board Member, who took over in 2007, and LAPD Det. Nick Sinclair, who took over in 2015.

Local organizers say they have raised more than \$1 million over the previous 20 years. The local event is part of the nationwide St. Baldrick's Foundation. The Club has been an official sponsor annually.

For further information on local interest, please contact LAPD Det. Nick Sinclair: 35147@lapd.online or LAFD Capt. Danny Wu, (626) 590-6240.



August 5th 2023

9:00am - 1:00pm at THE VINEYARDS AT PORTER RANCH 20065 W. RINALDI ST. PORTER RANCH, CA 91326

Shaving our heads to conquer childhood cancers!

- Free pancake & sausage breakfast
- Blood drive & bone marrow registration
- Facepaint/caricature artists & magicians
- Fire & police vehicles on display to explore
- Free kids' toys, live music, DJ, VIPs & more...

Register as a shaver or donate at www.stbaldricks.org/events/lafdlapd

Special Delivery

READ ALL ABOUT IT - LACERS LOVES ITS ALIVE! FEATURE STORY!

LACERS: The Club featured LACERS and its exciting new headquarters in the June issue. Club Director of Sales Noelle Kauffman dropped by LACERS headquarters and delivered extra copies to Heather Ramirez, Sr. Benefits Analyst, Club Member.



From left: Heather Ramirez, LACERS, accepts extra copies of *Alive!* from Noelle Kauffman, Club Director of Sales.

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BUILDING AND SAFETY / GENERAL SERVICES

Goodbye, ‘Jayr’ and Amy



**James Corleto
‘Jayr’ Manuel Jr.**
Building and Safety
1965-2023



**Amelia Manuel
‘Amy’ Lloyd**
General Services
1942-2023

Amy Lloyd, 80, and “Jayr” Manuel Jr., 57, mother and son, Club Members, were killed together while riding together in a traffic accident May 19.

From reports, “Jayr” and Amy were riding in their car along I-15 on their way from Los Angeles toward Las Vegas and were involved in a traffic accident near the California/Nevada state line.

“Jayr” worked as an Accountant in Building and Safety and had eight years of City service. His mother, Amy, was still working at 80 in General Services’ Printing Services unit and had 24 years of City service.

They had both immigrated to the United States from the Philippines, Amy in 1996. “Jayr” immigrated in 2015 and lived with her in Palmdale, according to a family obituary.

Amy worked for the City since 1999. She started as Clerk Typist in the Budget Section of Public Works/ Sanitation, and was promoted to various positions in the City. In August 2006, she joined General Services/

Printing Services Division as Sr. Accountant II.

“Jayr” immigrated to the United States in 2015 and began working for the City in February of that year. He worked for Building and Safety as an Accountant.

They leave behind many family members and friends in Manila, the Philippines; and in Southern California.

Under his full name, James Corleto Manuel, “Jayr” was a frequent contributor to and winner of the Club’s monthly “John’s Picture Perfect” contest. We reprint some of his winning entries here in tribute to his life and his art.

A more detailed obituary can be found here:



May they rest in peace.



“Jayr” Manuel submitted this photo for a Club Valentines story, featuring his colleagues in Accounting at Building and Safety.



Amy Manuel Lloyd



“Jayr” Manuel submitted this for *Alive!*’s “*Alive! Around the World.*”



Mother and son: Amy Lloyd and ‘Jayr’ Manuel Jr.



Hawaii



Swiss Alps



Maine



Victoria, BC



Philadelphia

James Corleto Manuel Jr., Building and Safety, loved to travel. He chronicled his travels in many of his entries to “John’s Picture Perfect” in *Alive!* Here are some of them.

The Club sends its condolences to Jayr’s and Amy’s family members and former colleagues.



Life's Important Moments



Share your news... and send in a photo!

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

Send your photos and text online:
alive.employeesclub.com/lifemoments



- Births**
- Weddings**
- Graduations**
- Special Achievements**
- Military Service**
- Tell Their Story**

Retirements*

Below is a listing of those who Retired from the City. To all we say, welcome to the best years!

We honor the people who have spent their working lives building, managing and imagining a better LA, and are now Retired. We thank and appreciate all you have done!

