# **User Friendly**

**June 2015** 



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An International
Association of Technology
& Computer User Groups

## JUNE GENERAL MEETING

EARTHQUAKE THREAT IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA Magnitude 7.8 earthquake scenario on the San Andreas Fault

What will it be like...how to prepare at home and work

Speaker: Margaret Vinci, Manager, Office of Earthquake Programs, Caltech

The presentation will focus on the science of earthquakes and the San Andreas Fault magnitude 7.8 earthquake scenario, a realistic portrayal of what could happen in a major earthquake on the southern end of the San Andreas Fault. How will this affect our lives in Southern



California? What do we need to do to protect ourselves and be better prepared to survive afterwards? You can be part of the survival story and have peace of mind.

The next damaging event may not be a large M7.8 earthquake but a smaller event in our neighborhoods. If we are ready for one possible disaster scenario we are ready for others.

Margaret Vinci has been a member of the Caltech seismological laboratory staff for 22 years and is currently the Manager of the Office of Earthquake Programs. Her principal responsibility is the management of the Caltech Earthquake Research Affiliates Program which is a partnership between academia (seismologists, geophysicists and earthquake engineers) and leaders in business, government and emergency response to assess potential risks to life and property due to earthquakes and to develop earthquake tools to reduce losses. She serves on the Caltech Earthquake Early Warning development committee and is also committed to the outreach and education of earthquake preparedness for businesses, schools and the public. She also works with the media to communicate earthquake information to the public.

Tuesday, June 9, 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 <a href="http://mww.lacspc.org">http://mww.lacspc.org</a> or at 310-398-0366

## MAY 12, 2015 GENERAL MEETING REPORT

By Leah Clark, LACS Editor

tephanie Nordlinger explained the proposal to change the name of LACS to include technologies other than just computers. (See User Friendly, May, 2015, page 5) Computer technology is used in many new ways. Membership is declining - younger people don't see the need to join a computer user group. Stephanie has done research on what needs to be done to change our name. Kathy Jacobs, who was visiting, was a former APCUG president. She told us that those groups who have added "Technology" to their name have seen a substantial growth in membership. Stephanie asked members to send their concerns to the board. There will be more discussion, and members will be asked to vote at a later time.

President Maurice Stephenson is reaching out to high schools and universities. He is taking 40 high school students and 11 tour guides from LACS to visit YouTube Space LA.

## **Security Is Everyone's Business**

**Norman (Bob) Gostisha** presented to us via SKYPE. He started by reminding us that the first

thing to do when things don't go right with our computers is to power off and restart; that often is all it takes to solve a problem! It is important to prepare for a



disaster before it happens. Create backups to insure you can restore your computer to where it was before a disaster.

There is no privacy on the Internet. In February, Anthem health care was hit and customer info was exposed. If you have Blue Cross or Blue Shield, your info resides with a crook. If you have Anthem, you need to go to their website or call them at their headquarters. Don't click on anything from an email that appears to come from Anthem. If you have avast! Istalled, you are less likely to have your ID stolen, but no one can guarantee it can't happen. Your smartphones and tablets are just as susceptible to infections as your computer.

Don't fall for hoaxes in emails or on social

media. If you get an email that sounds too good to be true check it out. There are outfits where you can do a search for the actual facts.

Snopes.com is one of the nicest ones.

If you get a call or email from the IRS or Microsoft saying you owe taxes, or you have a virus, it's a hoax. No bank or utility company will ask for information by email.

The Ask Tool Bar should not be on your computer! If you choose the default option when downloading a program, you may get unwanted tool bars or meaningless utilities. Choose the custom option to be able to uncheck things you don't want installed.

If, when reading email, a popup comes up that says you have to reenter your name and password, it just passes your name and password to a crook.

Brand new computers often come to you preloaded with a lot of garbage. Insist on having nothing on it except the operating system.

Bob gave us some tips to spot scams. Check for spelling errors. Camera memory cards can transfer malware to your computer. Never put your home address in your GPS Home button. Don't put a notice on Facebook when going on vacation. Think before clicking on anything!

Bob told us about various programs to protect us. Go to the link at the end of this report to see his list of these programs and their URLs.

