

# Members Speak Out

## ■ Club Event at Magic Mountain Was Their Family's Kind of Outing

We want to comment about another one of your fabulous ideas and adventures—the recent Magic Mountain private party!

Once again the Club has outdone itself—the Magic Mountain adventure was one of fun enjoyment, and what I really loved was the total and free access at any time to any one of the rides. The lack of the 3-hour line waiting to get on rides made it extra special.

For those who missed it because they thought it was going to rain, you missed out because the rain stopped and the wind was quite light. The fun of Magic Mountain can only be compared thus far to the fun of ClubFest.

We did not leave the park until 2 a.m. despite us thinking it closed at 1 a.m. Our 2 children—Najah, 9, and Alex, 10—got on just about every ride in the park and were so exhausted that by the time we got in the car they were asleep.

We have been so impressed by the events of late that we are committed to being at every event that the Club has from now until forever.

Thanks again for such a wonderful event!

— Gary & Tasha Muldrew, LAFD

## ■ A Professional Communicator Likes The Professional Approach Of *Alive!*

I would like to compliment you and your editor, John Burnes, on your fine publication. As the former director of the City's printing operations, I witnessed the production of

feature every single employee's picture. With a staff of 40,000, it is rare to be able to recognize everyone as you have done.

Nice photos, fresh graphics, and good use of color combine to produce one of the top in-house newsletters that I have seen.

— Les Iden, Retired Asst. Gen. Mgr., General Services

## ■ It's a Blessing to Call Ourselves Employees With the City of L.A.

Be honest now: Admit it. Stop and think about it. You work for the City of Los Angeles and you really like it! In fact, you're darned proud of it.

It was not easy trudging through the City's testing process...and then interview after interview and yet, here we are, working for one of the largest cities in the world! Congratulate yourself on this one.

Okay, so we have good days and bad days ... maybe even a string of "bad" days. The bottom line though is that we all collect a paycheck and vacation time and retirement benefits and other miscellaneous perks. More importantly, when times are lean and mean and pink slips become common in the business community, there is that big sigh of relief that we are doing a good job and hopefully job secure for the most part—an important trade-off when comparing salaries with private industry.

Did I forget to mention that we now have this new added benefit called the City Employees Club of Los Angeles and this neat newspaper *Alive!*?

There's one other truly important consideration while we are counting our 2004 blessings: The City does not hold us

back, that is, so long as the City can afford to move us forward and upward. For now, we do have a hiring freeze. This also means, very few, if any, promotions.

However, when the City's purse strings allow it, there are promotional exams we can take.

The sky is the limit really. There are many City employees who came onboard as clerks and now head up departments as chief analysts or department heads. It really is up to each one of us. For those who do want to promote, opportunities are available. For those who are comfortable where they are, that works too, and comfortable it is so long as we all work our best.

When I tell people where I work and what I do, I often get the response, "lucky!" We all know, it isn't luck, rather, plain hard work and persistence—year after year after year.

Blessings, blessings, and blessings ... we need to count them all and look forward to even more this fresh new year.

— Jackie David, Animal Services



**Club members:  
Make your  
voices heard!**

Do you like something we've done? Hate it? It's your Club, so let us know!

**WRITE TO US TODAY: [talkback@cityemployeesclub.com](mailto:talkback@cityemployeesclub.com), or conventionally mail to  
The Club, World Trade Center, 350 S. Figueroa St., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90071**



## How to Contribute to *Alive!*

*Alive!*—the newspaper you are reading right now—is the best way for the Club to talk to one another. It's your newspaper!

### Here's how to be a part of it:

- 1. Letters to the editor:** Have something to say? We'll publish it! It can respond to something you saw in the paper, something work-related, something that interests you off-hours, or really anything non-libelous. Send it in, and we'll print it.
- 2. Movie and book reviews.** Seen or read something great—or not so great? Write a short review! If it gets printed, we'll send you two free movie tickets. Look to the review page in this issue of *Alive!* for formats.
- 3. Have a story idea,** or do you want to be the Department of the Month? Let us know.
- 4. Cooking with the Club** is one of our most popular features. Send in a recipe.
- 5. Moved?** Send us your new address.
- 6. Where in L.A.?** Our newest contest will give you two free movie tickets, if you are the first to identify our monthly contest photo. Check it out! (e-mail responses only)
- 7. Kids Coloring Contest.** Have your children color and send in their pages, and they could win a fabulous prize from our periodic coloring contest. 🎨



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