NAME	TITLE	DEPT.	YEARS	NAME	TITLE	DEPT.	YEARS	NAME	TITLE	DEPT.	YEARS
Anderson, Lillian C.	ITS	LADWP	N/D	Fields, George A.	Pr. Clerk	Airports	16	Matsuo, Ricki T.	PTD Energy Dist.	LADWP	N/D
Arshansky, Eugene G.	Power CM	LADWP	N/D	Fitzgerald, Lonnie J.	Transitional Worker	Airports	25	McCarthy IV, William F.	Env. Chem. Lab	LADWP	N/D
Aung, Rose Ohnmar	Programmer/Analyst	Library	17	Flinn, David C.	Chief Port Pilot	Harbor	33	Mejia, Carlos A.	Police Service Rep	LAPD	17
Aviles, Mauricio F.	Power CM	LADWP	N/D	Fonseca, David Marquez	Building Inspector	Bldg. & Safety	38	Mendez, Thomas P.	Water Distribution	LADWP	N/D
Bambao, Andronico C.	JFB/Facilities	LADWP	N/D	Garcia, Hector O.	Env. Chem. Lab	LADWP	N/D	Mochizuki, Arthur S.	Corp. Strategy	LADWP	N/D
Barden, Rosalind P.	Police Reform Aud.	LAPD	21	Gordon, Allen K.	Truck Operator	Public Works	30	Mojica, Maria I.	Custodian	Airports	20
Bartz, Michael J.	Corp. Strategy	LADWP	N/D	Granados, Jimmy	Power New Business	LADWP	N/D	Moody, Mark D.	Police Officer	Airports	19
Beavers, Leroy A.	Management Analyst	LAPD	25	Guevara, Norma L.	Gardener Caretaker	Zoo	20	Moran, Melida M.	Custodian	Airports	15
Bellard, Tonja M.	Personnel Director	Personnel	35	Hawkins Jr., Joe B.	Water Engineering	LADWP	N/D	Nakao, Mark J.	Power CM	LADWP	N/D
Beltran, Raquel	General Manager	Neighbor. Empmnt.	3	Heib, Christopher M.	Power Safety	LADWP	N/D	Nickens, Rodney K.	Power CM	LADWP	N/D
Benz, Michael J.	Power Safety	LADWP	N/D	Hernandez, John	Equipment Supervisor	Public Worker	31	Pace, Sonja M.	Pr. Clerk	Airports	22
Blackshear, Louis	Wastewater Coll. Wrkr.	Public Works	31	Ho, Steve S.	Water Operations	LADWP	N/D	Pannell, Luann N.P.	Training Administrator	LAPD	23
Buxton, Timothy	Building Inspector	Bldg. & Safety	21	Huang, Wu Liang	Fingerprint Iden. Exp.	LAPD	17	Park, Marie I.	ITS	LADWP	N/D
Campbell, Ivan L.	Gen. Manager's Off.	LADWP	N/D	Hwang, Kwang Kyu	Hearing Officer	City Attorney	16	Perla, Alfredo	Gardener Caretaker	Zoo	10
Carlos, Evangeline	Water Executive	LADWP	N/D	Johnson, Tomika L.	Sr. Admin. Clerk	Housing	17	Perrier, Clifford D.	Police Officer	Airports	20
Carr, David J.	Power Transmission	LADWP	N/D	Jones, James F.	Metering Services	LADWP	N/D	Pinon, Guadalupe D.	Power Transmission	LADWP	N/D
Carrillo, Herbert R.	Maint. Laborer	Airports	20	Jung, Gilman	Power CM	LADWP	N/D	Robinson, Barbara L.	Recreation Assistant	Rec and Parks	1
Chen, Philip	Power CM	LADWP	N/D	Kendall, Kellie P.	Bulk Power	LADWP	N/D	Ruby, Corazon M.	Customer Service	LADWP	N/D