The avast! free version has streaming updates to constantly protect from all new risks. A Boot Time scan can scan your system before the Operating System starts, when more files are available than at any other time. You are protected when gaming, emailing, doing anything on line; downloading and pursuing activity on social media. There's now a totally free version for small businesses.

Android devices and Macs also need protection just as much as PCs. Avast! provides free mobile and Mac security, but it is not available for iPhones at this time. Avast! is available free for all schools, colleges and libraries.

You can get access to all the programs Bob spoke about - install avast! Get much more helpful information and tips at <a href="http://goo.gl/5v4sIQ">http://goo.gl/5v4sIQ</a>. Listen to the podcast of this presentation at <a href="www.lacspc.org">www.lacspc.org</a>. ♦

### FROM YOUR EDITOR

#### Sad News

LACS has had the sad misfortune of losing three members in less than four weeks. We offer our condolences to their families and friends. Please see their obituaries on page four of this issue. While I was editing their obituaries, I learned how much they had contributed to our communities. Then I realized that many of our current members must be doing a lot of community and volunteer service, or are involved in other important work. I would like to feature one or two members each month in *User Friendly*. If you are involved in any volunteer activities, please send me a short email about it. This may also be a way to recruit others for your favorite causes.

## From our Hospitality Chair, Sylvia Davis

With the passing of our friend, Linda Williams, I no longer have someone to set the table for the refreshments at the meetings. I have not been able to attend meetings; but I have restocked and organized the supplies that you see on that side table each month. This includes the tea, coffee, decaf, hot chocolate, sweeteners, cups, etc. Jim (bless his heart) always has the hot water heating when we arrive. Linda set up and clear the table. I would meet with her and bring what was needed to restock "the box". If you wish to continue having refreshments at the meeting, we need one or more of you to volunteer to help. We cannot ask those who serve us in other capacities to take on yet another responsibility for us. Please contact me as soon as possible if you are willing to serve in this manner.

**Correction**: In the May issue I said that Lee Freehling contributed the article by Ric Edelman. It was Edie Ditmars who sent it to me.

#### LACS Is On Social Media

Members, Cora Kamerman and Stanley Johnson, have been working to get us set up on Facebook and on Twitter. Check it out! We will have more information on this soon.



## 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!

A few LACS members were chaperones for a tour of YouTube Space with Maurice's students



## IN MEMORIAM

## LINDA KAREN WILLIAMS April 14, 1950 ~ May 4, 2015

Linda Karen Williams was born to Alfred

Edward and Edie Grace Norman in Los Angeles, CA. She was raised in Pasadena, CA, where she attended James Madison Elementary School, Washington Junior High School, John



Muir High School, and Pasadena City College. Linda enjoyed playing the clarinet in high school and college.

As a young adult, Linda served in the USO. She worked at the Broadway Department Stores, where she met and then married Linza L. Williams, Jr. They had two children: Linza Lloyd III and Noluthando Lisa. While raising her children, Linda worked for the U.S. Postal Service, and later for Brobeck, Phlegher and Harrison Law Firm as a Records Clerk. She especially enjoyed camping trips to Yosemite and Bass Lake with her family.

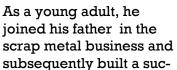
In 1995, Linda moved to Culver City. She was active in the Los Angeles Chapter Sickle Cell Support Group, promoting awareness of the disease. She also volunteered with the Pulmonary Hypertension Association of Los Angeles. She was an active member in the Los Angeles Computer Society. Recently she set up the refreshment table at the general meetings.

(From the memorial service brochure)

## LOUIS L. COLEN June 20, 1914 ~ April 28, 2015

Louis L. Colen was born in Winnipeg, Canada.

His family moved to Los Angeles in 1924, where he graduated from Roosevelt High School.





cessful real estate career. With his wife, Freda, (who passed in 1960) he was active in the American Jewish Congress, supporting the new state of Israel and fighting against discrimination of Jews and African-Americans in Los Angeles. With his wife, Irma, he was an avid supporter of the Venice Family Clinic, the ACLU of Southern California, the Constitutional Rights Foundation, the Democratic Party, the American Jewish University, Temple Beth Am, the Los Angeles Opera, and the Colburn School of Music. He served on the Grand Jury, and on several state and county commissions such as the Convention Center Commission, the California Student Aid Commission, and the California Water Commission. Other passions included piloting his plane, designing jewelry, photography, a love of art and music and computer technology. Lou faced the challenges of diminishing eyesight by converting his computer from text to speech and by listening to audio books and magazines. He was a long time member of LACS.

