



Supervisor Molina Mourns Death of Representative Edward R. Roybal

We lost two great Americans on Monday, October 24, 2005: Civil rights trailblazer Rosa Parks and the legendary former Representative (Rep.) Edward R. Roybal, who passed away at the age of 89. He was honored with a funeral service at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels in downtown Los Angeles on Monday, October 31. I was given the honor of being asked to share my memories of him. I described how courage was a central part of his mission, whether standing arm-in-arm with the families evicted from Chávez Ravine and Palo Verde or standing up in Congress against the Vietnam War. Next to my father, no other man has earned so much of my respect and honor.



Supervisor Molina with Rep. Roybal, and Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard

Without question, Rep. Roybal was a true barrier breaker and a political legend – particularly for the Mexican-American community. His struggle against racism was our struggle too, and his political victories gave our community a deep sense of pride. Many younger Angelenos are unaware that his first campaign for a seat on the Los Angeles City Council ended in defeat. But rather than let that stop him, he put all his energy into politically organizing our community. His perseverance was a testament to his personal philosophy that change rests in our own hands. Afterward, he once again ran for the Los Angeles City Council – and this time, he won. It was a watershed moment in the history of the City of Los

Angeles. In 1958, he ran for a seat on the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors but lost in a bitterly contested election. This experience made my 1991 election to the Board of Supervisors all the more memorable to him. In 1962, he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. It was another milestone for the Latino community nationwide as Rep. Roybal was the first Mexican from California to serve in Congress since the 1800s. Throughout his three decades of service, he remained committed to Latinos, the elderly, the poor, and the physically-challenged. Rep. Roybal worked tirelessly to protect the rights of minorities – even after his retirement. In 1976, Los Angeles County opened the Edward R. Roybal Clinic in East Los Angeles, and, as we know, the Roybal Federal Building is a symbol of this renowned man’s commitment to public service.

I consider Rep. Roybal my political father. He understood the responsibility and duty that elected officials have to empower the community. I and so many from my generation were touched deeply by the leadership of this man. One of the greatest honors of my lifetime was to be officially sworn in by him when I joined the Board of Supervisors. In honor of Rep. Roybal’s legacy, we unanimously voted to lower the county flags in his memory. We also will name the Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension after him. He fought to link the Eastside with the rest of our mass transportation system. His tenacious leadership helped ensure the success of this project and nowhere is his legacy more ingrained than in the heart of East L.A. All of us extend our deepest condolences to the congressman’s family – his wife Lucille Beserra-Roybal, and his children, Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard; son Edward Roybal, Jr.; and daughter Lillian Roybal-Rose.

Vaya con Dios, Señor Roybal.

HIGHLIGHTS

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“To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service”

EVENT CALENDAR

Los Angeles County Arboretum & Botanic Garden **301 N. Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia 91007**

For a list of seminars, workshops and classes, please visit www.arboretum.org or call (626) 821-4623

Dec 11 – Queen Anne Cottage Open House (10 a.m. - 4 p.m.)

Dec 14 – Old Fashioned Wreath Workshop (10 a.m. - noon)

Los Angeles County Museum of Art **5905 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles 90036** **(323) 857-6000**

www.lacma.org

Through January 2 - Lords of Creation: The Origins of Sacred Maya Kingship

Through January 15 - The Pharaoh's World

Through January 16 - Pioneering Modern Painting: Cézanne and Pissarro 1865-1885

Music Center **135 N. Grand Avenue, Los Angeles 90012** **(213) 972-7211** www.musiccenter.org

Ahmanson Theatre Through Dec 24 – The Drowsy Chaperone

Dorothy Chandler Pavilion Through Dec 17 – Richard Wagner's "Parsifal" Through Dec 18 – Giacomo Puccini's "Tosca"

Kirk Douglas Theatre **601 West Temple Street, Los Angeles 90012** Through Dec 18 – A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings

Mark Taper Forum Dec 11-Jan 22 – "Lewis and Clark Reach the Euphrates"

Walt Disney Concert Hall **151 S. Grand Avenue, Los Angeles 90012**

DECEMBER

4 - Jazz: My Fair Lady

6 - Green Umbrella: Andsnes

7 - Recital: Anderszewski

8-11 - L.A. Philharmonic: Andsnes Plays Mozart

10 – L.A. Master Chorale: Holiday Wonders (1p.m. and 4 p.m.)

