County DIGEST

FEBRUARY 2000 COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

# Happy Birthday!

## Los Angeles County

To commemorate the 150th birthday of Los Angeles County, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors has proclaimed February 18, 19 and 20 as the County's official birthdays. A number of birthday celebration events have been planned throughout the year.

As a special birthday gift to the public, the Board of Supervisors, the Superintendents of three County Gardens and the Directors and Presidents of four County Museums will offer free admission to the public.

South Coast Botanic Gardens

On Saturday, February 19, there will be free admission to three County gardens from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.:

•Arboretum, 301 North Baldwin Avenue in Arcadia

•Descanso Gardens, 1418 Descanso Drive in La Canada Flintridge

•South Coast Botanic Gardens, 26300 Crenshaw Boulevard in Palos Verdes

On Sunday, February 20, there will be free admission to four County museums:

•Museum of Art, 5905 Wilshire Boulevard (Noon to 8:00 p.m.)

•Museum of Natural History, 900 Exposition Boulevard (10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.)

•George C. Page Museum of La Brea Discoveries, 5801 Wilshire Boulevard (10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.)

•Petersen Automotive Museum, 6060 Wilshire Boulevard (10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.)

To cap the weekend celebration, a major County birthday extravaganza, a Parade and Festival of Nations, will be hosted by the Board of Supervisors on Sunday, February 20.

The **Festival of Nations** will be at Hancock Park, adjacent to the George C. Page Museum, from 11:00 a.m. to dusk and will feature ethnic foods, arts and crafts and entertainment, including a special performance by renowned Latin Jazz musician Poncho Sanchez. The **Parade of Nations** will be from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and will travel west on Wilshire Boulevard between La Brea Avenue and Ogden Drive. Former Astronaut Buzz Aldrin is the Parade's Grand Marshal. On July 20, 1969, Buzz Aldrin became the second human to set foot on the moon!

see Birthday on back page

# Calendar of Events

Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County
(213) 763-DINO
www.nhm.org

***"El Nuevo Mundo: The Landscape of Latino Los Angeles"***
Through July 16, 2000

Petersen Automotive Museum
(323) 930-CARS
www.petersen.org

***Arte y Estilo: The Lowriding Tradition***
Through May 28, 2000

Noontime Parenting Training Seminars
(213) 893-0355

***How to Keep Your Child Motivated to Stay in School***
February 23, 2000
11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, Room 743

Skirball Cultural Center
(310) 440-4500
www.skirball.org

***The Making of the Animated Film The Prince of Egypt - Drawings, Paintings and Film Stills***
Through February 27, 2000

***Music from the Jewish Diaspora and the Balkans***
February 29, 2000
8:00 p.m.

see Events on back page

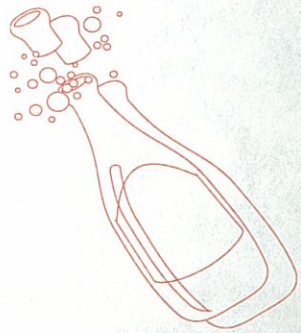
# February Retirees

Congratulations to the following employees who are joining the ranks of the retired after 30 or more years of service to the people of Los Angeles County:

**AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION/ WEIGHTS & MEASURES:** Philip T. Livesey, Dolores M. Lopez, Mike S. Whitaker
**ALTERNATE PUBLIC DEFENDER:** Robert V. Doddy
**ASSESSOR:** John J. Corr
**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE:** Clare E. Sleeter
**CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES:** Lori D. Barraza, Myrna Brook, Betty D. Gerstner, Donna S. Jones, Bonnie Lee, Joan G. Rudolfi
**FIRE:** Michael L. Case, Dallas R. Coulter, David A. Cowman, Louis K. Devarney Jr., Stephen R. Fryer, Arnold D. Gallardo, Arthur M. Juday, Lawrence R. Kyle Jr., Thomas L. Little, Douglas E. Mathews, James E. Mabery, Frank C. Mrosek, Gordon S. Pearson, Lawrence P. Pollock, Edmund J. Schlegel, Patrick D. Stoker, Leon C. Thomas
**HEALTH SERVICES:** James E. Agan, Gaynell Aubry-Poullard, Lois Axtell, Eddie Barnes, Marion J. Bechtel, Lillie M. Cannon, Nitaya Chitchakkol, Arthur Elson, Ted E. Hokom, Marie R. Lopez, Edrina M. Mahone, Dora N. McKinney-Beckner, Claude L. Smith, Janet M. Weber
**INTERNAL SERVICES:** Cecil Jones, Thomas W. Miller, Antoinette J. Tibbs, Elsie L. Valentine
**MENTAL HEALTH:** Shirley C. Mitsunaga
**PROBATION:** David T. Fujishiro, Hilda J. Hall, Carol M. Sage, Melvin D. Schweitzer, Jack E. Scott, Charles Stuart
**PUBLIC DEFENDER:** Kenneth N. Green, Fred Manaster
**PUBLIC LIBRARY:** Martin J. Flores Jr., Nancy Y. Yuan
**PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES:** Cleo T. Ahsam, Margaret K. Allen, David A. Bouyea, Elizabeth Commodore, Evalena Easter, Audrey Thorpe, Perri Threatt
**PUBLIC WORKS:** Paul M. Carrillo, Robert G. Cruz, Roger L. Higbee, Shinji Ito, Edward Johnson, Roosevelt Manor, Thomas V. Schriber, Albert A. Wilson Jr., John R. Wilson, Dennis L. Wright, Frank Zerillo
**REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK:** Carl L. Leeper
**SHERIFF:** Steven E. Brennen, Joseph M. Brown, Ronald D. Burt, Danny D. Cox, Lester J. Fatone, Henrietta P. Galindo, Kathleen D. Lally, Elizabeth A. Longaker, Leroy F. Martinez, Donald L. Mauro, Ronald J. Mowry, Edmound Patton, Ronald C. Rogers
**SUPERIOR COURTS:** Patricia A. Cuneo, Elsie E. Ellis, Sandy Krauss, John M. Walker Jr., David E. Williams
**TREASURER & TAX COLLECTOR:** Mildred Mitchell

Congratulations to the following employees who are retiring after serving the people of the County of Los Angeles for more than 25 years:

**ASSESSOR:** Kenneth P. Hahn, Angie Montes
**CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES:** Tanyss L. Rosas
**COUNTY COUNSEL:** Patrick J. Gardner
**DISTRICT ATTORNEY:** Ruth A. Bullock, Sofia Hanna
**HEALTH SERVICES:** Sebastian T. Aguirre, Lola J. Aldridge, Leonard B. Anderson, Elisa Calzada, Lila A. Escario, Joanna Hall, Margaret K. Jones, Juei-Huei Lai, Robert D. Salk, Dorothy White
**HUMAN RESOURCES:** Tom Marvin
**MUNICIPAL COURTS:** Angela B. Ellis, Carmen L. Lopez
**PROBATION:** Lynne Fahland
**PUBLIC LIBRARY:** Elisabeth Koller
**PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES:** Carmelita Crenshaw, Dorothy C. Hemphill, Norita Johnson, JoAnn Sanders, Antoinette M. Wagstaff
**SHERIFF:** Sidney T. Chambers Jr., Susan K. Cross, Frank G. Decker, Ann C. Edler, Melinda M. Holland, Joseph M. Seeger, James R. Smith, Robert A. Woolner
**SUPERIOR COURTS:** Doris C. Thomas



# Kathleen Garcia

## *The Art of Teaching and Coordinating*

Kathleen Garcia, the January 2000 County Employee of the Month, has worked for the County for nine years and is presently a Court Clerk with Department 61 of the Civil Division of the Los Angeles Municipal Court. She was "completely surprised and thrilled" when notified of her selection.

**Kathleen Garcia is flanked by her parents, her husband Tony, Supervisor Gloria Molina and Los Angeles Municipal Court Administrator Frederick K. Ohlrich.**

"[This] is recognition that the work that courtroom clerks do is important to the Court. That I was chosen is very satisfying to me, because I truly believe my job is a valuable part, however small, of the functioning of the best system of justice that exists in the world."

She schedules trials and other hearings, prepares and reviews the courtroom's calendars and records and enters minutes and judgements of court proceedings into the Los Angeles Civil Automation System (LACAS). She provides assistance and information to the judicial officer, court staff, attorneys and the public regarding matters on the court's calendar.

