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Alive!

LAPD ABOVE & BEYOND AWARDS

2023



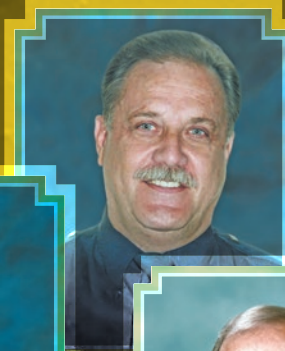
HONORING THE HEROES

Image of a
previous 'Above
and Beyond.'

For more than two decades,
LAPD's bravest have been honored
at the LA Police Foundation's
'Above and Beyond.'

INSIDE: MEET THE 2023 RECIPIENTS
AND READ THEIR INCREDIBLE STORIES.

- PAGE 12



Photos courtesy LA Police Foundation



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Real Stories

Each November, *Alive!* gets real. I should say, even more real. When we consider which stories to place on our cover, we consider their behind-the-scenes facts of important City projects, their insights into City thinking, and their clear glimpses of the present and future here in Los Angeles. And of course, how strongly they celebrate and honor the work of Club Members and City employees. That is essential.

But every November brings us to a different, compelling level, for that is when we publish the Above and Beyond recaps of LAPD heroism and sacrifice amidst some of the most fright-



CEO Robert Larios delivering copies of our October issue to Yvonne Farrow, Arts Manager II, Cultural Affairs, at the Vision Theatre, the subject of the cover story.

ening scenarios imaginable. These are real people protecting us from real danger. This year, we put them on our cover. I thank profoundly all those Officers honored this and every year; the Los Angeles Police Foundation, for providing us the stories and headshots; and Foundation Executive Director Dana Katz for her gracious assistance.

One Amazing Vision

What a treat it was to deliver copies of our October issue to **Yvonne Farrow**, Cultural Affairs and Club Member, and see the magnificent Vision Theatre project infused thoroughly with innovation and creativity. When the renovated performing arts center reopens in 2025, I am certain it will become one of the finest landmarks in the City. Well done to Yvonne and her team at DCA and the Bureau of Engineering!

Ethel's Passion

Can you imagine working 64 years for a cause you love? That was **Ethel Pattison**, who passed away in September at 97. Her official years of City service might have totaled a "mere" 32, but she worked to support Airports for more than a half century. Her work helped change attitudes about growing LAX into the world leader that it is today; she exhibited true vision, dedication and clarity of purpose. I send condolences to her daughter, LeValley, and to all of Ethel's friends and colleagues.

Worth Considering

Embrace the silver linings that surround you, and transform negatives into positives, starting now. Lead with empathy, not ego.

ROBERT'S BLOG

by Robert Larios, CEO, The Club



Ethel Pattison

In life, every person you meet serves a purpose -- they either teach you valuable lessons or bring out your best self.

I wish a sincere and simple Happy Thanksgiving to our Club Members and their families. Let us count our blessings -- they number in the multitude.

¡Gracias por leer!

Robert Larios



Raise employee morale! Schedule a #ClubMobile visit!



At a recent Mobile Team site visit.

The #ClubMobile Team will bring benefits experts and Club legendary apparel for purchase at low prices (hats custom-made on site). It's one of the best ways for staff to feel appreciated. Your employees will be grateful!



To schedule a #Club Mobile visit, Contact Lupe Lira, Retail Operations Manager: (213) 819-0350, or mobile@employeesclub.com

#ClubMobile Schedule:

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

Wednesdays:
Nov. 1, Dec. 6 and Jan. 3
Harbor Boys and Girls Club
100 W. Fifth St., San Pedro
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

ADDITIONAL VISITS:

Thursday, Nov. 2
Street Services
9324 Topanga Canyon Blvd
1 – 3 p.m.

Mon., Nov. 6
North Central Sanitation
452 N. San Fernando Rd.
6 – 11 a.m.

Tues., Nov. 7
Downtown Anchor
120 W. Second St.
12 – 2 p.m.

Mon., Dec. 4
North Central Sanitation
452 N. San Fernando Rd.
6 – 11 a.m.

Tues., Dec. 5
Downtown LA Anchor
120 W. Second St.
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Fri., Dec. 15
Street Services Chatsworth
9324 Topanga Canyon Blvd.
1 – 3 p.m.

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



#ClubMobile is cashless!

For your convenience, now accepting:





COVER STORY:

Honoring the Heroes..... 12-14

LA Police Foundation produces the annual Above and Beyond ceremony.

STORIES

Airports

Longtime Airports employee and legend Ethel Pattison dies at 97.....8

Citywide

City-sponsored events for the holidays.....7

Club

Club lends a hand – literally – to help

LA Port Police raise funds for Special Olympics.....9

The Club honors our Veterans..... 10

General Services

City says goodbye to Assistant GM Valerie Melloff, Club Member..... 15

LADOT

Laura Rubio-Cornejo is new General Manager..... 23

LAPD

PSR III Sylvia Richardson retires after 28 years of City service.....7

Lt. Alisha Jordan graduates from the FBI Academy..... 19

Annual picnic for African-American law enforcement Retirees returns.....20

Library

In annual *Alive!* exclusive, Librarians recommend thankful reads for Thanksgiving..... 15

Mayor's Office

Lourdes Castro Ramírez joins the Mayor's Office as the new Chief Housing and Homelessness Officer.....23

Public Works


Sanitation welcomes 100 new employees through new orientation program..... 19

Zoo

Staff members design and build a pet ofrenda for Dia de los Muertos.... 11

SECTIONS AND COLUMNS

<i>Alive!</i> Around the World.....	9
Arlene on the Scene.....	19
Club Insurance: Life.....	23
Club Mobile Schedule.....	2
Club Sports.....	21
Club Team.....	4
Cooking with the Club.....	18
Deaths: In Memoriam.....	22
Graduations.....	22
LACERS.....	8
Larios in the City.....	20
Lifes Important Moments.....	22
People We See: Todd Charles.....	5
Picture Perfect: Contest Winners.....	21
Picture Perfect: Theme for the Month.....	21
Ready for Retirement.....	6
Retirements.....	22
Robert's Blog: From the CEO.....	2
Throwback Thumbs Up.....	19

FOR RETIREES:

RLACEI Page 16-17

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

Claims Monthly.....	Web
Kids Coloring Contest.....	Web
Library Top Ten.....	Web

Advertiser's Index

Rosebud Marketing.....	8
MetLife: Pet Insurance.....	11
United Agencies.....	8
Corporate Jewlers.....	24

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 "what I'm thankful for."



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info@EmployeesClub.com



Time to Party in Person ... And We Want Your Photos!



Is your dept. celebrating the holidays in person again? Let us publish your photos!

The Club Holiday tradition continues – have photos from your department’s holiday party printed in *Alive!*, in our special holiday section, online and in print. It’s an *Alive!* tradition!

Here’s how to have your holiday photos published:

1. If you’re having your party in person, take your own photos and send to the Club using the online form.
2. Or, invite the Club to attend your holiday party. We’ll assign your Club Counselor or other Club employee, and will join your party just to take some photos. Send us your details. We’ll do our best to get to as many parties as we can, but we can’t guarantee it.



To upload your digital holiday party photos, or ask that we attend, go to:
www.alive.employeesclub.com/holidayparty



The Club Is Here 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

Alive!

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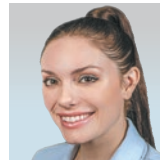
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Club Members who have questions on these points may write to: alive@employeesclub.com

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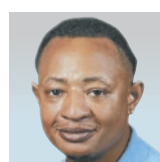
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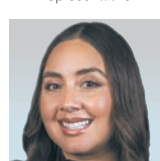
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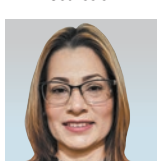
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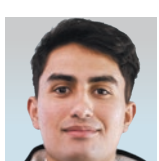
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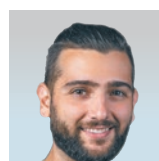


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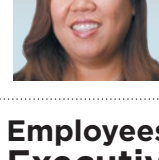


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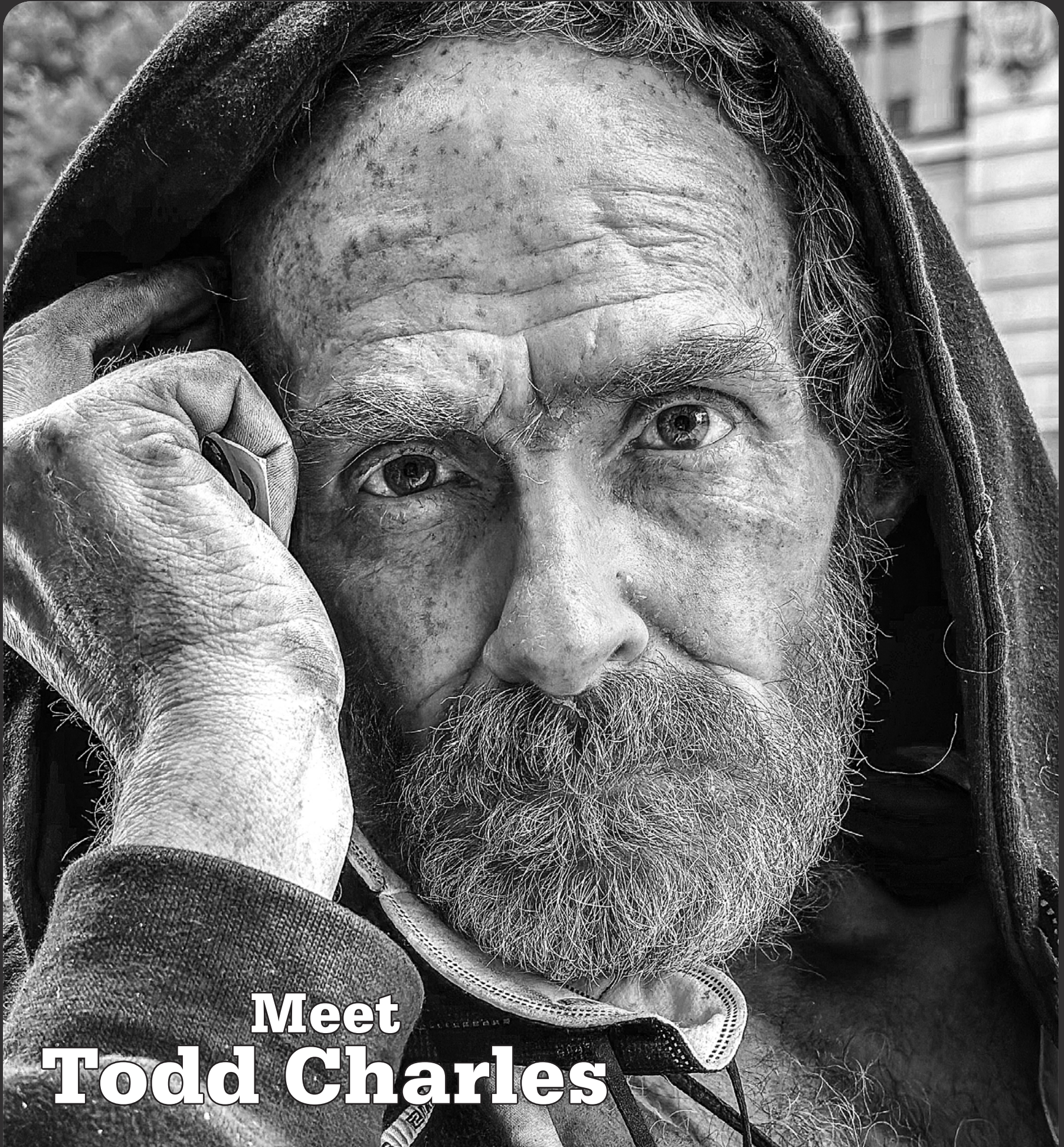
{ Who are the people you see every day? }

No. 111
in a series.



People We See

Shelterless in Los Angeles.



Meet Todd Charles

INTERVIEW



The interview was conducted by John Hawkins, CEO, Los Angeles City Employees Association on Aug. 31, 2023, at Spring and Fourth Streets downtown. • The Club gave Todd spending cash for meals.

John's note: "Walking to work this morning, my eye caught a man in a wheelchair stopped in the middle of the sidewalk. He looked like so many of our homeless – ragged, distressed and lost. I happened to have some cash in my wallet so I gave it to him and then asked if he would mind if I interviewed him. He said sure."

Birthday: Nov. 3, 1967 (55 as of this writing)

Family life: "At 16 I emancipated myself from my parents and left home."

Family: Married for 25 years to Soo. Daughters Elize and Christine.

Education: Attended John Burroughs High School in Burbank, but dropped out in the middle of his senior year before graduation.

Religion: "Religiosity."

Last job: Barclay's Bank for many years.

Favorite candy: Gobstoppers (he and John shared a laugh remembering the film *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory* with Gene Wilder).

Favorite TV shows: *The Pink Panther* (cartoon and movies), *Get Smart*, *The Six Million Dollar Man*, *I Dream of Jeannie* (Todd knew the names of all the actors).

Top 3 Movies: *The Story of Us* (1999), *Scarface* and *Coma*.

Last meal: Fried rice (the previous night).

Addiction: "Meth for some time now," he told John H.

Make a wish: "Work with Paul Lynde (from *The Hollywood Squares* game show) work with me on a TV show."

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

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

Retirees, Make Sure You Maintain Membership and Access to Club Benefits

Hello Retirees!

Celebrate your incredible tenure with the City, and embrace the start of an exciting new chapter! Your years of service deserve recognition. But don't forget to prepare for the amazing opportunities that lie ahead. This is just the beginning of an extraordinary new season in your 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 way to handle your deductions. Offered to Club Members.

SECOND STEP: Protect your family from financial loss by applying for the Club's Life Insurance.

- Coverage is available for Members, spouses, and dependent children
- Benefits range from \$10,000 to \$50,000.

Speak to a Club Retirement Specialist. Don't wait!

Questions?

Don't hesitate to contact our Retiree specialists at info@employeesclub.com • or (800) 464-0452



Club Life Insurance Designed for Retirees

Lets discuss Retiree Life Insurance!