11 – L.A. Master Chorale: Rejoice (7 p.m.)

12 - Light of the Stable: Christmas with Emmylou Harris

13 - L.A. Master Chorale: Rejoice

14 - Holiday Sing-Along

16 - L.A. Philharmonic: El Nino (11 a.m.)

16 - L.A. Philharmonic: Peter Schickele Meets P.D.Q. Bach (8 p.m.)

17 - L.A. Philharmonic: 'Twas The Week Before Christmas (12 p.m.)

17-18 - L.A. Philharmonic: El Nino

18 - L.A. Philharmonic: 'Twas The Week Before Christmas (7:30 p.m.)

19 - L.A. Master Chorale: Messiah Sing-Along

20 - Christmas with Chanticleer

21 - The Manhattan Transfer Christmas

22 - Lila Downs

23 - The Blind Boys of Alabama

28-29 - L.A. Master Chorale: Celebrar

31 - Big Bad Voodoo Daddy (7 p.m. and 10:30 p.m.)

Share Your Heart...Share Your Home



Adopt a Waiting Child *1-888-811-1121*

*or visit the Department of Children
and Families' Web site at
www.dcfcs.co.la.ca.us*

County DIGEST

Articles and other submissions to the *County DIGEST* may be edited or otherwise altered for clarity.

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Fire Departments Throughout Los Angeles County Honored for Their Role in Del Cero Fire

Supervisor Don Knabe presented scrolls recently to recognize various fire departments throughout the County for the roles they played in the Del Cero Fire that quickly spread through the City of Rancho Palos Verdes this past summer.

In July, the dangerous wildfire rapidly spread through Rancho Palos Verdes, near Del Cero Park. The fast moving fire burned over 200 acres of land and threatened countless homes, but over 300 firefighters from throughout the region responded and not a single home was lost.

“Together these forces, from across the region, quickly moved to help evacuate the area and put out a potentially devastating fire,” Supervisor Knabe said. “We are very lucky to have such excellent firefighters here, or this incident could have been much worse.”

Honored at the presentation was the Fire Department, along with fire departments from the cities of Los Angeles, Long Beach, Manhattan Beach, Hermosa Beach, Redondo Beach and Torrance.



Holiday Boat Parade & Fireworks Show Sets Sail in Marina del Rey Saturday, December 10

Marina del Rey’s 43rd Annual Holiday Boat Parade and Fireworks Show will light up the Marina Saturday, December 10, when colorfully decorated boats circle the Marina’s main channel from 6 to 8 p.m. At 5:55 p.m., a dazzling display of Zambelli fireworks off the south jetty will kick off the event, followed by the parade of brilliantly lit vessels. The parade theme for the 2005 Holiday Boat Parade is “Star Light, Star Bright.”



This year’s Grand Marshal of the Boat Parade is Maestro Frank Fetta, the popular Conductor and Music Director of the Marina del Rey Summer Symphony, riding aboard the Grand Marshal vessel. Riding with him will be the well-known female instrumental ensemble Belle Air Brass, which he will conduct as they play holiday musical favorites.

Sister parade for the Marina del Rey Holiday Boat Parade is the *Illuminated Boat Parade & Contest of Tokyo Bay*. Representatives of the Tokyo Parade will be in Marina del Rey to view this year’s event. Among numerous prizes to be given away, the “Best Overall” entry will win a trip to Tokyo to judge the Tokyo Bay Parade.

Best locations for viewing the Holiday Boat Parade are Burton Chace Park, located at 13650 Mindanao Way, and Fisherman’s Village at 13755 Fiji Way. Spectators can see and hear the boat parade free of charge.

The Holiday Boat Parade is presented by the community volunteer Holiday Boat Parade Committee in conjunction with the Department of Beaches and Harbors. For parade information, visit the official Holiday Boat Parade Web site at www.mdrboatparade.org.

