

# AEROGGRAMME

NEWSLETTER FOR THE EMPLOYEES OF LOS ANGELES WORLD AIRPORTS

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My Best Shot



Jay Berkowitz

**EMPLOYEES RECOGNIZED**— **Garry King**, Airport Maintenance Supervisor III, and **George Webb**, Window Cleaning Supervisor, pictured second and fourth from left, were honored during a Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) managers meeting earlier this month. The duo was cited for stopping their LAWA vehicles at the scene of an accident on a road adjacent to LAX and assisting in saving the life of the driver. Upon arriving at the scene, the employees had no idea that the driver purposely crashed her car in a suicide attempt. They immediately checked on her well-being and placed her and her personal belongings in their vehicle until Airport Police and an ambulance arrived. “Their selfless act is to be commended,” said Chief of Airport Police **Patrick Gannon**, pictured left, in saluting them for their heroism. Also congratulating them on their life-saving efforts were LAWA Executive Director **Gina Marie Lindsey**, center, and **David Shuter**, right, LAWA deputy executive director, Facilities Maintenance and Utilities Group.

## Van Nuys Airport Celebrates 86th Birthday

December 17, 2014, marked 86 years of aviation history for Van Nuys Airport (VNY).

VNY was originally known as Metropolitan Airport. It was founded by locals to bring aviation within reach of the outskirts of the rapidly growing Los Angeles area. Since its inception, VNY has been an important asset to the general aviation community.

Located about 25 miles north of LAX, amid 80 acres of trees and farmland, Metropolitan Airport – with its initial biplane hangar fees of \$35 per month and landing fees of 50 cents – was a place where pioneering pilots, who had faith in the future of aviation, could fly their “new-fangled flying machines.” Early days at Metropolitan involved hosting a number of record-breaking

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# A Holly Jolly Time!



Joy Berkowitz

**HOLIDAY CHEER**—Van Nuys Airport (VNY) personnel put all their resources together to sponsor a special holiday program featuring magic, mascots and gifts for students at their adopted Gault Elementary School. Participants in the event included, from left (in and out of costume): **Melissa Altamirano**, intern; **Dee Lewis**, Airport Tour Guide (retired); **Sandy Kluger**, Community Administrative Support Worker; VNY Public and Community Relations Director **Diana Sanchez**; **Alan Nicoletti**, volunteer; VNY Airport Manager **Jess Romo**; **Janelle Goforth**, volunteer; **Carrie Nicoletti**, **Jan Goforth**, and **Shani Yehezkel**, Airport Tour Guide.



Gaby Pacheco

**HELPING ST. MARGARET'S CENTER**—Santa elves **Sharon Jackson**, left, and **Denise Chang** hard at work.



Gaby Pacheco

**GETTING THE SPIRIT**—With the spirit of the holidays underway, **Larry Genuth**, right, and son seem “inspired” to help decorate the City’s float.

## December a Busy Time For Team LAWA Volunteers

December was a season of giving and volunteering for employees of the Team LAWA group.

On December 13, Team LAWA members helped decorate the City of Los Angeles’ float in the 2015 Rose Parade and served as Santa’s elves on December 20 by wrapping toys for needy families participating in St. Margaret’s Holiday Program.

The City’s float entry, “What’s Your L.A. Story?” was among the floral floats, spirited marching bands and high-stepping equestrian units in the 126th Rose Parade, which was themed “Inspiring Stories.”

The float featured L.A. attractions such as a “red carpet gala,” skateboarder, outdoor café, sunbather, surfer, skier and sunny weather, including the iconic City Hall and Capitol Records buildings. From 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., 25 employees and their loved ones braved chilly weather to cut dried flowers, glue seeds, and work with a variety of other natural materials.

And with Santa needing help across town the following Saturday, 10 employees and their loved ones worked four-hour shifts to wrap gifts at Morningside High School in Inglewood. Wearing their blue Team LAWA T-shirts, volunteers proudly wrapped toys and other gifts including odd-shaped ones while children were entertained in the auditorium.

Team LAWA volunteers who participated in the activities included:

**Michelle Acquah** and **Vicky Lit**, Financial Reporting; **Mel Cabral**, **Larry Genuth**, **Delia Haro**, and **Anita Tan**, IMTG; **Denise Chang** and **Michelle Irwin**, Airport Police; **Arinda (Susie) Gutierrez**, Airfield Ops; **Georginnah Navarrete**, Commercial Development; **Cynthia Darmasaputra**, Customer Service; **Kaylee Smith**, Maintenance Services; **Paula Miura**, Facilities Engineering; **Kim Somvongsiri**, Airports Development; **Sharon Jackson** and **Jennifer Wong**, Finance & Budget; and **Clariana Gallardo**, **Nancy Mustard**, and **Wallicia Miller**, Community Relations.

# LAX Named 'Best Airport - North America'

Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) has been named "2014 Best Airport-North America" by *Business Traveler*, a leading print and online international magazine with readership of 175,000 frequent fliers and business executives.

The award recognizes the airport's "investment of billions of dollars and commitment to creating a transportation hub focused on connections, comfort, quality and value that improve the travel experiences of road warriors."

"LAX's current multi-billion-dollar, airport-wide improvements; continued revitalization of the airport's dining and retail offerings that reflect L.A. culture, cuisine, and lifestyle; and other passenger amenities are providing all visitors to LAX – including the important

business traveler segment – with a significantly improved customer service experience," said **Gina Marie Lindsey**, executive director of Los Angeles World Airports that owns and operates LAX and two other Southern California airports. She added, "The major U.S. airlines at LAX are also committed to passenger-service improvements by investing more than \$1 billion combined to renovate their terminals and airline lounges."

