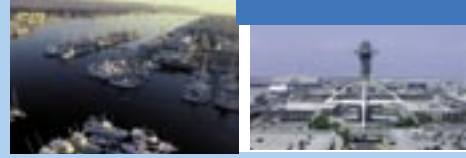


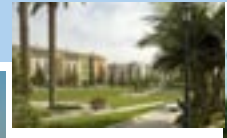
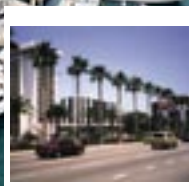


VOLUME 3  
MAY  
2009



# BUSINESS NEWS gateway

MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE  
LAX COASTAL AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



*The LAX Coastal Area Chamber is an invaluable source for meeting community business members. No matter the nature, size, or status of your company, The LAX Coastal Area Chamber's friendly members and staff will welcome you into a world of networking that creates endless contacts. The Chamber has provided Broadway Gymnastic School with so many new avenues to support gymnastics and fitness!*

## ChamberFest 2009 Set to Bring Business and Community Together

The RSVPs have been flooding in for both reservations for the Chamber's fifth annual ChamberFest on Thursday, June 4. This is one of the Chamber's most popular events, so don't miss out on the opportunity to showcase you and your business at the beautiful CenterPointe Club, located at 6200 Playa Vista Drive in Playa Vista. This event will take place from 5 to 8 pm.

A new feature of this year's event will be a seminar component with featured keynotes on a variety of business related subjects. More information will be released shortly.

Admission and parking for the event are free. ChamberFest will also feature entertainment, giveaways and chances to win raffle prizes.

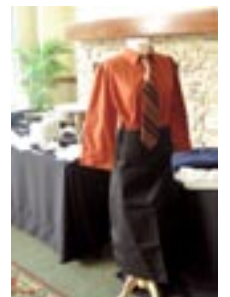
This one-of-a-kind indoor/outdoor business expo draws thousands of people each year who are eager to hear about your business, products and services.

Sponsorship opportunities are available. Booth fees range from \$200 to \$225 for Chamber members and \$395 for non-members.

Said Chamber President/CEO Christina Davis, "Every year, I have people come up to me and tell me about the sales and business connections they have made at ChamberFest. This is a great opportunity to network with the community and show what members have to offer."

For more information on ChamberFest, please contact the Chamber at (310) 645-5151.

This year, many of the area's most delicious and enticing restaurants will be offering visitors delicious samples of their most popular menu items.



Michael Cates

Owner, Broadway Gymnastic School  
5433 Beethoven Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90066  
(310) 450-0012

Thank You to Our 2009 Business Sponsors:



# chamber happenings

## Pictures



**March Mixer.** Members mixed and mingled at the Chamber's March Mixer at the Radisson L.A. Westside. Check them out on the web at [www.radisson.com/culvercityca](http://www.radisson.com/culvercityca).



**New Members.** Top (left to right): Jim Ferro, Chairman of the Board; Danny Bensimon, Venice Printing; Richard Clayman, Cloudwalker Videoworks; Jerold Mitchell, WPS, Inc.; Anthony Herrera, Mohri & Associates; Dr. Thomas Togioka, Coast Cardiology Medical. Bottom (left to right): Ronnie Jayne, A Song for You Productions; Bianca Landworth, Britica Designs; Thuy Le, Sotheby's International Realty; and Sibyl Buchanan, Vice Chair of Membership.

## Young Professionals Mixer



On Thursday, April 9, the LAX Coastal Area Chamber of Commerce hosted its first Young Professionals Mixer at Bar Melody in Westchester. With more than 50 people in attendance, Chamber members and guests were able to network with potential clients. Food and drink specials were offered to the guests along with raffle prizes from our local Chamber members.

The Young Professionals Mixer is an opportunity for future leaders to get out there and socialize among other professionals.

"Young professionals often don't know where to start with networking," said Ashley Diestel. "These mixers are a great way to get initiated with the process."

The Chamber is currently looking for locations to host the next Young Professionals Mixer. If your business is interested in hosting or sponsoring a mixer, please contact Ashley at [Ashley@laxcoastal.com](mailto:Ashley@laxcoastal.com) or (310) 645-5151.

## Get Ready for Facebook Workshop Part 2

The next Facebook workshop will take place on Tuesday, May 12 at 8 am at the Chamber office. This workshop will explain the business side to Facebook. Attendees will learn how to create a business page or a business group and learn how to manage it. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own laptops. RSVPs are a must.