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 the County of Los Angeles:

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER/WEIGHTS & MEASURES: Wai J. Leung

CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES: Kay L. Trotman, Sanny Yeung

CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES: Renee H. Hanna, Richard A. Hickman, Martha McLellan

DISTRICT ATTORNEY: Daniel L. Bershin

FIRE: Scott Catterlin Jones, Stanley Perkins, William G. Shirreffs III

HEALTH SERVICES: Earl D. Bolden, Hanna Canawati, JR G. Church, Georgia Fields, John C. Hunter, Ofelia P. Lacaba, Flordeliz A. Lacuesta, Joseph R. Luna, Barbara J. Moore, Christine L. Sanchez, Rochelle Skolnick, Mary H. Suddeth, Jeanette L. Valencia

INTERNAL SERVICES: Philip Mutchnik, Fannie P. Radcliff

MENTAL HEALTH: Mary A. Molina, Rene Toft

PROBATION: Anthony Arredondo, Margarette Bolden, Minnie Hill, Daisy M. Liggins, Ann B. Vinetz

PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Sharon Fernandez, Patsy Hadley, Lola M. Jones, Phyllis H. Taylor

PUBLIC WORKS: Monte L. Easter, Marian L. Love

SHERIFF: Larry E. Cobb, Michael S. Conklin, Diana M. Lane, Richard B. Mitchell, Janice A. Pickering, Patricia R. Turner, Trudy E. Wilson

SUPERIOR COURT: Leora J. Pursel, Vivian T. Yamamoto

Congratulations to the following employees who are joining the ranks of the retired after 25 or more years of service to the people of the County of Los Angeles:

FIRE: Michael J. Balzano, Mark L. Wilson

HEALTH SERVICES: Sanaa M. Abdelgawad, Remedios Andrada, Shirley Baker, Thomas D. Bates, Jerry Bruno, Frances Fernandez, Robert L. Hamilton, Crissie B. Harris, Michael D. Oughton, Edita M. Patam, Natalie N. Solis

INTERNAL SERVICES: Bernard P. Covington, Hoai Pham

LACERA: Frances E. Bolaris, Miriam A. Cojulun

MENTAL HEALTH: Olga Gutierrez

PUBLIC LIBRARY: Jeanne G. Reed

PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Cesar G. Bigornia, Marion Morris, Myrna Rodriguez

PUBLIC WORKS: Albert Ramos

SHERIFF: Clark P. Billingsley, Vera W. Turner

SUPERIOR COURT: Theodore Hudson, Elouise M. Martinez, Alice L. Walker

Employee of the Month: Public Social Services' Gratia D'Souza

Gratia D'Souza, a Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) employee, received her scroll from Supervisor Gloria Molina, Chair of the Board of Supervisors, in the presence of those whom she has equal admiration for, her colleagues, and those whom she loves, her family.



“I am proud to come to work every single day at DPSS. My staff, my supervisor and my managers are so helpful and supportive. They make my job more enjoyable.” These are the sentiments of Gratia D'Souza, recipient of the October 2005 Employee of the Month.

A seven-year employee of the County of Los Angeles, D'Souza is currently an Accounting Technician II in the Special Operations Section of the General Services Division. She is in charge of supervising accounting and clerical staff for the Interim Assistance Recovery Unit. This unit is responsible for the recoupment of funds from former General Relief participants who are approved for Social Security Income (SSI). The monthly recovery rate exceeds \$1 million. In addition to this, under her guidance and supervision, the unit reviews and processes Trust Warrant Requests via e-CAPS, prepares monthly financial reports, conducts training for new employees, answers telephone inquiries from participants and district and Social Security Administration offices and handles VIP calls.

“It is very satisfying to help participants with their SSI checks. It makes me feel very good that I can help someone with their needs,” Ms. D'Souza said.

With her “can-do” attitude, everything is possible. Knowing that there is always room for improvement, she created programs that have contributed to more effective and efficient services to our constituents.

The first computer tracking system Ms. D'Souza created using Microsoft Excel allows staff at all levels to review cases referred to the Office of the Treasurer and Tax Collector for collection. Using this program, staff can view information such as the amount referred and the date of the referral thus eliminating the need for performing

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a manual search through various files. The end result is improved overall customer service and the immediate provision of answers to telephone inquiries. The other computer tracking system she created provides an automated fax cover memo that contains all the case information once a participant's social security number is typed in. This has promoted greater efficiency and has decreased the likelihood of typographical errors.