The more than \$7-billion LAX Modernization Program is creating nearly 40,000 construction-related jobs and pumps \$6.89 billion into the local economy. Furthermore, operations at LAX are responsible for 294,400 jobs in Los Angeles County and an additional 19,400 jobs in neighboring Southern California counties.

## ARRIVALS

Los Angeles World Airports welcomes the following new employees:

**Daniel Alonzo, Juan Echavarría, Alberto Escalera, Jaime Figueroa, Liza Florendo, Ian Henley, Michael Hernandez, Rogelio Medina, Yuri Nagata, Franz Neil Reola, Levi Swindel, Michael Tawagon, Emmanuel Toledo, and Dexter Tolentino**, Police Officers I, Airport Police – Sworn

**Fernando Alvarado and Matthew Thierry**, Electrical Craft Helpers, Engineering & Facilities Maintenance

**Narmin Awad, Fallon Chambers, Janice Goforth, Esther King, Abram Leal, Candace Mayeron, Jimmeness Robottom, and Nicholas Tamer**, Airport Guides I, Customer Service

**Baig Bismah, Carmen Macias, and Tiffany West**, Clerk Typists – Human Resources

**Kenelm Booth**, Custodian, Maintenance Services

**Rosalina Chuatoco**, Management Analyst II, Finance and Budget

**Ramon Cruz and Jonathan Young**, Mechanic Helpers, Engineering & Facilities Maintenance

**Keila Dedic and Jamia Scranton**, Student Professional Workers, Business & Job Resources

**George Fields and Lorene Garcia**, Clerk Typist, Police – Civilians

**Jesse Garcia**, Street Services Worker, Maintenance Services

**Naomi Garcia and Annarie Mignini**, Clerk Typists, Information Management Technology Group

**Robert Gerhardstein**, Electrician, Engineering & Facilities Maintenance

**Kaecia Godfrey, Willicia Miller, Angelique Ramsingh, Aaron Schwarzkopf, Xiaoquin Wang, and Khista Wilson**, Community Administrative Workers, Human Resources

**John Goodwin**, Electrician, Maintenance Services – ONT

**Nicholas Incardona**, Management Assistant, Police – Civilians

**Eric Jorgensen**, Electrical Craft Helper, Maintenance Services – VNY

**Jose Manacop**, Equipment Mechanic, Maintenance Services

**Ariel Levy Mayer and Shani Yehezkel**, Airport Guides I, VNY – Community Relations

**Gerardo Nunez**, Senior Gardener, Maintenance Services

**Alexis Oliver**, Management Analyst II, Engineering & Facilities Maintenance

## Van Nuys Airport 86th Birthday

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flights of endurance and speed by both men and women.

With the 1930s came the Great Depression that took a toll on the modest airport. The corporation responsible for starting the airport was dissolved and the city of Hollywood came through to save Metropolitan from closure. Today, VNY continues to be an asset to filmmakers' aviation backdrop needs.

In the 1940s during World War II, the federal government took over Metropolitan and used it as a military base. The U.S. Navy and Lockheed Corporation opened an aircraft modification facility to help serve defense needs. In 1949, the City of Los Angeles purchased Metropolitan. By this time, the airport had grown to 400 acres and was renamed San Fernando Valley Airport.

The 1950s ushered in the "Jet Age." In 1957, the airport became officially known as Van Nuys Airport and had an annual payroll of \$43 million. As growth continued in the San Fernando Valley, the main runway was extended from 6,000 to 8,000 feet to accommodate larger aircraft.



By the early 1970s, VNY had become the busiest general aviation airport in the nation with more than 550,000 operations annually.

A study released in November 2007 shows that Van Nuys Airport continues to play a critical role in the Southern California economy, contributing \$1.3 billion annually, supporting over 12,300 jobs and generating an earnings impact of \$707 million.

Today, VNY remains one of the world's busiest general aviation airports and maintains its longstanding commitment to and leadership in general aviation, business and community service.

# Inaugural Graduates



Jay Berkowitz

**DISPLAYING DIPLOMAS**—Members of the inaugural Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) – Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) Specialty Training classes were cited during a recent LAWA managers meeting for having achieved that distinction. These employees will go on to become members of LAWA's Emergency Response Team who will respond to the LAWA Department Operations Center during a major incident that disrupts airport activity, to support the unified commanders in the field and recover normal airport activity. The course's content is based on the federally adopted Incident Command System (ICS) and each lesson plan provides students with

a practical application of these principles. Students are taught by experienced LAFD instructors who use their career experience and real-world situations to demonstrate ICS practices. Graduates and staff who were able to attend the ceremony included, front row, from left: **Jacqueline A. Yaft**, LAWA deputy executive director, Operations and Emergency Management; **Raymond A. Jack**, **Kelly Baca-Broer**, **Jeff Mort**, **Nancy Castles**, **Paul Herrera**, **Richard Steele**, and **Nicholas Hess**. Back row, from left: **Regina Tennelle**, **Tim Ihle**, **Sergeant Iver Chavez**, **Robert Casarez**, **Ralph Morones**, **Cary Buchanan**, **Selena Birk**, and **Captain Greg Staar**.

## AEROGRAMME

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## My Best Shot



**ALASKA VISIT**—**Janice Batson**, Management Analyst II in Finance & Budget, took this photo at Chena Hot Springs outside Fairbanks, Alaska, during her recent visit to that state. Chena Hot Springs was founded by two gold-mining brothers in 1905. One of the brothers suffered from rheumatism and needed a place to calm his pain and be comfortable. Chena Hot Springs also offers a variety of other activities, including gold panning, as the sign on the building indicates.