Have peace of mind knowing that your loved ones will be taken care of in the event of your passing:

- A life insurance benefit can help pay for things such as 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.

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.

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

Dec. 16 LARFPA Holiday Celebration

Hilton Universal Hotel
555 Universal Hollywood Dr.
Noon - 4 p.m.
\$40 admission
Reservation 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)**
See page 16

Employees Club of California
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(800) 464-0452 - www.EmployeesClub.com

Payroll Deduction Authorization Form
Los Angeles City & DWP

INSTRUCTION:

Please complete the following Payroll Deduction Authorization Form and return it to the Employees Club of California. Your payroll deduction will become effective as soon as the City Controller processes your request. Please note it can take up to two pay periods for the City Controller's office to process your deduction. The Club will do everything possible to ensure your payroll deduction gets processed sooner.

1 Member Information Please print in ink or type.

Member Name (First, Middle, Last):

Home Address: Cell Phone: ()

City: State: Zip: Email Address*:

City: State: Zip: Email Address*:

2 Deduction Status Update (select one)

Please select the reason for your change/update to your deduction.

I've changed departments within the City Other

I've retired/ or will be retiring Retirement Date: / /

I am a Surviving Spouse Date of Birth: / /

3 Payroll/ Pension Deduction Authorization

PAYROLL/ PENSION DEDUCTION AUTHORIZATION

In addition to payroll/pension deductions for group benefits, if any, you will receive all Club benefits for a payroll/pension deduction of only \$6.00 per month (active employees) or \$4.00 per month (retired employees). You authorize these monthly deductions by signing the Payroll Deduction Authorization form.

Member's Printed Name

City Dept# City Employee # (5 or 6 digits) DWP Employee #

Member's SSN

Must Select One

- City Active
- Hiring Hall
- City Retiree
- DWP Active
- DWP Retiree
- Fire/Police Pension (Officers Only)

Controller - City of Los Angeles, or Fire and Police Pension, or City Employees Retirement System, or Paymaster - Department of Water and Power

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

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SLAM-1901.02	

Member's Signature: Date: / /

Holiday Events Are Back!

Every year, the City produces and sponsors a variety of events to celebrate the holidays. Here's *Alive!*'s annual guide for 2023; check back in next month for updated information.

We appreciate the City departments for sponsoring civic holiday traditions for everyone's enjoyment!

At last year's Hollywood Christmas Parade.



A Victorian Christmas at the Banning Museum in Wilmington



Photo by Simie Seaman

Hollywood Christmas Parade

When: 6 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 26
Where: Starting at Hollywood Boulevard and Orange Streets.
Cost: Free; grandstand reserved seating is on sale at press time.
City sponsor: City Council
Information: (866) PARADE-1, or www.thehollywoodchristmasparade.com

Hollywood's long-running Christmas Parade, sponsored by the City, returns this year at 6 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 26, in Hollywood. Grand marshal for 2023 has not been announced at *Alive!* press time. The parade, in its 91st year, is held traditionally the Sunday after Thanksgiving and telecast locally and throughout the nation during December. Take the Metro/Red Line to the Hollywood and Highland station, or park in the center's garage (fee).

Holiday Ice Rink Pershing Square

When: various times, Nov. 16-Jan. 16.
Where: Pershing Square downtown, 532 S. Olive St. Take Metro Red/Purple Line to Pershing Square, or park in nearby facilities (fee).
Cost: Starting at \$20. Skate rental included.
City sponsor: Rec and Parks.
Information: (213) 624.4289; holidayicerinkdowntownla.com

One of the City's largest outdoor ice rink returns for the 2023 holiday season on Nov. 16. Suitable for experienced and novice skaters. Holiday hours limited. Lockers available for rent. Sessions last one hour.

LA Zoo Lights: Animals Aglow

When: 6-10 p.m. nightly, Nov. 17 – Jan. 7 (closed most Mondays and Tuesdays, plus Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve and Christmas).
Where: LA Zoo and Botanical Gardens, Griffith Park, 5355 Zoo Dr. Free parking.
Cost: \$\$29-\$35 (daytime Zoo admission extra).
Value nights: Some nights are lower cost; some are premium cost. Check the Website.
City sponsor: LA Zoo.
Information: (323) 644-6042 or www.LAZoolights.org

The after-hours attraction, which requires a separate ticket from the Zoo's regular day hours, is a self-guided 90-minute walking tour of tens of thousands of LED lights, flurries of illuminated snowflakes, 3-D animated projections, a musical light-and-water show and glittering light tunnels. Animal characters brought to "life" include mischievous animated monkeys, a gigantic glowing snake coiled on a roof, animated elephants and much more.

This year, LA Zoo Lights offers special VIP event nights – Holiday Happy Hours Dec. 7 and 14; and Family New Year's Eve, which include special features for additional fees. Two special nights are also planned: a Sensory-Inclusive Night (Dec. 5), with reduced sensory exposure; and Pride Night (LGBTQ+), Jan. 4.

Victorian Christmas

When: noon – 4 p.m. Sat., Dec. 2
Where: Banning Museum, 401 E Main St., Wilmington.
Cost: Free admission.
City sponsor: Rec and Parks, Harbor
Information: (310) 548-2005 or www.thebanningmuseum.org

This free event is one day for visitors to enjoy period entertainment, tours of the residence museum decorated in holiday splendor, refreshments, a children's craft area, carolers, and a horse-drawn trolley ride between the museum and the Drum Barracks Civil War Museum nearby. Proof of full COVID vaccination required for those 12 and over to tour the indoor museum.

Holiday Light Festival Train Ride

When: 5-8 p.m. weeknights; 5-9 p.m. Fri-Sun, Nov. 24 – Jan. 5
Where: 4400 Crystal Springs Dr., Griffith Park
Cost: \$7 (18 months and under ride free)
City sponsor: Rec and Parks
Information: (323) 662-9678, www.griffithparktrainrides.com

Guests can take an evening 10-minute train ride around the festively decorated mile-long track. Magical scenes and tens of thousands of lights are set to captivate families and set the mood for a wonderful holiday season.

The attraction includes three open-air photo areas, plus a gift kiosk. The trains operate every night until Dec. 23, then resumes Dec. 26-Jan. 5. The trains do not operate in the rain.

Las Posadas on Olvera Street

When: 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. Dec. 16-24.
Where: Olvera Street, 125 Paseo de la Plaza downtown.
Cost: Free admission.
City sponsor: El Pueblo Historical Monument.
Information: www.elpueblo.lacity.org

Las Posadas, a Mexican tradition that's one of the City's oldest Christmas events, commemorates what Christians believe was the journey of Mary and Joseph from Nazareth to Bethlehem and their search for shelter in preparation for Jesus' birth.

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

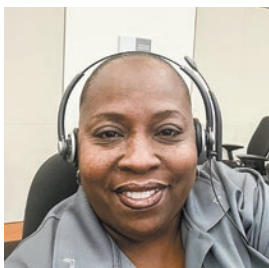


At Sylvia's retirement reception.

Story and photos courtesy LAPD/Communications

Sylvia Says So Long

PSR III SYLVIA RICHARDSON RETIRES AFTER 28 YEARS OF CITY SERVICE.



Sylvia at work.

LAPD: A reception was held Sept. 26 for Sylvia Richardson, Police Service Representative III. She retires after 28 years of City service.

"Congratulations to a wonderful human being who dedicated 28 selfless years to the Los Angeles Police Dept. and to the citizens of LA!" the department said in a Tweet. "PSR Richardson, thank you for being a fabulous instructor to all who crossed your path. Your smile and positive demeanor made the process so much easier for everyone that you mentored."

Congratulations, Sylvia on a strong City career! The Club wishes you all the best in your retirement.



CLUB STORE Holiday Shipping Deadlines



For the 2023 holiday season, the online Club Store accepts orders 24/7 for all your holiday needs!

www.employeesclub.com



Shipping for Christmas?

If you want your online Club Store order to arrive by Christmas using shipping, the Club recommends these deadlines (don't wait!):

- USPS First Class Mail:** order by Thurs., Dec. 14
- USPS Priority Mail:** order by Tues., Dec. 19
- USPS Priority Express:** order by Wed., Dec. 20

Order Pickups Available

Order pickups are available by appointment only Dec. 18 - 22. Call or text (213) 819-0350 for inquiries and appointments.

Happy Holidays from the Club Retail Team!



FOR ACTIVE AND RETIRED MEMBERS

LACERS Office Hours Return to 7 a.m. - 4 p.m.

LACERS welcomes all current and Retired City employees to its new headquarters at 977 N. Broadway. Regular hours are now back to normal: 7 a.m. - 4 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. ●

FOR RETIRED MEMBERS

Open Enrollment for 2024 Ends Nov. 16

Photoscan
for more
information



There's still time to make changes to your LACERS coverage for next year! The Open Enrollment period runs from now through Nov. 16.

The Open Enrollment period is an opportunity for Retired Members to enroll in a health or dental plan, change their plan or add dependents, with changes becoming effective Jan. 1, 2024. The Open Enrollment materials were mailed in early October and will be available at lacers.org/open-enrollment.

If you have not received your packet or are unable to access the LACERS website, you may request materials be mailed to you by emailing lacers.health@lacers.org or by calling (800) 779-8328.

For Members under age 65 and non-Medicare, your Open Enrollment packet will include a Health Plan Statement, Open Enrollment Overview, and instructions on accessing the 2024 Health Benefits Guide online. ●



Then-Club CEO John Hawkins and Ethel Pattison at the Flight Path Museum, Oct. 2020.

Ethel Pattison Airports 1925-2023

ETHEL PATTISON, A LONGTIME AIRPORTS EMPLOYEE AND MODEL OF SERVICE AND DEDICATION TO LOS ANGELES, PASSED AWAY SEPT. 19. SHE WAS 97.



Ethel Pattison on the cover of *Alive!*, October 2020, at her retirement.

AIRPORTS: We featured Ethel in a cover story from October 2020 as she retired at 93 from the Flight Path Museum during the pandemic. She retired after an official 32 years of City service, but unofficially, between her years working part-time for the City and then a leader for the Flight Path Museum, had spent an astounding 64 years to the development of the City of Los Angeles.

Ethel began her City service in January 1956 after retiring from her career as a flight attendant with United Airlines – flight attendants were not allowed to be married, and she was about to do just that.

Her first assignment with Airports was to help promote the grand expansion of LAX from east of Sepulveda Boulevard to encompass the areas west (its current footprint). Bond issues to fund the expansion had failed twice before, and she and others were hired to take the campaign to small meetings and other gatherings to explain why expansion into



Ethel Pattison

the jet age was so important. The subsequent bond issue then passed; those today who depend on the modern plant that is LAX have Ethel and others to thank.

As Chief Airport Guide, she was involved in directing student tours, preparing informational materials, responding to media inquiries and assisting the media and public during airport emergencies. Her duties also included assisting civic, business and airport officials in overseas promotions of Los Angeles as a trade and tourism destination.

At her retirement, Ethel was Historian and Vice President of the nonprofit Flight Path Learning Center and Museum, which was established in 2003 in the LAX Imperial Terminal to preserve Southern California's aviation heritage and encourage youths to pursue aviation and aerospace education and careers. She directed cataloging and research in the museum's archives, including historical documents, photographs, uniforms and other memorabilia, dating from 1928 to the present. She also oversaw Flight Path's William A. Schoneberger Research Library.

She co-authored a historical reference book, *Los Angeles International Airport*, part of the Images of Aviation series from Arcadia Publishing Co.

In recognition of Ethel's significant contributions to LAX and aviation, the Los Angeles Board of Airport Commissioners named the rose garden adjacent to the airport's Clifton A. Moore Administration Building in her honor. She was awarded the prestigious Los Angeles City Career Service Award in 1991.

Ethel is past national president of the United Airlines Clipped Wings, an organization of former stewardesses and flight attendants, and was honored with distinguished service awards from the national organization and its Los Angeles chapter. She was active with the International Special Olympics, the South Bay Vocational Center for the physically challenged, and USC alumni activities. She was awarded a Youth Service Award by the Manhattan Beach Parks and Recreation Dept.

The Club sends its condolences to her family – her daughter, LeValley, and grandson, Logan – and her friends and former co-workers.

A memorial service was planned in her honor for Oct. 13. ●

Donations
in Pattison's memory may be sent to the
Flight Path Museum
6661 W. Imperial Hwy.
Los Angeles CA 90045
or donate online at
Donate.flightpathlax.com



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DeAngelo Pulls a Fast One!

MOBILE OPERATIONS REP DEANGELO THOMPSON LENDS A HAND TO SUPPORT A GOOD CAUSE.

THE CLUB: When LA Port Police had a job to do – help raise money for the Special Olympics by pledging to pull a UPS Boeing 757 freighter – they called for help: #ClubMobile’s DeAngelo Thompson.

DeAngelo joined the Port Police for the event at the Long Beach Airport Sept. 23. #ClubMobile set up a table to join in on the fun.

The event, which included many LA County law enforcement units, raised more than \$250,000 at press time. The Port Police raised more than \$10,000 of that total.

DeAngelo even made the Los Angeles Times story of the event!

Well done to all, and thanks to our friends at LA Port Police for their invitation to help this great cause. ●



The LA Port Police pull team, including the Club’s DeAngelo Thompson.



DeAngelo pulls on the gloves – it’s time to get serious!



Pull! Pull!

The Club’s DeAngelo (second from right) gives it his all.

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Alive! AROUND THE WORLD

Madeira Island, Portugal



“We’re standing on the Cabo Girao Skywalk that overlooks the city of Funchal and its beautifully terraced farms. A part of the platform is a transparent skywalk that looks directly down 2,000 feet onto the eastern Atlantic Ocean.”

– Fred Ige, Planning

Maine



“I traveled to Bangor, Maine, and took a picture with the Paul Bunyan statue and in front of the Bar Harbor.”

– Sophia Ponce de Leon, Retired, LAPD

Peru



“At one of the floating Islands of Uros, in Lake Titicaca, Peru. Each island is built of totora, an aquatic plant that grows on the surface of Lake Titicaca. The totora is woven and laid on another layer of it to build the surface of each island. Lake Titicaca is the highest navigable lake in the world.”