Ms. D'Souza continues this devotion to work outside the workplace. She is a member of the Mangalorean Association which organizes different activities for the Indian communities. She also volunteers at various fundraising events at her son's school such as the Harvest Festival, Pancake Breakfast and Family Portrait Day. She also finds time to volunteer at her church's annual Parish Festival.

Her busy work schedule and outside commitments have not deterred her from her family obligations. For the past 16 years, Ms. D'Souza has been happily married to a fellow County employee with the Fire Department and has one son who is in the 8th grade. They are also raising Ms. D'Souza's younger brother. She obtained a degree in Information Systems from California State University, Northridge.

Ms. D'Souza, congratulations on a well-deserved accolade and continued success.

Supervisor Antonovich Launches Campaign to Reduce Antelope Valley Hate Crimes

On Wednesday, October 5, Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich joined the Antelope Valley Human Relations Task Force, Palmdale Mayor Jim Ledford, Lancaster Mayor Frank Roberts, and Lancaster Vice Mayor Bishop Henry Hearn at Fire Station #129 to launch a public information campaign to reduce the incidence of hate crime in the Antelope Valley.



Pictured from left to right are Pat Russell (Assistant Deputy to Supervisor Antonovich and Antelope Valley Human Relations Task Force Member), Steve Gocke (Superintendent, Lancaster School District), Henry Hearn (Vice Mayor, City of Lancaster and Antelope Valley Human Relations Task Force Member), Supervisor Antonovich, and Karen Patterson (Principal, Antelope Valley High School).

the posters will be distributed to all schools and businesses throughout the Antelope Valley. The number is 1-877-7-AT-PEACE or 1-877-728-7322.

“As citizens, we need to stand united against racism, intolerance and violence, and for love, respect and understanding,” Supervisor Antonovich said. “We must never tolerate racist hatred and must work together to stamp it out for good.”

“Senseless acts of bigotry and violence violate our most basic human rights,” the Supervisor said. “Merely stating intolerance of hate crimes is not adequate – we are compelled by the lessons of history to take action to ensure they are stopped.”

To address the hate crime issue and present a united front to combat it, the Antelope Valley Human Relations Task Force was established in 1996 by Supervisor Antonovich's office and the Human Relations Commission. The Task Force works with the Sheriff's Department, Palmdale, Lancaster and Antelope Valley High School Districts, and the community to fully investigate incidents and reduce the number of hate crimes. The task force also supports student dialogue through teen summits and gives students the necessary tools to avoid race-related conflict.

The Task Force's Education Committee created educational posters, funded by Supervisor Antonovich's office that feature a toll free number for students to report incidents anonymously. The

ENRICHING LIVES...

“Celebrating Innovations: The County’s Best and Brightest!”

19th Annual Productivity and Quality Awards Program

The Quality and Productivity Commission recognized *The County’s Best and Brightest* at the Music Center’s Dorothy Chandler Pavilion on Wednesday, October 26.

The theme, “Celebrating Innovations: The County’s Best and Brightest!” captures the spirit of the 90,000 men and women who play a key role in carrying out the strategic mission of enriching lives through effective and caring service. The best and brightest are the County’s golden stars – they are the department program managers who inspired the creation and the realization of these award-winning programs. During the annual awards luncheon sponsored by the Commission and the Board of Supervisors, Commission Chair Jaclyn Tilley Hill, Chief Administrative Officer, David E. Janssen and Master of Ceremonies Chuck Henry, NBC News anchor, announced the award-winning teams.



2005 Commission Chair Leadership Award

J. Tyler McCauley
Auditor-Controller



Other Top Ten Award Winners

Mental Health Indigent Medication Program
Mental Health

Automatic Quality Check of Deed Processing
Office of the Assessor

“Got Dots?” Voter Education Campaign
Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk

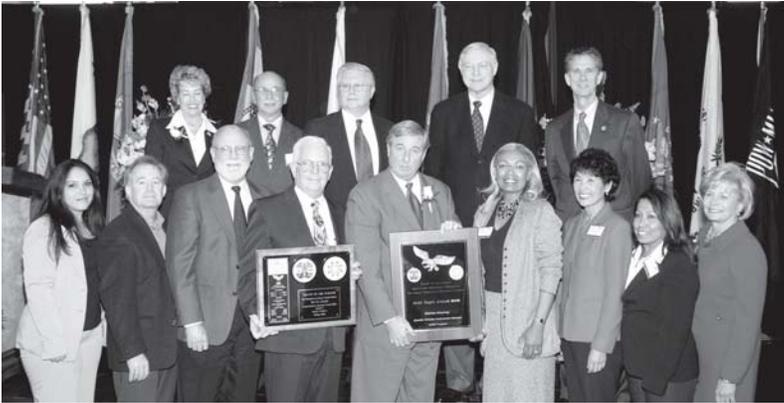
Lifer Hearing Videoconferencing
District Attorney

Sandbags for Safety
Beaches and Harbors

Victim-Witness Assistance Program
District Attorney

Small Business “Boot Camp” and Training Courses

Internal Services with the Affirmative Action
Compliance, Community Development
Commission/Housing Authority and Public Works



The Gold Eagle Award

Juvenile Offender Intervention Network (JOIN) Program
District Attorney



The Silver Eagle Award

APD Performance Counts – Workload Difficulty Index
Alternate Public Defender



The Bronze Eagle Award

Employment Discrimination Mediation Program
Office of Affirmative Action Compliance



**County of Los Angeles
VISION**

Our *purpose* is to improve the quality of life in Los Angeles County by providing responsive, efficient and high quality public services that promote the self-sufficiency, well-being and prosperity of individuals, families, businesses and communities.

Our *philosophy* of teamwork and collaboration is anchored in our *shared values*:

- **A can-do attitude** - we approach each challenge believing that, together, a solution can be achieved.
- **Accountability** - we accept responsibility for the decisions we make and the actions we take.
- **Compassion** - we treat those we serve and each other in a kind and caring manner.
- **Commitment** - we always go the extra mile to achieve our mission.
- **Integrity** - we act consistent with our values.
- **Professionalism** - we perform to a high standard of excellence.
- **Respect for diversity** - we value the uniqueness of every individual and their perspective.
- **Responsiveness** - we take the action needed in a timely manner.

Our *position* as the premier organization for those working in the public interest is established by:

- a capability to undertake programs that have public value;
- an aspiration to be recognized through our achievements as the model for civic innovation; and a pledge to always work to earn the public trust.

Supervisor Antonovich Seeking Loving Homes for Foster Youth During “National Adoption Month”

Throughout National Adoption Month, Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich hosted numerous events aimed at recruiting adoptive families for Los Angeles County foster youth.



Pictured from left to right are Adoption Ambassador Lourdes Sanchez, Adoption Ambassador Rafael King, Dr. David Sanders (Director, Department of Children & Family Services), Adoption Ambassador Carmen Collins, and Supervisor Antonovich.

“There are more than 22,000 children in our County’s foster care system,” Supervisor Antonovich said. “Hundreds are in need of adoption – especially our older children who may be emancipated without the love, security and support of a family. Every child deserves a loving and safe home.”

On Tuesday, November 1, Supervisor Antonovich kicked off National Adoption Month during the Board of Supervisors meeting, recognizing six honorees for their dedicated commitment and service to the Department of Children and Family Services, Adoptions Division, Placement and Recruitment Unit. Honorees included the Aquarium of the Pacific, the Los Angeles Sentinel Newspaper, and three “Adoption Ambassadors” – individuals who can speak from their own experiences as adoptive parents to reach out to their communities to recruit other prospective adoptive parents.

Encouraging members of churches and synagogues to adopt some 600 foster children who need homes, Supervisor Antonovich hosted a faith-based community breakfast on Thursday, November 3, at the Arboretum in Arcadia. The Supervisor asked the faith community to involve foster children in their congregations and help them develop community connections.

“Our children are not the future, they are today,” Supervisor Antonovich said. “If we don’t meet their needs today, they will have no future.” For information on how to adopt a foster child, please call 1-888-811-1121, or log on to dcfs.co.la.ca.us.

CSULB Bestows Leadership Award to Head of County Agency for Creating Unique Service Learning Partnership

University students earn academic credit while providing services to lower-income individuals through a nationally-recognized and model community service program

On October 17, California State University, Long Beach (CSULB), presented a Leadership and Public Service Award to Carlos Jackson, Executive Director of the Community Development Commission (CDC), for his role in creating a unique and nationally recognized service-learning partnership with CSULB and other local universities. The award, which was presented at CSULB’s Service-Learning Faculty and Community Partners Appreciation Ceremony, cited Jackson’s “ongoing commitment to campus-community partnerships and valuable contributions to the quality of life in the County of Los Angeles.”