Garcia, who is most proud of her 10 year marriage, has a B.A. and teaching credential from San Diego State University.

"My most rewarding experience was in college, when I worked as a teaching assistant in several elementary schools in the La Mesa-Spring Valley School District. I taught elementary grades kindergarten through sixth grade as a substitute teacher for one year [in the same school district]. Working directly with students and seeing some real growth in so many of them was what led me to initially pursue teaching as a career."

Garcia has played an integral role in case coordination between the Municipal and Superior Courts. She has been invaluable in the cross-training of Superior Court clerks on civil courtroom and LACAS procedures. She developed training materials and completed the necessary training to assist Superior Court clerks in handling Municipal Court cases.

Her work with the Los Angeles Municipal Court Training Office consists of teaching classes to several groups of courtroom clerk and judicial assistant trainees. She instructed and collaborated on the creation of a journeyman training course in Law and Motion. She has been an on-the-job trainer to each class of courtroom clerk and judicial assistant trainees since 1995 and continues to act as a resource for both new and experienced clerks.

Her involvement in the cross-training of court employees focused on making a Law and Motion presentation for the Civil Basics development program. She motivates children in "Take Our Daughters/Sons to Work Day" and the First Impression program by discussing her work responsibilities, other Court careers and by allowing them to engage in "clerk work" in mock trials. She also encourages them to stay in school and get a good education.

Garcia, a huge San Diego Padres baseball fan, is an active member of her church and is involved in projects such as food and clothing banks. She advocates on behalf of children in the community by tutoring and participating in peaceful demonstrations. She enjoys hiking, running, cycling, kayaking and skydiving. One of her goals is to compete in this year's America's Finest City Marathon in San Diego. She and her husband have made restoring their 1931 home a hobby.

"Both [teaching and the legal field] are intricate systems, and both are critical to our American way of life, so there is a high level of personal satisfaction available in both. I find working for the court to be a better professional fit. My job consists of the right balance of responsibility and authority for me. Also, I do utilize teaching skills and techniques when I teach a class of new or journeyman clerks."

Congratulations, Kathleen!

## Mailing Address Change

If you have changed your mailing address, please notify your Personnel Office immediately.

Happy Birthday

Los Angeles Times

Friday, October 8, 1999

# Keeping the Flame of Devotion to the Arts Burning for 20 Years

■ **Youth:** Music Center celebrates program — which has helped fill Prop. 13 gap — of hiring artists to give shows, workshops to pupils.

By: SORAYA SARHADDI NELSON
TIMES STAFF WRITER

There they were, 70 professional artists and musicians being urged to simplify their creative energy by a barefoot Minnesotan in paint-speckled overalls.

"I call it Cardboard 101," said Sandy Spieler, artistic director of In the Heart of the Beast, a Minneapolis-based puppet and mask theater.

The diverse group of artists — whose work spans modern dance, Peruvian harp music and aluminum art — will use cardboard, paint and other basic tools to design masks of plants, fish, animals and people, part of a three-day artists retreat in Eagle Rock that began Thursday.

The masks will be taken to area schools, where hundreds of children will use them as inspiration for their own designs to wear **at "pARTy," a countywide, family arts festival being sponsored by the Music Center next spring.**

**The event will end an eight-month anniversary celebration of 20 years of arts education provided by the Music Center, which hires professional artists from countries and cultures around the world. Barbara Leonard, artistic director for the center's education division, said the festival will be "a little like jazz," embracing all art forms.**

**The Music Center** has helped keep art and music alive in classrooms across five Southern California counties in the years since the passage of Proposition 13, when such programs were pared down.

**Since 1979, the center's education division has grown to the third-largest program of its kind in the country, with an annual budget of $4.4 million and a curriculum that reaches tens of thousands of students each year, said program founder Joan Boyett.**

Even though public schools today are experiencing an arts renaissance, educators from five counties continue to rely on the **Music Center** for dance, music and theatrical assemblies and artist workshops — all presented at reduced rates. Schools can even hire artists in residence.

The artists say that they love the arrangement, even though a few recall being reluctant at first to teach students.

"But I showed up and presented what I did and — wow! — they were just talking about it and asking me questions, so I've kept coming back," said visual artist Elaine Wilson.

