

*\* A Message From the CEO \**

# Keep in Mind Our True Worth

by **John Hawkins**  
President and CEO, The Club



*Happy New Year!*

This month I thought I would share with you a real neat poem I came across about five years ago. It has a pretty powerful message that I hope you can use as we venture into 2007. Enjoy!

## The Touch of the Master's Hand

By Myra B. Welch

'Twas battered and scarred, and the auctioneer  
Thought it scarcely worth his while  
To waste such time on the old violin,  
But he held it up with a smile.  
"What am I bid, good folks," he cried,  
"Who'll start the bidding for me?  
A dollar, a dollar – now two, only two?  
Two dollars, and who'll make it three?

"Three dollars once, three dollars twice,  
Going for three" ... but no!  
From the room far back a gray-haired man  
Came forward and picked up the bow;  
Then wiping the dust from the old violin,  
And tightening up all the strings,  
He played a melody, pure and sweet,  
As sweet as an angel sings.

The music ceased and the auctioneer  
With a voice that was quiet and low,  
Said: "What am I bid for the old violin?"  
And he held it up with the bow;  
"A thousand dollars – and who'll make it two?  
Two thousand – and who'll make it three?  
Three thousand once, three thousand twice  
And going and gone!" said he.

The people cheered, but some of them cried,  
"We do not quite understand –  
What changed its worth?" The man replied:  
"The touch of the master's hand!"  
And many a man with life out of tune,  
And battered and torn with sin,  
Is auctioned cheap to a thoughtless crowd,  
Much like the old violin.

A "mess of pottage," a glass of wine,  
A game – he travels on,  
He's going once, and going twice –  
He's going – and almost gone!  
But the Master comes! and the foolish crowd  
Never can quite understand  
The worth of a soul and the change that's wrought  
By the touch of the Master's hand.

**JOHN**

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# Features

*Alive!* January 2007  
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## 32 Fun in the City

The City's social season is chronicled in this annual *Alive!* tradition. See all the photos beginning on page 32.



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## 1 The First Lady of DWP Lights

Club Member Anita Wright is the first woman to run the electrical operations of last month's DWP Holiday Light Festival.

## 1 New LAFD Head

Douglas Barry is Acting Chief of the Fire Dept. William Bamattre retires.

## 6 New Airport Officers

Airport Police graduates nine new officers.

## 8 Calling Them Inspectors

Fire Dept. promotes nine to Inspector I and II.

## 10 The Year in Photos

*Alive!* presents a retrospective of covers and photos from 2006.

## 12 Inspecting the Pipe

Public Works completes the first-ever interior inspection of its critical Hyperion outfall pipeline.

## 28 Thanks Custodians

General Services hosts Appreciation Day for City's custodians.



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