Chow, Kim W.	Accounting Clerk	Housing	30	Kendrick, Rosie L.	Crossing Guard	Transportation	9	Schey, Albert W.	Fleet Services	LADWP	N/D
Clark, James P.	Chief Asst. City Att.	City Attorney	7	Kieffer, Neil B.	Power Transmission	LADWP	N/D	Shrader, Andrew L.	Council Aide	Council	10
Coats, Matthew L.	ITS	LADWP	N/D	Kim, Steve S.	Council Aide	Council	9	Skelly, Mark J.	Env. Chem. Lab	LADWP	N/D
Colwell, Frank L.	Fleet Services	LADWP	N/D	Lager, Howard E.	Power Supply	LADWP	N/D	Smith, Vicki D.	JFB/Facilities	LADWP	N/D
Cortes, Raul	Special Programs Asst.	Rec and Parks	12	Lam, Chi D.	Water Distribution	LADWP	N/D	Spike, Gary S.	JFB/Facilities	LADWP	N/D
Cotango, Lizette F.	Customer Service	LADWP	N/D	Laudermilk, Louis M.	Sr. Mgmt. Analyst	LAPD	30	Tapp, Traci L.	Security Services	LADWP	N/D
Cruz, Angelo R.	Customer Service	LADWP	N/D	Ledesma, Reynan L.	Real Estate	LADWP	N/D	Terrazascross, Conrado	Council Aide	Council	19
Cuevas, Jonathan A.	Sr. Civil Engineer	Public Works	29	Lehigh, Leonard E.	Power Transmission	LADWP	N/D	Usatorres, Trudy A.	Airport Guide	Airports	1
Curtis, Matthew E.	Finance/Risk	LADWP	N/D	Liptroth, Beverly	Crossing Guard	Transportation	6	Van Lingen, Winfred	Police Officer	Airports	22
Daniel, Marilyn	Crossing Guard	Transportation	4	Liu, Alex C.	Water Engineering	LADWP	N/D	Vega-Perez, Imelda	Customer Service	LADWP	N/D
Davis, Rudy V.	Power Transmission	LADWP	N/D	Loia, Gloria M.	Administrative Clerk	LAPD	32	Vernon, John E.	Wastewater Treat. Op.	Public Works	38
Diaz, Honorio	Power Transmission	LADWP	N/D	Lontok, Leizi R.	Sustainability	LADWP	N/D	White, Kelly M.	Special Programs Asst.	Rec and Parks	5
Diego, Jerry B.	Sr. Mngmt. Analyst	LAFD	25	Lopez, Cruz	Special Programs Asst.	Rec and Parks	8	Wolf, Rodney M.	Energy Distribution	LADWP	N/D
Dillard, Zina F.	Sr. Personnel Analyst	LAFD	27	Lopez, Maria M.	Administrative Clerk	Bldg. & Safety	13	Young, Karen W.	Sr. Admin. Clerk	Airports/LADWP	14
Duarte, Sergio A.	Maintenance Laborer	Public Works	18	Lopez, Perry Z.	Payroll Supervisor	Econ./Wrkfrce Dev.	27	Young, Phillip E.	Metering Services	LADWP	N/D
Dubose, Charlene D.	Sr. Admin. Clerk	Civ. & Hum. Rights	29	Madrid Jr., Gustavo	Power Transmission	LADWP	N/D	Zara, Noel Ramirez	Management Analyst	Personnel	22
Falcon, Robert	Deputy General Mgr.	Airports	31	Manacop, Ernesto P.	Power CM	LADWP	N/D				
Feliciano, Victor F.	Security Services	LADWP	N/D	Marsden, Michael D.	Water Engineering	LADWP	N/D				