Other artists, such as Navajo storyteller Geri Keams, said the interaction with students provides a chance to erase stereotypes and expose students to other cultures.

She reworks traditional stories for the TV generation, Keams said, using animal voices and gestures to keep their attention.

Gwen Barthelme, a teacher at the city's Lanterman High School for disabled children, is a strong supporter of the **Music Center education program**. She said it has brought folkloric and country music, mime and other performing arts to students who have few opportunities outside of school to experience such performances.


# PARTY!

## Saturday, May 20, 2000

**A free, daylong celebration for the 20th Anniversary of the nationally-acclaimed Education Division**

**of**

**The Music Center/Performing Arts Center of Los Angeles County on the Center Plaza**

**at**

**Grand Avenue between Temple and First Streets in downtown Los Angeles**

## Join the PARTY!

**Save the Date!!!**

**Information: (213) 250-ARTS**

# Census 2000: Be Counted!
# Future Generations are Counting on You

The Census is coming! Yes indeed, ten years have slipped by and it's time again for every person to stand up and be counted. The Census 2000 Count will be used for the next ten years to determine Los Angeles County's share of funding for essential services and facilities, political representation in the U.S. Congress and local political boundaries. Yes, a complete Census count is IMPORTANT to all of us and particularly to those who provide government services to the public.

The U.S. Bureau of the Census is undertaking the largest mobilization of forces to get a complete count since World War II. The Bureau is partnering with state and local governments, community and faith based organizations and the media.

Two years ago, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors created the Los Angeles County Complete Count Committee, composed of representatives of each Board office, directors of major County departments and other affected agencies to organize an outreach program.

The Board's action was in response to the 1990 Census, which was the first census in 40 years to have a higher undercount than the previous census. Los Angeles County's undercount was double the national average. It is estimated that public agencies in the County lost over $800 million in public service funding in the past 10 years due to the 1990 Census undercount. In addition, the State of California would probably hold two additional seats in the House of Representatives as a result of the undercount.

Supervisor Gloria Molina, Chair of the Board of Supervisors, reiterates the importance of the Census.

"We have come to an important 10-year mark during which we must all be counted. Census 2000 brings with it an exciting and challenging time for Los Angeles County. We have embarked on a mission to ensure that we are not undercounted – as in the previous 1990 Census, when Los Angeles County lost millions of dollars due to a lack of response from the general public. As individuals in public service, many of you may be called to assist with this challenge in some way. You are in a unique position to help ensure Los Angeles County does not suffer an undercount again. On behalf of the Board of Supervisors, I thank you in advance for joining us in meeting the 'be counted' challenge."

Los Angeles County proudly heralds itself as having the most diverse population in the Nation. While diversity is one of our dominant strengths, it is also one of the reasons that the County experienced a large undercount in 1990. Immigration issues, language barriers and economic status can create a fear of the Census questionnaire.

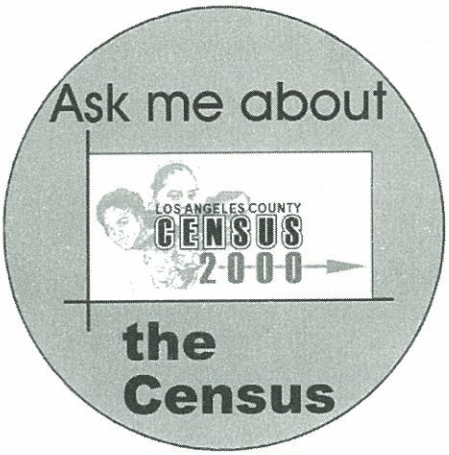
Los Angeles County's Census 2000 outreach program is focused on overcoming this fear by communicating the confidential nature of the Census data and its importance for ensuring that the County receives its fair share of public funds, facilities and political representation.

The confidentiality of the Census needs to be stressed. The laws of the United States specifically provide that Census data about individuals is confidential for a 72-year period. During this time, the information is only usable in aggregate numerical and statistical forms. Confidentiality has not been breached in the 210-year history of the Census.

The County's outreach program is primarily focused on the unincorporated communities for which the County is the de facto city government. Most cities have their own outreach programs. The County's outreach program has the following components:

•Training County employees as "Census Ambassadors" so that they can inform their customers and clients about the importance and confidentiality of the Census.

