

LETTERS To the Editor

Tell us what you think! talkback@cityemployeesclub.com

Shoutout!

Hyperion Article Is Same Subject as Her New Book

I thoroughly enjoyed your article and accompanying photos about Hyperion. As you may recall, under the auspices of the Los Angeles Historical Society I received a grant from the John Randolph Haynes Foundation to write a history of the Los Angeles Sewer System. My book about the system, *Brown Acres: An Intimate History of the Los Angeles Sewers*, has been published by Angel City Press and is available at fine bookstores everywhere as well as at angelcitypress.com.

The Historical Society is sponsoring a book signing Sunday, May 4, at 2 p.m. in the Shohin building in the Japanese Gardens at the Donald C. Tillman Water Reclamation Plant in Van Nuys.

Warmest regards, Anna Sklar

Thanks for the note, Anna. *Alive!* readers might remember Anna from her guest columnist stint with *Alive!*'s "History Comes *Alive!*" column a few years ago.

Here are a few details of Anna's new book: "The complex and often alarming history of the Los Angeles city sewer system is

captured for the first time in Anna Sklar's *Brown Acres: An Intimate History of the Los Angeles Sewers*. With more than 50 photographs, diagrams and maps, *Brown Acres* is the first historical narrative that traces the history of the development of a major metropolitan sewer system from the 19th century to the present day – complete with the relationship between headstrong engineers, indifferent politicians and the reformers who sought to 'heal the bay' after a century of pollution and contamination. *Brown Acres* provides a unique look at the underground history of Los Angeles."

Anna has been a reporter for NPR's *All Things Considered*; KCET-TV's weekly news; a contributor to the *Los Angeles Times*, *The Nation*, *American City* and a variety of other publications, as well as the CBC and BBC, and the nationally syndicated radio program *Earth News Radio*. She has been a political writer for Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley, and public information director of the Library Dept., Cultural Affairs and Public Works. — Ed.

Fuel, Budget Crises Create Need for More City Hybrids

To make the City of LA more Earth-friendly, why don't we convert all City vehicles into hybrids? I've seen some Sanitation yards with the hydrogen-fueled car, and I think we should get more of them.

— Brent Jones, Recreation and Parks

He Gets Pin for Service A Few Decades Later

I've been retired for over 10 years from the City. I've had great memories of the people I worked with, and those 31 years spent working were the best days of my life. It looks like the City believes that my first 10 years were my best years of service, since they mailed me a 10-year service pin. It's very nice, but I have a feeling I should have received a 30-year pin about 10 years ago. I'll take what recognition I can get.

— Jonathan Drake, Retired

Leave the Area for Awhile, And Lots of Things Change

While I've been out of the country the last few years, it seems that much as gone at City Hall. A new police headquarters is being constructed; there's a new Caltrans building across the street from the City Hall tower; the Mayor had a romantic interlude; the new and improved Griffith Observatory reopened; and we have the new Flyaway bus just to name a few things that I don't remember seeing before I left. What else am I missing?

— Gabriela

That's one of the reasons we publish *Alive!*, Gabriela. You can stay on top of all the City news that we can fit in, here in these pages. —Ed.

Alvin Blain's Rise, Success: Examples for City Employees

I want to send a few happy and congratulatory words to the retired General Manager of the Department of General Service, Alvin Blain. He has been an inspiration for all City Employees trying to move up the ladder. It's good to know that opportunity is there for the taking for all of us, no matter what our jobs are. I heard Mr. Blain started as a garage attendant like me. And he became the GM of an entire City Department! Wow! If we could all have the drive, luck and determination, then we would all be just like Mr. Blain.

— Gary Larkin, LAPD

New Club Store Will Be Much Easier to Get To

Boy, am I happy that the Club Store is moving closer to City Hall. I can now save on time and money getting to the new place on 120 W. Second St. I know just where you are because I have a dog and used to visit the old store there called Lofty Dog. Instead of 30 minutes on the DASH to your old location, it will take me only 10 minutes to walk over from City Hall. I know we're all excited at the fact that we can walk over to buy tickets. You're not increasing ticket prices because you have a new place, are you?

— Lydia Ferraro, City Attorney's Office.

Heck no, we're not raising ticket prices, Lydia. We have the best ticket prices in the City! We'll see you at the new Club Store and Service Center. —Ed.

QUESTION of the Month

Our Club Counselors are all over the City, every day, serving our Club Members. While we're out, we'll be asking City employees a fun question. Keep your eyes open... you never know when we'll be asking you what you think!

What is the name of the last book you read?

"*The Little Big Book for Grandmothers.*"

— Lupe Medina,
Club Staff, 11 years of service.



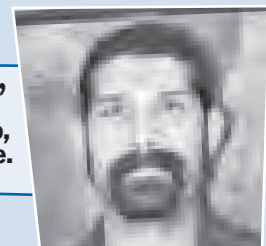
"*Hamlet.*"

— Reynaldo Brigil,
LAPD, 2.5 years of service.



"*Hannibal.*"

— Anthony Partido,
LAPD, 2 years of service.



"*The Civil Engineering Records Manual.*"

— Scott Gibson,
Public Works/Engineering, 3 years of service.



"*'The Color of Water,'* by James McBride."

— Tracy Beverly,
Sr. PSR1, Club Member



"*A biography of Frederick Douglass.*"

— Ivan Moore,
Vocational Worker, Club Member



"*The Bible.*"

— Leroy White,
Plumber, Club Member



"*Green Eggs and Ham.*"

— David Patron,
Plumber, Club Member



"*Hot Zone.*"

— Sergio Barragan,
Mechanical Helper, Club Member



"*Harry Potter.*"

— Salvador Lopez,
Gardener/Caretaker, Public Works (Hyperion),
Club Member

