

*\* A Message From the CEO \**

# Soft Voice of True Leader Goes Silent

by John Hawkins  
President and CEO, The Club

You might not have known **Joannie Mukai**, whom we're remembering in this month's *Alive!* But if you enjoy *Alive!*, if you believe in the Club and the way we serve you, then you certainly know of what she believed in.

Joannie sat on our board for many years. In 2002, when we decided to take our association in a whole new direction, turning it from LACEA into the City Employees Club, Joannie was one of our biggest supporters. And I will always be grateful for that. She saw our vision, and she wanted to be a part of it, all the way.

I remember how dedicated Joannie was to making the Club concept a complete success. From the word go, she became involved in every aspect.

She was a very soft-spoken person, but when it came to defending her employees at the Port, she became very animated and energized.

She loved her job at the Port, and she really connected to her employees. Joannie was a true pioneer, as you'll read about in the story, but she had a great relationship with those she worked for, and with. That's a real skill to that, and it came naturally to her.

Another thing that really impressed me – and influenced me – about Joannie was her dedication. She was early for every board meeting, and in my memory she never missed a single one. She was at every ClubFest, rain or shine. She often worked long days at the Port to make sure she got it right.

And she cared for her mom, for years and years. She was the best daughter a mother could ever ask for.



At ClubFest 2008: From left: Club Board Members Joannie Mukai and Rose Hyland with Club CEO John Hawkins.

We here at the Club are proud to rename our Club Scholarships after her – the Joannie Mukai Club Scholarship Program. We feel it's a great way to honor her legacy of hard work and dedication as foundations of success. (Thanks go to the Club's **Arlene Herrero** for the inspired idea of renaming them in Joannie's honor. And don't forget to turn in those applications by June 30.)

So, readers might not have known Joannie. But, through her exemplary service to the City and her strong belief in the Club, she was the very model of a great civil servant. So long, Joannie. And thanks for all you have done.

Maybe it's not so coincidental, since Joannie was so dedicated to her mom, that this issue also features the annual *Alive!* spotlight on Mother's Day. It always makes my heart warm to feel the awesome love on that page!

As we see a City in transition, we're seeing a lot of retirements. Here at *Alive!*, we want to cover as many retirement parties as we can, so make sure to let us know. (We're covering quite a few in this issue alone.) And also – you don't have to leave the Club just because you're leaving the City! Talk to **Tiffany Sy** (see her column on page 35) to find out how to keep all those great Club benefits flowing into your golden years.

Happy spring, everyone!

**—JOHN**

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## Features

**Alive! May 2010**  
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Page 6

**Cover Story:**

### 6 Remembering Joannie

*Alive!* pays tribute to Joannie Mukai, Port pioneer and early supporter of the Club, who passed away in March.



Page 15

### 12 Jim McDonnell

Longtime LAPD leader and Club Member Jim McDonnell takes over the reins of the Long Beach Police Dept.

### 13 Club Scholarship

Applications are now being accepted for the 2010 Joannie Mukai Memorial Club Scholarships.

### 15 Harbor Cup

Port sponsors competition for collegiate boaters.

### 22 RLACEI Spring Meeting

Retirees Association hosts annual Spring meeting.



Page 41

### 28 Retirements: Special Section

A number of Club Members retired recently; the stories begin here.

### 33 Mother's Day

*Alive!*'s annual tribute to Club Moms.

### 41 From Piper Tech to Oz

Mandy Gonzalez, daughter of Paul Gonzalez, General Services, is lighting up Broadway.

#### City Department Coverage:

**The City**

Retirements: Special Section . . . . . 28-31

**The Club**

E-Tickets Online Ordering . . . . . 42  
Father's Day: Send in Your Tributes . . . . . 44  
Legoland Adds a Water Park . . . . . 27  
Mothers Day Tributes . . . . . 33  
Joannie Mukai Club Scholarship . . . . . 13

**General Services**

Club Member's Daughter  
the Toast of Broadway . . . . . 41

**Harbor**

Harbor Police Hold General Meeting . . . . . 11  
Port Debuts Electric Truck Fleet . . . . . 26  
Harbor Cup Sailing Event . . . . . 15

**LACERS**

Finance Workshops . . . . . 26-27

**LAFD**

Annual Quake Drill Held . . . . . 26

**LAPD**

LAPD Officer McDonnell Sworn In  
as Long Beach Police Chief . . . . . 12

**Public Works**

Sanitation Open House Schedule . . . . . 15

**RLACEI**

Annual Spring Meeting Held . . . . . 22

#### Sections & Columns:

Adventures With Hal . . . . .	20-21
<i>Alive!</i> Around the World . . . . .	32
Be <i>Alive!</i> . . . . .	16-17
Births . . . . .	35
Car Club . . . . .	10
Claims Monthly . . . . .	4
Classifieds . . . . .	39
Club Store . . . . .	45-47
Coloring Contest: Adult Winners . . . . .	40
Cooking With the Club . . . . .	38
Deaths . . . . .	34
Letters . . . . .	5
Peace of Mind . . . . .	35
Pet Club . . . . .	14
Picture Perfect . . . . .	43
Question of the Month . . . . .	5
Retirees Column . . . . .	19-22
Retirements . . . . .	34-36
Reviews: Movie, Book, Theatre & DVD . . . . .	37
Something To Think About . . . . .	25
Special Achievements . . . . .	35
Sports . . . . .	24-25
Ticket and Gift Order Form . . . . .	45
United Agencies at the Club . . . . .	5

#### Advertiser's Index

Blind Children's Center . . . . .	2	Rosebud Marketing . . . . .	25
Broadview Security . . . . .	42	Sprint . . . . .	11
DWP Federal Credit Union . . . . .	2	United Agencies Inc. Insurance . . . . .	14
LEGOLAND . . . . .	44	Universal Studios . . . . .	41