(From the Los Angeles Times Obituary)

## SHELDON CARL SHALLON January 4, 1926 ~ April 11, 2015

Sheldon Shallon was born in Chicago, IL. In high school he was a member of the National Honor Society, the Science Club and President of the Radio Club. He was a World War II Navy Veteran. Sheldon married Sylvia Markovitz in 1947.

He was Chief Scientist on the Surveyor Lunar Lander program at Hughes Aircraft Co. in the 1960s. The Surveyor spacecraft made a number of successful soft landings on the moon.

He also was an enthusiastic ham radio operator. He wrote and published a DOS computer program, Miniprop, used to predict the probability of a high frequency (HF) radio signal path tween two points on the Earth's surface. If an amateur radio operator or a shipboard marine radio operator with an HF radio wanted to estimate which frequencies might reach a shorebased station, data could be entered into the program. The software would estimate the best frequencies for the operator to use based on mathematical models. Sheldon was a long-time member of LACS, having served on the Board of Directors.

(From Elliott Silverstein, Google and Ancestry.com)

### LACS NAME CHANGE DEVELOPMENTS

## By Stephanie Nordlinger, LACS

The May issue of *User Friendly* included my article on the Board's proposal to change the name of our organization from Los Angeles Computer Society to one of three alternatives that include the term "Technology." This article explained the needed changes to our Articles and Bylaws. The purpose was to revitalize the club and attract new members. LACS Membership has declined in recent years, and our loyal members are getting older, moving away, passing away and sometimes just becoming less able to participate.

The User Friendly article announced a vote on these matters at our general meeting on May 12. Emails with the same information distributed to members on our list serves produced a vigorous response. Members had a wide variety of opinions, including that the proposal should be voted on by the entire membership (not just those attending a particular general meeting) and that the proposal was made too hastily and required more discussion. President Maurice Stephenson, informed those on our list serve(s) that there wouldn't be a vote on the proposal at the general meeting but just a 15-minute discussion at the May general meeting, followed by the presentation by our announced speaker.

At Maurice's request, I made a brief presentation and led that discussion. I referred vaguely to an email sent by Gene Jacobs, our Membership Database Manager, on May 10 to the DIRS-LACS list which read:

Subject: LACS is SHRINKING

- We had 176 members on 4-30-15.
- We had 190 members on 4-30-14.
- We had 194 members on 4-30-13.
- We NEED a GROWTH Committee.

The discussion started with Kathy Jacobs, a visitor from the East who is settling here and who was a former President of APCUG, An International Association of Technology and Computer User Groups. She said that while user groups were generally declining in membership since younger people were learning to use computers in schools and colleges, APCUG's statistics showed that member groups that added "Technology" to their names were losing mem-

bers more slowly, and they were getting more new members than those that kept their old names. Several others also commented.

The board discussed this subject on May 18. A motion made to keep our current name failed. The board discussed doing **email polling** of members but without working out the details. Through polling, we hope to narrow down the choices before the board authorizes any final vote. The polls may include an opportunity to suggest new names, etc. Please answer the polls when you receive them. If you are NOT subscribed to LACSPC, you will probably not get these polls. Learn about subscribing at <a href="http://www.lacspc.org/mail-list">http://www.lacspc.org/mail-list</a>.

We will also discuss possible names and possible future directions at general, board and SIG meetings from time to time. Feel free to share your ideas then and on LACSLIST. Your ideas and your vote matter!

Please read the "Internet of Things" article beginning on page 13. It mentions many technological changes that computers will make possible in coming years. These smart devices will be in our lives, our cars and our homes. We need to understand them to make the best decisions for ourselves, our families, our businesses and organizations, our country and the world. Lying awake at night, I thought of some more possible names. My favorite so far is Tech for Everyone (or All or Everybody). Please contribute your suggestions. You can check out potential domain names at <a href="https://www.whois.com">www.whois.com</a>. A good name is more important than a good website name.

