

May 2015

# User Friendly

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**MAY GENERAL MEETING**

**IMPORTANT: SEE PAGE 5 REGARDING  
A VOTE AT THIS MEETING TO CHANGE THE  
NAME OF LACS. ALSO SEE PAGE 3 FOR MORE  
EXPLANATION.**

**SECURITY IS EVERYONE'S BUSINESS**

Speaker: **Bob Gostischa**, via SKYPE

**Knowledge is King. Ignorance leads to  
Computer Infection, Identity Theft or  
Worse! This presentation focuses on nor-  
mal computer users, rather than "IT  
geeks," and explains the following topics:**



We will cover the loopholes and pitfalls of using a computer and browsing the internet.

- ✦ We will also cover some of threats that hide in unexpected places.
  - ✦ You'll learn the difference between Privacy and Security and, what you can do to enjoy both ?
  - ✦ We will discuss programs that will keep you and your Computer safe and secure.
  - ✦ I'll be pointing out some Basic Computer Safety Tips.
  - ✦ The benefits of Installing **avast!** Antivirus software, free on your computer, Android smartphones and tablets so you're protected against virus, worms, Trojans and rootkits.
- Join presenter Bob Gostischa, as he simplifies, clarifies, and demystifies what you should know to stay safe. After a successful career in banking, he enjoys his retirement as an IT security expert, most notably for **Avast Software**.

Avast! Is currently the most used antivirus software in the world, having more than 220 million users worldwide.

[Click here](#) to view a short video describing the topics covered in this presentation.

**Tuesday, May 12, 2015, 7 - 9 PM**

**Fellowship Hall, 8065 Emerson Ave.  
Westchester 90045**

An informal Computer Forum meets from 6:00 to 6:50 P.M. to answer individual questions. All are welcome.

After the meeting some members may meet at Dinah's Family Restaurant at Sepulveda and Centinela.

More info at <http://www.lacspc.org> or at 310-398-0366

## APRIL 14, 2015 GENERAL MEETING REPORT

Photos: **Stephanie Nordinger**, LACS

By **Maurice Stephenson**, LACS President

Speaker: **Ted Vegvari**

Owner and President, *Palos Verdes on the Net*

In 1994, Ted Vegvari had a simple enough idea. It was time to give back, and what better way than setting up a computer learning center, a non-profit organization to teach youngsters, oldsters and everyone in between how to work with new hardware, software and the Internet. It was a natural fit, given the approximately 14 years in the audio recording/production industry and 15 years in the IT industry. Fast-forward 21 years later: after thousands of middle - college students and over 50,000 attendees to free classes, PVNET can claim having successfully transitioned the Peninsula and many South Bay residents to the computer age.

Tonight, Ted Vegvari and four interns and his GIS Manager presented to LACS on the following topics:

### **Geographic Information System (GIS) Services, Ms. Lina Nguyen**

GIS is a collection of computer hardware, software, and geographic data for capturing, managing, analyzing, and displaying all forms of geographically referenced information. GIS can integrate and relate any data with a spatial component, regardless of the source of the data. For example, you can combine the location of mobile workers, located in real-time by GPS devices, in relation to customers' homes, located by address and derived from your customer database. GIS maps this data, giving dispatchers a visual tool to plan the best routes for mobile staff or to send the closest worker to a customer. This saves tremendous time and money. GIS is an ex-



tremely important method of effectively preparing for disasters.

To help cities prepare, the Disaster Planning Coordinator for Area G, Mike Martinet, has partnered with Palos Verdes on the Net (PVNET) to provide an internship for PVNET GIS interns in GIS Disaster Planning preparation for cities in Area G which is comprised of 14 cities in the South-bay. Mr. Martinet will provide direction and act as a mentor PVNET has brought together in their new PVNET/ANNEX GIS Center in Rancho Palos Verdes, the opportunity for College level students to gain GIS based Disaster Planning Preparation experience in once in a lifetime opportunity while being mentored by a highly respected professional in the industry. Interns learn about GIS tools and to utilize (GIS) for preparing the data and maps necessary for emergency planning.

GIS maps graphically display such hazards as, gas, electrical and water lines within the city. Identify the location of schools and hospitals near these and other hazards. For low lying coastal communities it can identify tsunami risk areas. Available resources such as food (markets), water, construction equipment and supplies can be graphically displayed as well as emergency staging areas. The systems can also store and display information on residents that would be at-risk in the event of an emergency.

### **Education Program Development Intern and 3-D Printing, Alex Chen**

Duke University and NASA Technology Management and Advanced Technology spread the knowledge of Autodesk Inventor Professional 2015. Inventor (ATI) can be a daunting program to work with at first, but after a bit of practice it can be used to easily design complex machine parts and models. AutoCAD Architecture can be used for more than just architectural applications as it spans many areas of modern engineering. 3-D Printing is a versatile new technology that enhances this emerging technology.

### **3-D Printing & Engineering Technician Intern, High School, Raul Castrellon**

Flying a quadcopter without first practicing on a virtual simulator for at least a few hours is nearly impossible and very risky to the life of a quad-copter.

(Continued on Page 4)

## FROM YOUR EDITOR

### NAME CHANGE

Please see page 5 with the proposal to change the name of LACS to reflect the inclusion of technologies other than just computers. Other user groups in APCUG have done this.

The new name should reflect what the members want our organization to be, and how we want to be perceived in the community. Do you think of us as a "club" or a "user group"? Do you want an acronym that is easy to pronounce and a URL that is easy to remember? Consider these and other issues you may think of carefully, then vote. Voting will take place at the May 14, 2015 General Meeting. Watch your email for more information and details.

### DAY SIG

Jim McKnight and Stephanie Nordlinger have re-established the Day SIG. It will ordinarily be held on the fourth Tuesday of the month from 1:00 P.M. to 3:00 P.M. at the Felicia Mahood Senior Center. But in May, it will be on the 3rd Tuesday, May 19. Please see page 9 for the address and details.

This is a casual 2-hour Roundtable for Questions and Answers of a technical nature.

There is no specific topic, but we have always found lots of interesting things to talk about.

The Day SIG was created for those who cannot travel at night, but all members and nonmembers are welcome. Members may bring in hardware with a problem we can try to diagnose - please notify Jim ahead.