•Use of County facilities as Questionnaire Assistance and Be Counted Centers. There will be 1,600 of these centers that will be staffed by the Census Bureau. They will provide assistance to residents in filling out the Census Questionnaire and distribute Census Questionnaires to residents that have not received one.




•Promoting the Census and providing Census information at County and departmental events.

•Providing significant technical assistance to the Census Bureau to ensure that they have a complete list of residential addresses. They can't count people if they don't know where they are.

•Providing logistical assistance to the Census Bureau in counting homeless persons and those who live in group quarters, e.g. jails and nursing homes.

•Organizing a "grassroots" media campaign to convey the message of Census confidentiality, and the importance of using local, multi-lingual media.

The following are the important dates for Census 2000:

•**March 6-7, 2000**, the Census Bureau will deliver an "Advance Letter" to all households in the County. The Advance Letter announces the impending arrival of the Census Questionnaire. Requests can be made for a Questionnaire in a language other than English on the back of the Letter. The language options are Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, Tagalog and Korean. The front side of the Letter, which is entirely in English, does not indicate that foreign language needs can only be met by filling out the reverse side and returning it to the Census Bureau.

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# Put Money In Your Pocket

The regional economy is losing at least $200 million a year because many low- to moderate-income wage earners are not taking advantage of a big federal tax break that can increase their incomes by as much as $3,812.

In 1998, an important initiative was undertaken by the County of Los Angeles, the City of Los Angeles and a coalition of private and civic organizations to increase the awareness and utilization of the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) benefits to low- to moderate-income working families so they can achieve greater earnings and self-sufficiency.

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors is committed to share with qualified participants information on how EITC may help supplement their wages either in their paychecks or with their federal tax return. At its meeting held on August 3, 1999, the Board approved a modification in County contracts to include language that states anyone contracting with the County "shall notify its employees, and shall require each subcontractor to notify its employees, that they may be eligible for the federal Earned Income Tax Credit under the federal income tax laws."

What is EITC?

Enacted in 1975, the EITC is a federal refundable tax credit that can mean extra money for qualified low- to moderate-income working families earning less that $30,580 in 1999.

Who Can Claim the Credit?

•You must have earned income during the year.

•Your investment income cannot be more than $2,300.

•Your filing status can be any filing status **except** married filing a separate return.

•You cannot be a qualifying child of another person. If you are filing a joint return, neither you nor your spouse can be a qualifying child of another person.

•Your qualifying child cannot be the qualifying child of another person whose modified adjusted gross income is more than yours.

Additionally, to claim the EITC, you must have a valid for work *Social Security Number* for you, your spouse (if filing a joint return) and your qualifying child.

Who is a Qualifying Child?

Basically, a qualifying child is one who:

•Is your son, daughter, adopted child, grandchild, stepchild or eligible foster child and

•Was (at the end of the tax year) under age 19 or under age 24 and a full-time student or

•Lived with you in the United States for more than half of the tax year (all of the tax year if the child is your eligible foster child)

How Much is it Worth?

EITC is based on your earned income and on how many qualified children you may or may not have.

•**A credit of up to $3,812** is available for workers with two or more qualified children earning less than $30,580.

•**A credit of up to $2,312** is available for workers with one qualified child earning less than $26,928.

•**A credit of up to $347** is available for workers between the ages of 25 and 64 who have no dependents.

How Do I Get EITC?

File a federal tax return with the EITC portion properly filled out using the EITC worksheet. Persons who earned less than the above amounts may not be required to file a tax return, however, these individuals could qualify for the maximum credit. The credit is *retroactive* for three years, so if you qualified in the past and did not take the credit, you can still receive it by filing an amendment.

What Is Earned Income?

Earned income includes all the income and wages you get from working - even if it is not taxable. There are two ways to get earned income:

•You work for someone who pays you or

•You work in a business you own.

When Can I Get the EITC?

•You can get the credit *all at once when you file* Form 1040, 1040A or 1040EZ. If you have a qualifying child, you must file Form 1040 or 100A and attach Schedule EITC. Always use correct social security numbers when filling out tax forms and schedules.