## BASICS & BEYOND SIG REPORT

By Stephanie Nordlinger, LACS

Kim Stocksdale was out of town for our May 11 meeting. He had already prepared a meeting for April, before we learned that the college had a holiday on our meeting date. I agreed to lead the meeting based on his preparations, with one intended and one unintended additional topics. The slides for this meeting have been posted to our website.

#### **Basics**

I accidentally turned off the electricity to the projector early in the meeting, and at the end of the meeting a member removed the power cable from our computer before anyone had

(Continued on Page 12)

### DAYTIME SIG REPORT

By Robert Merce, LACS and Stephanie Nordlinger, LACS

S ix members, led by Jim McKnight, attended the April 28 meeting at the Felicia Mahood Center. It was the first meeting after a long hiatus.

### **Cleaning Up Your Computer**

When Bob Mercer noted that he was running out of computer space and needed to make a list of all folders with their sizes and creation dates, Jim introduced us to "Spacemonger" which shows pictorially how the hard disk is used. The current versions are 'free to try', but the old version 1.4 is really free and available. Search for it. The link for it on Jim's website (<a href="www.jimopi.net">www.jimopi.net</a>) may still work or try this one: <a href="http://kwsupport.com/downloads/spcmn140.zip">http://kwsupport.com/downloads/spcmn140.zip</a>.

Jim likes **Temp File Cleaner** (TFC) by Old Timer, which will clear files for multiple users. **CCleaner** works just for the current user. Warning: the latest version of CCleaner runs all the time by default. You can and should tell it to stop! Also, Jim does not use it to clean the registry, except when the machine is being cleaned of malware.

Many problems can be addressed by consulting Jim's PC self-help guides at <a href="www.jimopi.net">www.jimopi.net</a>. While readers haven't seen this column for many months, Jim has been faithfully updating his guides. See especially his Monthly Checkup (#4 under General Topics on the PC self-help part of his website.) Also Jim's routine is to place an image of his hard drive on a small external drive every six months, which he keeps in a safety deposit box. Note that Carbonite does not have an image of your computer, just your data, in the cloud. Jim likes SyncBack Free for backing up data to an external drive and Acronis True Image Home for backing up an image of the full hard-drive to an external drive.

For defragging your hard drive (which he does quarterly), look under his Utility Programs / Defrag and Optimize for a link to **Auslogics Defragger** which also optimizes while it defrags. (You can also find the link using his search capability.) Windows 7 & 8 machines automatically defrag each Wednesday, but you still need to do it manually on XP computers. For Vista users, the

Auslogics Defragger is mandatory since the Vista built in defragger does not do a good job.

Do you have too many (probably) useless programs? Try the <u>ShouldIRemoveIt.com</u> website. It helps identify if it is a good idea to remove a questionable program. "A must-have tool for anyone looking to tidy up their machine" according to CNET.

#### **Save Old Photos**

Want to save old photos? Try **CDBurnerXP**. This is a "**free** application to burn CDs and DVDs, including Blu-Ray and HD-DVDs and runs under all operating systems, not just XP. Jim suggests that CDBurnerXP is much better than commercial CD burning programs. It also includes the feature to burn and create ISOs, as well as a multi-language interface." It will also erase the contents of an old CD-RW disk, but according to Jim, non-rewritable CDs are more reliable than CD-RW disks.

#### .ISO Files

Bill Hughes asked about making and using .ISO files. Jim explained that this format (shown by the file's extension - .ISO) is an image of a program that comes when downloading an installation CD. It is a condensed file that a CD/DVD burning program uses to decompress the files needed to burn into a bootable CD. Linux distributions download as an .ISO image which you can then burn into a bootable CD/DVD.

#### **Helping Remotely**

Jim has helped many members remotely, using **LogMeIn**. Now his choice for remote assistance is **TeamViewer** which is free for noncommercial use. (LogMeIn is now expensive.) Both are faster than **Join.Me**, another choice. See their websites for more information.

#### **Future Meetings**

Bring your friends (who don't have to be members), as well as interesting information, problems, and questions to the next Daytime SIG meeting on **June 23 from 1 to 3 PM** at the Felicia Mahood Senior Center for help from our guru and the education of the rest of us. Usually it is on the fourth Tuesday of each month, but Jim's schedule varies, so please check the *User Friendly* calendar and your email for details. •

## DIGITAL PHOTO SIG REPORT

by Elliot Silverstein, LACS

he general topic at the April 27, 2015 meeting was storing one's photos, and organizing them in such a way that they could easily be located and recovered.