– Norman Faner, Retired, LADWP and Florian Faner, Retired, General Services

Captain’s Log

Traveling with Capt. Michael Barnes, Retired, Harbor



Letter From Italy, Pt. 4 - The Heel of Italy in Winter

The weather from late September to early October is one of the best times to visit Puglia in the Heel of Italy; the children are back at school; the northern European sun-seeking tourists have returned home brown and happy; the forest floors are littered with porcini and truffles, and the extra-virgin olive oil is fresh off the press. Balm temperatures tempt you to take a dip in the aqua-blue Ionian or Adriatic Seas. What better time could there be?

We took advantage of this tourist-free time and rented a large villa with some friends in Martano, some 43 miles south of Brindisi, a popular ferry port to Greece. From our base in Martano, we made numerous day trips to local fishing ports, whitewashed hilltop villages that dazzle in the midday sun, and thousands-of-years-old historical sights. Here are just a few highlights of our three-week adventures.

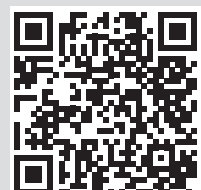
Puglia is surrounded by water on three sides, and for centuries, this part of Italy has been colonized, firstly by the Greeks, then followed by the ancient Romans, Byzantines, Normans and the



Conical roofed stone Trulli huts in Alberobello

Spanish, before becoming part of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies, and finally the unified Kingdom of Italy. All left behind numerous old hilltop fortresses (most in ruins) and coastal towns with watchtowers erected during the 16th century to protect the Puglia coast from constant invasions.

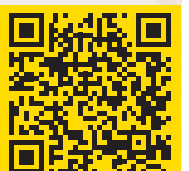
The town of Lecce, nicknamed “The Florence of the South,” is built from a type of limestone called Lecce stone, which is very soft and perfect for carving sculptures. Walking around the narrow streets, it seems that there is a 17th-century Baroque building displaying ornate pillars and extravagantly carved exteriors on every corner. There is also a Roman amphitheater (currently under repair) and the Basilica di Santa Croce with the usual saints and collection boxes...



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.

The adventures of Michael Barnes continue on Web Alive!



Salute to Veterans

The Club honors our Veterans.

We are honored once again to salute our Club Member Veterans in honor of Veterans Day, Nov. 11.

To all Club Veterans, thank you for your service!

SEND IN YOUR TRIBUTES:



We're still accepting submissions for publishing on the online *Alive!*. Submit to: alive-employeesclub.com/veterans

DEADLINE: Wednesday, Nov. 8

PUBLISHED ONLINE: Friday, Nov. 10



For David Buchanan: U.S. Army.

"My father gave me the greatest gift anyone could give another person - unconditional love. Thank you for being my hero, best friend and Dad. I love you!"

Officer Ashley Buchanan, Airport Police



For Robert Hernandez: US Air Force, Technical Sergeant (TSGT), Aircraft Maintenance Technician, 1980-2000. Retired with 20 years of service.

"From all the guys in Central Meter and Service, we would like to thank you for your sacrifice and dedicated service. Happy birthday!"

Carlos Garcia, LADWP

For Sgt. Carlos Cardoza: US Marines, E8-Master Sergeant, 25 years and 8 months, Iraq Campaign and Global War on Terrorism.



"To my brother-in-law, thank you for your service. Family and friends will always be there to keep your memory alive. God has a new mission for you."

Marco Hernandez, Public Works/StreetsLA



"I served in the US Navy for seven years as a photographer during the Gulf War era. Serving in the Navy gave me many things that I still carry with me today! The most important benefit I received from the Navy is my career as a crime scene and forensic

photographer for the LAPD.

"To all who served, I thank you for your service! Thank you for defending our freedom. Thank you for your hard work and dedication to helping keep our country safe. God bless you, and thank you for your bravery!"

L'keva Harris, LAPD



OSCAR A. ARCE
AMH3, US NAVY - SP4 ARMY N.C.
VF-24 F-14 - TRP B 1ST SQ 18TH CAV
OCT 1975 - OCT 1978 - NOV 1981 - NOV 1983

"My ROTC training in high school earned me the rank of E-2. After boot camp in San Diego, I was assigned to an F-14 Tomcat Fighter (training squadron VF-124 AKA Top Gun NAS Miramar, San Diego).

After six months of training, I was reassigned to VF-24 'The Renegades.' I was promoted to Petty Officer Third Class. There, I worked on the jet aircrafts' hydraulic systems and the airframe structures. I did two tours on the aircraft carrier USS Constellation CV-64 among the seventh fleet in the Orient and Mediterranean Sea.

"In Los Alamitos I served two tours for Troop B first squadron 18th cavalry helicopter squadron in the Army National Guard. I worked on both Bell 'Huey' and the Boeing AH-64 Apache's hydraulic systems and airframe structures. Also I trained with the recon unit's weapons and procedures with a rank of Specialist 4."

Oscar Arce, Retired, LADWP



For Darrell Lesikar: US Army, 2009-18, Chief Warrant Officer 2.

"My wonderful friend Darrell flew Black Hawks for the US Army for more than 9 years, in numerous places across the globe. He is a loving husband and father of two. I think of him as a brother; we have been friends for more than 33 years. Love ya, and may we continue to be friends for another 33 years."

Sarah Morton, LADWP



For Robert L. Rodriguez: US Army, 1965-67. Reconnaissance Scout Armored Intelligence Specialist 4; Rifleman Driver, Deuce and a Half for the C Company; 1st Armored Division, Fort Hood, Texas, 46th Infantry Regiment. Korean DMZ Conflict.

Robert Rodriguez began his service with the City of Los Angeles approximately three weeks after discharge as a Garage Attendant and Retired 35 years later as an Equipment Superintendent. "When you were called to serve your country (drafted), you did so honorably and with pride. We are very proud of you and thank you for serving. We love you, Dad! Keep up the fire!"

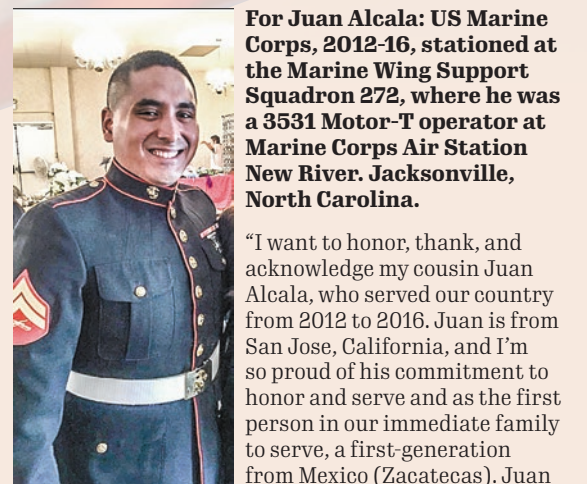
Geraldine Rodriguez, Retired, Public Works



For Samuel Fuentes: US Naval Reservist, Petty Officer, Second Class, 2016-present.

"Samuel, you've made our family so proud for being in the military and representing our family in the Navy. From graduating boot camp to being deployed overseas, thank you for serving our country pops. We love you Mijo."

Sonia Romero-Fuentes, LADWP



For Juan Alcala: US Marine Corps, 2012-16, stationed at the Marine Wing Support Squadron 272, where he was a 3531 Motor-T operator at Marine Corps Air Station New River, Jacksonville, North Carolina.

"I want to honor, thank, and acknowledge my cousin Juan Alcala, who served our country from 2012 to 2016. Juan is from San Jose, California, and I'm so proud of his commitment to honor and serve and as the first person in our immediate family to serve, a first-generation from Mexico (Zacatecas). Juan embodies his oath to honor and

serve our country and always protect the land of the free and home of the brave."

Teresa Lara, City Attorney's Office



US Navy, E7, Chief Petty Officer, 1962-82. Vietnam War and Cuban Crisis.

"Serving for 20 years in the U.S. Navy was the best time of my life. I have the great honor of serving and protecting our country and her citizens against all enemies at home and abroad."

Chief Delio Jacildo, Retired, Building and Safety





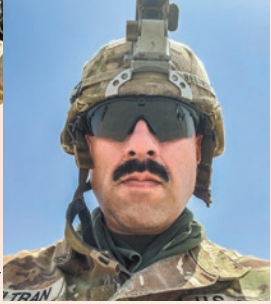
For Patrick Beltran: US Army Sgt., Engineers and 453rd Chemical Battalion, 393rd Field Artillery Regiment. From June 6, 2013, Iraq, Iran, Syria, Somalia, Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia. Operation Inherent Resolve, and more.

“My son enlisted into the US Army and was accepted on 6-6-2013. He had surprised the family by his actions. He informed us that he wanted to follow his grandfather’s footsteps into the Army.

“So far he has gone on two tours of duty. He has been on many dangerous missions into foreign countries. By his education he has trained and is a licensed and certified medical technician. He has no shortage of survival skills and has gained a tremendous amount of experience and more knowledge. He trains the new recruits who start fresh currently. And he has traveled the continental United States at many Army camps and forts for training and to train.

“The entire family is very proud. Patrick is a ‘career citizen soldier.’”

Steven Beltran, Retired, Building and Safety



US Air Force, Captain, 1962-66, Cuban Crisis, Vietnam War.

“Proud to serve!”

Capt. Patrick Howard, Retired, Public Works/Street Maintenance



US Marine Corps, Corporal E-4, Rifleman from 1970-72, Vietnam era.

“I believe my fellow Veterans are the backbone of this country. Honor them whenever you can.”

Jim Roberts, Retired, LADWP



The completed Beloved Pets Ofrenda at the Zoo entrance, pictured before Zoo guests started adding their own memorials.

Photos courtesy LA Zoo

An Ofrenda for Beloved Pets

ZOO OFFERS ALTAR TO HONOR MEMORY OF BELOVED PETS.



Coral Barreiro, Community Programs Manager, Zoo, constructs the Beloved Pets Ofrenda with staff from the Zoo and the Plaza de la Raza.

LA ZOO: For the third consecutive year, the LA Zoo built its Beloved Pets Ofrenda in observance of National Hispanic Month and Día de los Muertos.

The *ofrenda* was co-presented with Plaza de la Raza Cultural Center for Arts and Education.

The *ofrenda* was designed to honor the memory of cherished animal companions that have passed away. Zoo guests were welcome to print photos or draw pictures of their pets and place their images and mementos on the *ofrenda* – located at the Zoo’s Front Entrance Plaza near Sea Life Cliffs through Nov. 2. Each weekend, Zoo staff was on-site to print and assist guests with their photos.

An *ofrenda*, which means “offering” in

Spanish, is an altar created to honor loved ones who have passed away. These ceremonial displays are a colorful mix of symbols, pictures, flowers, memorabilia, food, beverages and other meaningful items, and all are an essential part of Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) celebrations, which Hispanic, Latino, and Latinx cultures observe on Nov. 1 and 2. Community partnerships with organizations like Plaza de la Raza create amazing opportunities to recognize and celebrate the rich diversity of our City.

The Beloved Pets *Ofrenda* was co-created with Plaza de la Raza and was conceived by the Zoo’s Community Programs Manager Coral Barreiro.

Beautiful work, all! ●



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¹ Coverage underwritten and issued by Independence American Insurance Company (“IAIC”), a Delaware insurance company, and Metropolitan General Insurance Company (“MetGen”), a Rhode Island insurance company, in those states where MetGen’s policies are available. Coverage subject to restrictions, exclusions and limitations. See policy or contact MetLife Pet Insurance Solutions LLC for complete details. MetLife Pet Insurance Solutions LLC is the authorized policy administrator for this coverage.

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ALIVE! FEATURE

HONORING THE HEROES



Stories and photos courtesy Los Angeles Police Foundation

The stories of their bravery...



PURPLE HEART

THIS YEAR'S HONOREES

Purple Heart

- Policeman John Magness
- Det. Abiel Barron
- Det. Andrew Teague
- Officer Daniel Sanchez
- Officer Adrian Bonilla
- Officer Alan Ramirez
- Officer Steve Wills
- Policeman Richard Lundgren (also Medal of Valor)
- Det. James Murawski (also Medal of Valor)
- Sgt. John Preston (also Medal of Valor)

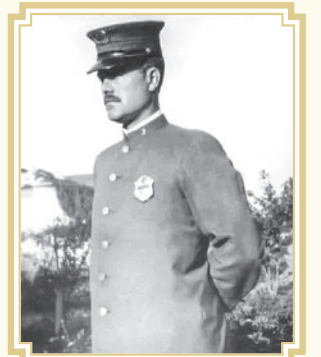
Medal of Valor

- Policeman Richard Lundgren (also Purple Heart)
- Det. James Murawski (also Purple Heart)
- Sgt. John Preston (also Purple Heart)
- Sgt. Jack Dillard
- Det. Gordon Garver
- Officer John Carlyle
- Officer Antonio Martin
- Officer David Phillips
- Officer Nicholas Sysak
- Officer Brandon Valdez
- Officer Nicolas Chacon
- Officer Mario Lemus
- Officer Cody MacArthur
- Officer Gabriel Rebolledo
- Officer Christopher Kliebert
- Officer Andrew Mejia

Fatally Injured

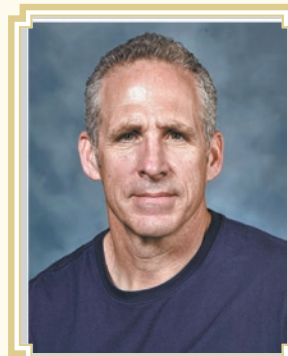
On May 15, 1920, Policeman John Magness was the front passenger in a University Division Police Ambulance. (University Division is now known as Southwest Division.) During the course of his duties, his vehicle became involved in a collision with another vehicle. Magness suffered internal injuries and a severe laceration to his right upper thigh. He was taken to the hospital but succumbed to his injuries six days later.

Policeman Magness left behind a wife and four children and is also survived by his great-grandson, LAPD Deputy Chief Michael Oreb. ●



Policeman John Magness

Crossbow Incident



Officer Daniel Sanchez

In the early evening hours of June 7, 2020, North Hollywood Division Officers responded to numerous 911 calls for an Assault with a Deadly Weapon suspect. Upon arrival, Officers observed the suspect armed with a rifle pacing back and forth and barricaded inside his apartment. They contained the location and requested multiple times for the suspect to surrender. He refused to comply, and SWAT was requested.

