



For Retired Club Members

# The Best Years

## CITY RETIREE ASSOCIATIONS

### Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. (RLACEI)



Ed Harding, *RLACEI President*  
www.rlacei.com  
Contact him: (800) 678-4145 Ext. 703  
E-mail: edwardjharding@rlacei.com

#### Change of Address?

If you change your address, notify Helen Salgado, Membership Chair, at (800) 678-4145 Ext. 713, or write to her at 8372 Arnett Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92647. Also notify LACERS.

#### Have News About Yourself?

Contact Mary Beetz, call (800) 678-4145 Ext. 711.

#### Retiree Upcoming Events

Call (800) 678-4145 Ext. 701 for reservations.

- March 6:** LARFPA general meeting, Grace E. Simons Lodge.
- April 11:** RLACEI general meeting, Friendship Hall.
- June TBD:** RLACEI golf tournament, Alhambra Golf Club.
- Aug. 6:** RLACEI picnic, Grace E. Simons Lodge.
- Sept. 19:** RLACEI corporation meeting and elections, Friendship Auditorium.
- Dec. 5:** RLACEI holiday party, Friendship Auditorium.

#### RLACEI Website

Hal Danowitz asks you to visit the RLACEI Website at [www.rlacei.com](http://www.rlacei.com) to find the latest retirement news. If you find it helpful, or have suggestions for improvement, call Hal at (800) 678-4145 Ext. 707.

#### Contact LACERS

The Los Angeles City Employees Retirement System is at 202 W. First Street, Suite 500, (LA Times Building), Los Angeles, CA 90012. Hours: 8AM-5PM. Phone (213) 473-7200 or (800) 779-8328. Contact them to arrange direct deposit of your retirement checks, change your tax withholding or beneficiary, or for questions about your health plans. [www.lacers.org](http://www.lacers.org)

#### DWP Retirees Association



Dolores Foley, *President*  
Phone: (626) 445-7376  
E-mail: [vincedolores@gmail.com](mailto:vincedolores@gmail.com)  
[www.dwp retirees.org](http://www.dwp retirees.org)

#### Los Angeles Retired Fire and Police Association (LARFPA)



Bill Quinn, *President*  
Phone: (323) 283-4441  
Fax: (626) 285-1461  
9521 Las Tunas Dr. #4,  
Temple City, CA 91780  
[www.larfpa.org](http://www.larfpa.org)

## Riordan Plan Dies, but Pension Reform in Play

2010 Club Excellence Award Recipient



Ed Harding

By Ed Harding,  
RLACEI President

The holiday party was a big success. Lita Payne gave the oath to our newly elected Directors. Thank you, Lita.

The Friendship Hall was almost full to capacity. It was a pleasure to see many familiar faces and some new ones. They were enjoying themselves as they were visiting and listening to the holiday music while eating a delicious sizable dish, which consisted of barbecue chicken, barbecue ribs and beans, fruit salad, garlic toast, and ending with our famous carrot cake, all prepared by Chris and Pitts. No more sandwiches to be served at

our events.

Alex Rabrenovich, Chief Benefits Administrator, LACERS, spoke on upcoming changes in Retiree medical plans and current pension status. Thank you, Alex, for this information and for satisfying our members with their concerned questions.

I also want to thank John Hawkins, President and CEO of the City Employees Club and *Alive!*, who brought with him 22 door prizes consisting of \$25 and \$50 certificates and See's Candies certificates.

Fifty door prizes were given away at this holiday event.

Robert Larios, Vice President of the City Employees Club, was mingling with our members, asking and answering questions

about *Alive!* and the Club, making our members feel comfortable. He was also taking pictures for this *Alive!* issue. Thank you, Robert.

Special thanks go to Americo Garza, our entertainment chairman, for making this a successful and entertaining holiday event.

Also, Americo: The Executive Board, your Fellow RLACEI Directors and I want to congratulate you on your upcoming marriage to your longtime girlfriend, Shirley, to be held in December. We wish you many years of happiness!

I want to wish all our members and friends a Happy New Year! See you at our general meeting April 11 at the Friendship Hall.

