



## Wanna be heard?

Write to us! It's **your** page. *Have something to say? Overjoyed about something? Angered? Just have a question?* Here's your chance to get it off your chest... and get it into print. (We'll print what we can. Try to make sure it has something to do with the life of the city.) Share your ideas with your City family. Don't wait! Send them to [talkback@cityemployeesclub.com](mailto:talkback@cityemployeesclub.com)

## Discount Tickets Are Icing on the Club Cake

Congratulations to the City Employees Club of Los Angeles on your newspaper (*Alive!*) and the Website.

I find them both appealing (nice color scheme and format), easy to read, and very informative. Most of all, I like the variety of articles – stories on the work and personal level. I especially like your taking one department and telling about it (with an emphasize on the people). After all, is it not the people that make things happen?

From a retiree perspective, I know I will be looking forward to reading the "Retirees Corner." I know the Foleys and of their dedication to the retiree population. I know they will keep us informed with pertinent material – and in a fun manner.

Oh, and those discount tickets! I have purchased some movie tickets at a price that can't be beat. Now I can go to an evening show without breaking the bank.

Keep up the good work.

**Bob Pearce, Retiree, DWP**

## Free Classifieds Helped Take the Weights Off Her

All I can say about your free classified ads is wow! I've had a set of dumbbells sitting under my bed, and each time I made the bed I managed to stub my toe. Finally in total pain, I decided to sell them and took a chance on using your want ads.

What a response. I sold them the first day! That's just unbelievable. Thanks for having such a great and free service for us. It's really appreciated. *Alive!* is much better than the Los Angeles Times or even a garage sale. Keep up the great work. Love the new format and the newsy articles.

**Christiana Hills, Special Events Consultant**



# ClubFest: Quite a Day!

## Computer Analyst Wins Prize, Brings Computer Home

It brought more than 10,000 people to the L.A. Zoo that day, and it was very hot outside. It took us over an hour to get off the freeway off-ramp, and another hour to find parking. Also the lines were very, very long to get inside, but I promised the children that we were going to the L.A. Zoo, so I could not disappoint them. It was their first time at the L.A. Zoo. The children were rented for the day, two teenagers and four young children (my sister's kids).

As a senior systems analyst with the Department of General Services, I provide extensive computer software and hardware support for personal computers and enterprise server applications, but I did not own a home computer. After working on computers all day, I did not want to see another PC when I got home. I would go to the library to access the Internet. However, I was in the process of buying a home computer.

After I won the Gateway computer, it was well worth the effort, and the children had tons of fun. They cannot wait to go back to the L.A. Zoo.

Thanks for the ClubFest.

**Gail L. Brown  
DWP**

## ClubFest: A Way to Bring City Employees Together

Thank you for discovering a way for city employees to grow together!

**Patricia Valenzuela  
DWP**



## Buying a GEM Car With Club Discount Changed Her Life

Thursday October 5, a nice glossy flyer from the City Employees Club of Los Angeles encouraged City employees to "Go A Little Wild", and invited all of us to a party [the ClubFest] at the LA Zoo. The reverse side of the flyer pictured the vehicle I have dreamed of, and envisioned, all of my life, since I was 5 years old. Only a week before, a Commuter News letter similarly invited City employees to celebrate California Rideshare Week. An article mentioned our colleagues test-driving Chrysler GEM electric vehicles on their way to car pool, or park and ride facilities.

I looked at the picture and thought, That's it! That vehicle looks exactly like what I need to confront and overcome my aversion to driving. It has perfect visibility in every direction; four wheels instead of two or three; wide wheels so it won't tip over; a seat; storage room; and you do not have to wear a dorky helmet while you operate it. It has none of the confining features of traditional vehicles, in which I feel blinded and trapped trying to operate, and no smelly, messy gasoline. Electricity works like neural firing, the same power as the human brain.

I knew I had to have one, and I found the



**The GEM™ Electric Vehicle that Roz Brown purchased with her substantial Club discount.**

testimonials from other ridesharing kindred spirits encouraging. The ride-sharing article indicated that people win prizes for this, which struck me as news, because my biggest shame in life and sense of failure ties to my paralyzing fear of driving a traditional automobile. I cannot even balance a two-wheel bicycle, or razor scooter. I feared I had a lifetime position in the

in grants and proposals. I took the 100-foot leap from the ropes course, skied, skated and walked through Central Park at night. Challenges never scare me off, and except for driving, fear has no place in my life.

Relying on the generosity of my daughter to drive me, I hurried on over to the LA Zoo, to see the GEM for myself. The volume of the

Transportation Challenged Hall of Fame.

Mind you, I escaped from Hoboken, NJ, by selling my art work, and came to Los Angeles by bus in 1977. Since that time I have supported myself as a starving artist, raised a daughter by myself, earned a master's degree, launched a decent career, bought my own home and secured more than \$10 million

crowd startled me and did not lend itself to overcoming lifelong fears. Undaunted, I turned around and went home, but promised myself to call the City Employees Club first thing Monday, and learn more about the Chrysler GEM.

With the enthusiastic guidance of Chris Hills, and a Goddess of Mobility named Alicia, I discovered the best news in my transportation-challenged life. They told me that the GEM retails for \$7,500, which would not be bad. But even better, members of the City Employees Club can get a 2002 two-seater for \$3,100, plus a \$500 shipping fee, to get them here from Duluth, Minn. Chrysler also makes four-seaters, and two-seaters with long or short utility beds, but the two-seater, in choice of red, yellow, blue, or white, costs the least, and goes the farthest on one charge, due to its lighter structure.

GEMS go no faster than 25 MPH, and a maximum of 35 miles per charge, but a normal extension cord and household outlet permit recharging for a cost of about a penny a mile. Although street legal, they go too slowly to take on the freeway. I considered the limitations of the GEM compared with the limitations of my