•You can get part of the credit *throughout the year in your pay* by choosing the Advance EITC (AEITC). You **must** have at least one qualifying child and expect to qualify for the EITC on your tax return to get AEITC payments during 2000. If your only earned income is from self-employment, you cannot get the AEITC.

How Can I Get the Advance EITC?

If you expect to qualify for the EITC and have at least one qualifying child, complete Form W-5, *Earned Income Credit Advance Payment Certificate* and give it to your employer. Sometimes your income or family situation changes. If changes such as these occur, make sure you are still eligible for the credit. For example, a salary increase, received after you requested the AEITC, may put you over the income amount that earlier qualified you for the EITC. If this happens, you have to fill out a new Form W-5 and give it to your employer to stop the advance payments.

The EITC is a great tool to put money in the pockets of those most in need. For more information, call the EITC hotline at 1-800-601-5552.

## Join ADEMLAC

Administrative Assistants and Staff Assistants are invited to join the Administrative Employees' Association of Los Angeles County (ADEMLAC). This new group will promote professional administrative work through communication, education and leadership. ADEMLAC will dedicate itself to establishing career ladders for promotional and transfer opportunities. Membership is open to all administrative, staff and interested employees. Activities to be considered are a mentor program, annual Administrative Employees' Week and recognition awards for outstanding achievement. For more information or an ADEMLAC membership application, contact Tom Vracko at (562) 926-7530 on personal time.

# Award of Merit

**Supervisor Antonovich is photographed with Commissioners Donato Dingillo, Marcine Shaw and Constance Perett after being presented with the Award of Merit.**

Every year since 1996, the Emergency Preparedness Commission (EPC) for the County and cities of Los Angeles has been giving a special "Award of Merit" to an individual chosen and approved by the Commissioners for lifetime commitment, exceptional leadership and outstanding contributions to emergency preparedness in Los Angeles County. For 1999, the EPC's choice was Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich.

Supervisor Antonovich's commitment to emergency preparedness dates back to 1980 when he organized the County's Earthquake Education Committee which was devoted to providing earthquake education to school children. He was instrumental in the development of the Yogi Bear School House earthquake simulator, the first of its kind mobile earthquake simulator that allows children to experience a major earthquake while simultaneously learning the right things to do when an earthquake strikes. Supervisor Antonovich is so strongly committed to this program that he used his own discretionary funds to have a second Yogi Bear School House built so that more children and their parents could benefit from this educational program. He has consistently supported County government's efforts to prepare for earthquakes and other hazards and has attended expos and other events to reinforce the importance of home and work place preparedness on his personal time.

The Commission's Recognition and Holiday Luncheon was held at the Wyndham Garden Hotel in Commerce on December 8. Congratulations, Supervisor Antonovich, for your tremendous contributions to improving public safety and preparedness in Los Angeles County.


**County DIGEST**

Dept. of Human Resources
500 W. Temple Street, Room 375
Los Angeles, CA 90012
(213) 974-1765
(213) 613-4789 FAX
**http://hr.co.la.ca.us**


# We've Moved

The Los Angeles County Department of Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures headquarters was moved to a new location on January 18, 2000: 12300 Lower Azusa Road in Arcadia, 91006-5872. Departmental telephone numbers will remain the same. For further information, please call (626) 575-5471.

# Election Day Poll Workers

The Voluntary County Employees Election Day Poll Worker Program seeks to help offset a critical shortage of election day poll workers. Eligible County employees who volunteer to work at a polling location for approximately 14 hours on election day will receive their regular daily pay from their County department and will be paid a stipend of $55 (County poll workers with previous experience at the polls can receive $75 for serving as an Inspector) for the cumulative hours of volunteer service that are required beyond their regular work day. Additionally, all volunteers who attend class will receive a $25 training incentive.

All County employees who are U.S. citizens, registered voters and Los Angeles County residents are eligible. Permission of your supervisor is required. Poll workers assist with setting up the polling place, directing voters to sign in, issuing ballots, explaining how to use the voting equipment and closing the polls after voting has ended. Poll workers arrive between 6:00 and 6:30 a.m. to prepare the voting materials and usually conclude duties between 9:00 and 9:30 p.m. Two 45-minute breaks are permitted during the day. Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

A short training session will be provided to all volunteers. Employees will be assigned to polling places based on where there is a critical shortage of workers. The assigned location will, in virtually all cases, be within ten miles of the employee's residence. Election day is Tuesday, March 7, 2000. If interested, call the Department of Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk's Polls Section at (562) 462-2750.