## Voters Back Pension Change



Michael R. Wilkinson

RLACEI Legal and Policy Issues  
by Michael R. Wilkinson

Voters who came to the polls in November's election favored changes to eliminate the current guaranteed lifetime pension for Los Angeles City workers in favor of a 401(k)-type plan that places all the risk of loss on the employees, according to a poll done by researchers from Loyola Marymount University's Center for the Study of Los Angeles.

The plan the voters were asked about is the now defunct ballot measure proposed and then later withdrawn by former Mayor Richard Riordan after it faced withering attacks from labor organizations representing all City employees.

The study suggests that despite the demise of the Riordan initiative, the public may support additional major changes to the current pension law similar to what voters approved in San Jose and San Diego, where they approved measures that strip new employees of the protections of a traditional pension for the 401(k) pension that is not guaranteed to provide a retirement. While the changes were not backed by a majority of those polled, 44 percent backed the Riordan plan compared to 26 percent opposed, with the remainder undecided.

At the same time, the voters polled were leaning against supporting a half-cent sales tax plan that is expected to be on the March ballot. The new sales tax was opposed by 45 percent and favored by 34 percent, with 20 percent undecided.

These studies may not be the last word in how the public views the current budget crisis in Los Angeles, but it does show that they are concerned about City finances and may still be ready to push for additional changes in City pensions rather than to approve additional sales taxes as the only answer.

Anyone who views the recent vote approving the statewide Proposition 30 as a sign that public is ready to solve all of the state and City's budget problems with additional sales taxes should take a second look at the pushback from voters shown here. We are out of the woods on Riordan's latest plan, but he or someone else may come back and again bring voters another plan to end or severely limit traditional pensions for City employees.

## State Pension Problems in CA and IL



Michael Karsch

RLACEI Pension Law and Policy – Legislative Report  
by Michael Karsch

Municipal bond investors across the country view our state and Illinois as "least-loved states" for making investments in this market. Illinois ranks lower than California, but both are in the bottom of the 50 states, except that California pulled ahead further with the approval of Proposition 30 increasing the income and sales taxes. This tax

hike, plus modest reform of the state pension system, showed up Illinois, which has done little to improve its standing. Illinois' deficit is \$1.8 billion, versus California's \$15 billion, but the pension funding ratio is 43.4 percent versus 77.1 percent, respectively. The 30-year yield on Illinois bonds is 3.67 percent, compared to 3.1 percent in California (a higher yield means bigger perceived risk). The *Wall Street Journal* interviewed municipal investors who said that California has a better chance of getting

upgraded while Illinois may see a downgrade; one firm said they were holding on to California bond debt, but avoiding any buying of Illinois' GO bonds.

Earlier in November, the *Chicago Sun Times* reported that Commercial Club of Chicago had recommended that the annual cost of living increases for all state retirees need to be "reeled in" from their automatic level of 3 percent. The Commercial Club report said that all cost of living increases need to be eliminated, that a cap on salaries must be

– continued page 13



**Michael Karsch, continued from page 12**

imposed upon which pensions can be based, that the retirement age for full pension benefits must be raised to 67, etc. Illinois Governor Pat Quinn (D) and House Minority Leader Tom Cross (R) agreed with much of the Commercial Club's recommendation.

U.S. News reported in early November that the national presidential election brought up many bailouts of economic sectors, includ-

ing the car industry, the housing bubble, the banks, and the green businesses, but failed to get into the potential need to bailout the public pension systems around the country.

California's Legislative Analyst Office reported in late November that California faces a deficit of \$943 million in fiscal year 2012-13 despite approval of the tax increases in Prop. 30. Other negative observa-

tions include the failure of large revenue gains from dissolving the redevelopment agencies (the projection of savings is \$1.8 billion less than assumed), the cap-and-trade revenues are unlikely to materialize (while \$500 million had been expected in the first year, now it looks more like \$100 million), and the unfunded pension benefits of more than \$150 million.

**New Year Means New Challenges, Opportunities**



Mary Beetz

**By Mary Beetz, RLACEI Publicity Chair**

**Form 1099-R**

LACERS will mail Retired Members their IRS Form 1099-R (Distribution from Pensions, Annuities, Retirement, etc.) by the end of January 2013. Members who do not receive their 1099-R by February 15 should contact LACERS to request a new one. Regenerating a 1099-R may require a few working days to process. Also, Retirees who recently moved should contact LACERS to update their address information.