SWAT was briefed that the suspect had discharged his rifle at his neighbors and was now barricaded in his apartment. As Officers evacuated residents from the hallway, Officer Daniel Sanchez took a barricaded position at a nearby apartment to provide cover for his partners.

Without warning, the suspect emerged from his apartment wearing a camouflage jacket and holding a big-game-hunting-style crossbow in his right hand and a rifle in his left hand. The suspect re-entered his apartment and slammed the door shut. Moments later, he re-emerged holding the crossbow in an upward position.

As Officer Sanchez pleaded with the suspect to surrender peacefully, the suspect turned toward him and lowered the crossbow to a low-ready position barricaded behind his doorway. Suddenly and without provocation, the suspect then raised it and fired an arrow at Officer Sanchez. Realizing the immediate threat to his life, he discharged two rounds toward the suspect.

Officer Sanchez sustained a laceration to his left thumb and was taken to the hospital, where his thumb was surgically reattached. Sanchez returned to duty seven months later. It was later determined that one of the rounds Officer Sanchez had fired lodged in the crossbow, essentially disabling further arrows from being shot from it. ●

Police Dept.'s annual event honors 23 heroes with Purple Heart and Medal of Valor honors.

ON Sept. 21, the LAPD hosted its annual "Above and Beyond" ceremony. This year's event honored 23 Officers who demonstrated the highest level of courage and bravery in protecting the City.

This year's event continued the awarding of Purple Heart and Medals of Valor (no Preservation of Life honors were presented this year). Purple Hearts have been distributed only 11 times in the history of the event. This year, 10 LAPD Officers were honored with the Purple Heart and 16 with the Medal of Honor. (Three Officers were awarded with both the Purple Heart and the Medal of Valor.)

It is *Alive!*'s great honor to publish every year the names and stories of those honored.

The awards ceremony is made possible thanks to the generosity of the Los Angeles Police Foundation. The Club thanks Dana Katz, Executive Director, for her assistance.

ABOUT THE MEDALS

Purple Heart

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

Medal of Valor

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

Preservation of Life

The Preservation of Life medal (none were presented this year) is a recognition of efforts at de-escalation of public safety situations by avoiding the use of deadly force during dangerous encounters. The Department is one of only a handful in the country to bestow such an honor.

The medals are awarded by the Board of Police Commissioners and presented by the Chief of Police in the name of the Department at the annual ceremony. The award consists of a medal, ribbon, and citation. The Medal of Valor was first presented in 1925, and the Purple Heart was first awarded in 2009. The Preservation of Life honor was first awarded in 2016; none were awarded in 2023.



The Club is humbled and deeply grateful for the heroism and service provided by those honored at the Above and Beyond ceremony, and all in law enforcement. We deeply appreciate you.

K9 Engagement

In the late afternoon hours of March 8, 2023, Hollenbeck Division Detectives were searching for a parolee-at-large and an active Highland Park gang member who had fled from Detectives. The Detectives set up a perimeter and requested Metropolitan Division K9 Platoon personnel to search.

The K9 platoon was briefed on the circumstances of the investigation and the nature of the crime in which the suspect was involved.

They formulated a tactical search plan for the contained area. Officers made multiple announcements to notify anyone in the area of the impending K9 search. The purpose of these announcements was to de-escalate the incident and give the suspect an opportunity to surrender.

They began their search and soon found the suspect hiding in a detached garage. He refused to come out and submit to arrest. The search team, including Officers Adrian Bonilla, Alan Ramirez and Steve Wills, set a tight containment around the structure to prevent the suspect from escaping.

After several attempts to apprehend the suspect, the suspect fired upon the Officers. Officers Bonilla, Ramirez and Wills were struck by gunfire, resulting in traumatic physical injuries. Officers Ramirez and Wills have since returned to work, while Officer Bonilla continues to receive medical treatment.



Officer Adrian Bonilla



Officer Alan Ramirez

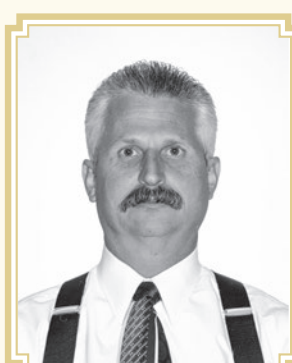


Officer Steve Wills

Catastrophic Collision



Det. Abiel Barron



Det. Andrew Teague

On the evening of June 25, 2003, Northeast Division Homicide Detectives Abiel Barron and Andrew Teague were returning from relocating a witness who had testified in a gang murder case. They were driving eastbound on CA Highway 138 when a vehicle traveling westbound on the highway illegally passed a third vehicle without sufficient clearance to merge back into its lane. The vehicle struck the detectives' police vehicle head-on and smashed it beyond recognition.

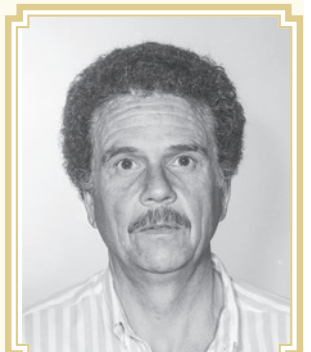
Sadly, Det. Barron succumbed to his injuries at the scene, leaving behind a wife and 13-year-old daughter. Det. Teague was gravely injured and taken to the hospital. He suffered serious head injuries from which he never fully recovered and subsequently medically retired.

Hammer Attack

In the afternoon of Sept. 14, 1965, Policeman Richard Lundgren was patrolling in Highland Park Division (now Northeast Division) when he was flagged down by a citizen who advised that his neighbor's home was being burglarized. Policeman Lundgren responded to the residence and upon entering the home observed the suspect gathering the victim's valuables in a sack.

Policeman Lundgren ordered the suspect against a wall. Initially, the suspect complied. But as Policeman Lundgren approached, the suspect produced a hammer and began violently swinging it at him. In defense of his life, Policeman Lundgren shot the suspect twice. The wounded suspect continued attacking Policeman Lundgren, striking him in the face with the hammer. Policeman Lundgren fired three more shots, and the suspect finally gave up.

Policeman Lundgren was taken to the hospital, admitted for one night, and treated for the loss of five teeth. He returned to work four days later. He underwent numerous dental surgeries but continued his career for another 18 years, retiring in 1983.



Policeman Richard Lundgren (also Medal of Valor)

Shotgun Shootout

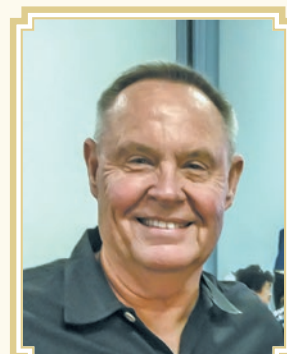
In the early morning hours of Oct. 29, 1973, Devonshire Patrol Officers Jack Dillard, Gordon Garver, James Murawski and John Preston responded to a disturbance call of a man with a gun. Officers contacted a neighbor who advised them that an 8-year-old girl from the neighborhood knocked on his front door about 10 minutes prior and told him that a man was holding her mother at gunpoint in her residence. Officer Dillard got the victim's name and phone number and called the house, but the phone did not ring. Officers Garver, Preston and Murawski went to the victim's residence and heard noises that sounded like someone was being struck, but no screaming was heard.

Officers Dillard, Preston and Garver approached the front of the house, and Officer Dillard rang the doorbell with his baton. A few seconds later, the viewing window on the front door opened,

— continues page 14



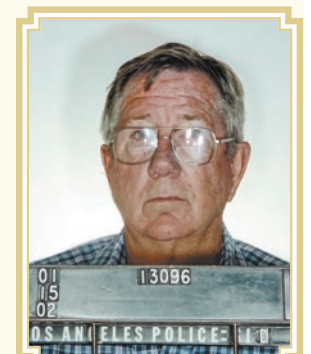
Det. James Murawski (also Medal of Valor)



Sgt. John Preston (also Medal of Valor)



Sgt. Jack Dillard (Medal of Valor)



Det. Gordon Garver (Medal of Valor)

ALIVE! FEATURE

HONORING THE HEROES



— Shotgun Shootout, continued from page 13

and a female asked who was there. He replied, "Police Officers. Open the door." The woman replied, "Help me! He is in the bedroom with a gun." Officers Preston and Garver immediately got her out of the house.

Officer Dillard yelled into the residence, asking the man to put down the gun and come out. The man yelled back at the Officers to, "Come get him." Officer Dillard repeatedly asked the suspect to surrender as he and Officers Preston and Garver entered a hallway. Suddenly, the Officers observed the barrels of a double-barreled shotgun being thrust out of a side hallway. The suspect stepped out into the hallway, holding the shotgun at the hip position, with his left hand on the barrel and his right hand on the trigger. The Officers backed up toward the front door, and the suspect pointed the weapon at the Officers and fired one round.

Officer Preston simultaneously fired one round from his shotgun at the suspect while Officers Dillard and Garver fired one round from their revolvers. The suspect backed up into a side hallway,

as Officer Preston advised his fellow Officers he had been hit. Officer Garver grabbed Officer Preston and pulled him out the front door. Officer Murawski, who had been standing on the front porch, was also hit by the suspect's buckshot.

The suspect came around the hallway again, and Officer Dillard fired three rounds at the suspect. The suspect slipped out of view, and Officer Dillard exited the residence. As Officers Preston and Garver made notifications of the shooting and requested an ambulance, Officers Murawski and Dillard positioned themselves behind vehicles on the street and illuminated the front door with a flashlight. A short time later, the suspect appeared in the front doorway and pointed the shotgun at the Officers. The Officers fired at the suspect, and the suspect retreated into the residence. Officers at the rear of the house observed the suspect fall to the floor. Officers reentered the residence and took the suspect into custody.

Officers Preston and Murawski were treated for their injuries and released.



MEDAL OF VALOR

Alleged Gang Member Shootout

In the early evening hours of April 2, 2008, Operations-South Bureau Gang Enforcement Detail (GED) Officers John Carlyle, Antonio Martin, David Phillips and Brandon Valdez were conducting an operation in the Harbor Area to locate and apprehend a suspect wanted for making criminal threats against Police Officers. The suspect was out on bail awaiting trial for criminal threats; however, given the potential threat he posed to the community, a judge revoked his previous bail and issued an arrest warrant.

The suspect was a documented Eastside Wilmas gang member who sought revenge for an Officer-involved shooting that occurred the previous month with a fellow Eastside Wilmas gang member. The Officers were told that the suspect was also being charged with a carjacking that happened two years prior.

Additionally, the suspect had been seen with a blue steel revolver and was looking to obtain an AK-47 to kill a Los Angeles Police Officer.

Plainclothes Officers in an unmarked police vehicle responded to the suspect's residence where they observed him enter the driver's side of a vehicle. The Officers also observed two female passengers in the car. They broadcast the information to the designated uniformed chase team. Officers Carlyle and Phillips responded to the alley, began following the suspect, and requested backup. Officers Martin and Valdez responded to the backup request, and Officer Carlyle activated his emergency lights and siren to conduct a traffic stop.

The suspect refused to stop, accelerated, and a pursuit ensued. He started to negotiate a left turn, then decelerated, and attempted a right turn. Officer Carlyle unintentionally collided with the suspect's vehicle, causing it to spin clockwise. The suspect tried to accelerate, but the secondary police vehicle blocked his path. The suspect exited the vehicle and pointed a handgun in Officer Martin's direction.

Fearing he was about to be shot, Officer Martin opened his door, drew his service pistol, and fired two rounds at the suspect. Simultaneously, the suspect fired two shots at Officer Martin, striking him on the left chest under his badge. Martin fell to the ground, and as the suspect approached him, he attempted to get up and fired one to two more rounds at the suspect. Officer Valdez saw Officer Martin fall to the ground and shot at the suspect once. At the same time, Officer Phillips exited his police vehicle, took cover by the suspect's vehicle, and upon observing the suspect shoot at Officer Martin, fired three rounds at the suspect. Officer Carlyle, fearing Officers Martin and Valdez were going to be killed, fired three to four rounds at the suspect as well.

Meanwhile, Harbor Division Vice Officer Nicholas Sysak and his partner heard the pursuit and responded in case they needed to set up a perimeter. As they approached the area, they observed the suspect shooting at the Officers.

Believing the Officers were in danger of being shot and killed, Officer Sysak turned left and intentionally struck the suspect with his unmarked police vehicle. The collision caused the suspect to lose his grasp of the pistol and fall to the ground. The pistol crashed through the windshield of Officer Sysak's car. While Officer Sysak's decision to drive directly into a gun battle was unorthodox, it was instrumental in disarming the suspect. The suspect was taken into custody and pronounced dead at the scene.

Officer Martin's United States Marine Corp pin, which he wore on the top left corner of his left shirt pocket, received a direct hit from the round fired by the suspect. The pin caused the bullet to slow, greatly reducing the severity of his injury. He was treated for injuries and released from the hospital. ●



Officer John Carlyle



Officer Antonio Martin

Officer Brandon Valdez (photo unavailable)



Officer David Phillips



Officer Nicholas Sysak

Fire Rescue

In the late evening hours of June 9, 2022, Metropolitan Division Officers Cody MacArthur and Nicolas Chacon were driving home from their 14-hour shift and observed a vehicle veer off the freeway, roll over several times, collide with a guard rail, a street sign and a wall before coming to rest on the right shoulder of the freeway, and burst into flames. They immediately pulled over and broadcast what had occurred.

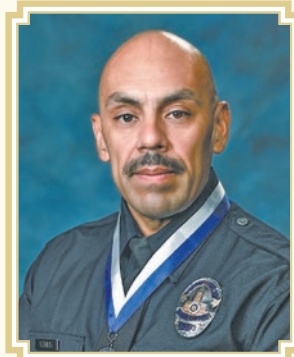
They observed a male emerge from the burning wreckage with a small infant in his arms. He advised that his wife and other children were still in the vehicle. The Officers rushed to the burning vehicle and observed a four-year-old girl in the right rear passenger seat, and a nine-year-old girl in the front passenger seat, and an adult female lying across the center console with her head facing the dashboard and her feet towards the back of the vehicle.