### 2015 Southwest Technology and Computer Conference

June 12-14, 2015

Kellogg-West conference Center & Hotel, Pomona, CA

Attendees can expect everything they have enjoyed with the longest running User Group Conference:

- Informative presentations and workshops
- Door prizes, raffle items, a SWAG Bag filled with goodies



- Conversation with friends they see once a year, making new friends
- Up-close-and-personal time with sponsors
- Presentations, Seminars, a Vendor Expo.

The Southwest Technology & Computer Conference always brings new and innovative technology to its attendees. There will be something for everyone, regardless of your preferred platform or level of expertise.

You will have many networking opportunities with PC, Mac & Linux attendees, and with computer, tablet, and smartphone users. Take your pick of conversations!

Are you having challenging situations with your user group or computer club? This is the place where you can talk with others who might be experiencing the same challenges. You may find useful ideas from others to help.

The environment is relaxing and friendly PLUS the food is amazingly delicious!

### 2015 APCUG International Computer & Digital Technology Conference

September 25-27, 2015

Palace Station Hotel & Casino

Las Vegas, Nevada

Whether you are a computer or mobile device user, you will find sessions that will be beneficial to you. It doesn't

matter whether you are using a Windows-based, a Linux, and/or a Mac computer or an Android or Apple mobile device. Many programs and applications have cross-platform functionality: there will be something that piques your interest. LACS will have an opportunity to win a KINDLE for the group.

For more information about the conference, costs and registration go to:

<http://apcug2.org-node-1867>

Conference reservations will be handled through Eventbrite at:

[www.apcugvegas2015.eventbrite.com](http://www.apcugvegas2015.eventbrite.com)

Hotel reservations can be made at:

<http://tinyurl.com-2015APCUG-Hotel>





**(APRIL GENERAL MEETING REPORT)**

(Continued from page 2)

With all the virtual crashes behind them, students successfully practiced on the video game-like flight simulator before taking to a real transmitter to fly the quadcopters. Under the supervision of the experienced Pacific Coast Hobbies Pilots, each Advanced Technology Intern (ATI) flew a quadcopter on a helipad adjacent to PVNET. They enjoyed the process of discovering the best way to smoothly maneuver and land the unmanned aerial vehicle. ATIs will be able to fly on their own by purchasing a few additional parts for each of their quadcopters. The extra items will complete the setup and make each Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) flight-ready. In addition, quadcopters are being designed to be used in emergency situations where someone needs to be rescued by delivering food and water until full rescue can be accomplished.

**Oculus Rift Virtual Reality Intern, High School, Sher Shah**

3D discussion forums developed the idea of creating a new head-mounted display that was both more effective than what was then on the market, and inexpensive for gamers. Coincidentally, developers had been doing research and happened upon some new developments. After sampling an early unit, a favored prototype and just before the 2012 Electronic Entertainment Expo, Id Software announced that their future updated version of *Doom 3*, which would be known as *BFG Edition*, would be compatible with head-mounted display units. It introduced a duct taped head-mounted display based on Oculus Rift prototype, which ran on proprietary software. The unit featured a high speed IMU and a 5.6-inch (14 cm) LCD display, visible via dual lenses, that were positioned over the eyes to provide a 90 degrees horizontal and 110 degrees vertical stereoscopic 3D perspective. On March 25, 2014, Facebook announced that it had agreed to buy Oculus VR for \$400 million in cash, \$1.6 billion in Facebook stock, and an additional \$300 million subject to Oculus VR meeting and certain financial targets in a transaction expected to close in the second quarter of 2014.

**Programming Intern, Loyola Marymount University, James Yen**

Finally, a display of new technology in motion sensor recognition was given. Detailed movements by various actions of body parts were captured and displayed by Leap Motion Technology. The real time display of bodily actions points to unique future directions in emerging technologies, and how we can write programs to define such actions.

In addition, demonstrations of the instrumentation of the following emerging technologies were given:

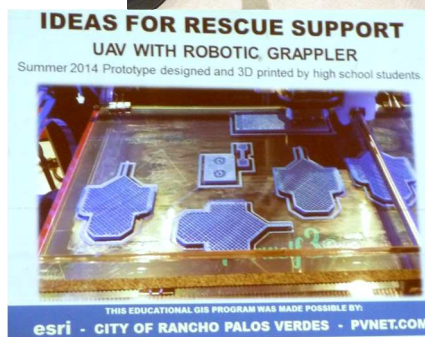
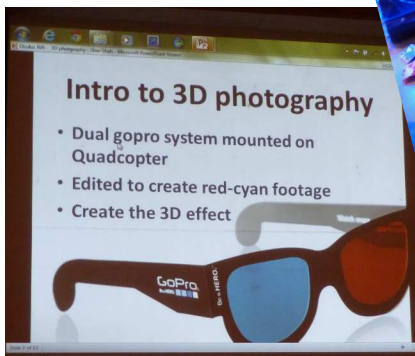
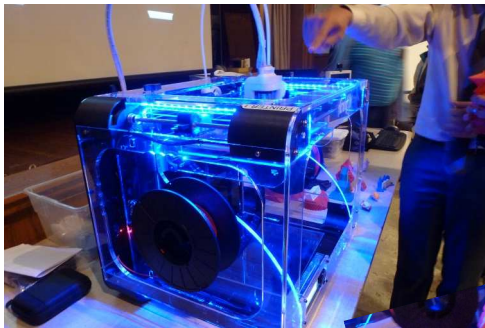
- 3D printer
- Oculus Rift VR
- Leap Motion Technology
- UAV for GIS research
- 3-D Printed terrain map (the first in CA by a municipality)



(Continued on Page 5)

**(APRIL GENERAL MEETING REPORT)**

(Continued from Page 4)

**SPECIAL NOTICE****Election to Change LACS's Name, Articles & Bylaws at May 12 General Meeting**By **Stephanie Nordlinger**, Immediate Past President and Counsel, LACS

As you may have noticed, some of our recent general meetings had broader topics than just computer hardware or software or how to use our PCs. Computers are everywhere, and some of the more interesting devices are imbedded in various technologies - from smart phones to the computers used to explore Mars, photography and mapping applications, driverless cars, e-Books, etc.

We recently learned that some other user groups have added "technology" to their names. The Association of PC User Groups (APCUG) of which LACS has long been a member and whose motto appears on each issue of User Friendly, is now called "An International Association of Technology & Computer User Groups." At its April 20 meeting, your board of directors decided to follow this trend. You will have the opportunity to choose a new name for LACS and to amend our Articles and Bylaws to reflect that change.