**ERRP Defrayals of Monthly Medical Premium Deductions End January 2013**

If you currently receive a defrayal of your monthly medical premium deduction as a result of LACERS' participation in the Early Retiree Reinsurance Program (ERRP), your defrayal ends January 2013. Beginning February 2013, the full amount of your monthly medical premium deduction will be subtracted from your monthly retirement allowance. To find the full amount of your monthly medical premium deduction, visit the Retired Members homepage at [www.LACERS.org/retired](http://www.LACERS.org/retired) and calculate your monthly deduction by

clicking the *I Want to Calculate My 2013 Medical Subsidy* link, or view the 2013 Health Benefits Guide. If you have further questions, contact LACERS at 800-779-8328.

**Basic Medicare Part B Premiums to Increase in 2013**

Each year, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) set the Medicare premium rates for the following calendar year. For 2013, CMS announced that the basic Medicare Part B premium will increase \$5, from \$99.90 to \$104.90 per month. This rate applies to all LACERS' retirees who are currently enrolled, or will be enrolled in Medicare Part B during the 2013 calendar year. The Medicare Part B deductible will increase \$7, from \$140 to \$147.

**Medicare Parts B & D and Income Related Monthly Adjustment Amounts (IRMAAs)**

Social Security assesses higher-income earning Medicare enrollees with an Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount (IRMAA) in addition to

their Medicare Part B and Part D basic premiums. In order to continue receiving a LACERS medical plan premium subsidy, Medicare enrollees in a LACERS 'health plan must pay any Medicare Part B and D IRMAAs. LACERS is not allowed to reimburse retirees for IRMAA payments.

**LIFE AFTER RETIREMENT**

■ **Americo Garza, RLACEI Director,** will start the New Year as a married man, after many years of bachelorhood, to Shirley, a friend he had known for years in his past. When they met again, "Love blossomed."



Congratulations to Americo and Shirley. Wish you all the happiness that life can bring as you start your life together.

**If you have:**

- News about yourself, family or other retirees that you would like to share with our readers, send it and we will publish it.
- If you would like to contact a former city employee that you met or worked with, send your contact information and we will publish it so they can contact you.
- Note: Due to our Confidential Policy, we do not give out any information without authorization.
- Mail information to Mary Beetz at 137 Westmont Drive, Alhambra, CA 91801 or Email [mbeetz4841@aol.com](mailto:mbeetz4841@aol.com)

**Newtown and Our Pension Plans**



Michael Perez

**By Michael Perez, Retired General Manager, Fire and Police Pensions**

Over the years, public pension plans have been asked to "divest" from certain companies. "Sin" stocks, such as alcohol and tobacco, have been worked out of some pension portfolios. Many funds have policies that discourage investments in companies that contribute to Iran's capability to produce nuclear weapons.

It is difficult to craft such "social investment policies," since a duty of a fund is to make the best possible risk-adjusted return, and putting lim-

its on investments can hurt returns.

Sometimes, though, you may think a bit outside the normal box of risk-adjusted returns and look at the risks we live with. When 20 first-graders and six adults lose their lives in Connecticut, on top of so many other instances of mass killings, it breaks your heart, and maybe hardens your resolve to do something about it.

The three pension systems in the City of Los Angeles collectively have more than \$30 billion invested in a diverse mix of investments. It is unlikely they have a large portion of their funds invested in companies that manufacture weapons like the assault rifle the Connecticut shooter allegedly used, or that sell kits to automate such weapons. But the

pension systems do have the power to review the issues, to discuss options in open session, and possibly adopt policies that will discourage the proliferation of, access to, and wrongful use of such powerful weapons. Such actions will keep the discussion going, will be picked up by the press, keep it in our minds, and just maybe help make meaningful changes, not for the politics of it, but to protect ourselves, our young, our friends and families.

These are our pension systems, meant to provide us secure income and health plans in retirement — can't they contribute to making the environment we live in more secure as well?