# Birthday

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Riding in the Parade will be some very special guests of the County – members of the Los Angeles Consular Corps, comprised of consular officials representing countries from around the world. Other parade entries include a youth band from Austria, a performing group from Saudi Arabia and many local entries representing the dance, music and native attire of, among other countries, Argentina, Armenia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Belize, Burundi, El Salvador, Germany, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Liberia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, the Netherlands, Peru, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Thailand and the United Kingdom. For additional information on the Parade and Festival of Nations, contact the Los Angeles County Office of Protocol at (213) 974-1307.

The CAO's Marketing Office has designed a full line of 150th Birthday merchandise. A variety of items can be purchased for $10, including silver key chains, candy jars, birthday tote bags, caps and mini padfolios with calculators. An assortment of $5 items are also available, including amber paperweights, mints and neck pouches. These items are available at the Civic Center Commuter Center on the Second Floor of the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration or by calling (213) 974-2619 or (213) 974-2760.

# Events

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Performing Arts Center of Los Angeles County
(213) 972-8001
www.laopera.org/

***Rigoletto*** by Giuseppe Verdi
March 1, 4, 7, 9, 12, 15, 18 and 21, 2000
Dorothy Chandler Pavilion

***2nd Annual Multicultural Conference****
March 2, 2000
Loyola Marymount University
(213) 738-4998

*Sponsored by the Departments of Mental Health, Children and Family Services and Health Services; the Mental Health Commission; the Office of Affirmative Active Compliance; and the School of Education at Loyola Marymount University.

***15th Annual Women of the Year Awards Luncheon****
March 13, 2000
Hotel Inter-Continental, Bunker Hill Room
(213) 974-1455

*Sponsored by the Commission for Women and the Board of Supervisors

# Census

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•**March 15-16, 2000**, every household will receive a Census Questionnaire. There are two questionnaire formats: the short form will be distributed to 83% of households and takes 5 minutes to fill out; the long form will be sent to 17% of households and takes approximately 40 minutes to complete.

•**April 1, 2000** is National Census Day and all Census Questionnaires are to be returned to the Census Bureau.

***Census 2000: How America knows what America needs. This is your future and the future of your children. Don't leave it blank.***

If you have questions regarding Census 2000 or would like additional information, please contact Chris Foley of the County Census 2000 Outreach Program at (213) 893-9736.

# Blood Donors Needed...Now

Today, we have been conditioned to believe that the solution to most problems is a matter of money. How often do we think, "If funding were only available, we could. . . ." But when our problem is that of needing blood, the solution requires more than money. Unfortunately, we cannot get more blood just by ordering it or "stepping up production". It takes people caring about others, even those they do not know. It takes people willing to donate their own blood for someone else. It takes people to seek blood donors, convincing others that they have something to offer that money cannot buy. It takes the collective effort of many people to ensure that when someone needs blood, it is available.

Did you know that every winter and summer we can predict a blood shortage? This year, the Red Cross is reporting that blood supplies are the lowest they have been in 20 years. We have a particularly critical need for 0 Negative blood. In an emergency, anyone can receive type 0 red blood cells.

To give blood, donors must be at least 17 years, weigh at least 110 lbs., be in good health and not at-risk for HIV. The actual blood collection takes approximately 10 to 20 minutes. The entire process, from when you sign in to the time you leave, takes about 45 minutes to an hour. Whole blood can be given as often as every eight weeks. Each County department will be organizing blood drives in the upcoming weeks and months. Consider being a blood donor–it may be the greatest act of kindness we can do for each other.


**Members of the Board**

**Gloria Molina**
**Chair**
First District

**Yvonne Brathwaite Burke**
Second District

**Zev Yaroslavsky**
Third District

**Don Knabe**
Fourth District

**Michael D. Antonovich**
Fifth District

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**Michael J. Henry**
Director of Personnel

**Sandra A. Hoodye**
Ombudsman/Community Liaison

**John S. Mina**
Staff