On Tuesday, April 7, Ashley Diestel, the Chamber's Director of Public Affairs, gave a "How-To Workshop on Facebook." The workshop was open to all Chamber members and there were around 20 members in attendance. Facebook has become an important social and business tool, helping people network and socialize online.

At the workshop, Ashley gave a comprehensive overview of Facebook and broke down how to set an account, how to change your status and how to upload photos, among other things. A five page handbook was given to each attendee that explains the "Top Ten Things to Remember on Facebook."

If you are interested in receiving a copy of the handbook or would like to hear more about the Facebook workshop, please contact Ashley at [Ashley@laxcoastal.com](mailto:Ashley@laxcoastal.com) or (310) 645-5151.

### Facebook Facts

- Facebook has more than 200 million active users
- More than 100 million users log on to Facebook at least once each day
- The fastest growing demographic is those 35 years old and older

# welcome:

## congratulate our new members

### **Song for You Productions**

Ronnie Jayne  
4170 1/2 Madison Ave.  
Culver City, CA 90232  
(310) 836-7557  
www.ronniejayne.com  
*Event Planning*

### **Bennett Administrative Services**

Lisa Bennett-Harris  
3117 W. 82nd St.  
Inglewood, CA 90305  
(310) 505-0432  
www.bennettservices.com  
*Administrative Support*

### **Britica Designs**

Bianca Landworth  
4154 Alla Road  
Los Angeles, CA 90066  
(310) 822-3656  
*Florist*

### **California Fine Wine Storage**

Cindi Montgomery  
4144 Glencoe Ave.  
Marina del Rey, CA 90292  
(310) 827-3434  
www.cafws.com  
*Retail Sales*

### **Cloudwalker Videoworks**

Richard Clayman  
Los Angeles, CA 90066  
(310) 251-0434  
www.cloudwalkerfilms.com  
*Video Marketing*

### **Coast Cardiology Medical**

Thomas Togioka  
8540 S. Sepulveda Blvd.  
#118  
Los Angeles, CA 90045  
(310) 673-3945  
*Medical Clinic*

### **Evenson Design Group (EDG)**

Stan Evenson  
4445 Overland Ave.  
Culver City, CA 90230  
(310) 204-1995  
www.evensondesign.com  
*Brand Strategy & Design*

### **Gateway Group One**

Sunia Williams  
5757 Century Blvd., Suite 810  
Los Angeles, CA 90045  
(310) 410-0790  
www.gatewaygroupone.com  
*Security Services*

### **K1 Speed Inc.**

Susan Danglard  
10938 S. Vermont Ave.  
Gardena, CA 90248  
(310) 532-2478  
www.k1speed.com  
*Indoor Go-Kart Racing*

### **Learning to Live Fellowship**

April Warfield  
4808 W. 99th St.  
Inglewood, CA 90301  
(310) 671-2148  
www.LTLF.org  
*Churches/Synagogues*

### **Marina Veterinary Center**

Rachel Jones  
8421 Lincoln Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90045  
(310) 642-8080  
www.marinavet.com  
*Pet Care/Services*

### **Mohri & Associates**

Anthony Herrera  
11835 W. Olympic Blvd., Ste.  
850  
Los Angeles, CA 90064  
(310) 446-3484  
*Financial Planning*

### **Shaping Spaces Group**

Tanya Griffin  
Los Angeles, CA 90047  
(323) 864-5433  
www.theshapingspacesgroup.com  
*Home Staging*

### **Venice Printing**

Danny Bensimon  
1801 S. Lincoln Blvd.  
Venice, CA 90291  
(310) 821-1490  
www.veniceprintinginc.com  
*Printers*

### **WPS, Inc.**

Jerold Mitchell  
11945 W. Washington Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90066  
(310) 313-6855  
www.wpspayroll.com  
*Payroll Service*

## Shop Local

In these times of economic uncertainty, supporting your local businesses has never been more important. Need some documents printed or perhaps some business cards? Then check out one of the following Chamber members. For more information about the businesses listed below, please visit [www.laxcoastal.com](http://www.laxcoastal.com).

