

{ *Who are the people you see every day?* }

No. 15 in a series.

People We See

in downtown Los Angeles.



Meet Claude Gregory.



AGE: "I'm 37 years old."
BIRTHPLACE: "Manhattan, New York."
WHEN DID YOU MOVE TO LOS ANGELES?
 "In 1997."
MARITAL STATUS: "Single."
FAMILY: "I have two brothers."
RELIGION: "None."
FAVORITE CHILDHOOD MEMORY: "Going to Six Flags Great Adventure [in New Jersey]."
EDUCATION: "I'm a graduate of the 12th grade, from Norman Thomas Business School, Manhattan."
WHAT WAS THE LAST JOB YOU HAD? "I worked in retail, at Eddie Bauer, in 1998."
AWARDS: "I was Prom King."
MILITARY: "No."
IF YOU COULD WISH FOR ANYTHING, WHAT WOULD IT BE? "Peace on earth."
IF YOU HAD A MILLION DOLLARS, WHAT WOULD YOU DO WITH IT? "Give it away to the Reading Is Fundamental organization."
FAVORITE FOOD: "Spaghetti, but no meatballs."
FAVORITE MOVIE: "Out of Africa."
FAVORITE ACTOR: "Louis Gossett Jr."
FAVORITE ACTRESS: "Debra Winger."
FAVORITE TV SHOW: "Family Matters."
FAVORITE SINGER: "Etta James."
FAVORITE CANDY: "Crunch."
FAVORITE SPORTS: "Baseball, especially the New York Mets."
WHAT'S THE LAST BOOK YOU READ?
 "Pride and Prejudice."
WHERE DO YOU LIVE? "In the Lamp District."
WHAT WAS THE LAST THING YOU ATE? "A bag of Cheetos, about 20 minutes ago."
WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE PLACE IN THE CITY?
 "Inglewood."
ADVICE FOR EVERYDAY PEOPLE: "Keep cool, and stay sober."
WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE IRAQ WAR?
 "Listen to Barack."
WHAT IS YOUR SOLUTION TO THE ECONOMIC CRISIS? "Have the president and vice president discuss ideas."
IF YOU WERE THE MAYOR, WHAT WOULD YOU DO TO HELP THE HOMELESS? "I would build more shelters."
WHICH ORGANIZATION HAS BEEN THE BIGGEST HELP TO YOU? "Covenant House."

The Club gave Claude a McDonald's gift certificate, some cash, snacks, and a Club tote bag.

This interview took place Feb. 10 on Spring Street, between Third and Fourth Streets.



{ In this monthly feature, Club CEO John Hawkins and Director of Member Services Angel Gomez introduce you to people you see every day, but you might not know who they are. The Club reminds you that we all have names and stories to tell. }

Newsbrief

CESAR CHAVEZ DAY:

The El Pueblo Historic Monument is presenting its 11th annual Cesar Chavez Day Walk and Festival Saturday, April 4.

Participants can join members of the Chavez family, representatives of the farm worker movement, students, and community and elected officials to the celebration.

The walk begins at 10 a.m. Food and festivities are available on nearby Olvera Street.

The event is hosted by Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and Councilmember José Huizar.

Information: (323) 264-2700.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS:

The Olvera Street Merchants present the annual Blessing of the Animals Saturday, April 11. The event takes place from noon to 5 p.m. at El Pueblo Historical Monument, with a procession on Olvera Street commencing at 2 p.m. and the blessing to immediately follow. Musical entertainment is free to enjoy throughout the afternoon, and nonprofit animal organizations will be available to provide general information to the public. In addition, there will be pony rides for children and a petting zoo complete with camels, llamas, cows and other animals.

The centuries-old ceremony of Blessing of the Animals dates back to the fourth century, when the Catholic Church named St. Anthony de Abad as the patron saint of the animal kingdom. In those days, the people would take their animals to the priest to receive a blessing and ask for fertility and health. Today, Blessing of the Animals is held in grateful recognition of the tremendous services given to the human race by animals.

This colorful celebration has delighted visitors to Olvera Street for generations. Over the years, many animals have been blessed - from cats and dogs to more exotic pets such as snakes and iguanas. A cow covered with a blanket of flowers will lead the elaborate afternoon procession down Olvera Street. After the procession, Los Angeles Archbishop Roger Cardinal Mahony will individually bless all pets; however, you do not need a pet to enjoy this beautiful, time-honored event.

Olvera Street is part of El Pueblo Historical Monument and is between Main and Alameda Streets in downtown Los Angeles. Public parking is available at nearby lots on Main, Los Angeles and Alameda Streets. Public transportation is also available via the Metrolink, MTA rail and bus service to Union Station, although animals are restricted on some mass transit. For more information on the Blessing of the Animals, call (213) 625-7074 or (213) 485-8372.

Go to the Queen Mary

Discount tickets at the Club Store.

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