Both Officers were faced with the agonizing decision to prioritize the rescues based on accessibility and likelihood of survival. The Officers made the conscious decision to rescue the children first. Officer Chacon utilized his pocketknife to free the four-year-old from the seatbelt, while Officer MacArthur extracted her from the burning vehicle, while instructing the nine-year-old to climb out of the vehicle. The nine-year-old followed the Officers' lifesaving directions and safely escaped the car. The Officers quickly led the children away from the deadly inferno.

The Officers then heard the trapped female scream and, without hesitation, returned to the burning vehicle. At this time, Devonshire Patrol Officers Mario Lemus and Gabriel Rebolledo arrived with fire extinguishers. Without regard for their own safety, all four Officers attempted to extract the female from the burning vehicle while using the fire extinguishers to prevent the fire from engulfing her. Officer Chacon, feeling his shoes melting and sticking to the pavement, tried to pull her from the vehicle by her feet, and Officer Lemus used his baton to smash the window. Due to the intense flames and heat surrounding them, their efforts were thwarted, and the Officers begrudgingly retreated. Sadly, the female perished in the fire. ●



Officer Nicolas Chacon



Officer Mario Lemus



Officer Cody MacArthur



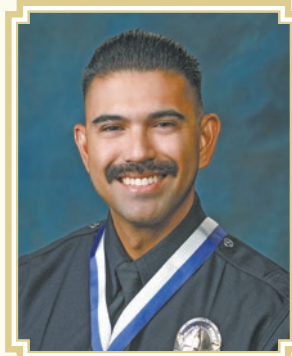
Officer Gabriel Rebolledo

Shooting at an Intersection

In the late evening hours of June 19, 2022, Foothill Division Patrol Officers Christopher Kliebert and Andrew Mejia were conducting routine patrol when a code 3 radio call of a 415 man with a gun was broadcast. While Officers were responding to the call, additional information was broadcast that the suspect was riding a bicycle, waving the weapon and pointing at vehicles.

Mejia requested an air unit and the direction of travel of the suspect. The Officers arrived at an intersection and saw him in the intersection making furtive movements to his waistband.

They positioned their patrol vehicle between the suspect and the passing motorists, exited the vehicle, and ordered the suspect to show them his hands. He turned toward them, produced a handgun, and began firing at them as he walked towards them. In defense of their own lives and the lives of citizens in the area, the Officers returned fire, which effectively stopped the suspect's actions. ●



Officer Christopher Kliebert



Officer Andrew Mejia



At the retirement reception: Val Melloff (center) with Michelle Plascencia (left) and Maricela Zometa-Romero.

Goodbye, Val

Story courtesy Eric Robles and Tina Fermin, General Services;
Photos courtesy General Services

VALERIE MELLOFF, ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER, RETIRES AFTER 37 YEARS OF CITY SERVICE.

GENERAL SERVICES: A reception was held July 19 for Valerie Melloff, longtime Assistant General Manager, General Services and Club Member. She retired after 37 years of City service.

The reception originally was planned to be held on the General Services building patio, but due to high temperatures the location was moved to the Tom Bradley Room high atop City Hall.

Val was instrumental in many programs and events at General Services, including the annual Custodian Appreciation Day, in which the Club participated.

Council District 3 honored Val with this resolution including many of her notable accomplishments:

"Whereas, Valerie V. Melloff began her distinguished career with the City of Los Angeles in 1985 as a Management Assistant with the Office of the City Administrative Officer; and

"Whereas, Valerie V. Melloff first came to the Dept. of General Services as a Chief Management Analyst and Director of Finance,



Val Melloff and her retirement cake.

guiding the department through many challenging times including the Great Recession, ERIIP, the COVID-19 pandemic, and SIP; and

"Whereas, Valerie V. Melloff improved the Dept. of General Services operations and the delivery of services to client departments through the implementation of strategic plans, GSDSTAT, and the Asset Management System; and

"Whereas, Valerie Melloff loves to recognize the accomplishments of employees through the annual reports, MVP Awards, and 2022 employee appreciation campaign; and

"Whereas, Valerie V. Melloff is a proud Angeleno and oversaw the production of iconic LA events such as the Hollywood Christmas Parade and El Grito, and the upgrade of the City Hall lights and lighting program, which commemorates events of importance to the City and its residents; and



Valerie Melloff (right) helps hand out certificates of appreciation at the General Services MVP event, March 2019. With her are (from left) Tony Royster, General Manager, Club Member; and Wesley Chavez, honoree.

"Whereas, Valerie V. Melloff works tirelessly to ensure the safety of City employees, supervising the Office of Public Safety, bringing new innovation in security and credentialing at shops and yards, the Civic Center and municipal buildings; and

"Whereas, while the retirement of Valerie V. Melloff leaves a large void in the Dept. of General Services, her legacy of dedication and excellent work will carry on throughout the many people she has worked with; and

"Whereas, Valerie V. Melloff is entering a well-earned retirement after a distinguished City career, it is with deep respect and appreciation that her co-workers and colleagues see her off to a retirement filled with her family and friends;

"Now, therefore be it resolved that by the adoption of this resolution, the Los Angeles City Council hereby commends and thanks Valerie V. Melloff for [37] years of dedicated service and wishes her well in retirement and all future endeavors."

"Thank you for the warmest and most thoughtful sendoff ever," Val said at her reception.

Deepest congratulations and thanks go to Val, a supportive Club Member and a helpful partner to the Club in honoring City employees for their dedication to Los Angeles.

The Club also thanks Eric Robles, Tina Fermin and Emily Mayeda for their assistance in producing this article. ●



At Val's retirement reception.

Holiday Cash
can make your shopping easier.
Club Cash: Borrow now, pay over time! Eligibility rules apply.
Go to the Club Website for details:
employeesclub.com

Read All About It: *It's Thanksgiving!*

These LAPL recommendations can help your family celebrate Thanksgiving.

LIBRARY: As the holidays envelop us, *Alive!* continues publishing recommendations from our favorite Library – Los Angeles Public Library – for your seasonal reading pleasure and to remember the point of the holiday, gratitude.

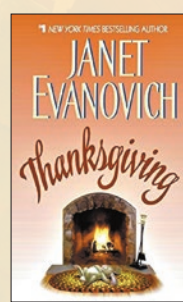
Look for a Christmas/Hanukkah/winter holiday installment next month.

Recommendations by:
Teen'Scape, Los Angeles Public Library
Literature and Fiction Dept.,
Los Angeles Public Library
Children's Literature Dept.,
Los Angeles Public Library
Compiled by: Susan Lendroth,
Los Angeles Public Library

These suggestions are available through the LAPL, either as hard-cover loans or digital downloads. Go to: www.lapl.org

Thanks to the LAPL Librarians who took the time to make these recommendations to Club Members.

For Adult Readers



Thanksgiving,

Janet Evanovich

After a meet-cute over a mischievous bunny, Megan Murphy and Patrick Hunter embark on a whirlwind romance. Soon they are co-hosting a large Thanksgiving gathering in an idyllic colonial cottage. But is it all happening too fast?



Pieces of April, DVD

Though estranged from her family, April Burns invites them to her small rundown apartment in New York City to celebrate what will most likely be her mother's last Thanksgiving. Right from the beginning, the festivities veer off

course. From a broken oven to a fistfight, it seems like nothing will go right for the Burns family this year. Can anything save this fraught family reunion? Starring Katie Holmes, Oliver Platt and Patricia Clarkson, this 2003 indie film is a sweet and humorous holiday treat.

Turkey Trot Murder,

Leslie Meier

Reporter and part-time sleuth Lucy Stone is looking forward to a peaceful Thanksgiving holiday when she stumbles across a body in the lake. Now she finds herself in a race against time to solve the mystery of this drowned woman before tensions in bucolic Tinker's Cove overflow.



Planes, Trains and Automobiles, DVD

All Neil Page wants is to make it home in time to spend Thanksgiving with his family in Chicago. But getting in his way are delayed flights, lost credit cards, broken-down trains and one annoying fellow passenger he just can't shake. Steve Martin and John Candy star in this beloved holiday comedy.

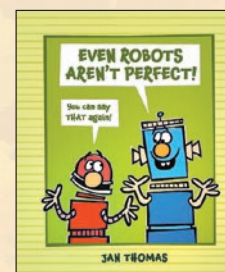
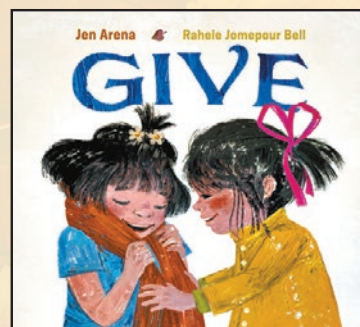


For Young Readers

Give

Jen Arena

With simple acts of kindness we can change someone's day! This lovely picture book reflects on this and creates an opportunity to think about all the people in our life we are thankful for!



Even Robots Can Be Thankful!

Jan Thomas
Best friends Red Robot and Blue Robot learn that friendship takes work, but brings so much to be thankful for.

Thank You for the Little Things

Caryl Hart; illustrated by Emily Hamilton
A young child discovers that being thankful for little things helps when they are worried or sad.



Keepunumuk: Wee'achumun's Thanksgiving Story

Danielle Greendeer

In this Wampanoag story, told in a Native tradition, two kids from the Mashpee Wampanoag tribe learn the story of Wee'achumun (corn) and the first Thanksgiving.



Elmo's Best Thanksgiving Ever!

Jodie Shepherd
Celebrate Thanksgiving with the ever-popular character, Elmo, and his friends from Sesame Street. When an unexpected storm changes Elmo's big

Thanksgiving Day plans, he learns that there are many things to be thankful for.



Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc.

RLACEI

For Retired
Club Members

CONTACT INFORMATION

Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. (RLACEI)



Ruth B. Perry

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Los Angeles, CA 90086
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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
- Leonard Torres, *Director* Ext. 707

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 LAFCU as applicable.



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

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

RLACEI EVENTS RESERVATION LINE

Call: (800) 678-4145, ext. 701
or Email: contact@rlacei.org

Due to staffing, telephone confirmation cannot be provided.

RLACEI 2023 ANNUAL MEMBER HOLIDAY PARTY

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2023
11:30 A.M. - 2 P.M.

FRIENDSHIP AUDITORIUM

3201 RIVERSIDE DRIVE

LOS ANGELES, CA 90027

Open to all Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. members!

RSVP to (800) 678-4145
Ext 701

Please RSVP no later than
December 3, 2023.



RLACEI member plus one (1) guest limit at no cost.

No additional guests allowed at this time due to attendance limitations.

To join RLACEI, call (800) 678-4145 Ext. 706.

RLACEI 2023 Holiday Party Reservation Form

Name _____ Phone _____ Email _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
 Number of Attendees _____ (Limit 2)

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

****Only RLACEI members will be eligible to win prizes.****

RETIREES UPDATE

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

IRMAA Reimbursements: Get Involved!



Tom Moutes

In September, I wrote about Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amounts (IRMAAs) – the nasty surprise you receive when you reach age 65 and find out you must pay more for your healthcare each month than you did the day before. Currently, these IRMAAs range between \$164.90 and \$560.50 per month based on your income! Depending on your Medicare eligibility, LACERS will reimburse the smallest monthly amount the feds charge – currently, that's \$164.90. The IRMAA amounts can change every calendar year. Those Retirees who did not pay the FICA tax while working are eligible only for Medicare B and are currently not entitled to any IRMAA reimbursement from LACERS.

Based, in part, on a request by RLACEI, the LACERS staff and Board have been studying the IRMAA reimbursements, including commissioning actuarial reports to determine the potential costs associated with enhanced IRMAA reimbursements. On Sept. 26, 2023, the LACERS Board adopted the following staff recommendation:

That the Board authorize the Board President to sign and transmit a letter, including the actuarial analysis and Member feedback, to the Mayor and Los Angeles City Council for consideration of increasing reimbursements to LACERS Retired Members with Medicare Part B premiums.

The adopted recommendation did not include any specifics regarding enhanced IRMAA reimbursements, such as who

should receive them and how much the reimbursements should be increased. Regardless, the issue is now in the hands of the City Council. As of the writing of this article (I have to write them a month in advance), no Council file number has been assigned and no Council committee agenda has included this item.

Please stay informed about IRMAA reimbursements whether you are:

- One of the 1,375 Retirees who have Part B only and, therefore are not currently entitled to any IRMAA reimbursements;
- One of the approximately 1,795 Retirees who are only partially reimbursed for your IRMAA expenses;
- A Retiree whose IRMAA expenses are currently covered, but for whom that may change in the future as the income brackets change almost every year; or
- A future Retiree for whom this issue does not currently impact. Someday it may impact you, and that is increasingly likely as your wages are higher than in most parts of the country, which makes it more likely you will have to pay higher IRMAAs than LACERS currently is authorized to reimburse.

That means every LACERS member – whether still working or Retired – should submit public comments to the City Council! This likely will not be an easy process, and it will take all of us, with RLACEI leading the way, to weigh in on the IRMAA reimbursements. The only way the enhanced IRMAA reimbursements will be adopted is through a very large response by LACERS members. Please do not assume someone else will do this for you – it takes all of us! ●

Beverly J. Clark



RETIREES ON THE MOVE

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

Meet Bea Smalls

Beatrice Smalls, whom everybody affectionately calls “Bea,” began working for the City of Los Angeles as a Messenger Clerk for Recreation and Parks in 1967. From there she advanced to Key Punch Operator in the Personnel Dept. After 33 years of service, she retired from Personnel in 2001 as a Sr. Clerk Typist and Chief Proctor.

As a City employee, if you’ve ever taken a promotional exam, then you’ve probably seen Bea supervising the proctors and ensuring all went well with test taking.

Bea says she was a very enterprising youngster. “I started working at the age of 14 in the garment district in New York City. I did laundry work and got fired because I burned too many customers’ clothes [big smile]. I also worked as a pin tucker, which consisted of putting tickets on items to be sold, and as a buttoner, putting buttons on baby clothing. And I can’t forget putting nail heads on jeans and jackets and feathers on hats [huge smile]. My motto was, ‘Hire me!’ You name the work, and I probably did it [big smile!].”