*Michael Perez can be reached at [smartpensionreform@gmail.com](mailto:smartpensionreform@gmail.com)*

**LACERS Update**



Lee Kebler

**By Lee Kebler, LARFPA Director**

We just finished a great Christmas celebration and look forward to a new start in a New Year. This means we should make a list of resolutions like lose weight, get in shape, stop smoking, stop drinking, learn a new subject, help others and hundreds of others. These resolutions are designed

to improve ourselves; wouldn't it be nice if our politicians would make resolutions every New Year to improve government's responsibilities toward its employees and retirees? What a crazy idea.

This year is going to be an interesting year with the City election for a new mayor, the continued attacks on our pension systems, health subsidies, the reduction of manpower and services to our citizens and the growth in the popula-

tion of the City. We are fortunate that former Mayor Richard Riordan has withdrawn his initiative to place all pension systems on a Defined Contribution (DC) plan. Let's hope he doesn't decide to bring back his DC pension plan again for the next election in 2014.

Don't forget to make your resolutions for 2013 and hope the politicians also make some self-improvement resolutions for 2013.

**For Retired Club Members**

**The Best Years**

**RETIREMENT HELPLINE**

Who to call? Call the Helpline and reach the officers of the Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. If you move or change your address, contact Helen Salgado. Also notify LACERS, ACEBSA and LAFUCU. For information on problems, activities, meetings or membership. Each officer's extension is listed below.

**City Employees Retirement System:** (213) 473-7200

**RLACEI Retirement Counselors and Retiree Helplines** (800) 678-4145

- Mary Beetz Ext. 711
- Cliff Cannon Ext. 715
- Hal Danowitz Ext. 707
- Americo Garza Ext. 710
- Edward Harding Ext. 703
- Michael Karsch Ext. 704
- Gary Mattingly Ext. 702
- Phillip Orland Ext. 709
- Neil Ricci Ext. 714
- Helen Salgado (membership) Ext. 713
- Ken Spiker Ext. 705
- Tom Stemmcock Ext. 708
- Michael Wilkinson Ext. 712
- Questions: Ext. 0
- RSVP: Ext. 701

**DWP Retirement Plan Office** (213) 367-1722

**RLACEI:**

**Officers**

- Edward Harding: President
- Kenneth Spiker: First Vice President
- Tom Stemmcock: Second Vice President
- Hal Danowitz: Secretary/Treasurer

**Committee Chairpersons**

- Mary Beetz: Publicity
- Hal Danowitz: Finance
- Americo Garza: Picnic, Holiday Party and Installation
- Neil Ricci: Health and Nominating
- Helen Salgado: Membership
- Ken Spiker: Legal and Legislative
- Tom Stemmcock: Audit and Golf

**Directors**

- Mary Beetz
- Cliff Cannon
- Americo Garza
- Michael Karsch
- Gary Mattingly
- Phillip Orland
- Neil Ricci
- Helen Salgado
- Michael R. Wilkinson





# The Best Years

## For Retired Club Members

2010 Club Excellence Award Recipient



By Hal Danowitz,  
Secretary, RLACEI

### PART THREE

## First a Mountain, Then Echoes of Apartheid

After a safari, Hal and Co. head to Cape Town to begin a cruise.



Evelyn and I took a 38-day trip, which included four days at the Botlierskop Safari Resort near George, South Africa, a 28-day cruise on the *Ocean Princess* from Cape Town, South Africa, to London, and ending with four days in London. Don and Myrna, our cousins, took the cruise with us.

The itinerary was as follows: Cape Town; Lüderitz and Walvis Bay, Namibia; Cotonou, Benin; Lome, Togo; Dakar, Senegal; Mindelo, Cape Verde Islands; Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Canary Islands; Casablanca, Morocco; Cadiz, Spain; Lisbon, Portugal; Le Havre, France; and Dover, England.

As we continue the story, we drove from Botlierskop to Cape Town. We got up at 6:30 a.m. After breakfast we met our driver, Basil. Cape Town is 240 miles southwest of George, and the drive takes about five hours, depending on the amount of roadwork going on. The road started out like a freeway, divided in the middle, with two lanes on each side; then it became a three-lane road, and then two lanes until we reached Cape Town.