Armstrong Printing Co.  
524 W. Arbor Vitae  
Inglewood, CA 90301  
(310) 677-6132

Control Printing, Inc.  
12952 W. Washington Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90066  
(310) 827-7468  
www.control-printing.com

Parviz Printing  
118 E. 8th Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90014  
(213) 622-8575  
www.parvizprinting.com

Sievers/Burnett Press  
1308 East Imperial Avenue  
El Segundo CA 90245  
(310) 414-1101

The Printing Spot  
8711 La Tijera Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90045  
(310) 670-7075

The UPS Store #4398 Mar Vista  
12405 Venice Blvd.  
Mar Vista, CA 90066  
(310) 915-6580  
www.theupsstore.com

Venice Printing  
1801 S. Lincoln Blvd.  
Venice, CA 90291  
(310) 821-1490  
www.veniceprintinginc.com

## Chamber Welcomes New International Intern

In mid-May, the LAX Coastal Area Chamber of Commerce will welcome a new member to its staff, Jacques Helie.

Jacques is currently a student at the Academie Commerciale Internationale (ACI) in Dijon, France studying International Business. In addition to attending school, Jacques has worked closely with the Dijon Chamber of Commerce due to a partnership between ACI and the Chamber.



Says Chamber President/CEO Christina Davis, "We are very excited to have Jacques as part of the Chamber team. We are eager to hear what he has to say about international business and his work with the Dijon Chamber of Commerce."

Jacques has an extensive background in working with many different companies both in the United States and in Europe. In addition, Jacques can speak three different languages: French, Spanish and English. In his spare time, Jacques enjoys tennis, rugby, golf and skiing. He also has a strong interest in international politics.

You will be seeing Jacques around the office and at our upcoming events, so make sure to say "bonjour" and make him feel welcome. He will be working with the Chamber through the month of August.

## Ribbon Cutting



**Grand Opening of Leelavadee.** Leelavadee, a Thai spa, is now open! Leelavadee is located at 8732-8736 S. Sepulveda Blvd. in Westchester.

They can be contacted at (888) 989-8732 or by visiting their website at [www.laxdayspa.com](http://www.laxdayspa.com).

## Teacher Eddy Awards Celebrate the Best of the Best in Education

This year, the Teacher Eddy Awards will be held on Wednesday, May 13 from 6 to 9 pm at the Hilton Los Angeles Airport Hotel, located at 5711 West Century Boulevard.

The Chamber holds this event each year to honor the community's outstanding public and private school teachers and professors. The community is invited to come celebrate and pay tribute to these individuals for their exemplary contributions.

The cost to attend is \$48 per person. The hotel will be sponsoring the dinners for the honored teachers and will provide complimentary self-parking.

Thank you to the Hilton Los Angeles Airport Hotel and Playa Vista for sponsoring this event.

The following are this year's awardees:

Cowan Avenue Elementary School: Barbara Freia  
Kentwood Elementary School: Lisa Kravetz  
Loyola Village Elementary and Magnet Center: Leah Rosales  
Loyola Village Elementary and Magnet Center: Pat Savage  
Orville Wright Middle School: Chet Wong  
Orville Wright Middle School: Larry Bergher  
Otis College of Art and Design: Michael Schrier  
Paseo Del Rey Natural Science Magnet School: Sandy Usui  
St. Anastasia School: Angela Carter  
St. Bernard High School: Br. Jim Reiter  
St. Bernard High School: Michelle Tooker  
St. Jerome School: Marianne Dyogi  
Visitation School: Jessica Cannata  
Westchester-Emerson Community Adult School: Joseph Loizzi  
Westchester High School: Ruffin Patterson  
Westchester High School: Jennifer Lisowski  
Westchester Lutheran Church & School: Jane Engler  
Westport Heights Elementary School: Bonnie Jenkins  
Westside Neighborhood School: Natalie Vittitoe

Congratulations to all of the awardees!

## Board Votes on May Ballot Propositions

In April, the Chamber's board of directors voted to support the following propositions that will be voted on by the public on Tuesday, May 19:

Proposition 1A – "Rainy Day" Budget Stabilization Fund - **Support**  
Proposition 1B – Education Funding. Payment Plan - **Support**  
Proposition 1C – Lottery Modernization Act - **Support**  
Proposition 1D – Children's Services Funding - **Support**  
Proposition 1E – Mental Health Funding Budget - **Support**  
Proposition 1F – Elected Officials' Salaries - **Support**

# Member Spotlight: PVJOBS

This month's member spotlight is Playa Vista Job Opportunities and Business Services (PVJOBS), a nonprofit agency providing job placement opportunities to at-risk youth and adults, primarily in the construction trades. They work with many major construction projects, providing workforce development services to contractors and builders.

PVJOBS provides an array of services to both employers and clients, at no cost. Clients can receive: training in construction, educational remediation, supportive services (to cover initiation fees), tools, clothing, childcare, transportation, mentoring and ongoing support to cover any need that might keep them from maintaining career-track employment for 3,000 hours (about one and a half years).