* NOTE: If you wish to have a listing deleted from our online posting of Retirement notices, please email us at admin@employeesclub.com, stating the name and department of the Retired person. The request must come from the actual Retired person. We derive our lists from official public records provided by the City and LADWP.

In Memoriam

We honor those who have passed away and recognize their lifelong service to the City of Los Angeles. Their lives mattered to our City and our region. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of the following current and Retired City employees who were reported to have passed away.

DEPARTMENT	YEARS OF SERVICE	DEPARTMENT	YEARS OF SERVICE	DEPARTMENT	YEARS OF SERVICE
ACTIVE					
Chamberlain, Rodney D.	Public Works	15	Ehrlich, Helene	N/D	N/D
Freeman, Larry	Harbor	22	Fabro, Melly L	LADWP	19
Kastelic Jr., Frank L.	LADWP	4	Gawthrop, Howard W.	Public Works	15
Lloyd, Amelia Manuel	Gen. Services	24	Harrell, Ann Marie	N/D	N/D
Manuel, James Corleto A.	Building and Safety	8	Hudson, Danny	Personnel	18
Molina, Robert L.	Public Works	15	Kausteklis, Peter A.	Public Works	24
			Korand, Rameswari V.	Public Works	27
			Lamberson, Shirley A.	N/D	N/D
			Martinez, Natalio W.	LADWP	37
			Matayoshi, John	LADWP	18
			Maxwell, Helga E.	Gen. Services	18
			May, Steven M.	LADWP	33
			Mendoza, Larry	Public Works	21
			Mendoza, Manuel J.	N/D	N/D
			Morales, Angel	LADWP	36
			Mosley, Chandra V.	LADWP	30
			Navarro, Antonia	N/D	N/D
			Neroes, James W.	N/D	N/D
			Nettles, Edward W.	Public Works	46
			Oka, Terumasa	N/D	N/D
			Oswald, Everette M.	LADWP	20
			Owsley, Thomas B.	Public Works	42
			Paniagua, Ernest E.	LADWP	25
			Patel, Rajnikant D.	Public Works	30
			Pena, Francisco J.	Public Works	28
			Perez, Jesus	LADWP	23
			Proctor, Richard P.	Public Works	35
			Quinton, Wayne A.	Airports	41
			Ramos, Romeo G.	Gen. Services	12
			Reimer, Nelson V.	N/D	N/D
			Rowe, Stephen E.	N/D	N/D
			Santiago, Lourdes A.	Public Works	23
			Sellheim, Michael H.	LADWP	33
			Sewald, Joan	Airports	40
			Schubert, Nelly P.	N/D	N/D
			Sumi, Elsie K.	N/D	N/D
			Ter Ghevondian, Vartan	City Attorney	23
			Thomas, Dawayne	LADWP	27
			Thomsen, Jonathan W.	LADWP	33
			True, Cheryl D.	Public Works	34
			Turner, Arthur	Airports	21
			Valenzuela, Richard J.	Public Works	28
			Vinson, Nelson S.	Transportation	26
			Wilson, Bernard J.	Airports	30
			Wynn, Laverne	LADWP	27
			Yamamoto, Ken	LAPD	24
			Young, Yolana C.	LAPD	33
RETIRED					
Aftoora, Gary L.	LADWP	19			
Aguilar, Rafael H.	N/D	N/D			
Arenas, Eulalio B.	Public Works	32			
Asencio, Caroline E.	El Pueblo Hist. Mon.	41			
Barili, Robert	N/D	N/D			
Bolhayon, Victor D.	Airports	11			
Burns, Michael J.	Public Works	34			
Cacho, Grace M.	LADWP	27			
Cassell, Dorothy J.	LADWP	35			
Cummins, Roger A.	LADWP	36			
Davila Jr., Jesus D.	LADWP	32			
Davis-Hill, Katrina	N/D	N/D			
Dux, John T.	LADWP	26			

Graduations

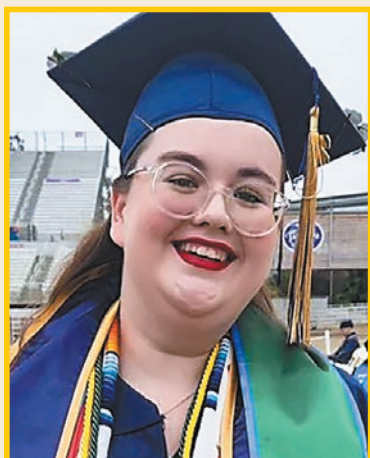
Congratulations!
CLASS OF 2023



Adriana Gonzalez graduated from the California School for the Arts in the San Gabriel Valley and plans to attend UC Santa Cruz this fall, majoring in Latin American and Latino studies, and sociology. She's the granddaughter of Gabriel Robles, Retired, Planning.



Brent Brewster graduated from Granada Hills Charter High School and plans to study at UC San Diego this fall, majoring in electrical engineering. He plans to work for the LADWP someday. Brent is the son of Catherine Pelonero, LADWP.



Marissa Jost graduated from Cal State Monterey Bay. She plans on continuing her education and receive a Master's degree in human development. She's working in educational counseling at UCLA. Marissa is the daughter of Emilia Cota, LADWP.



Claudia Serrato graduated from the University of Washington and plans to educate people about ancestral and indigenous food ways of cooking. She's the daughter of Rose Serrato, LAPD.



Victoria E. Gonzalez graduated from Cal State LA and plans to continue pursuing higher education and "make the world an environmentally sustainable place." She's the daughter of George Gonzalez, Airports.