Before we left, Evelyn shopped at the gift shop. In general, the prices in South Africa are a little better than the United States. While at the safari lodge, I ordered a Jack Daniel's on the rocks and got a very generous serving. Based on the exchange it was about \$1.25 US. Not bad.

Overall I would say our experience at Botlierskop (the safari) was quite positive. We could have paid less if we had spent more time looking on the Internet. We booked the resort through Africa Travel, and we met a couple at the lodge that said we could have booked using a South African travel agent and saved a lot of money. She gave us a name and promised to send us additional information. The experience, though not entirely a "safari" experience, was more like Jurassic Park meets the Ritz-Carlton. All in all, not at all disappointing.

We made one stop during the drive and arrived at the Westin Hotel in Cape Town at about 1:30 p.m. The ride took just under five hours. The Westin is near the V&A (Victoria & Alfred) Harbor in the Convention Center area. When we were here in 2001, none of this area was developed.

We checked in and then cleaned up from the ride. Myrna and Don arrived on an early-morning flight from Los Angeles, and we had agreed to meet for dinner. We called them about 4 p.m., and we all took the hotel shuttle to the Victoria and Alfred Harbor Waterfront for dinner. We stopped at a couple of restaurants and picked one that had South African food. I had had so much meat over the past three days that I had chicken, and so did Evelyn. With wine, beer and tip, the check was 900 rand, about \$115 US for the four of us.

Don and Myrna were still suffering from jet lag, so we returned to the hotel with a plan to meet in the morning for breakfast and then visit Table Mountain before boarding the ship. The hotel gave us a late checkout until 2 p.m., which allowed us to leave our bags in our room until we left for the ship.

I think we were over the jet lag, as the alarm woke us both up at 6:30 a.m.

The weather was great: lots of sunshine and warm during the day, and cool in the evening. There was no rain in sight.

I had purchased tickets for the cable car ride up Table Mountain before we left home. We took a taxi from the hotel. It took about 15 minutes and cost \$12.50 US with tip. Because we had tickets, we skipped the



The ride up Table Mountain in the cable car.

long ticket line and climbed directly aboard the cable car (it held 65 people). Everyone wanted to be by the open windows, but the floor of the car revolved, so everyone got a chance at the open windows. The ride took about five minutes. The weather was great – no wind and sunny. We were told that there were more days when the ride does not operate because of weather than when it does. When we were here in 2001, the cable car was down for repairs, and we did not get to the top.

There were a number of walking paths, and the view stretched all the way to the Cape of Good Hope, which is about an hour away by car. We spent about an hour at the top of Table Mountain and then rode the cable car down. For an early Sunday morning, it was getting crowded. Table Mountain has been selected as one of the seven natural wonders of the world. It is really pretty amazing.

We took a taxi back to the hotel to check out and board the *Ocean Princess*. We didn't need the late checkout. That night, we would spend the night aboard the ship in Cape Town and sail at 5 p.m. tomorrow.

With only 600 passengers, boarding was quick. Having been on board another cruise on the same boat just six months prior, we knew our way around, and after dropping off our hand luggage, we all went to the buffet for lunch. After lunch, Evelyn and I took the ship's shuttle to the waterfront to do a little shopping and buy some wine. The ship does not allow you to bring hard liquor aboard, but we could bring wine and beer. Our friends Kobie and Roche, who are from South Africa, gave us a list of South African wines, and we used it to select two bottles. We returned to the ship about 4 p.m. and found that three of our four bags were in the cabin, but Evelyn's large bag was missing. We unpacked what we had, and our cabin steward, Dennis, came in to introduce himself.

At 5 p.m., we all headed to the lounge for the nightly cocktail party for suite passengers. The hors d'oeuvres were free, but we had to buy our own drinks.

At 6 p.m. it was time for dinner in the dining room. Normally we have a reserved table, but that night it was open seating. After dinner, there was an African folkloric in the show room. It was nice to have something different than the normal entertainment. The rhythms of the music reminded me of American jazz and melodies I would associate with the Caribbean. Funny how we get it backwards: These melodies were brought to

America by the slaves from West Africa.

