

# AEROGRAMME

NEWSLETTER FOR THE EMPLOYEES OF LOS ANGELES WORLD AIRPORTS

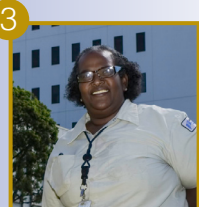
## 40 Years of LAX FlyAway® Bus Service Celebrated at Van Nuys Airport

Page



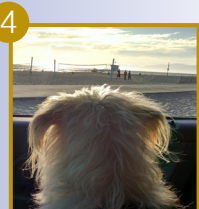
New Face of LAX

Page



Dorla Baptist Retires

Page



My Best Shot

Los Angeles World Airports employees entertained the traveling public July 10 by providing refreshments, games, giveaways, and musical performances to celebrate 40 years of continuous non-stop FlyAway® bus service between the San Fernando Valley and Los Angeles International Airport (LAX).

This first and most successful of LAX's FlyAway® bus services started July 10, 1975, with 141 passengers taking advantage of the convenient bus service. Today, the LAX FlyAway® bus service at Van Nuys continues to dominate FlyAway® demand with ridership expected to exceed 958,000 this year.

San Fernando Valley passengers bound for LAX have the option of being dropped off at the Van Nuys Bus Terminal, or leaving their cars in the terminal's patrolled parking areas. The LAX FlyAway® Bus Terminal is located at 7610 Woodley Avenue. The buses, which travel non-stop to LAX, drop off and pickup travelers in front of each of the airport's terminals.



Mary Lou Sandler

**40 YEARS**—Van Nuys Airport personnel (from left) Public and Community Relations Director **Diana Sanchez**; Airport Guide **Carrie Nicoletti**, and Interns **Ashley Pena** and **Mark MacDougall** participate in the 40-year celebration of non-stop FlyAway® bus service between the San Fernando Valley and LAX.

Unlike public buses, FlyAway® buses are designed with luggage bays and feature cushioned seats. The service complies with requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

LAX FlyAway® buses provide scheduled ground transportation between LAX and Van Nuys, Union Station, Westwood, Santa Monica and Hollywood.



Susan Goldman

**NEW LIGHTS**—New sculptural light poles and mile-long lightband in the Central Terminal Area are lit to welcome athletes to Los Angeles for the Special Olympics World Games.

## Mile-Long Lightband Highlights ‘New Face of LAX’

Mayor **Eric Garcetti**, and Board of Airport Commissioners President **Sean Burton** were joined by officials from the airport and the Special Olympics World Games on the evening of July 20 to unveil a new energy-efficient lighting scheme and lightband throughout the Central Terminal Area (CTA) of Los Angeles International Airport (LAX).

The new lighting scheme marks completion of Phase II of the \$118-million LAX CTA Curbside Appeal and Roadway Improvement Project, which also includes wayfinding and roadway improvements to make the airport more visible, safer, and easier to navigate.

After a countdown and a “swipe,” Mayor Garcetti debuted a specially created light show featuring the 91 white sculptural light poles and mile-long lightband programmed with the multi-colors of the Special Olympics, all to welcome athletes to Los Angeles.

Each new pole uses 413 watts, or half the power consumption of the previous 33-year-old, high-pressure sodium (HPS) lights — resulting in brighter and more energy-efficient street lighting. Each of the new LED light poles include eight “up” lights to further enhance visibility. Three-dimensional, LED back-lit, super-graphic terminal identifiers also help motorists find their terminals. The dramatically improved lighting increases safety and functionality for pedestrians and motorists.

The Curbside Appeal Project was designed to bring together the current separate-looking key architectural elements of the airport’s iconic 1960s Theme Building, the 2000 LAX Gateway light pylons, and the nine airline terminals. Aesthetically, the

Curbside Appeal Project will dramatically revitalize the look of LAX with new vibrancy, color and energy — offering a world-class welcome to travelers and visitors alike.

Phase I of the project, completed in 2013 when the New Tom Bradley International Terminal (TBIT) began operations, included a new façade, curbside seating, canopy, light poles, and lightband in front of the terminal. The canopy in front of TBIT is currently being extended to Terminal 4 and construction is scheduled to be completed in early 2016. The long-range plan is to have canopies at all terminals.

The Central Terminal Area is now defined with a programmable polychromatic LED lightband, or ribbon, synchronized with the light pylons. The lightband continues the theme of the vertical gateway light pylons in a horizontal application, like a ribbon tying together the entire CTA. Over one mile of the continuous ribbon is attached to the edge of the Upper/Departures Level roadway.

The 91 new sculptural light poles reach out expressively in a much tighter spacing than the 78 original street lights, creating a strong visual perspective that ties together the Central Terminal Area. The dramatically improved lighting increases safety and functionality for pedestrians and motorists.

The LAX Central Terminal Area Curbside Appeal and Roadway Improvements Project is part of the ongoing \$8.5-billion LAX Modernization Program under LAWA’s Airports Development Group led by Deputy Executive Director **Roger Johnson**. **Larry Gonsalves** served as project manager.



# Dorla Baptist, First Female Maintenance Employee, Retires

Some offices at Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) will be having the live plants watered by a different person because of the retirement of Gardener/Caretaker **Dorla Baptist** after 34 years of service to the City of Los Angeles.

“Baptist quietly and diligently performs her work in many of our offices as she waters the indoor plants,” said **David Johnson**, a senior management analyst in an area where she works. “What makes her story different is that she was hired under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act of 1973,” Johnson said.

In 1980, Baptist hired into the Parks and Recreation Department and worked at Venice Beach. Two years later, she promoted and became the first female hired by the Maintenance Services Division at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX). This was significant at the time because the all-male shop had no female facilities available. That was the beginning of change for the maintenance shops at the airports owned by Los Angeles.