The CDC’s partnership with CSULB began over three and a half years ago when CSULB students began volunteering at the CDC’s 713-unit Carmelitos public housing development in North Long Beach. This was the first service-learning effort of the CDC, which functions as the County’s affordable housing and community and economic development agency. The partnership includes Long Beach City College; California State University, Dominguez Hills; Goodwill Industries of Long Beach and South Bay; and Long Beach BLAST, a local non-profit organization. The partnership has inspired the CDC to collaborate with numerous other colleges and universities throughout the County. Last year alone, more than 550 students provided over 9,500 hours of service Countywide for CDC programs and projects.

The CDC partnership is the only service-learning program in California that places college students in public housing communities; the agency is also aware of only one other similar example in the entire United States. The National Association of Counties (NACo) – the only national organization that represents county governments – bestowed an “Achievement Award” on the program for its innovation.

CDC Executive Director Carlos Jackson accepted the award on behalf of the CDC staff. Jackson said, “This

Supervisor Burke Remembers Rosa Parks

“She was always kind, soft-spoken and unpretentious,” Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke said, reminiscing about the numerous times she met with Rosa Parks. The Supervisor saw the civil rights icon often at private events, as Mrs. Parks spent time every winter in the home of a friend of the Supervisor’s. And the Supervisor saw Mrs. Parks at public events, when the County of Los Angeles honored her. This included the MTA (Metropolitan Transportation Authority) naming the station at the confluence of the Metro Blue Line and Metro Green Line the Imperial/Wilmington/Rosa Parks Station, and the County naming the neonatal intensive care unit at Martin Luther King, Jr. Hospital after her.

By the time of her death on October 24, Mrs. Parks had become such an integral part of the history of the United States that she became the first woman ever to lie in honor under the dome of the Capitol Rotunda in Washington, D.C. President George W. Bush issued a proclamation ordering the U.S. flag to be flown at half-staff at the White House and all other public—including military—buildings and grounds throughout the world, on the day of her burial.

It was Rosa Parks’ refusal to give up her seat on a city bus in Montgomery, Alabama to a white passenger in December



Supervisor Burke (left) welcomed Rosa Parks to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit named for her at Martin Luther King Hospital.

of 1955 that sparked the modern civil rights movement in the United States. Mrs. Parks later said she was tired after a full day’s work and a lifetime of humiliation under Jim Crow laws and traditions, and was not willing to move.

At the time it was a dangerous thing to do. Anyone who contravened race laws in the 1950s South took her physical, as well as economic well being into her own hands. Black passengers had even been killed for disobeying bus drivers, all of whom were white at the time.

The boycott by African Americans of Montgomery buses went on for more than a year, and brought the transit system to its knees. The following year the U.S. Supreme Court outlawed segregation on buses.

Later on, Mrs. Parks moved to Detroit, Michigan, where she became a member of the staff of Democratic Congressman John Conyers. In the following years she also traveled widely, and was awarded numerous honors.

“She wore the weight of all that fame and public attention lightly,” Supervisor Burke said. “She was truly a role model for all people who appreciate grace and dignity. I’m so glad I had the honor and pleasure of knowing her.”

CDC

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award belongs to the Commission staff who have demonstrated great creativity, dedication, and compassion. They are the ones who should be honored. We have created a wonderful partnership that is helping to instill civic values in students and exposing them to the rewards of public service. I thank CSULB for all that they have done. The CDC could not provide vital services through the service-learning program without the support and commitment of CSULB. I look forward to finding new and innovative ways to strengthen the partnership between our agency and CSULB.”



L.A. Holiday Celebration 2005

Best of Compilation Show – Dec. 15 (10 p.m.)