We got back to our room, and still there was no sign of Evelyn's big bag. Evelyn and I headed to the passenger service desk to see what was happening. We must have passed our bag on the way down the four flights of stairs because we were told that if it was a big blue one it had been sent up to our cabin. It seemed that the baggage tag with our cabin number had been torn off and it took a while for them to check the ID on the bag. But all's well that ended well, though Evelyn was already planning on spending Princess' money on a new wardrobe. Not really!

The next day we visited Robben Island, where Nelson Mandela was imprisoned.

We left the ship around 8:30 a.m. to go to Robben Island. The ship's tour hostess told us how to get to the ferry by walking, so we followed her directions and found the ferry terminal in about 10 minutes. We had purchased the tickets on the Internet and joined the line to board the ferry; the ride took about 30 minutes. Robben Island had been



The prison on Robben Island.



Table Mountain at sunrise from Robben Island.



Evelyn on Robben Island with Table Mountain in the background.



Myrna and Don at Victoria & Alfred Waterfront Harbor.



**RETIREES:**

# Enjoy These Great Member Benefits

## For Retired Club Members

As a member of the City Employees Club of Los Angeles, you'll enjoy these amazing benefits:



**City Employees Club of Los Angeles**

*Celebrating the Lives of City Employees*

**Full Club Membership**

Through May 2013, full Club Membership\*, including:

• **The cheapest tickets in the City—UP TO 70% OFF**

- Great Club apparel and gifts
- Group-rated insurance products for purchase
- Club-exclusive events
- E-mail notices about upcoming events and promotions
- Access to Club Website
- And much more!

\* After May 2013, members must join the Club and pay the regular (reduced) rate for City Retirees to retain Club benefits.

**The *Alive!* Newspaper**

Your own personal edition of *Alive!*, delivered to you each month. (Sent to all RLACEI members in good standing). Stay connected to RLACEI, and to all your Retired City friends, read about exciting City projects, take full advantage of free *Alive!* classifieds, and much more.

**For more information, contact the Club:**

- talkback@cityemployeesclub.com
- www.cityemployeesclub.com
- (800) 464-0452

used as a prison for many years, but is most famous for the political prisoners held there during apartheid (1948-94). We took a 45-minute bus ride around the island and then had a guided tour through the prison, where we saw the cell where Nelson Mandela was held. The guides were former prisoners, and their narrative was very moving. We walked back to the ferry for the ride back to Cape Town harbor. There is much more history to the island, including its use as a leper colony and as a fortified gun location during World War II.

We stopped to purchase more wine and then returned to the ship using the shuttle. Since the end of apartheid, South African wines have been imported into the States. Although fairly new to most Americans, South African wines have a long and prestigious history dating back to the 1600s.



After lunch, we cleared immigration and returned to find our cabin completely flooded. A fresh water pipe had broken. At that moment they were vacuuming up as much water as they could. We were not getting any information on what was happening, so I sent an email to the Princess home office. We decided to eat in the buffet, seeing that we really couldn't use our cabin to clean up. We had drinks in Don and Myrna's cabin and then had dinner. After dinner we checked on the cabin and found that the room was put almost back together, except that the rug was still very wet and there was a wet smell. The email to Princess brought a whole host of Ship's Officers to our cabin, and the cleanup seemed to be going in the right direction.

The ship sailed from Cape Town at 5 p.m. We'll continue our tale next month, when we stop in our next West African port, Lüderitz, Namibia.



Hal and Evelyn on Table Mountain.

## Thought For the Day

May this New Year bring you good health and many joyous happy memories to all our retirees and their families. Do what makes you happy; you have earned it.

**Live, Love and Laugh.**

**Would you like a pen with your company's name on it? How about a coffee mug or a mouse pad?**

[We also do Family Reunions]

**Call 323-667-1985**

*"If you can imagine it, we can create it."*

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# Retirements

Here's a listing of all those who retired from the City this month. To all we say, welcome to the Best Years!