Choosing a new name is difficult, and your elected leaders are not in agreement on the one to recommend to the membership. The proposed names are:

- **Los Angeles Technology & Computer Club**
- **Los Angeles Technology User Group**
- **Los Angeles Computer and Technology User Group**

In preparation for choosing a new name, LACS has purchased the following domain names for our website for one year each:

- **[www.latcc.org](http://www.latcc.org)**
- **[www.latug.org](http://www.latug.org)**
- **[www.lactug.org](http://www.lactug.org)**

to reflect the letters of the proposed names from which we will choose. The domain extension, **.ORG**, is the preferred extension for non-profit organizations. Some other possible names were excluded because the corresponding domain names were not available or

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**(SPECIAL NOTICE)**

(Continued from page 5)

the names seemed too cumbersome. We plan to use whichever domain matches the name the members will choose as soon as practical. The ones we don't use will just expire. We will need to change some pages of our website and User Friendly and make other minor administrative changes. The financial costs of the change will be fairly nominal (probably less than \$100).

The process is clear. As the unofficial "counsel" (attorney) for LACS, I have prepared a Restated Articles of Incorporation and Amendments to our Bylaws for the members' approval. These proposals are set forth below. At the May 12 general meeting, we will discuss the possible proposed names and hopefully agree to choose one to insert in the appropriate places in the Restated Articles and Revised Bylaws. The board also proposes a minor change to the Purpose paragraph in our Bylaws to add the word "technology" and delete one unnecessary phrase.

After a majority of a quorum of the members approve these changes and the board signs off, our Secretary will sign a Certificate of Amendment (of the Articles and Bylaws) which will be filed with the California Secretary of State. Shortly after it is accepted, we'll send a copy of it to the Internal Revenue Service with a cover letter explaining the changes. Shortly thereafter, the IRS should issue a new Exemption Letter, retroactive to the date the name change was made at the Secretary of State's office, stating that the new organization is a section 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. There should be no time gap, so any donations to the organization should remain tax-deductible.

Full copies of the current Articles and Bylaws are on our website, [www.lacspc.org](http://www.lacspc.org). The proposed changes are:

**AMENDED AND RESTATED  
ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION  
OF THE [new name of organization]**

Formerly the Los Angeles Computer Society (1991-2015)  
Formerly the UCLA PC Users Group (1983-1991)

**Article I. NAME**

The name of this corporation is changed from the Los Angeles Computer Society to: LOS ANGELES \_\_\_\_\_.

Articles II through VII contain very generic nonprofit corporation language and would be unchanged. The original incorporation information – incorporators and date of incorporation – would be omitted. A footer would be added.

**PROPOSED BYLAWS CHANGES**

Only three parts of the Bylaws need to be and will be changed:

- (1) The name of the organization where it appears on the cover page, at the top of the Table of Contents and at the top of the first page of text. It will not be changed in three historical references. We will add "formerly the Los Angeles Computer Society (1991-2015)" on the title page, for continuity's sake.
- (2) The purpose of the organization. We propose to change the current Purpose paragraph to a broader concept including both computers and technology.
- (3) Add the Date of this change on the title page.

The current language is:

**ARTICLE II - PURPOSE**

The primary purposes of this non-profit public benefit (charitable and educational) corporation are to provide a forum in the Los Angeles community for exchanging ideas and information about computers and their uses; to provide education and help in solving computer-related problems; to provide information about commercial software and hardware and access to public domain software; and to educate and foster the development of computer-related skills among members and the general public.

The proposed language is:

**ARTICLE II - PURPOSE**

The primary purposes of this non-profit public benefit (charitable and educational) corporation are to provide a forum in the Los Angeles community for exchanging ideas and information about technology and computers and their uses; to provide education and help in

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**(SPECIAL NOTICE)**

(Continued from page 6)

solving technology and computer-related problems; and to educate and foster the development of technology and computer-related skills among members and the general public.

If you wish to read the current Articles and By-laws, please go to our website,  
[www.lacspc.org](http://www.lacspc.org). ♦

**PALOS VERDES ON THE NET (PVNET)**By **Leah Clark**, LACS

**O**n April 15, Maurice Stephenson, Stanley Johnson and I visited Ted Vegvari at *Palos Verdes on the Net*, his laboratory and school in Palos Verdes. It was a most interesting and informative meeting at a most beautiful location. Ted gave us a tour of the facilities, explaining the exciting things he and his students are doing for the community.

We even took a little time for a walk!

**INTERESTING INTERNET FINDS**

By **Steve Costello**, Editor,  
Boca Raton Computer Society, Florida  
January 2015 issue, Boca Bits  
[www.brscs.org](http://www.brscs.org)  
editor (at) brscs.org)

**I**n the course of going through the more than 300 RSS feeds, I often run across things that I think might be of interest to other user group members.

The following are some items I found interesting during the month of December 2014.

**An Introduction and a Quick Guide to Sand-boxie**

<http://www.techsupportalert.com/content/introduction-and-quick-guide-sandboxie.htm>

If you use Microsoft Windows, using Sandboxie is recommended. This post tells what Sandboxie is and does, as well as a quick guide to using Sandboxie.

**Android 5.0 Lollipop Review: An Ambitious Start Down Android's New Path**

<http://www.greenbot.com/article/2850968/android-50-lollipop-review-an-ambitious-start-down-androids-new-path.html>

If you have been hearing about Android 5.0 Lollipop, but have not been able to get it yet, read this post to learn what it is all about, and what it means to you.

**How to Use Skype on Android For Beginners**

<http://www.makeuseof.com/tag/use-skype-android-beginners/>

I have found that a lot of Android users don't know they can get Skype on their smartphone/tablet. If you are one of these Android users, check out this post from MakeUseOf.

**All the Wget Commands You Should Know**

<http://www.labnol.org/software/wget-command-examples/28750/>

Do you remember Wget? This post has 20 examples of using the utility.

Wikipedia says:

"GNU Wget (or just Wget, formerly Geturl) is a computer program that retrieves content from web servers, and is part of the GNU Project.