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2 Lifesavers

Story and photos courtesy Sanitation

TWO EMPLOYEES HONORED FOR RECENT HEROICS.

PUBLIC WORKS: Two employees at Public Works/Sanitation and Environment were honored in April for performing acts that demonstrated their humanity at least and might have saved lives.

Lance Brown, Refuse Collection Truck Operator out of the South LA District, performed the Heimlich maneuver to clear a co-worker's throat in the lunch early one morning.

Christopher Farrar, Maintenance Laborer, North Central (at the time), witnessed an elderly man fall in the parking lot of a credit union, and helped him to safety inside.

Congratulations to Lance and Christopher for their honors, and thank you for your service to Sanitation and Los Angeles. ●



Christopher Farrar, Maintenance Laborer (center), is honored for his heroic acts by Daniel McKay, Solid Resources South Collection (left) and Bob Potter, Assistant Director, Sanitation and Environment (right).



Lance Brown (center), Refuse Collection Truck Operator, receives a certificate for his act on behalf of a fellow employee. With him are Bob Potter, Assistant Director, Sanitation and Environment (left) and Daniel McKay, Solid Resources South Collection (right).



Cooking with the Club

Photos: Patty M. Larios



with Chef Robert Larios

From Aug. 2020



Kimchi Fried Rice (*Kimchi Bokkeumbap*)

It's time to break into Korean cuisine with one of the most popular dishes – kimchi fried rice. Kimchi is a spicy Korean condiment, a tangy, spicy fermented cabbage that is the heart of Korean cuisine; it is used in many dishes. It's an awesome side for any meal, or as a meal of its own. The rice is best when it is cooked in advance and chilled, because the grains will stick less to the pan and each other.

Notice I included butter in the ingredients list. That's not a typo. Although butter is not part of the traditional cuisine, it is becoming a staple of modern Korean cooking.

¡Buen provecho! *Chef Larios*

Kimchi Fried Rice (*Kimchi Bokkeumbap*)

INGREDIENTS: Serves 2

- 1 tablespoon avocado oil (canola oil is a good substitute)
- 1/4 cup Spam (canned meat product), cut into small cubes
- 1 green onion, sliced.
- 1 cup *kimchi*, drained and chopped
- 1 tablespoon *gochujang* (Korean fermented soybean chile paste), or to taste
- 3 cups cooked short-grain rice
- 1/4 cup *nori* (seaweed), chopped into short slivers.
- 1 teaspoon sesame oil
- 1 teaspoon butter
- 1 egg

DIRECTIONS: PREP TIME: 15 MINUTES



- 1 Heat avocado oil in large skillet (a non-stick wok is ideal) over high heat. Stir Spam into skillet and reduce heat to medium. Cook and stir Spam and then add green onion until the Spam is browned and onion is fragrant, 1 to 2 minutes.

- 2 Stir *kimchi* and *gochujang* into Spam mixture and cook until warmed through and fragrant, 2 to 4 minutes. Add rice; cook and stir until rice is heated through and coated with *gochujang*, 3 to 5 minutes more.



- 3 Drizzle sesame oil over rice mixture and stir to coat. Garnish with green parts of green onion and *nori*.

Melt 1 teaspoon butter in a skillet over medium-high heat. Crack egg into the pan and cook until white is completely set and yolk is thick, 3 to 4 minutes. Place egg over fried rice.

- 4 Enjoy!



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Food Lover's Dictionary:



Kimchee; kimchi [KIHM-chee]: This spicy-hot, extraordinarily pungent condiment is served at almost every Korean meal. It's made of fermented vegetables – such as cabbage or turnips – that have been pickled before being stored in tightly sealed pots or jars and buried in the ground. It's dug up and used as needed. Commercial kimchi can be purchased in Korean markets. It will keep indefinitely in the refrigerator.

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

Recipe: <https://www.allrecipes.com/recipe/237053/kimchi-fried-rice-kimchi-bokkeumbap/> Accessed July 01, 2020

Cooking Tidbit - If you don't have access to avocado oil, canola oil is a good alternative. I used Spam in this recipe, but shrimp, chicken and beef can be used. Or you may decide to eliminate them all in your version.

Food Quote: "I'm really happy to see the explosion of interest in Korean food, and this hybrid Korean-American food." – **Anthony Bourdain**