In 1965, Bea relocated from New York to be with the love of her life (a great big smile) and to escape the severe winter weather.

Bea has one son, Jason Smalls; one daughter, Robin da Silva; and one granddaughter, Jordan da Silva. And she is very close to her niece, Gayle Warner.



Bea Smalls

During her early years of retirement, Bea visited Hawaii and Ensenada on a cruise, but for the most part, unlike other Retirees who love to travel, Bea enjoys being close to home, spending time with family and friends.

Filling Her Days in Retirement

Just as she has been all of her life, Bea is very active in retirement and never gets bored. She keeps herself alert and vital with the purpose of helping others whenever and wherever she can.

She has been an active member of the Los Angeles Community Church for more than 30 years and is currently the church secretary. She was president for seven years of the Women’s Club in the gated complex where she lives. She also volunteered for 11 years at the LAX Airport Information Booth in Terminal 3 but was not able to continue when LAX discontinued this service during the pandemic. Bea was also active as an election volunteer for the presidential and state-wide elections and an Inspector of Elections.

Bea is part of a group of Retired ladies consisting of Personnel Dept. Retirees who meet once a month for breakfast. They call themselves the “Bronze Girls Breakfast Club” and have been meeting for more than 20 years.

Words of Wisdom

Don’t be afraid to retire, she says; most people think they will not be able to live on their retirement income, but you will be fine. Less is more, and you won’t need as much as you did when you were working.

Bea emphasizes that it is important to “be kind to everyone, especially your family; spread love and rely on the Almighty. He will never forsake you; and don’t forget to pray. Prayer works miracles.

“Bible study groups have helped me stay focused in this changing world. Through them I have met many new people and have made many new friends. I love my retirement life. I have no regrets, but I do miss my co-workers. I think of them often and wonder how they’re doing.” ●



The Bronze Girls Breakfast Group.

YOUR BOARD IN ACTION

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

RLACEI Board Presents to Council, Advocates for Members

On Friday, Sept. 29, the RLACEI Board made public comments before the Los Angeles City Council at its meeting, requesting that the Council agenda the recommendation from LACERS for an additional 2.6 percent Discretionary COLA.

RLACEI President Ruth Perry and six RLACEI board members were in attendance to represent and advocate for City Retirees. President Perry spoke before the Councilmembers and strongly encouraged the City Council and the Mayor to consider adopting the 2.6 percent discretionary Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for Retirees that the Board of LACERS has already recommended. RLACEI board members Ann Seales, Beverly Anderson and Mark Blunk also contributed supporting comments.

Remarks by Ruth Perry to the Council

“On April 11, 2023 – more than five months ago – the LACERS Board voted to request that the Council review the possibility of providing a 2.6 percent discretionary cost-of-living-adjustment to the Retirees served by LACERS.

“The LACERS board showed it cares about its 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.

“What about you, the City’s elected officials? Do you care? The lack of action in the last five months on



Members of the RLACEI Board inside LA City Council chambers included (from left) Beverly Anderson, Mark Blunk, Beverly Clark, Nancy Hammoudian (top), Ann Seales, Leo Torres (top) and Ruth Perry.

the proposed 2.6 percent discretionary COLA would indicate you are not concerned.

“The recommendation by the LACERS Board was transmitted to the CAO more than five months ago. 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. Where are our representatives when your constituents need you most?”

A 2.6 percent COLA would be a significant increase in pension benefits, especially for those Retirees on a fixed income. It would help them to keep up with the rising cost of living and maintain their quality of life.

RLACEI’s advocacy on behalf of its members is essential to ensuring that Retirees have the resources they need to live comfortably and independently. RLACEI works to protect and improve the benefits of City Retirees, and its advocacy has made a real difference in the lives of many Retirees.

Retirees, let your concerns be known. The board encourages all Retirees to join in letting the City Council know how important this action is to the financial wellbeing of its constituents.

RLACEI is standing up for the interests of its members. We hope that the LA City Council and the Mayor will take RLACEI’s concerns seriously and take steps to improve the lives of City Retirees. ●



Michael R. Wilkinson

LACERS BOARD UPDATE

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

LACERS Reports Investment Results

While I regularly report on investment returns for LACERS, I always caution everyone not to be too tied up in the details of the ups and downs of market cycles. LACERS is a long-term investor, and the plan depends on those returns to fund our pension and health benefits regardless of short-term volatility.

That said, it is useful to look back at the LACERS performance for the period ending June 30, 2023, the most recent reporting period.

The total LACERS fund returned 6.77 percent for the year, 8.62 percent for 3 years, 6.54 percent for 5 years, 7.49 percent for 10 years and 7.57 percent for 20 years. For the multi-year returns, the figures are for the annual average return. All returns are net of investment fees. This compares favorably to our long-term investment return assumption of 7.0 percent per year.

LACERS invests in various asset classes to achieve good investment returns without taking on the risk of “having all of your eggs in one basket.” As I have discussed in previous columns, there is no one investment that provides high returns without market volatility. LACERS strives to find a diversified investment plan that uses several asset classes to minimize risk while maximizing returns.

Although it seems tempting to be able to “time the market” and buy and sell to capture market cycles, this is impossible to do, and LACERS avoids the practice. Instead, the plan uses a carefully crafted asset allocation strategy to buy different investments and maintain the allocations rather than playing the fool’s game of trading in an out of the market to get high returns.

In addition, LACERS uses low-cost passive investments, like index funds, when it is prudent to save significantly on investment fees and boost long-term returns. Where passive investments are not available or effective, such as with private equity, LACERS carefully chooses active managers to pick the best investments. Currently, 30 percent of all LACERS investments are passive. ●

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 as, member picnic and holiday party with FREE membership to the Employees Club and 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: Patty M. Larios

Cooking with the Club

with Chef Robert Larios

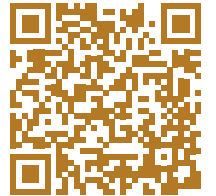


Sweet Chili Beef and Green Bean Bowls with Jasmine Rice, Crispy Onions and Cilantro

Hey, Cooking with the Club Gang! Get ready to create a delicious and nutritious dinner in just 20 minutes. Brace yourself for a mouth watering combination of juicy ground beef, crisp green beans and heavenly sweet chili sauce. To top it off, we'll add some fresh cilantro and crispy fried onions. This culinary masterpiece comes together on a bed of fluffy rice.

Get ready for a truly extraordinary experience of flavors and textures that will leave you wanting more. Introducing Sweet Chili Beef and Green Bean Bowls - a ballet of flavors where the hearty ground beef dances with vibrant green beans in a sweet chili sauce, all on a stage of fluffy jasmine rice. Prepare to be amazed by the joy of cooking!

Follow this recipe online:



¡Buen provecho! **Chef Larios**

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 cup jasmine rice
- 6 ounces green beans
- 1 lime
- ¼-ounce cilantro
- 10 ounces ground beef
- 4 tablespoons sweet soy glaze
- 1 ounce sweet Thai chili sauce
- ¼-cup crispy fried onions
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- 1 teaspoon cooking oil
- ½-teaspoon sugar
- 2 tablespoons butter

DIRECTIONS: Total time is 20 minutes

Serves 2



1 Cook the Rice - Cook perfect rice every time with this simple recipe. Just combine the rice, 1-¼-cups water, and a pinch of salt in a pot. Bring it to a boil and then simmer until the rice is tender. In just 15 to 18 minutes, you'll have perfectly cooked rice ready to serve. Keep it covered and off the heat until you're ready to enjoy it.



4 Cook the Green Beans - Microwave or steam green beans for a quick and tender side dish. In a microwave-safe bowl, add beans and a splash of water, cover with plastic wrap, and heat until tender. Don't have a microwave? No worries! Steam them in a small pot with water until just tender. Don't forget to drain any excess water.



2 Prep - Prepare the produce by washing and drying it. Trim the green beans if needed and cut them into 2-inch-long pieces. Quarter the lime and remove the cilantro leaves from the stems, then roughly chop the leaves.



5 Finish the Stir-Fry - Enhance your beef stir fry with these precise measurements: cooked green beans, chili sauce, 2½-tablespoons sweet soy glaze, 1 table-spoon butter, and ½-teaspoon sugar. In just 1-2 minutes,

you'll have a delectable beef mixture thoroughly coated with these flavorful ingredients. To add a tangy twist, squeeze in a hint of lime juice to suit your taste.



3 Cook the Beef - Fire up a sizzling pan with a touch of oil and get ready to create a mouth watering masterpiece. Season the beef with a sprinkle of salt and pepper, then press it into the pan with a spatula to create a perfect,

evenly cooked layer. Let it brown to perfection for 3 to 4 minutes without disturbing it. Now it's time to break up the meat and cook it until it's tender and cooked through, which should take about 2 to 4 minutes. Don't worry about excess grease - simply pour it out of the pan with caution. Get ready to savor the delicious results of your cooking skills.



6 Finish and Serve - Enhance your rice dish with these precise measurements: gently fluff the rice with a fork and incorporate 1 table-spoon butter. Enhance the flavor with a pinch of salt and pepper. Divide the flavorful rice into individual bowls and layer it with stir-fry. For added crunch and freshness, generously sprinkle crispy fried onions and chopped cilantro. Complete the dish with a side of lime wedges for a burst of acidity.

Cooking Tidbit

Looking to switch up your sweetener? Try substituting sugar with honey (in a 1:1 ratio) or agave syrup (in a 1:1/2 ratio). These natural alternatives will add a delicious twist to your dishes.

Remember, if you're using a rice variety other than jasmine rice, cooking times may vary. And for Instant Pot users, be sure to follow the specific instructions for best results.

With these simple tips, you'll elevate your culinary creations and impress your taste buds. Don't be afraid to experiment with these sweet substitutes and cooking variations!

Food Quote:

"People who love to eat are always the best people."

- Julia Child

Food Lover's Dictionary:

Green bean: The green bean has a long, slender green pod with small seeds inside. The entire pod is edible. It is also called a string bean. Green beans are available year-round, with peak season from May to October. Green beans have a fair amount of vitamins A and C.



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.hellofresh.com/recipes/sweet-chili-beef-green-bean-bowls-619cff9451c0b06e8d3d4ddf> • Accessed October 1, 2023.



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

Throwback Thumbs Up

FROM JUNE 2020:
A Public Works/StreetsLA crew was busy repaving Seventh Street downtown, as part of the bureau's plan to speed up repaving projects while traffic was light due to the pandemic. Pictured in front: **Dora Robles**.



Story and photo courtesy LAPD

Alisha an FBI Grad

LT. ALISHA JORDAN GRADUATES FROM FBI NATIONAL ACADEMY.

LAPD: Lt. Alisha Jordan, LAPD, graduated from the prestigious FBI National Academy, which provides advanced investigative, management and fitness training to senior Officers who are proven leaders within their organizations.

Lt. Jordan joined the LAPD in 1994 and spent her first 10 years as a Police Officer in the Southwest, North Hollywood and Central Divisions. She continued her career as an undercover Officer and plainclothes investigator.

In 2005, Lt. Jordan was promoted to Senior Lead Officer in Central's command. She then was promoted to Detective assigned to the 77th Area. In 2007 she was promoted to Detective II in Internal Affairs, followed by



Lt. Alisha Jordan

the Force Investigation Division. She was promoted to Sergeant in 2011 and served in West LA Division.

After a number of other assignments, she is now one of the Officers in Charge of the Administrative Teams in the Force Investigation Division.

She earned a Bachelor's degree in political science from Cal State Long Beach. She also graduated from Sherman Block's Supervisory Leadership Institute, Principles of Force Science Institute, and the LAPD's leadership course. She has been awarded the Police Meritorious Service Medal, the Community Policing Medal on two occasions, the Police Star, the Police Meritorious Unit Citation, and the Human Relations Medal.

Congratulations to Lt. Jordan on her most recent accomplishment!

Hello Newbies! SANITATION INTRODUCES NEW ORIENTATION PROGRAM.



At Sanitation's new "Beyond Onboarding" employee orientation program.

PUBLIC WORKS: On Sept. 28, Public Works/Sanitation and Environment introduced its new "Beyond Onboarding" orientation program, welcoming 100 new employees. The new program contained presentations, networking, bureau structure information, and core projects.

Nicole Bernson, Assistant Director, External Affairs and Special Projects, was the driving force behind the new employee orientation program. Others on the team included Kenneth Jeong; Cherie Byers; Niesha Louis; Adriene Murphy; Cindie Bassett; Pam Perez; Doug Walters; Deanna Gomez; Samantha Smith; Andrea San Augustin; Rafael Porter; Jessica Aguiano; Lillian Myrato; and Nicole Bernson. Well done, all!

Welcome new Sanitation employees! ●



Arlene Herrero
Vice President of Business Development

Arlene on the Scene

Alive! follows the Club's Arlene Herrero, Vice President of Business Development, as she meets Club Members.

Sept. 21 LACAAEA (LA County Asian American Employees Association)

On Sept. 21, Arlene and #ClubMobile visited the LACAAEA (LA County Asian American Employees Association) for their fish fry and potluck event. #ClubMobile was also on hand, supplying County employees and LACAAEA members with much-needed merchandise and fun!

The Club's Arlene Herrero (left) chats with Eddie Yen, President of the LACAAEA, and Hilda Solis, County Supervisor.



Larios In the City

By Robert Larios, Chief Executive Officer

Robert Larios, Club President and CEO, honors Club Members with the coveted Club Retirement Plaque.



Denise M. Malosh
LACERS

Retired after 22 years of City service.



Diane R. Hawking
LAPD

Retired after 25 years of City service.



Greg Algorri
LADWP

Retired after 36 years of City service.



Raymond A. Algorri
LADWP

Retired after 43 years of City service.



Jeffrey S. Dash
LADWP

Retired after 30 years of City service.



Policarpio Canamaso
LADOT

Retired after 31 years of City service.



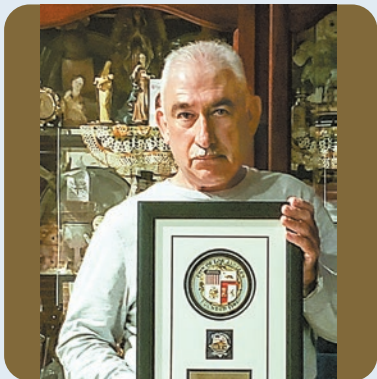
James G. McGuirk
Airports

Retired after 34 years of City service.