Its features include recursive download, conversion of links for offline viewing of local HTML, and support for proxies. It appeared in 1996, coinciding with the boom of popularity of the Web, causing its wide use among Unix users and distribution with most major Linux distributions. Written in portable C, Wget can be easily installed on any Unix-like system and has been ported to many environments, including Microsoft Windows, Mac OS X, Open-VMS, HP-UX, MorphOS and AmigaOS."

On most Fridays, more interesting finds will be posted on the Computers, Technology, and User Groups Blog: <http://ctublog.sefcug.com/tag/interesting-internet-finds/>

The posts are under Creative Commons licensing. ♦

**WELCOME ALL****Gene Jacobs**

Data Base Manager, LACS

**New Members (1)**

Richard Presky

**Renewals (14)**

Richard Balsam

Bob Burnett

Mary Chiu

Virginia Ford \*

Matt Gibson

Carolyn Griswold

Marcia Jacobs \*

Marian Juster

Marcia G. Maiten \*

Rosalie Kirsch

Fred Kong

Ruth Kong

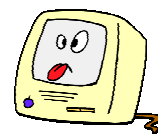
Kim Stocksdales \*

Patrick Zilliacus \*

\* Contributor

**FIX YOUR PC FOR FREE?**

**Jim McKnight** has an open offer to all LACS members to diagnose, repair, disinfect, or upgrade members' PC's for free.



There are certain limitations to Jim's offer, so see the details by clicking the "Fix my PC for Free?" link at [www.jimopi.net](http://www.jimopi.net).

Non-members can wisely invest in a one-year LACS membership (\$40.00), and Jim will fix your PC problem, too.

**GENERAL MEETING PRESENTATIONS**

May 12, Avast! security software

June 9, Earthquakes

This schedule is subject to change, but mark your calendar now.

**GENERAL MEETING SNACK SCHEDULE**By **Sylvia Q. Davis and Linda Williams**

May A through C

June D through G

July H through K

LACS provides hot coffee, regular and decaf, tea and cocoa.

Please participate by bringing finger-food treats such as fresh fruit, veggies, nuts, cookies, brownies and the like. Bottled water and regular and diet soft drinks are appreciated, too.

**NOTICE**

The columns, reviews and other expressions of opinion in *User Friendly* are the opinions of the writers and not necessarily those of the Los Angeles Computer Society. LACS became a California nonprofit corporation on July 17, 1991. Its predecessor was the "UCLA PC Users Group".

The Editor of *User Friendly* will accept contributions of any suitable length from members.

Articles should be sent to [Editor@lacs.org](mailto:Editor@lacs.org) as **plain text** in the body of an e-mail message or as a Word document. The deadline for submitting articles is the **18th of the month**.

**USER FRIENDLY ADVERTISING RATES**

Business Card, Member	\$10
Business card	\$15
Half Page	\$35
Third Page	\$25
Full Page	\$50
Two page spread	\$100

For further information on our advertising policy, please e-mail: [editor\(at\)lacs.org](mailto:editor(at)lacs.org)

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**MAY, 2015**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 	2
3	4	5  Cinco de Mayo	6	7	8	9
10 <b>Happy Mother's Day!</b>	11 Basics & Beyond SIG 7:00 PM	12 <b>General Meeting</b> 7:00 PM	13	14	15	16
17	18 Board Meeting 7:00 PM	19 Day SIG 1:00 PM	20	21	22	23
24 31	25  Memorial Day	26	27	28	29	30

- The Smartphone SIG will not meet in May. This may be replaced with a Social Media SIG if members are interested. See report on page 12.
- The Digital Photo SIG won't meet in May due to the holiday on the 4th Monday
- The May board meeting will be at the home of Maurice Stephenson, LACS President.

This Calendar may change. Check your e-mail or with the SIG leader before attending a meeting.

**SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGs)**

SIG meetings are lead by and for LACS members. Visitors are welcome to attend.

To inquire about a SIG, call the contact person in advance.

Basics & Beyond SIG	Kim Stocksdales	310-720-0603	2nd Mon. 7 PM SMC, Bundy Campus
Day Sig	Jim McKnight	310-823-7829	2nd Tues. 1 PM, Felicia Mahood Ctr.
Digital Photo SIG	Nancy Cattell	310-452-2130	
	Elliot Silverstein	310-670-1544	4th Mon. 7 PM, SMC, Bundy Campus
Smartphone SIG	Stephanie Nordlinger	323-299-3244	1st Mon. 7 PM, SMC, Bundy Campus

**ADDRESSES**

**Dinah's Family Restaurant**, 6521 Sepulveda Blvd., LA 90045 (on Sepulveda, just S. of Centinela)

**Felicia Mahood Senior Center**, 11336 Santa Monica Blvd., WLA 90025 (at Corinth)

**Fellowship Hall**, 8065 Emerson Ave., Westchester 90045

**Santa Monica College Bundy Campus**, 3171 S. Bundy Drive, LA 90066 (1-2 blocks S. of Airport Avenue) Our room number may change each semester. Look for it on a sign opposite the elevator on the first floor.

## MEMBERS HELPING MEMBERS

LACS members volunteer to help other members solve hardware and software problems by telephone during the hours listed below. Select the topic from the list and then call a person whose number is listed next to it. Or you may use a Helper's e-mail address, found in your LACS Roster. We hope that you find this free service useful. ***If you are experienced in a particular program or topic, please volunteer to be a consultant.*** To volunteer for this list or to make corrections, please e-mail [editor@lacspc.org](mailto:editor@lacspc.org) or call Leah Clark at 310-677-2792. More Quick Consultants are always needed. You may decline or postpone a call if it comes at an Inconvenient time.