Six-hour Live Show – Dec. 24

46TH ANNUAL L.A. HOLIDAY COUNTY CELEBRATION

L.A. Holiday Celebration 2005 is a “best of” compilation of Los Angeles County’s annual holiday show performed live before an audience of more than 6,000 in the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion of the Music Center. The one-hour music and dance special reflects the cultural mosaic of Los Angeles rarely experienced on national television. Between its all-American, tap extravaganza opening set to the music of Duke Ellington and its gospel finale, the celebration visits centuries-old traditions and boundary-breaking performances. The program brims with energetic performers of African, Asian, European, Latino and Middle Eastern backgrounds expressing the joy of the season. “L.A. Holiday Celebration 2005” airs on PBS December 15, 2005 at 10 p.m. ET/PT (check local listings).



Comedian **Elayne Boosler** (pictured) plays host and provides her singular brand of breezy commentary. Director and co-producer **Gary Smith**, winner of 24 Emmy Awards and executive producer of Tony telecasts and American Film Institute specials, intercuts performances with behind the scenes brief interviews with the artists.

The show features:

- **Mariachi Divas**, a path breaking all-female ensemble that augments traditional mariachi instrumentation to reflect its multi-cultural makeup, paying tribute to Celia Cruz with their arrangement of “La Vida es un Carnaval.”
- The infectious intensity and jubilation of **Soldiers on Soul Patrol**, a choir which grew out of an at-risk youth program, performing “Joy,” written by the group’s founder/director Randy Quesada.
- A haunting traditional Jewish prayer for freedom from Yemen - “D’ror Yikra” - arranged by Israeli-born, Rockefeller and NEA award-winning composer-performer **Yuval Ron** and performed by his ensemble, made up of Muslim, Jewish and Christian musicians playing together.
- Dancers from one of L.A.’s hotbeds of tap training, **Universal Dance Designs Kennedy Tap Company**, in a show-stopping interpretation of Duke Ellington’s “It Don’t Mean a Thing.”
- The elegant Ribbon Dance, which originated at the Chinese Imperial Court 1,500 years ago, performed by the **America Chinese Dance Association**.

- **Grandeza Mexicana Folk Ballet Company** (pictured) evoking festivities in the Mexican state of Nuevo Leon, influenced by both the cowboy culture and Czech and Scottish settlers, in the dances “Café Roma” and “El Circo.”



- The all-female choral ensemble, **Vox Femina**, expressing the serenity and affirmation of life the holidays bring in “Under the Holly Bough” and “Music Down in My Soul.”
- **Mariachi Sol de Mexico**, whose leader, Jose Hernandez, is a sixth generation mariachi, performing his virtuoso violin piece, “El Rey de la Huasteca.”
- Windy Barnes Farrell, a protégé of Stevie Wonder and Michael Bolton, leads her **Inspirational Voices of Free!** in her own composition, “Pour You Out a Blessing.”
- “White Christmas” played by the **ARC Handbell Choir**, a remarkable 20-year-old group comprised of developmentally disabled children and adults.
- **Jubilant Voices of Holman United Methodist Church**, winners of the McDonald’s Gospelfest Competition in 2003, singing “Carol of the Bells” and a Christmas medley.

The L.A. County Holiday Celebration is a decades-old tradition, beloved by Angelenos for nearly half a century. The show, which is admission-free, is a gift from the Board of Supervisors to the community at large. Attendance at the live show, which features 1,500 performers representing 40 groups chosen by competitive application in a six hour program every December 24, is a yearly ritual for thousands of families. The 2005 edition will be the 46th annual. Los Angeles public television station KCET has broadcast the live show since 1965. In 2002 L.A. Holiday Celebration received its first national exposure on PBS. The Los Angeles County Arts Commission is the executive producer of the show.

From the left, Laura Zucker, Executive Director of the County Arts Commission, artist Jacqueline Dreager, and **Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky** were recently on hand with other dignitaries for the grand opening of the new Van Nuys Civic Child Development Center, the Valley's first child-care center designed from the ground up specifically for that purpose. The 7,125 sq. ft. state-of-the-art facility, built by the County under Supervisor Yaroslavsky's auspices, offers 75 slots to children ages 6 weeks to 6 years, primarily serving children of city, County and court employees working in the Van Nuys Civic Center complex. Dreager's whimsical animal-based designs, one of which is pictured here, adorn the new building's interior and exterior. The Center will be operated under contract by the Child Care Resource Center, a local non-profit community-based agency established in the San Fernando Valley in 1975.



