

*\* A Message From the CEO \**

# Looking Back Makes Today Even Sweeter

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

I learned a lot of history these past few weeks.

That happened when I sat down to chat with three long-ago City employees **Irene Tresun** and **Simon & James Hollis**, who, together, have 267 years on this earth.

Irene Tresun remembers Hitler. The Hollis brothers remember slavery – their grandparents were kidnapped from Africa as slaves. That's pretty incredible.



Irene Tresun with Club CEO John Hawkins.

But they remember historic aspects of the City, too – the air raids, the legendary LAPD Christmas parties, the bomb-threat era, racial progress, gender equality progress, and on and on.

With all the great work and innovation going on with the City these days (green initiatives, and so forth), sometimes we can forget to look back and see how things used to be done – and put a face to those stories.

And I think it's also important to remember that past times weren't always great, either. Economically, things are tough all over the world, as well as here in the City. But challenging as these times might be, we could be faced with Irene's nightly ritual – drawing black curtains over her office windows so that enemy pilots and sub captains would not be able to target City Hall in case of a raid during World War II. That's pretty intense.

Or that she had to fight to have one of the two men's rest-rooms on alternating floors be converted into a women's rest-room, so that she and other women employed by the City wouldn't have to climb a set of stairs. And that they weren't making much money.

Here's to Irene, Simon and James, and their hard work that led to a lot of the good things that we have in the City today.

Let's also look forward, to a great Club Special Event coming up Sunday, Oct. 4 – a Club-exclusive day in the all-you-can-eat section of Dodger Stadium, an at unreal price: \$15 per ticket (that price is good for up to six tickets). I tip my hat to the Club's Sports Dude, **Robert Larios**, and Ticket Guy, **Navin Cotton**, for putting together this excellent event. It's the last game of the Dodgers season, before (we hope) they go on to the playoffs. It's Fan Appreciation Day, which brings a lot of other cool features, courtesy the Dodgers. And – have I mentioned the price? Incredible! You know these tickets are going to go fast, so don't wait. They're on sale as soon as you read this, exclusively for Club Members, and on sale only at the Club Store. Hurry, tickets are limited!

Finally, a quick congratulations to **Martín Gomez** as the new head of the Library Dept. He has big shoes to fill, after the excellent **Fontayne Holmes** retired. It seems with tough economic times that the Library is better used than ever. So keep up the good work, Martín.

That's it from me. Enjoy the rest of your summer, and see you Oct. 4 at the All-You-Can-Eat Dodger Game.

**JOHN**

(jhawkins@cityemployeesclub.com)



# Features

**Alive! August 2009**  
The newspaper of the  
City Employees Club of Los Angeles



**Cover Story:**

## 6 Back in the Day:

Three retired City Employees remember the air raids, the good times and the challenging ones – and remind current City Employees to be proud of what they do.



## 16 Club Sports

After the launch of the Club Softball League in July, the Club Sports Page debuts in this issue.

## 19 LAFD Civilian Awards

Fire Dept. honors its best civilian employees.

## 28 Harbor Perfect Attendance

Harbor Dept. honors its employees with great attendance records.

## 30 New Head Librarian

Martín Gomez is the Library's new General Manager.



## 38 Graduation Mania!

Enjoy a full page of Club Member family graduations.

## 42 West L.A. Sanitation Open House

Approximately 2,000 people were expected to visit the final Sanitation Yard open house this year.

## 56 Club Special Event

The Club is going to Dodger Stadium for a fantastic event – the last game of the regular season, in the all-you-can-eat section ... for \$15 each! See all the details.

### Other City Department Coverage:

**The City**  
Cover Story: Back in the Day ..... 6  
Graduation Mania! ..... 38

**Club Headquarters**  
All-You-Can-Eat Event at Dodger Stadium ..... 56  
Club Sports Page Debuts ..... 16

**Contract Administration**  
Annual Employee Party/Fundraiser Held ..... 39

**Council**  
LaBonge Treats Street Services Crew ..... 30

**General Services**  
Construction Forces Hosts Staff Appr. Day ..... 33  
Irene Saltzman Retires ..... 31  
Shelia Shannon-Thomas Retires ..... 32

**Harbor**  
Honors Employees with Great Attendance ..... 28

**LAABP**  
Youth Scholarships Presented by LAABP ..... 35

**LAFD**  
Fire Dept. Honors its Best Civilian Employees .. 19

**LAPD**  
Marie and John Mardesich Retire from LAPD ... 12-13  
Brenda Smith & Lille Pruitt Retire from LAPD. . 25

**Library**  
West L.A. Sanitation Open House ..... 42

**Public Works**  
Martin Gomez Becomes City Librarian ..... 30

### Sections & Columns:

Adventures With Hal ..... 22-23  
Alive! Around the World ..... 44-45  
Be Alive! ..... 14-15  
Best Years ..... 21-24  
CEO Column ..... 3  
Claims Monthly ..... 4  
Classifieds ..... 40  
Club Store ..... 50-55  
Club Store This Month ..... 30  
Club Team and Counselors ..... 4  
Coloring Contest ..... 20  
Cooking With the Club ..... 48  
Everyday Heroes ..... 41  
History Comes Alive! ..... 26-27  
Letters ..... 5  
Life's Important Moments ..... 36-38  
People We See ..... 34  
Pet Club ..... 39  
Picture Perfect ..... 11  
Question of the Month ..... 5  
Rest Insured ..... 17  
Reviews: Movie, DVD, Book ..... 46-47  
Ticket and Gift Order Form ..... 49  
Something to Think About ..... 5  
Tuned In ..... 18  
Word on the Street ..... 4

### Advertiser's Index

AMC Theatres .....47	DWP Federal Credit Union .....2
Blind Children's Center .....43	LEGOLAND .....13
Brinks Home Security .....42	Rosebud Marketing .....35
Cityside Federal Credit Union .....12	Sprint .....29
Dr. Feng Dentistry .....43	United Agencies Inc. Insurance .....24