America Online - 5	LA FreeNet - 6	Picasa - 14
Android Smartphones - 5	Lotus Word Pro, Approach - 12	Quicken - 3, 5, 9
Apple Devices - 15	Mozilla Firefox, Thunderbird - 12	QuickBooks - 9
Anti Malware - 12	MS Excel - 3, 15	Thunderbird - 12
Digital Imaging, Editing - 8, 14	MS Word - 3, 4, 10	Visual Basic - 13
Digital Photography - 8, 14	MS Outlook - 15, 5	Websites - 13
Dragon Naturally Speaking - 4	MS Outlook Express - 15	Win XP-Vista - 12, 16
Genealogy - 5, 7	MS PowerPoint - 15	Windows 7 - 5, 12
Hardware - 12	MS Publisher - 2, 7, 9	WordPerfect - 5
iPhone, iPad, iPod - 15	Open Office - 16	Yahoo - 9

No.	Name	Preferred Phone for Calls	From	To
2	Mercer, Bob	310-837-5648	9:00 AM	10:00 PM
3	Wilder, Joan	310-472-8445	9:00 AM	9:00 PM
4	Hershman, Irv	310-397-9453	11:00 AM	11:00 PM
5	Nordlinger, Stephanie	323-299-3244	5:00 PM	10:00 PM
6	Springer, Karl	424-646-3410	10:00 AM	10:00 PM
7	Clark, Leah	310-677-2792	9:00 AM	5:00 PM
8	Silverstein, Elliott	310-670-1544	10:00 AM	10:00 PM
9	Kamerman, Cora	424-442-9592	Noon	8:00 PM
10	Beckman, Loling	310-471-7893	10:00 AM	6:00 PM
12	McKnight, Jim	310-823-7829	8:00 AM	7:00 PM
13	Ialongo, Gilbert	310-641-7906	9:00 AM	5:00 PM
14	Jerry Schneir	310-451-4140	9:00 AM	10:00 PM
15	Van Berkomp, Paula	310-398-6734	9:00 AM	5:00 PM
16	Johnson, Carol	310-372-8535	10:00 AM	9:00 PM

**OFFICERS, DIRECTORS AND LEADERS**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>Telephone</b>
President	Maurice Stephenson	2015	310-625-0450
Vice President	Vacant		
Secretary	Lee Freehling	2015	310-837-4022
Treasurer	Elliott Stern	2015	310-880-9891
Director	Leah Clark	2016	310-677-2792
Director	Lance Hegamin	2015	310-202-8926
Director	Heshmat Laaly	2015	310-838-7140
Director	Jim Louie	2015	310-473-4247
Director	Jim McKnight	2016	310-823-7829
Director	Paula Van Berkorn	2015	310-389-6734
Director	Stanley Johnson	2016	909-782-0103
APCUG Rep.	Cora Kamerman		424-442-9592
Car Pools	Lance Hegamin		310-202-8926
Changes	Karl Springer		424-646-3410
	Gene Jacobs		310-397-8457
Corporate Counsel	Stephanie Nordlinger		323-299-3244
CCSC Computer Lab	Rosalie Kirsch		310-559-2244
Hospitality Chair	Sylvia Davis		213-924-4927
Asst. Hospitality Chair	Linda Williams		310-748-1694
Membership Database	Gene Jacobs		310-397-8457
Newsletter Editor	Leah Clark		310-677-2792
Program Chair	Maurice Stephenson		310-625-0450
Publicity	Mark Presky		310-398-0366
Quick Consultants	Leah Clark		310-677-2792
SIG Coordinator	Heshmat Laaly		310-838-7140
Web Master	Gilbert Ialongo		310-641-7906
Welcome Chair	Ida Riordan		310-837-9851

***Los Angeles Computer Society*****Contact Information**

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To contact officers, directors or leaders not listed above, members may use our roster for phone numbers and email addresses.



## DIGITAL PHOTO SIG REPORT

By **Elliot Silverstein**

On March 23, Felix Frolov presented several interesting topics.

First, he described his goals and philosophy in taking nature photos. He is attempting to not just satisfy the natural senses of the viewer, but in addition, to stimulate a sixth sense of appreciation of the wonders of nature as represented in his pictures.

Not trusting the color rendering predictability of our digital projector, Felix brought his own flat screen TV, and we arranged the chairs in a circular pattern so everyone had a good view of the screen. He ran a 15 minute movie consisting of scenes made during a trip to several western national parks and monuments. Several scenes were made while traveling on Lake Powell, showing views of the water, the wake of his boat, and the many fascinating rock formations seen along the way. These scenes, as well as the scenes from other areas, were accompanied by appropriate musical backgrounds to enhance the desired mood.

Then we were presented with many additional movie scenes (plus accompanying music) from Bryce Canyon and Zion National Parks.

Felix then showed a number of his still photos of nature scenes.

Following these photos, he showed several pictures that resemble those seen in a kaleidoscope. The patterns exhibited symmetry in the vertical and horizontal dimensions, and were quite attractive for possible wall decorations, greeting cards, or similar applications. He demonstrated how these were made using the editing program "Paint". In his example, he used a photo of flowers and leaves. He first reduced the size of the image to about a fourth of the screen area, and placed it in the upper left corner of the screen. Then he duplicated this image and placed it into the lower left portion of the screen, in contact with the image above it; then rotated it vertically by 180 degrees. He then duplicated this image, placed it into the lower right portion of the screen, and



rotated it horizontally by 180 degrees. Finally, he duplicated this image, placed it in the upper right of the screen, and rotated it vertically by 180 degrees. This final image is symmetrical about both the vertical and horizontal axes, making an unusual and often pleasing pattern.

Eleven people came to the meeting of the Digital Photo SIG on March 23.



*(Editor's note)* After attending this interesting SIG, I played with a picture of a cactus flower I recently took in my backyard. This is my first attempt at applying Felix's techniques. I will practice more! Felix had mentioned that these kinds of designs could be rendered in stained glass.



You want to know the difference between a master and a beginner?

The master has failed more times than the beginner has even tried.



## SMART PHONE ETC. SIG REPORT

By Stephanie Nordlinger, LACS

We held what may be our last **Smart Phone SIG** meeting on April 6. The SIG's previous meeting on Apple devices led by Paula had very low attendance, and I was getting tired of being the only presenter on the Android side and the person writing up our meetings. We mentioned the possibility of moving on to a **Social Media SIG** – especially if enough people were interested and various members agreed to make and write up the presentations.

I led a discussion about using **Smart Phones in connection with travel** and specifically my recent trip to the Bahamas. Preparation for the trip includes going to your carrier's website and trying to understand its policy on roaming fees, which applied because I was going outside the U.S. They might apply in the U.S. depending on your plan. Not finding a clear answer on Verizon's website, I phoned. I decided that the fees were more than I wanted to spend, so as soon as I arrived abroad I set my Samsung Android phone to only work if it was connected to a WiFi hotspot. I received text messages from Verizon when I turned on the phone warning me of the fees (about \$1.99 a minute for phone calls, \$0.50 for outgoing texts and 5 cents for incoming texts). I often checked to be sure I had a WiFi connection. Fortunately, the place I stayed the longest had a free VOIP phone where you didn't even have to remember a user name or password to use. It worked perfectly for getting my phone messages except that the timing didn't permit me to delete any of them. I also checked the phone's billing screen a few times. Nothing showed. However, my bill had \$1.05 for two outgoing text roaming charges and one for an incoming text. I phoned and complained, and the charges were removed.