Holiday Events at Your Local Public Library

The County of Los Angeles Public Library offers a variety of holiday programs for all ages. Below is a sampling of special holiday programs at County libraries:

Dec 6 (4 p.m.) - Holiday Music with Craig Newton
Manhattan Beach Library
1320 Highland Ave., Manhattan Beach (310)545-8595

Dec 7, 14 & 21 (4 p.m.) - Holiday stories and a craft
San Fernando Library
217 N. Maclay Ave., San Fernando (818)365-6928

Dec 7 (4 p.m.) - Celebrate Christmas by making an Ornament
Dec 21 (4 p.m.) - Celebrate Kwanzaa by making a Mishumaa candle
AC Bilbrew Library
150 E. El Segundo Blvd., Los Angeles (310)538-3350

Dec 8 (3:30 p.m.) - Make a gingerbread house *Sign-ups are required*
Live Oak Library
4153-55 E. Live Oak Ave., Arcadia (626)446-8803

Dec 9 (3:30 p.m.) - Christmas Fantasy with Mrs. Claus
Paramount Library
16254 Colorado Ave., Paramount (562)630-3171

Dec 10 (2 p.m.) - Holiday Craft Program - gingerbread houses
Duarte Library
1301 Buena Vista St., Duarte (626)358-1865

Dec 13 (3:30 p.m.) - "Polly Polar Bear and the Prince of the Sea" puppet show by SWAZZLE
Newhall Library
22704 W. Ninth St., Santa Clarita (661)259-0750

Dec 13 (4 p.m.) - Mariachi Magic for the Holidays by Rafael Gomez
Norwalk Library
12350 Imperial Hwy., Norwalk (562)868-0775

Dec 15 (4 p.m.) - Christmas Fantasy with Mrs. Claus - children
Stories and Dance by Alina Mendez
Compton Library

Dec 15 (3 p.m.) - Holiday Dance Program by Gypsy Folk Ensemble multicultural dances from Mexico, Africa, Israel, and Germany
South El Monte Library
1430 N. Central Ave., South El Monte (626)443-4158

Dec 21 (11 a.m.) - "Christmas Fantasy with Mrs. Claus"
Storytelling, dance, face-painting
Bell Library
4411 E. Gage Ave., Bell (323)560-2149

Check the calendar of events on the County Library Web site for additional programs at County community libraries at www.colapublib.org.

Share It

Toy Loan “The Program with a Heart”

As families struggle to afford basic necessities, particularly families with limited income, the Toy Loan program seeks to provide support towards the well-being of their children. Toy Loan, a free toy lending service for children, operates in the same manner as a public library and is available to families of all incomes in the County of Los Angeles. Children are free to borrow toys to play with from the Toy Loan Library. The program is designed to help children develop a sense of responsibility, build character, and foster positive attitudes through the observance of an honor code and a merit system that rewards the children when toys are returned on time and undamaged. Children who adhere to the *Toy Loan Honor Code*: Honesty, Patience, Courtesy, Promptness, Cleanliness, Cooperation and Responsibility are reaping the rewards of being a Toy Loan member while earning points towards a brand new toy for them to keep. With the support of the Board of Supervisors and the Department of Public Social Services, the Toy Loan Advisory Board is further enhancing its partnership with



local city/county parks and community agencies who share the mission of enriching children’s lives. For example, since June 2005, the following have incorporated a Toy Loan Center:

- Stephen Sorenson County Park
- Jackie Robinson County Park
- Wabash Recreation Center
- Cypress Park Youth & Family Center
- Lucille Beserra Roybal Youth and Family Center
- New Directions Community Program

In addition to the year-round campaign to increase the number of Toy Loan centers, the 2005 Toy Loan Summer Fundraising Campaign established a goal of raising \$2,000 and an abundant amount of new toys (which were enthusiastically collected throughout the various offices Countywide). The 2005 goal was surpassed due to the generosity of County employees and private citizens who directly contributed monetary/toy donations as well as initiated toy drives in their workplace and/or outside affiliations. Every donation assists the Toy Loan Program in bringing smiles to the more than 2,800 children in the 50 centers (including the new centers) who participate in the program monthly.

To learn more about the program, find out how you can help, or locate a Toy Loan Center near you, please call (213) 744-4344 or visit the Web site at www.ladpss.org/dpss/toyloan/default.cfm.



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