| NAME                 | TITLE                 | DEPT              | YEARS | NAME                 | TITLE                 | DEPT              | YEARS | NAME                | TITLE                | DEPT         | YEARS |
|----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-------|----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-------|---------------------|----------------------|--------------|-------|
| Aceves, Patrick      | Park Ranger           | Rec and Parks     | 21    | Clemente, Theresa    | Com. Program Dir.     | CDD               | 23    | Paulson, Vanessa A. | Eme. Prep. Coord. II | -            | 30    |
| Adams, Dwayne M.     | Traffic Officer II    | Transportation    | 31    | Clifford, Linda      | Sr. Mgmt. Analyst II  | Harbor            | 26    | Ramos, Josefina     | Council Aide II      | Council      | 10    |
| Aiken, Victoria      | Sr. Librarian         | Library           | 29    | Gerson, Corazon      | Sr. Auditor           | Harbor            | 10    | Ramsay, John W.     | Personnel Analyst II | Personnel    | 31    |
| Alcala, Conchita     | Sr. Clerk Typist      | General Services  | 32    | Guo, Hugo Zuoping    | Com. Engr. Assc. IV   | ITA               | 8     | Richardson, Brenda  | Sr. Mgmt. Analyst II | Harbor       | 35    |
| Bolton, Carl L.      | Pr. Storekeeper II    | General Services  | 28    | James, Ira Lee       | Crossing Guard        | Transportation    | 0.6   | Riley, Randall W.   | Wast. Mgr. III       | Public Works | 35    |
| Boyle, Francis Henry | Building Inspector    | Building & Safety | 16    | Jimenez, Louise L.   | Legal Secretary       | City Attorney     | 10    | Sansbury, Carl A.   | Airport Police Lt.   | Airports     | 30    |
| Braggs, Emmette      | Sr. For. Print. Spec. | LAPD              | 23    | Kocincki, Lindsey A. | Animal Keeper         | Zoo               | 26    | Simmons, Frank C.   | Welder               | Public Works | 37    |
| Bratton, William     | Chief of Police       | LAPD              | 14    | Matthews, David H.   | Garage Attendant      | Airports          | 13    | Smith, Casandria H. | Mgmt. Analyst II     | Conv. Center | 14    |
| Calimlim, Johnny N.  | Veterinarian          | Animal Services   | 5     | Murillo, Rosemary    | Pr. Clerk Police II   | LAPD              | 31    | Tachibana, Jeoffery | Equip. Mechanic      | LAPD         | 7     |
| Cavazos, Steven R.   | Bin. Equip. Oper. II  | General Services  | 26    | Ortega, Judith A.    | Exec. Adm. Asst. III  | City Clerk Office | 42    | Tsubota, Alan       | Police Service Rep   | LAPD         | 23    |
| Chavis, Robin D.     | Messenger Clerk       | Library           | 11    | Patel, Babubhai      | Wast. Trnt. Oper. III | Public Works      | 11    | Vuong, Ngocan T.    | Sr. Sy. Analyst II   | Cont. Office | 32    |



# The Best Years

## RETIREES AROUND THE WORLD



1

### Middle East

"Here are some pictures that my dad, **Pablo Ninofranco Jr. (Retired, Harbor)** and his wife, Josie, took on his last trip."  
 – Phyllis Ninofranco, Harbor



In front of the Treasury in Petra, Jordan. The Treasury is one of the Seven Wonders of the World.



At the foot of the Mount of Temptation in Jericho, Israel. The couple climbed it.



The Galilee Museum.



Overlooking the old city of Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives in Israel.



The Sea of Galilee.



By the Dead Sea.

### Take the Club with you, wherever you go!

Club members are a well-traveled bunch. Bring your recent copy of *Alive!* with you. Snap a **high resolution** photo with you **holding a copy**, send it in, and we'll publish it. Send to: talk-back@cityemployeesclub.com

### Sending Digital Photos:

When you send digital photos through the Internet, please send the full, original digital file yourself, rather than using digital photo software like Kodak EasyShare, Kodak Gallery, Flickr, etc. These programs send very low-resolution images, and they don't look good in print. We want you to look your best, so send us the original digital file, please! Thanks!