“At the Maintenance Lunchroom where everyone gathered at noon,

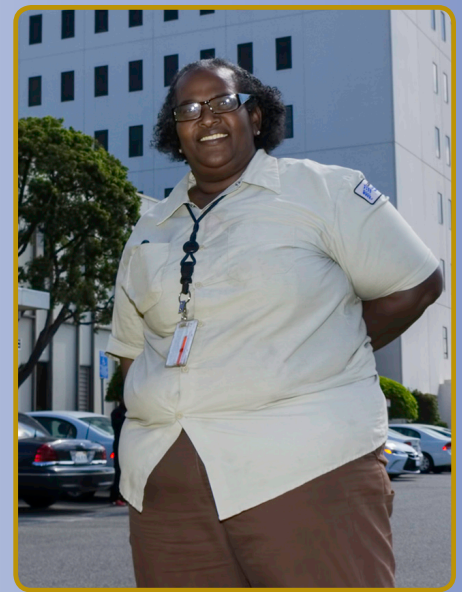
the men gave me respect, taught me how to play card games and accepted me into the group,” said Baptist. The men also began making accommodations for Baptist and the many women who followed her.

“I consider Dorla a friend, not a co-worker,” said Maintenance Services Director **Ralph Morones**. “She has always been gracious, unassuming and very respectful of supervision and management in Maintenance. She has always been willing to work and give her best efforts.”

Baptist transferred to LA/Ontario International Airport (ONT) in 1998 and worked there for 11 years. At first, she planned to move to the Inland Empire, but decided to remain in Los Angeles.

“At ONT she worked in extreme conditions with high and low ambient temperatures and did so without a complaint,” said Morones.

At LAX, she was the face of the Landscape Shop to many people where her duties included maintaining indoor plants in many division offices.



**Dorla Baptist**

“Her career is a great example of a person willing to learn a difficult trade and to do it well. She is to be commended for being the first female to work in Maintenance in a job that traditionally was performed by men. She is well liked and appreciated by her co-workers,” said Morones. “She has done a wonderful job for Los Angeles World Airports and we will miss her.”

During retirement, Baptist plans to rest a few months in Los Angeles and Las Vegas where her son lives, then visit family in Belize before vacationing in places like Hawaii and Jamaica.

## Airport Police Thanks Media, Public for Help

Los Angeles Airport Police (APD) acknowledged the efforts of the news media and the public in locating the owners of a wedding album that was lost in the Tom Bradley International Terminal during September 2014 at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX).

APD launched a social media campaign to solicit the public’s help. Local news coverage increased the campaign’s exposure. A family member saw a social media posting and recognized the couple as a cousin from Northern California.

The cover shows a photo of a man and a woman, with inscriptions that read, “Our Wedding Memories” and “Safiullah Jabar Khil & Halimi.”

Airport Police contacted and confirmed the identity of the owner and reunited the couple with their priceless family heirloom on July 30.



# LAWA on 2015 List of 100 Best Places to Work in IT

Los Angeles World Airports' (LAWA) Information Management and Technology Group (IMTG) has been listed as number 18 among mid-size organizations on the 2015 Best Places to Work in information technology. It was cited as "one of the 100 top organizations that provides Information Technology (IT) staff great benefits, compensation, and opportunities for training and advancement, as well as interesting project work and a flexible and diverse work environment."

The Best Places to Work in Information Technology list is an annual ranking of the top 100 work environments for technology professionals by *Computerworld* magazine.

"It is truly an honor for the Information Management

and Technology Group to be recognized as one of the Best Places to Work in IT as most honorees are private companies. Organizations in the public sector rarely receive such recognition," said LAWA's Deputy Executive Director/Chief Information Officer **Dominic Nessi**.

"We are allowed very little flexibility with rewarding employees, and providing financial incentives. One of our strengths is our diversity – in race, gender, and culture. Winning this award is primarily a reflection of the collaborative effort and excellent work of highly motivated IMTG staff," Nessi said.

LAWA is among the leading airports that test/use new airport technologies to improve airside operations, terminal management,

and passenger convenience/experience.

Over the past five years, IMTG has won several industry and professional association awards for completed IT projects.

This work was accomplished by a team of professionals in all areas of technology and management.

"IMTG continues to look ahead in an effort to plan and provide resources according to specific business drivers and proactively attempts to provide employees a work/life balance, which results in lower desire to leave the organization, greater pride in their organization, and a willingness to recommend the organization as a place to work, and higher overall job satisfaction," Nessi said.

## AEROGRAMME

*Aerogramme* is published monthly by the Public Relations Division to cover developments at Los Angeles World Airports.

Send news items via e-mail to [Aerogramme@lawa.org](mailto:Aerogramme@lawa.org), or by U.S. mail to Los Angeles World Airports, P.O. Box 92216, Los Angeles, CA 90009-2216; or telephone (424) 646-5260.

Editor..... **Marshall Lowe**

Designer..... **Albert Wang**

As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and, upon request, will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services and activities. Alternative formats in large print, braille, audio, and other formats (if possible) will be provided upon request.

## My Best Shot



**SUNRISE, SUNSET**—*Laura Chittum*, a senior clerk typist in the Board of Airport Commissioners Office, commented that she hasn't been able to travel the world, but "I did happen to get one of my best shots right in my own city of El Segundo at El Segundo Beach," which is located at the end of Grand Avenue. *Laura's* photo was taken inside her car as her dog *Goddard*, a rescued terrier mix, watched intently as the sun went down over the Pacific Ocean.