Each client is pre-screened so that their specific needs are met. There are many benefits to using the services offered by PVJOBS, such as employers are able to save money on human resource costs and complete paperwork is filed for financial incentives, such as the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) and/or On-the-Job Training credits (OJT). Employers also get a strong connection to the community through PVJOBS and the 85 organization collaborative, all of whom are available to support their business needs.

Said PVJOBS Executive Director, Ernest Roberts, "The Chamber has always been supportive of the work we do and has supported us in so many different ways. Even before we joined the Chamber, we were given a community award for service. Members have provided technical support, moral support and financial support. We joined

to give back to the Chamber what members have so willingly given to us over the years. There is also a camaraderie

among members that is rare in other Chambers. But, perhaps most importantly, this Chamber knows how to have fun."

When asked what the most important issue affecting their business is, Roberts said, "Currently, there are more people looking for work and less job opportunities as result of the current financial conditions. We are seeing more people come in our doors requesting job placement assistance than ever before, yet placement opportunities have declined by about one-third in the last six months."

PVJOBS offers members who have relatives or friends with employment barriers and an interest in a career in the construction crafts an opportunity for job placement. PVJOBS may be able to assist with contractor lists, workers, and general community support if a Chamber member is involved in a construction project.

Said Roberts, "The Chamber and its members have been supportive of our non-profit organization over the last 10 years in ways too numerous to mention. We use services and products from Chamber members whenever we can because we find them to be of better quality."



## Safety Management Course

The National Safety Council has been awarded the 2009 Susan Harwood Grant by OSHA for the ninth consecutive year. OSHA awards this grant to nonprofit organizations to provide safety and health training and education.

This year, the National Safety Council will use this grant to develop a new program entitled "Safety Management Systems for Small Business." Participants will learn basic skills to improve their employees' safety and health, as well as key principles and components of a successful management system to improve their own safety and health programs.

This FREE training will be held at the Chamber office on August 7, from 8 to 4 pm. Please contact the Chamber office at (310) 645-5151 to RSVP or for more questions. RSVP is a must.

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1308 East Imperial Avenue  
El Segundo, California 90245  
310.414.1101  
sbpress7@aol.com  
**Diane Barretti**

## Fourth of July Parade Planning is Under Way

The Fourth of July Parade committee has already started planning on how to make this year's Fourth of July Parade the best one yet.

This year's parade theme is "America Through the Decades." If you and your organization or business is planning on participating in the parade, it's time to start thinking about how you should decorate your float. Each year, the bar has been raised for parade floats and the parade committee is encouraging participants to start planning now for their 2009 entries.

This year, the parade will return to its original route and will start at Westchester Park and end at Loyola Marymount University. The parade will begin at 11 am, but show up early to ensure a great view of the entertainment.

As always, the Chamber will be partnering with local paper, The HomeTown News, to provide its parade coverage. As they have in the past, The HomeTown News will be offering discount prices for Chamber members for advertising in the special "Westchester on Parade" pull-out section of the paper.

Thank you to our parade sponsors: Decron Properties, Equity Office Partners, Panda Restaurant Group, Playa Vista, Neighborhood Council of Westchester/Playa and Mercury Air Group.

Look in next month's Gateway News for more information on the parade and advertising in The HomeTown News. Please contact the Chamber at (310) 645-5151 for more information.

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9100 S. Sepulveda Blvd., Ste. #210 • Westchester, CA 90045  
(310) 645-5151 FAX (310) 645-0130 www.laxcoastal.com

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Greg Wenger Photography Greg Wenger	Physical Therapy Care Michael Landoch	

**may calendar**

All meetings are held at the Chamber Office located at 9100 S. Sepulveda Blvd., Ste. 210 in Westchester unless noted otherwise.

- May 6 Governmental Affairs @ 8 am
- May 8 Education Committee @ 7:45 am
- May 12 How-To's of Facebook Workshop: Part 2 @ 8 am
- May 13 Business Brainstorming @ 12 pm  
  
Teacher Eddy Awards @ 6-9 pm  
Hilton Los Angeles Airport  
5711 W. Century Blvd., Westchester
- May 14 Business Development @ 8 am
- May 15 Membership Networking @ 8 am
- May 20 Marina Affairs @ 8 am  
Tony P's Dockside Grill  
4445 Admiralty Way, Mdr
- May 28 Networking at Night Mixer @ 6-8 pm  
Automobile Driving Museum  
610 Lairport Street, El Segundo 90245



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