I had made my reservations online, and the travel company and airlines and their emails were accessible on my phone. Much of my email including an electronic subscription to the Los Angeles Times was there. (Don't change your password just before you leave and forget to change it on your phone!) I do not have bank or financial data on my phone, but some neighbors of mine successfully used their phone to find and make

reservations at a series of hotels in Vietnam as they moved along.

Other ways to prepare for a trip are to: download a travel guide and any other book you might want to read, along with the needed reader software. Verify that what you want is there and readable – my image of a Spain guidebook was only  $\frac{3}{4}$  there – which I didn't notice until too late. You can also set up music to listen to – either by downloading or from accounts with **Pandora.com** or other websites. You can set up news links – e.g., to CNN, PBS, newspapers, etc. You should have Google Maps or some mapping service that covers the area you will be visiting.

You may want to add games, movies or TV shows for long airplane, bus or train rides. Learn the difference between Airplane Mode and Power Off. Heshmat and I recommended creating a link to [www.TED.com](http://www.TED.com) for its interesting lectures on many subjects.

Learn how to use your camera(s) before you leave. Your phone may have a front camera, a rear camera and a video camera. Practice. Learn how to turn your flash on and off. Make sure that you have enough space or a method of downloading your phone's images to a different device – perhaps a thumb drive. Or buy and test another SIM card. You might want to clean out old email and voice messages that you won't need. Get or notice that you have a Voice Recorder icon that you can use to annotate your photos as you take them. This will make identifying your photos much easier later.

Then there are practical items – learning how to set or reset your alarm, how to set your clock for another time zone, getting a flashlight, etc. We also discussed **Viber.com** – a free program that needs to be installed on both ends to get free calls using a WiFi connection from anywhere. Joan Wilder used it from Burma/Myanmar with excellent sound quality! ♦



## THE AMD A10-7800 CPU

By **Daniel Woodard**

Dayton Microcomputer Association, OH

The Databus, November 2014

[www.dmal.org](http://www.dmal.org)

dgw (at) dmal.org

**I**s your computer bogging down, perhaps not powerful enough to handle daily tasks or games? You've surely heard the old adage: "Take two aspirins and call me in the morning." In the same vein, folks often would upgrade both a video card and the processor to try to speed up their PC. Recently, processors began arriving that combined both a traditional CPU and video card (GPU) into one unit. The recently released **AMD A10-7800** is one of these, called an **APU, or Accelerated Processing Unit**.

Although my computer had a fairly competent processor (Phenom II x4), the motherboard's onboard graphics were very weak, to the point where I was seeing huge amounts of lag when I or my kids were playing some basic browser games. I'm one of those folks who like simplicity, so I've enjoyed watching as LAN cards, sound cards and even video cards have been integrated onto the motherboard. This was fine at first, but eventually I found myself wanting to upgrade the video capabilities, and I'd rather be able to do this without having to pull the motherboard or add a video card. I've had video cards in the past, but prefer the fanless variety since they don't add background noise, and there's no fan that can go bad. Silent video cards with huge heat sinks are more of a niche market today, so prices for better performers have climbed up between \$75 and \$100.

The AMD A10 range of processors offered exactly what I wanted, using the FM2+ socket. (first released earlier this year) The A10-7800 has what is probably the best built in graphics on a very competent but energy efficient processor. Since the graphics are built into the processor, there is no additional heat sink or fan required — it just uses the same heat sink fan that every CPU has anyway. Another advantage is that if I eventually decide to upgrade in a year or two, I can simply and quickly upgrade both the CPU and video elements of my system just by pulling the CPU and insert-

ing a new one — no muss, no fuss.

My prior CPU was the Phenom II X4, running at 2.8 GHz. It drew 95 watts and put out quite a bit of heat. The first thing I noticed about the new A10 CPU was that the heat sink was about half the size of that required for the old Phenom II. I hadn't expected it to be much smaller, considering that now there was also essentially a video card crammed in there as well!

AMD's press release mentions that the processor supports UltraHD (4K) monitor resolutions. The A10-7800 (formerly known as Kaveri) also is touted as having 12 compute cores — 4 CPU and 8 GPU. It runs at a base clock frequency of 3.5 GHz, activating a turbo frequency of 3.9 GHz if an application is demanding. It has 512 video shader cores and a listed 65 watts of drawn power.

Also incorporated is AMD TrueAudio, a built in DSP processor that provides dedicated positional sound effects calculation (including echo, etc.) for games. At the time of this writing, the processor is available for around \$140.

As I had mentioned, my main reason for wanting an upgrade was extreme slowdown/lag when playing browser games. I had also noticed an occasional lockup once or twice a month, and decided it was time to install new components. I used **Browsermark** and **PCMark 8** to compare my system before and after the upgrade. Originally, I had the AMD Phenom II x4 925 CPU and onboard Radeon HD 4250 video.

Phenom II x4 925 (4 core, 2.8 GHz, 95 watt)---
-----A10-7800 (4 core, 3.9 GHz, 65 watt)
Winrar 156 Megabyte compress 109 seonds-
- -----114 seconds
Hyper Pi 8m calc., 22 iterations 5 min. 26secs
-----4 min. 26 seconds
142 Watts full load, 83 W at rest-----
-----115 Watts full load, 60 W at rest
# of transistors: 758 million-----
-----# of transistors: 2.41 billion
PCMark 8 casual Gaming 7.8 fps-----
-----28 fps
Browsermark Score 1,888-----
-----3,758
(full load vs. at rest tested using Handbrake,
h.264/mpeg4 video, doesn't include monitor)

(Continued on Page 15)



**(The AMD A10-7800 CPU)**

(Continued from page 14)

Phenom II x4 925 (4 core, 2.8 GHz, 95 watt)-----  
 -----A10-7800 (4 core, 3.9 GHz, 65 watt)  
 Winrar 156 Megabyte compress 109 seconds--  
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 Hyper Pi 8m calc., 22 iterations 5 min. 26 secs--  
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(full load vs. at rest tested using Handbrake, h.264/mpeg4 video, doesn't include monitor)  
 I performed a variety of benchmarks, such as using **Winrar** to try to compress a 156 Megabyte video file. This may not have been the best choice of file, since they are already highly compressed, but the resulting times were very close, even though the newer CPU clearly uses a lot less power to do the same job. **Hyper Pi**, which calculates Pi using as many cores as the CPU possesses, showed a marked improvement over the old Phenom II.