Rene Montiel
Public Works/Streets/LA

Retired after 32 years of City service.



Rafael Gomez
Airports

Retired after 33 years of City service.



Tsegalem Woldemariam
Housing

Retired after 20 years of City service.

FREE! CLUB RETIREMENT PLAQUE



Retiring soon?

Receive your own personalized Club Retirement Plaque, free! (Must be a Club Member for at least five consecutive years.)

* a \$499 value!

Get started here:



Story by Arlene Herrero, Club Vice President of Business Development • Photos by Dylan Herrero



From left: Harold Hills, Retired P2+2, South Traffic Motor, 32 years of City service; Anthony Young, P2+2, South Traffic Division, 7 years; Kevin Smith, OJB, Retired P2+2, South Traffic Division, 28 years; Michael Flemmings, P2 + 2, South Traffic Division, 17 years; Retired Lt. Sam Dacus, LAPD Harbor, 26 years; and Retired Capt. Synthia Lee, DSVD, 33 years, Club Member.

Retirees Reunite

ANNUAL PICNIC FOR AFRICAN-AMERICAN LAW ENFORCEMENT RETIREES RETURNS.

LAPD: More than 90 people gathered for the annual Ebony Reunion Picnic, held each September primarily for African American former LAPD employees. The picnic was held Sept. 16 in Kenneth Hahn County Park in LA's Burke-Roche picnic area.

The annual event brings together both civilian and sworn employees and their families.

Many participants traveled from out of town to be a part of the event. Some attendees came from as far as Chicago. There was lively conversation and expressions of joy to see old friends and comrades. Everyone had a great time catching up with each other and reminiscing.

Arlene Herrero, Club Vice President of Business Development, and assistant Dylan Herrero represented the Employees Club of California and graciously provided raffle giveaways. The Ebony Picnic Committee provided an assortment of gift cards and wine. Rev. Ferroll Robins, former LAPD Chaplain, donated a beautiful "LAPD Ebony Reunion" engraved cutting board, won by former Principal Clerk Gloria Jones.

The Ebony Reunion Picnic committee is a community of Retired Los Angeles Police Dept. sworn and civilian employees brought together by a shared commitment to celebrating the past and the present. The annual picnic serves as a joyful occasion to reconnect with former co-workers, ex-partners and friends, reminiscing about their shared experiences over the years.

The committee is dedicated to fostering camaraderie and wellbeing among its members, ensuring that everyone stays informed about each other's welfare. Gatherings provide a platform to share stories, successes and the latest activities of fellow Retirees. The committee believes in cherishing these moments of togetherness during retirement, far removed from the somber occasions of funerals that used to be their primary reunions.

Additionally, the committee aspires to bridge the generational gap by connecting Retired members with the new generation of LAPD Officers and support personnel. Through these interactions, the committee's aim is to pass on the wisdom and legacy of service while embracing the innovations and progress of the present.

Retired LAPD Commander Harlan Ward is the Ebony Picnic Committee Chairperson. He said, "At the Ebony Reunion Picnic, the mission is to create lasting bonds, celebrate shared history, ensure the well-being of our members, and build a bridge between the past and the future of the LAPD family."

The Ebony Reunion Picnic is independently organized and began with the formation of a committee in 1997. Too many sworn and civilian employees were seeing each other only for funerals, they felt, and needed another opportunity to get together and socialize. The committee had one goal in mind: to provide an opportunity and venue for friends, associates, former co-workers and ex-partners to gather and celebrate the past and the present.

In 1997, the committee planned a spectacular two-day event that consisted of a banquet at the Proud Bird Restaurant in Los Angeles. A video titled "LAPD's Black History" was created and shown at the banquet. The next day, a fun and enjoyable picnic was held at the Los Angeles Police Academy. Both events were well attended and allowed everyone to gather, reminisce and enjoy the presence of each other.

The Ebony Reunion Picnic Committee is always looking for ways to increase the participation of current and former LAPD civilian employees at the picnic each year.

Feel free to contact the committee at: ebonyreunionpicnic@gmail.com

THANK YOU!

The Club honors all current and former LAPD employees for their City service; the Ebony Reunion committee for their hard work in producing this event; and Beverly Clark, Retired and Vice President, RLACEI, for providing information.



Ebony Picnic Committee, from left: Beverly Clark, Retired Sr. Management Analyst, 32 years of City service, Club Member; Jeanetta Adams, Retired PSR II, 34 years, Club Member; and Yvonne Parker, Retired D3, LAPD, 30 years.



From left: Retired Deputy Chief Ron Banks, 32 years of City service; Capt. Synthia Lee, Retired, DSVD, 33 years, Club Member; Ozzie and Vera, guests; and Lt. I Gregory Hoyte, Retired, Van Nuys Division, 32 years.

More Pictures on the web
alive.employeesclub.com



From left: Lt. II Jimmy Grayson, Retired, Robbery and Homicide, 40 years of City service; and Lt. II Otis Dobine, Retired, Juvenile Division, 38 years.



Troy Brown won the raffle prize donated by the Club of a Honeybaked Ham gift card, pictured with Arlene Herrero, Club Vice President of Business Development.



Fans Wanted!

Hoops tournament set for Nov. 19. Watch some great City action!

Hoops fans, come out to the first Club-sponsored basketball tournament, set for 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 19 at Rec and Parks' Expo Center, 3980 Bill Robertson Lane.

Five teams from the LADOT and LADWP are set to compete. Cheer on your favorite departments and colleagues!

Note to Club athletes: We're ramping up our Club Sports program, starting small and bringing it back one limited event at a time. As we grow our capacity, we'll keep you informed of more opportunities to compete. Thank you for your patience!



TOURNAMENT DETAILS

When: Sunday, Nov. 19

Time: 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Location:
Rec and Parks' Expo Center
3980 Bill Robertson Lane

CLUB SPORTS



John Hawkins, Association President

John's Picture Perfect Contest

A Note From John Hawkins: Club photographers, this marks my final month hosting the Picture Perfect Contest. Keeping to this final theme, I'm thankful for all of you, and I've enjoyed every awesome submission – hundreds, thousands – you've sent over the years that we've shared this space. The contest continues next month, hosted by Noelle Kauffman, the Club's Director of Sales and fan of great photos, too. Keep on snapping! — **John**

This month's theme was: *Things I'm Thankful for...*



"I'm so grateful for our great-granddaughter ... Play-Doh ... costume jewelry with an Itsy Bitsy spider ... and 'pat-a-cake, pat-a-cake' being sung and acting out. Doesn't get any better!"

– **John Nance, Retired, LADWP**

John's comment: How well I remember those days, John, well, at least for a daughter, not great-granddaughter! I love her concentration in this classic close-up.

"While there are many things I am thankful for, this one doesn't really qualify, as my buddy is not a 'thing.' That said, I'm still very grateful for having 'friends in high places' -- especially four-legged ones."

– **Yves Didier, Airport Police**



John's comment: I'm glad you didn't take me literally, John, in responding to my final theme for this contest. Thanks for all your submissions over the years. Keep submitting!



"My wife and I are incredibly thankful for her grandparents who are in their 90s and still living life to the fullest. They are two of the most generous people we know. They have been married for 70 years."

– **John Sousa, Airport Police**

John's comment: This is an all-timer, John! I have no doubt from your classic shot that they are alive to the fullest. Perfect characters, perfectly captured. Thanks!

MORE WINNERS ON WEB ALIVE!



"I am very thankful for Samantha, the daughter of Yazmin Garcias, LAPD, for taking such wonderful, efficient, loving helpful care of my dad at the hospital and for him being able to transfer to a skilled nursing facility."

– **Lorean Soo hoo, Retired, LAPD**

John's comment: A classic portrait of you and Samantha to accompany your equally awesome message ... true gratitude. Thanks for submitting!



"An impromptu late summer visit to Torrance Beach with my niece and nephews on a gorgeous and serene afternoon. So thankful for our beautiful Southern California coastline and my family, who keeps me young and experiencing and loving all life has to offer."

– **Mary Frances Sandoval, Retired, LADWP**

John's comment: Beautifully shot and said, Mary Frances. I love the feeling this photo gives me. Awesome photo.



"I am very thankful for my one-year-old grandson, Axel (my first). It's so great that this little person can bring so much joy in to my life!"

– **Renee Ramirez, LAFD**

John's comment: As awesome as Axel's face is, it's even better with the balloons – an external reflection of his internal joy. Well done, Renee!

The next photo contest theme:

Magical Light

DEADLINE:
Nov. 13



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

ENTER TO WIN
\$25 AMAZON E-GIFT CARD

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



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
Achonu, Emmanuel O.	Pr. Constr. Inspector	Public Works	36	Freise, Thomas G.	Carpenter	Gen.Services	10	Muro, Suzana	Council Aide	Council	27
Aguilar, Luis C.	Power Transmission	LADWP	N/D	Fu, William T.	Environ. Eng. Ass.	Public Works	35	Nagel, Michelle S.	Gen.Services	LADWP	N/D
Alba, Arthur J.	Equipment Operator	Rec and Parks	29	Gagar-Richards, Mary	Exec. Admin. Asst.	Public Works	35	Nettles, Valerie K.	Sr. Mgmt. Analyst	Ec./Workforce Dev.	26
Aliasghar, Mary	Tax Compliance Off.	Finance	36	Gallegos, Patrick A.	Security Officer	Airports	26	Norman, Shawn D.	Water Services	LADWP	N/D
Alonso, Arturo	Equipment Operator	Airports	26	Galperin, Ron	Council Aide	Council	10	Pandy, Magdiwang G.	Water Engineering	LADWP	N/D
Alvarez, Maria T.	Sr. Admin. Clerk	Finance	33	Gesch, Jon D.	Photographer	LAPD	27	Papaian, Shooshig A.	Sr. Gardener	Rec and Parks	24
Antonio, Jacqueline G.	Supply Chain	LADWP	N/D	Greenstein, Jay D.	Council Aide	Council	16	Portillo, Samuel A.	Sr. Build. Mech. Insp.	Bldg. & Safety	40
Aragon, Juan Carlos	Pr. Detention Officer	LAPD	35	Guadalupe, Glenn D.	Off. Eng. Tech	Public Works	13	Prasad, Vijayalaks	Director, Airport Ops.	Airports	21
Atmur, Donna M.	Librarian	Library	22	Hugard, Jacques J.	Sr. Transp. Engineer	Transportation	28	Pulanco, Jesus B.	Power Supply	LADWP	N/D
Benitez, Juan A.	Procurement Sup.	Harbor	26	Hill, Gary Eric	Personnel Analyst	LAFD	29	Razon, Abraham S.	Sr. Environmental Op.	Public Works	35
Blazej Yee, Sybil N.	Admin. Clerk	Library	33	Hobbs, Gary D.	Constr. Inspector	Public Works	17	Reyes, Manuel D.	Motor Sweeper Op.	Public Works	20
Bloom, Christine R.	Admin. Clerk	Library	26	Holzauer, Steven M.	Power Transmission	LADWP	N/D	Riley, Candice S.	Energy Distribution	LADWP	N/D
Bolivar, Armando	Metering Services	LADWP	N/D	Hugard, Jacques J.	Wastewater Treat. Oper.	Public Works	33	Robison, Daphany	Sr. Traffic Supervisor	Transportation	35
Bonilla, Arturo	Crossing Guard	Transportation	3	Irvine, Douglas L.	Sr. Environmental Eng.	Public Works	37	Salvador, Lyndon	Asst. General Mgr.	CIFD	30
Brinson, Richard E.	Sr. Housing Inspector	Housing	25	Jablonski Kaye, Denise	Police Psychologist	LAPD	19	Salvaggio, Christine	Sr. Civil Engineer	Airports	31
Castillo, Jesus S.	ITS	LADWP	N/D	Jackson, Andrea D.	Police Service Rep.	LAPD	26	Sanchez, Robert	Civil Engineering Ass.	Public Works	33
Castillo, Xiomara W.	ITS	LADWP	N/D	Jones, Carla R.	Sr. Admin. Clerk	Public Works	37	Santos, Antonio	Material Test. Eng. Ass.	Gen.Services	32
Cerna, Maria L.	Custodian	Airports	16	Keir, Jennifer A.	Sr. Forensic Print Spec.	LAPD	20	Scott, Paul F.	Equipment Mechanic	Gen.Services	25
Chan, Anna M.	ITS	LADWP	N/D	Kim, Matthew	Equipment Mechanic	LAPD	8	Shafa, Masoud S.	Bulk Power Business	LADWP	N/D
Cline, Steven D.	Supervisor	Rec and Parks	33	Lao, Wedmay J.	Dept. Chief Acct.	Housing	25	Smith, Edwin D.	Refuse Coll. Truck Op.	Public Works	34
Collado, Rosa E.	Secretary	Public Works	25	Lim, Michelle D.	Dep. City Attorney	City Attorney	29	Smith, Michael J.	Pr. Inspector	Bldg. & Safety	39
Craw, Michael J.	Police Psychologist	LAPD	22	Loera, Rigoberto Vargas	Constr. Inspector	Public Works	25	Specchia, Angela	Crossing Guard	Transportation	13
Crewl, Wayne J.	Heavy Duty Equip. Mech.	Gen.Services	28	Lomenzo, Denton S.	Plumbing Inspector	Bldg. & Safety	18	Stanberry, Kenneth L.	Property Manager	Gen.Services	16
Cutler, Leonard W.	Material Test. Tech.	Harbor	32	Lujan, Alma	Admin. Coordinator	City Attorney	28	Stanford, Nelson E.	Power C&M	LADWP	N/D
Dang, Vi A.	Housing Investigator	Housing	34	Lussier, Raymond A.	Fleet Services	LADWP	N/D	Stanley, Robert E.	Equip. Mechanic	LAPD	7
Davis Jr., Samuel R.	Supply Chain	LADWP	N/D	Madrid, Anna Marie	Forensic Print Spec.	LAPD	23	Suarez, Ricardo	Locker Room Attend.	Rec and Parks	2
De La Cruz, Abraham De Leon	Wastewater Treat. Oper.	Public Works	33	Manbahal, Sarojini S.	Sr. Admin. Clerk	Airports/LADWP	15	Tran, Dung	Sr. Civil Engineer	Public Works	33
Dominguez Morales, Gonzala	Special Prog. Asst.	Rec and Parks	6	McReynolds, Brett D.	Chief Constr. Insp.	Public Works	31	Tseng, Linda S.	ITS	LADWP	N/D
Eliades, Thomas D.	Equipment Operator	Public Works	7	Melkonjan, Norbert	Signal System Supv.	Transportation	30	Varela, Reggie V.	Mech. Helper	LAFD	35
Esmailian, Anahid S.	Legal Secretary	City Attorney	25	Melloff, Valerie V.	Asst. General Mgr.	Gen.Services	37	Velasco, Raul	Info System Mgr.	Airports	34
Fatherree, Tamura R.	Civil Engineering Ass.	Harbor	33	Miles, Rick D.	Electrician	Harbor	30	Villanueva, Maria P.	Power C&N	LADWP	N/D
Fernandini, Eduardo I.	Equipment Mechanic	Gen.Services	17	Miranda, Sandra M.	JFB/Facilities	LADWP	N/D	Wheelwright, Rhonda	Chief Clerk	Harbor	33
Fong, Ciaban C.	Sr. Admin. Clerk	LAFD	19	Mohamed, Farhana	Wastewater Treat. Lab Mgr.	Public Works	38	Works, Valerie A.	Sr. Mngmt.Analyst	Airports	38
Fortaleza, Joseph F.	Sr. Env. Compl. Insp.	Public Works	36	Moren, Anthony J.	Water Operations	LADWP	N/D	Wyatt, Gloria F.	Accounting Clerk	Transportation	8
Franklin, Derral	Wastewater Coll. Worker	Public Works	34	Munoz, Joe M.	Maintenance Laborer	Airports	27				

* NOTE: If you wish to have a listing deleted from our online posting of Retirement notices, please email us at admin@aliveemployeesclub.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.