"Get a spanking brand new car, baby!"  
 – Henry Starks



"Downsize, stay healthy and clean out the storage."  
 – Arlene Stephens



"Stay healthy."  
 – Michael Warner



"Travel, especially to Italy."  
 – Dolores Medina



"Stay well, keep warm and stay happy."  
 – Ed Shum, Public Works/Contract Admin

### Retirees Question of the Month:



"Get more healthy, clean up the house, and especially the garage!"  
 – Beverly Anderson



"Go to South Africa."  
 – Sharylon Davis



"Diet and exercise, and get Fred to take dance lessons."  
 – Fred and Ruth Kong

## What's your New Year's resolution?



"Be a better person."  
 – Leroy Richard



"To exercise."  
 – Shirley Tan



"To regain gooooooood health!"  
 – Curtis Hopkins



"To be healthy and travel to many, many places."  
 – Dorothy Tamashiro



"To get this pain to go away!"  
 – Richard Tan



"Have a lot of fun and enjoy life, but especially help others."  
 – Inez Williams, Controllers' Office



"Get healthy!"  
 – Mic Bacon



"Stay super well!"  
 – Olivia McGhee





From left: Mic Bacon, Housing, Retired, 21 years of City service; Dorothy Tamashiro, Controller, Retired, 36 years; Shirley Tan, Controller, Retired, 33 years; Richard Tan, LA County, Retired, 25 years of County service; Beverly Anderson, LAPD, Retired, 32 years; Larry Tamashiro, Retired, LA County, 34 years of County service; Mei Yee, Controller, Retired, 25 years; Garry Hart, Retired, Cal State Dominguez Hills.

## For Retired Club Members



Michael Wilkinson, RLACEI Director.



Curtis Hopson, Public Works/Street Services, 36 years of City service, with his wife, Altrechia.



Debra Charney came to the event with her father, Julian Torres, who retired from Building and Safety.



Sylvester Warsaw Sr., Retired, Public Works/Street Maintenance, 28 years of City service, with his wife, Carol.

# RLACEI A Retirees Holiday

## RLACEI hosts annual holiday party.

The Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. (RLACEI) celebrated its annual holiday party Dec. 6. The party was held at the Friendship Auditorium.

While the RLACEI holiday party is an annual event, this particular party marked the first one with the Club as the group's association partner.

Longtime friends and past co-workers had a chance to catch up, share a meal, and win a prize or two if they were in luck.

The event included wonderful Christmas musical entertainment. A buffet-style lunch was served, which consisted of barbecue chicken, barbecue ribs and beans, fruit salad, garlic toast, and ending with our famous carrot cake, all prepared by Chris and Pitts.

Happy holidays to all at the RLACEI!

*Special thanks go to Ed Harding, President of the RLACEI, for his assistance.*



Johnny and Emilia Blanco. Johnny retired from Public Works/Accounting, and Emilia retired from General Services.



Gary Mattingly, RLACEI Director.



Leo Rosen, Retired, with his son, Jack (left) and wife, Norma.



Sam Hochberg, retired from the Convention Center.



Robert Harvey and his daughter, Rolanda. Robert retired from Public Works/Street Maintenance.



Inez Williams, Retired, Controller, 30 years of City service.



Rose and Julian Torres have been married for 58 years! Julian retired from Building and Safety.



Michael Karsch, RLACEI Director.



Cleoni and Anthony Vann. Anthony retired from Harbor.



Ping and Virginia Lit. Ping retired from Harbor and Virginia from Public Works.



Renee O'Mally, daughter; and Wilma Rebbe, Retired, Library, 37 years of City service.



Henry and Lois Starks. Henry was with Public Works/Street Services for 40 years before retiring.



Tony Alvarez and his girlfriend, Maria Ream.



From left: Dolores Medina, Retired, 32 years of City service, Personnel; and Sharylon Davis, Retired, Public Works/Street Services, 34 years.



From left: Martha Harding, wife of RLACEI President Ed Harding; with RLACEI Directors Mary Beetz, Americo Garza, and Helen Salgado.



Tom Sternock, Second Vice President, RLACEI.



Gary Boehn, retired from the LAPD (civilian).



William Lillenberg retired from City Planning, where he was a Zoning Administrator for 15 years.



The RLACEI holiday party.



From left: Michael Warner, Retired, Public Works/Contract Admin, 31 years of City service; Ruth and Fred Kong, Retired, Public Works/Contract Admin, 34 years; and Olivia McGhee, Retired, Public Works/Contract Admin, 35 years.