If you'll refer to the chart above, you can see that the A10-7800 has roughly three times as many switches/transistors as the Phenom II 925 did. To put that in perspective, my first computer, a TI 99/4a from about 1982, had a CPU with 8,000 transistors, while my first IBM clone in around 1990 had 275,000. Put another way, let's say that each switch represents a person. In that case, my first PC had close to the equivalent of my home town's population toiling away in there, while today it is roughly the equivalent to the population of Asia. Clearly, it won't be too long before there are more switches in my computer's processor than there are people alive.

I was also able to borrow a "Kill A Watt" energy testing outlet device from my Dad to get some interesting readings. For example, now I know that my monitor uses up about 27 watts, with the PC using another 60W when the system is not doing much of anything at the desktop. Without the monitor, the new A10 based system uses 115

watts when doing mpeg4/h.264 video file encoding, vs 142 watts on the old Phenom II system. With the side of the case cover off, I definitely could hear the APU fan become a bit noisier during the video encoding, (when the processor kicked into 3.9 GHz turbo mode) but it wasn't noticeable at all with the case closed. Considering the performance per Watt used, this would be a great choice for a power limited system — if you want to upgrade capabilities without having to upgrade a system's power supply, for example.

Browsermark showed roughly a doubling of ability, while PCMark 8 showed nearly a quadrupling of casual gaming frames per second. Ultimately, I got what I wanted out of the upgrade — browser games are playable again, with no lag for detailed animations in games and such. The system now also has the capability of playing various games with 3D effects, such as MRST and third person shooters — something I definitely could not have done on my old system.

It wouldn't be fair to finish this review without at least trying a few games. The A10-7800 was able to handle a game called *King's Bounty* that needed a video card upgrade to play about three years ago, due to numerous rendered battle animations. For the past decade, many of the first and third person shooters and other 3D games have used the **Unreal Engine**. (UE) I downloaded game demos using the UE2, which was used to make many games from about 2003 to 2008, and the system worked flawlessly. I tried another game that was made with UE3, which was used from about 2009 to present, and again, it did a decent job, but not at the highest resolutions.

The next version of the Unreal Engine is UE4, which is currently being used by developers to make games that will come out starting in 2015, and probably for the next 5 years or so. Using a recently released demo of UE4, I was only able to get frame rates of about nine to fourteen frames per second, which is not playable. However, it is still orders of magnitude



(Continued on Page 18)



Ric Edelman is chairman and CEO of Edelman Financial Services, a registered investment advisor with 41 offices coast-to-coast; the firm manages \$14.4 billion for more than 26,000 individuals and families.<sup>1</sup> Ric has three times been ranked the #1 Independent Financial Advisor in the nation by *Barron's*.<sup>2</sup>

*(Editor's Note)*

This article was supplied to me by Lee Freehling, LACS. I reprinted it with permission from Ric Edelman

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By Ric Edelman

## Too Many Passwords to Juggle?

*Get yourself a manager — an electronic one.*

**W**henver hackers break into a company's computer system — like the Russian hackers who recently stole 1.2 billion Internet user credentials — it's a reminder to change your passwords. Some security experts recommend changing them every six months whether you've been victimized or not.

To minimize your risks, don't use the same passwords for different accounts. But creating a different password for every site and service and then changing them regularly can be a nuisance. How will you remember all your passwords? No wonder so many people write them down — which defeats the purpose!

You can solve the problem by getting a password manager program. A quick online search for "password protectors" will lead you to several services, including Dashlane, 1Password, LastPass and PasswordBox. Costs range from \$12 to \$50 per year.

You might think that storing all your passwords in one place is a bad idea, but it's better than using only one or a handful of easily remembered words for your online accounts. Electronic password managers protect your stored passwords behind a master password that only you know. Most of them take the additional security step of never sending that master password over the Internet.

Some password managers, such as Dashlane, keep track of not only passwords, but also credit card numbers and user IDs — and can do so for computers, phones and tablets.

Could a hacker somehow get your master password? It's unlikely: They would have to install malware on your computer that tracks your keystrokes. Even if they succeeded in doing that, some password managers don't reveal or unlock your passwords without first having you enter an ever-changing code they send to your phone. Such a two-step authentication process is currently offered only by Dashlane and LastPass, but other manager programs are working on it.

Note that adding just one capital letter and one special character changes the time needed to hack an eight-character password from 2.4 days to 2.1 centuries. Now you know why so many sites require that you use eight-character passwords that contain upper- and lowercase letters, numbers, and special characters!

If you insist on managing your passwords the old-fashioned way — by picking easy-to-remember passwords — be aware that many others do that too. Here are the 10 most easily guessed passwords, according to security experts:

1. Your spouse's, child's or pet's name, followed by 0 or 1
2. The last four digits of your Social Security number

*continued on page 2*

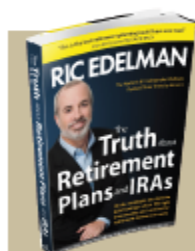
... continued from page 1

3. 123, 1234 or 123456
4. "password"
5. Your city's or your college's sports team names
6. Date of birth — yours, your spouse's or child's
7. "god"
8. "letmein"
9. "money"
10. "love"

You can make your passwords better by substituting numbers for letters that look similar, such as 0 for the letter "o" or the @ symbol for "a," as in myt0y0t@ instead of "mytoyota." Throw in a capital letter while you're at it.

Finally, don't assume that your passwords are safe on your home computer behind a router or firewall. Criminals driving or walking past your home can use a laptop to breach your wireless network — gaining access to your passwords and your network.

Change your passwords regularly! *IPF*



A #1 New York Times best-selling author and host of award-winning radio and TV shows, Ric speaks frequently on personal finance, writes a 16-page monthly newsletter and offers free educational resources at EdelmanFinancial.com.

His eighth book, *The Truth About Retirement Plans and IRAs*, a #1 national bestseller,<sup>2</sup> was published in April 2014.