N/D = No Data

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		
ACTIVE					
Hale, Marcelline R.	Rec and Parks	4	Hernandez, Leticia	Transportation	18
Jocson, Danilo Y.	LADWP	8	Hirano, Kenji	N/D	N/D
Rojas, Eduardo U.	Rec and Parks	6	Johnson, Irene	Bldg. & Safety	20
RETIRED					
Acosta, Virginia N.	LAPD	20	Keller, Richard R.	LADWP	34
Bengtsson, Chris L.	LADWP	38	Kumagai, Sachiko	LADWP	9
Borkowski, Barbara R.	LADWP	20	Landacre, Maryanne E.	LAFD	33
Brown, Fred L.	Public Works	34	Laster, Louise E.	LADWP	9
Brown, Louis	Rec and Parks	10	Leyva, Dorothy M.	LADWP	42
Brymer, Robert G.	LADWP	33	Manges, James V.	N/D	N/D
Bureika, Raymond	N/D	N/D	McCoy, Ronald A.	LADWP	35
Calleia, Anton	N/D	N/D	Mempham, John R.	Harbor	30
Chalian, Zareh A.	LADWP	16	Misustin, John C.	LADWP	42
Collins, Daniel D.	Public Works	10	O'Rourke, Thomas	Public Works	17
Commodore, Eugene	N/D	N/D	Pecoraro, Joseph C.	N/D	N/D
Davis, Ida P.	N/D	N/D	Plunkett, John F.	N/D	N/D
Dickinson, Larry J.	N/D	N/D	Potts, Ernest	LADWP	37
Doctors, Madelaine C.	LADWP	16	Rocha, Raul	LADWP	15
Eskenazi, Joseph C.	N/D	N/D	Rolewski, Carol A.	Finance	11
Flores, Blanca	Rec and Parks	28	Schultz, Wayne A.	Public Works	35
Franz, Themla B.	N/D	N/D	Singh, Thomasena	N/D	N/D
Gilmore, Jeffery L.	Public Works	35	Stroud, Gladys	LADWP	22
Greenwood, Patricia I.	Transportation	24	Swett, Richard W.	Bldg. & Safety	35
Gutierrez, Florencio B.	Planning	28	Stuart, Albert A.	LADWP	5
Hampton, Allen G.	N/D	N/D	Tsubaki, Bayard S.	LADWP	26
Harrison, Charles E.	LADWP	27	Tucker, Sally A.	LADWP	30
Hart, Troy L.	LAPD	30	Woods, Charles H.	Airports	29
			Yanagimoto, Hideo	LADWP	35
			Yip, Richard Y.S.	LADWP	10
			Zugheibre, Anna Maria	Airports	23

N/D = No Data

Graduations



Graduate Moses Garcia (center) with Leonor Garcia, Retired, LADWP, and Arturo Garcia.

Moses Garcia

graduated from Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh with a Master's degree in fine arts. Moses, 23, is a stage director, producer and arts leader. He's the assistant director of the Atlantic Theater Company's The Buena Vista Social Club musical, set to debut in December. He was offered to be the assistant director of a new play starring Cynthia Nixon. Moses is the son of Leonor Garcia, Retired, LADWP, and Arturo Garcia. "I am so excited to see his professional work in December," Leonor says.

Lourdes Joins LA's Housing Effort

EXPERT SUCCEEDS MERCEDES MÁRQUEZ AS NEW CHIEF HOUSING/HOMELESSNESS OFFICER.

MAYOR'S OFFICE: On Oct. 2, Lourdes Castro Ramírez, Secretary of the California Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency, was appointed by Mayor Karen Bass as the incoming Chief Housing and Homelessness Officer in the Mayor's Office.

The appointment comes during the unprecedented approach to confronting the homelessness crisis, where more than 17,000 people have been brought inside – an effort led by Mercedes Márquez, the Administration's current Chief of Housing and Homelessness Solutions, according to a statement from the Mayor's Office.

The appointment comes as a planned transition due to federal retiree rules. Secretary Castro Ramírez will begin her appointment Nov. 6. Chief Márquez will continue her work with the Office of Mayor Karen Bass as a Senior Adviser to ensure continuity and expand momentum to bring unhoused Angelenos inside with urgency.

"We must continue our momentum and progress in confronting the emergency of this homelessness crisis, and I am excited to be bringing Secretary Lourdes Castro Ramírez to continue our transformative work on this issue," Mayor Bass said. "I want to thank Mercedes Márquez for all of her tireless work and dedication to this work, and I look forward to working with Lourdes as we expand our efforts and continue to move the needle forward in confronting the homelessness crisis in Los Angeles."

"I'm grateful to Governor Newsom for entrusting me to help realize his vision on housing, homelessness, civil rights and consumer protections. And I'm proud of our statewide team that launched unprecedented efforts to address the housing shortage and solve homelessness through new policy initiatives and funding investments," Lourdes Castro Ramirez said. "I am honored to join in Mayor Bass' efforts to continue this work, bringing my experience and passion for urgent, collaborative and transformative solutions to Los Angeles, the place that welcomed my family when we immigrated from Mexico, and the place where I found my calling and honed my community planning, housing and leadership skills."

California Governor Gavin Newsom appointed Lourdes Castro Ramirez to serve as Secretary of the California Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency in March 2020.

Castro Ramirez currently serves on the California Strategic Growth Council, the California Housing Finance Agency Board, the Governor's Military Council and co-chairs the California Interagency Council on Homelessness. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond, she led the state's response and recovery efforts to keep people housed and served on the Governor's Task Force on Business and Jobs Recovery to rebuild a more equitable, sustainable and resilient economy.

Castro Ramirez has held notable and prominent positions, including her appointment by former President Barack Obama to lead the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Office of Public and Indian Housing; President and CEO of the San Antonio Housing Authority; Director at the L.A. City Housing Authority overseeing rental assistance and resident development programs; and serving as University Health System Foundation President in San Antonio.

Castro Ramirez is a member of the UCLA Luskin Public Affairs Advisory Board. She has served on several community and national boards, including the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials, Council of Large Public Housing Authorities, and AmeriCorps, and received the 2019 Community Partner Award from the San Antonio chapter of the American Institute of Architects for chairing the Mayor's Housing Policy Task Force. She is the recipient of the Hispanics Organized for Political Equality's 2020 Ray of HOPE award and 2020 San Antonio Women's Hall of Fame Inductee.

Castro Ramirez earned her Master's degree in urban planning and a Bachelor's degree in political science and Chicano studies at UCLA.

Welcome to the team, Lourdes! ●



Lourdes Castro Ramirez

Photo courtesy City of Pasadena

Laura Is New GM

PASADENA TRANSIT BOSS LAURA RUBIO-CORNEJO IS NEW LADOT GM.

LADOT: On Sept. 19, Laura Rubio-Cornejo was confirmed by the LA City Council as the new General Manager of LA's Dept. of Transportation.

She was the Director of Transportation of the City of Pasadena previously.

She had been nominated by Mayor Karen Bass in late September.

Rubio-Cornejo brings more than 20 years of municipal, regional and state transportation experience. She currently serves as the City of Pasadena's Director of Transportation and previously held senior roles at L.A. Metro.

"Laura Rubio-Cornejo is a proven implementer with a record of delivering projects on time and on budget," Mayor Bass said in a statement after the nomination. "She is well positioned to focus the department on executing critical traffic safety improvements and delivering a high-level of customer service to Angelenos.

She is a leader who fights for equity and will guide the department's efforts to implement real solutions that support historically disinvested neighborhoods who are disproportionately impacted by traffic violence. I am confident that Laura will guide the department's work to deliver for communities by making streets safer while helping us prepare for major upcoming events that will draw visitors from around the world.

Connie Llanos served as Interim General Manager for 14 months. The previous General Manager, Seleta Reynolds, left the City last year to become the Chief Innovation Officer for Metro.

"It's an honor to be selected to serve the people of Los Angeles as the next General Manager of the Department of Transportation," Laura Rubio-Cornejo said in a statement. "I'm excited to bring my strategic approach and extensive experience with project delivery, resource management and equity-focused decision making to this work."

She served as Pasadena's Transportation Director for four years. Prior to that, she was the Executive Director for the Arroyo Verdugo Communities Joint Powers Authority, the Deputy Executive Officer/Countywide Planning for Metro for four years; the Interim Director of Transportation for the City of Montebello; and a Field Representative in the California State Assembly. She is a Master's degree graduate of UCLA and a Bachelor's degree graduate of Wellesley College in Massachusetts.

The Club welcomes Laura to the City of Los Angeles. Congratulations! ●



Laura Rubio-Cornejo

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THANKSGIVING

From The Club

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...reminds us of the importance of friends.

...reminds us that working hands have dignity.

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— OVERFLOW TO WEB *ALIVE!*

Alive! AROUND THE WORLD

Letter From **Italy**, Pt. 4 - *The Heel of Italy in Winter*

— continued from page 9

Otranto (by the sea) is an interesting village on the Adriatic Sea, opposite Albania, featuring a 15th-century Aragonese castle and the 11th-century Skull Cathedral, whose large medieval mosaic floor depicting the tree of life is covered with a menagerie of bizarre images. The altar is rather morbid and disturbing, having been made from the human skulls and bones of 813 martyrs who died rather than convert to Islam. The bell tower clock struck at noon, perfect for Halloween, and the cathedral then closed until 3 p.m. We headed south to Porto Miggiano for lunch and a brief visit to the Torre di Porto Miggiano (the Tower of Port Miggiano).

Alberobello is among the most famous of the region's attractions and is located in central Puglia, in the verdant Itria valley. This landlocked village is renowned for its 1,500 conical-roofed stone Trulli huts. If you are a fan of the English author J.R.R. Tolkien, this is a must-see for these cylindrical whitewashed homes with cone-shaped roofs, built from



At the Lighthouse at Santa Maria Di Leuca

large limestone slabs and made without mortar; they have been around locally for centuries. They are called Trulli (pronounced "truly") and are very cute, just like little Hobbit houses. Many have symbols painted on their roofs that add to the mystical appearance of these tiny dwellings. Various designs include a sun, moon, love hearts and other pagan-like symbols. It is believed that some of these were of religious significance, while others had an astrological meaning.

Ostuni, "La Citta Bianca" ("The White City") is another hilltop town inhabited since the Stone Age. Only a few villages survived the plague, which devastated Europe in the 17th century, and Ostuni was one of them. In the past, the local inhabitants painted the whole town with whitewash, hoping the reflection would dazzle their enemies and give them an advantage in battle. They did not know that the white lime had antibacterial properties that killed the fleas carrying the plague on the infected rats.

The town is on a steep hill, with many ups, downs and narrow streets, so we hired a tuk-tuk from the car park and saved our legs the walk. What an experience! The 30-minute tour was like Mr. Toad's Wild Ride, driven by an Indy 500 driver in training. We zigged and zagged up the very narrow streets with their bright-colored doors and colorful flowers, narrowly missing diners eating at outdoor tables and seniors struggling with the climb, but the views from the top were amazing.

With cool breezes blowing off the Ionian Sea and the scent of wildflowers in the air, we decided to check out the region's local food and wines. This same breeze creates a moderate temperature for local vineyards, which produce exceptionally full-bodied red wines like Negroamaro, Bombino Nero and Primitivo (Primitivo is Zinfandel and is originally from Croatia, where it was first called Tribidrag or Crljenak Kašteljanski, making for a delicious wine to drink on a hot day). My favorite regional pasta dish is *spaghetti con le vongole*. The pasta is tossed with tiny, delicious clams found in the local bay called *vongole veraci* (small clams). But there is also lamb and pea stew, orecchiette pasta with turnip greens, and macaroni with truffle. This temperate

Captain's Log

Traveling with Capt. Michael Barnes,
Retired, Harbor



Domo in Lecce



climate also produces superior white wine from rarely seen Verdeca grapes; its subtle and fruity taste brings to mind the phrase "wine is bottled sunshine," and a chilled glass of this straw-green wine complemented my clam and pasta dish.

The food and wine in this little visited part of Italy is superb, and the local restaurant's house wine was never a disappointment; we tasted many and were always satisfied.

Visit this lovely part of Italy before the tour groups find it and it's gone forever.

Ciao.

Il Capitano