### Strength of passwords

In addition to protecting your passwords, some programs tell you how strong your passwords are so that you can create better ones. Password strength depends largely on the length and complexity of the words you choose. Here's how long it would probably take a hacker to guess your password:

If your password uses only lowercase letters and numbers:	It will take a hacker this long to crack it:
Three characters	0.02 seconds
Four characters	0.46 seconds
Five characters	11.9 seconds
Six characters	5.15 minutes
Seven characters	2.23 hours
Eight characters	2.42 days
12 characters	3.03 millennia

If your password uses all types of characters, including upper- and lowercase and:	It will take a hacker this long to crack it:
Three characters	0.86 seconds
Four characters	1.36 minutes
Five characters	2.15 hours
Six characters	8.51 days
Seven characters	2.21 years
Eight characters	2.1 centuries
12 characters	7.1 million millennia

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<sup>1</sup>As of 12/31/14.

<sup>2</sup>According to *Barron's*, "The formula [used] to rank advisors has three major components: assets managed, revenue produced and quality of the advisor's practice. Investment returns are not a component of the rankings because an advisor's returns are dictated largely by each client's risk tolerance. The quality-of-practice component includes an evaluation of each advisor's regulatory record." The rankings are based on the universe of applications submitted to *Barron's*. The selection process begins with a nomination and application provided to *Barron's*. Principals of Edelman Financial Services LLC self-nominated the firm and submitted quantitative and qualitative information to *Barron's* as requested. *Barron's* reviewed and considered this information, which resulted in the rankings. "The Top 1,000 Independent Financial Advisors" was published Aug. 27, 2012; Aug. 28, 2013; and Aug. 31, 2014. "The Top 1,000 Advisors Ranked by State" was published Feb. 18, 2013; Feb. 20, 2012; Feb. 21, 2011; and Feb. 22, 2010.

<sup>3</sup>The Washington Post, Washington Bestsellers: Paperback Nonfiction/General April 20, 2014



**(The AMD A10-7800 CPU)**

(Continued from page 15)

wasn't going after either of these markets, so it shouldn't be a surprise. What AMD wanted to do was to offer a relatively inexpensive option for people who like to have what you might consider some mid-range graphics built into the processor. Intel has also started doing this, with Intel graphics built in to a number of their processors now. At least for present, AMD definitely has the upper hand as far as video game framerate on these, however. Looking over numerous online benchmarks, I found that the Intel processors could crunch numbers a bit faster, but that the AMD APU's often had double the game framerates. I guess if you spend most of your time compressing files or doing intensive calculations, Intel might be a better choice. However, if anyone in your house plays games, the AMD APU would probably be a better investment.

In a nutshell: I give the A10-7800 a 9.5 out of 10 for energy efficiency and for being able to cram this much video processing ability into an APU. It would probably play 95% of the games out there currently, and you could easily spend \$60 to \$70 on a stand-alone video card that would not outperform this. That said, this is probably a better choice for those who occasionally try first person shooters, considering that it is unlikely to perform well in graphics heavy titles coming out in 2015 and later. For those who leave their PC's on all the time, the savings on an electric bill alone would likely pay for the cost of the A10-7800 in one or two years. This is especially true if your current system has older (released 2010 or before) stand-alone video cards or processors that draw 90W or more. ♦

## May Flowers



## LAUGHING OUT LOUD

### MURPHY'S LAWS OF COMPUTING

1. For every action, there is an equal and opposite malfunction.
2. To err is human... to blame your computer for your mistakes is even more human; in fact it is downright natural.
3. He who laughs last probably made a back-up.
4. If at first you don't succeed, blame your computer.
5. A complex system that does not work is invariably found to have evolved from a simpler system that worked just fine.
6. The number one cause of computer problems is computer solutions.
7. A computer program will always do what you tell it to do, but rarely what you want it to do.
8. When computing, whatever happens, behave as though you meant it to happen.
9. When you get to the point where you really understand your computer, it's probably obsolete.
10. The first place to look for information is in the section of the manual where you least expect to find it.
11. When the going gets tough, upgrade.
12. When you need to send an email quick, that's when the modem won't connect!

I halve a spelling checker, It came with my  
 pea see. It plainly marks four my revue  
 Mistakes I dew knot sea.  
 Eye strike a key and type a word And  
 weight four it two say Weather eye am  
 wrong oar write. It shows me strait aweigh.

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### Annual membership Dues:

Regular	\$ 40
Family-Associate	12
Students	18
Contributing	50
Supporter	75
Benefactor	100
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A subscription to *User Friendly* is included with membership.

**Associate members** are people who live in the same household or work for the same company as a regular member; they do not receive their own subscriptions to *User Friendly*, but may read it on the LACS website.

Students must prove full-time status.

In addition to monthly general meetings, members enjoy these special benefits:

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- Get help by phone from Members who are Quick Consultants listed in Use Friendly.
- Get help by e-mail by using our LACSLIST Yahoo Group Mail List. Simply address your e-mail questions to [lacslist\(at\)yahoogroups.com](mailto:lacslist(at)yahoogroups.com)
- Receive important news and announcements via LACS's Yahoo Group e-mail lists.

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- Eligibility to win door prizes in the General Meeting's "Lucky Draw."
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- Rewards for Recruiting Members: LACS will extend your membership for three months for each new Regular member you recruit.

# LACS

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[ ] Contributor - \$50.00 [ ] Supporter - \$75.00 [ ] Benefactor - \$100.00 [ ] Other \$\_\_\_\_\_

Name: First

Last

Name of Associate:

First

Last

Address:

City, State, Zip + 4

Day Phone:

Evening Phone:

[ ] Do not publish in roster

e-Mail Address:

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## DIRECTIONS TO GENERAL MEETING

### *From the North:*

Take Sepulveda Blvd. SOUTH to W. 80th St. Turn WEST-right and go about one mile to Emerson Ave. Turn SOUTH-left and go one long block to W. 80th Place. Fellowship Hall is on the Northwest corner of Emerson and W. 80th Place.

*From the South, East or West:* Take Manchester Ave. to Emerson Ave. Turn North and go about eight blocks to W. 80th Place. Fellowship Hall is on the Northwest corner of Emerson and W. 80th Place. There is plenty of street parking and a small parking lot West of the church.