However, the first comments were on a different subject.

The speaker, Elliot Silverstein, had recently ex-

perienced exposure problems with some photos of white objects, such as documents. They were coming out too dark when using the camera spot exposure mode. He then remem-



bered that the camera is calibrated to give the correct exposure when viewing a gray card (18% reflectivity.) The camera exposed the white paper to yield a gray color, much darker than white. The resulting histogram displayed by the camera showed that most of the image was concentrated at the left or dark side of the histogram. Of course, exposure compensation of about one stop fixed the problem, but it took a few moments of thought to understand that the camera calibration was not at fault, but that the camera was trying to reproduce a gray image rather than a very light one.

We then returned to the planned subject. Elliot described his method of photo storage. He uses Windows Explorer, the computer folder and file system (found in Start/All Programs/ Computer in Windows 7) where he created a chronological set of folders, one for each year. He then creates sub-folders, as needed, to accommodate his images, with each subfolder labeled to identify the photos it contains. He downloads the camera images directly into the appropriate sub-folders. Display options, shown in the upper right of the screen, allow showing thumbnail images or text descriptions of the images. When a specific photo is selected by clicking on it, a number of identifying items become available, and the search bar in the upper right can be used for finding any specific photo. First, there is a description beneath each photo that is assigned by the camera. This can be renamed to change or add to

this information by right clicking and choosing 'Rename'. In addition, at the bottom of the screen, one can select one or more from the set of comments, tags, titles, etc., typing in whatever identifying things you might later use in searching for the photo. Following this action, one must click on 'save', or your comments etc. will be lost. It is possible to do batch identifications by selecting several photos (by holding down 'control' while clicking on each photo), and then filling in the tags and comments.

A later Search for these tags, comments, titles, etc. will locate the desired photo(s), provided that the search is conducted on a folder that contains the desired folder or sub-folder. These same tags and comments can be used for searches in **Picasa**. And one can add tags in Picasa that will be available when searching in the Windows Explorer file system. In addition, if you are looking for a photo that you would recognize it if you saw it, but you don't remember when or where it was taken, Picasa lets you quickly scroll through all your photos so you can try to find it as it goes by. Picasa also offers a face search feature that can find most of the occurrences of a given face, even if it was only one of several faces in a photo.

For convenience, Elliot sets **FastStone** as his default program for displaying selected photo folders. FastStone displays an entire folder or sub-folder in a way that gives easy access to individual photos, and in addition it offers a number of options for editing or processing the images.

Speaking of organizing pictures, someone asked how he could sort and find his numerous old prints or slides from back in the days of film. Scanning them could be a very time consuming job, but it was suggested that using a digital camera to photograph the prints or the projected images of the slides would be a fast and effective way to store and locate the pictures. If one later wanted additional copies or prints, he could go back and print from the originals to preserve the image quality. •



#### WELCOME ALL

### Gene Jacobs

Data Base Manager, LACS

### New Members (1)

Gayle Palitz

## Renewals (16)

Larry Abe \*

Barbara Benjamin

Nancy Cattell \*

Gabrielle Crawford \*

Armin Dolin \*

**Bob Downing** 

Irv Farber

Kassie Frenzelas

Irv Kornfeld

Howard Krivoy

Nikkie Luederitz

Richard Norlin

**Iudith Sakahara** 

Masahi Sakahara

Raymond Shinn

Elizabeth Stevenson

\*Contributor

#### 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. It's 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@lacspc.org as **plain text** in the body of an email 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 email: editor(at)lacspc.org

### 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 <a href="www.jimopi.net">www.jimopi.net</a>.

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

### GENERAL MEETING PRESENTATIONS

June 9 - Earthquakes

July 14 - Cyber-security: Fast Response

Techniques for Attacks

August 11- Windows 10 and Internet

**Programs** 

September - Social Media

October - Net Neutrality

November - Common Core Standards

This schedule is subject to change. Check your email for updates.

### GENERAL MEETING SNACK SCHEDULE

## By Sylvia Q. Davis

June D through G
July H through K
August L through P
September Q through S
October T through Z
November A through C
December Holiday Party

Please bring finger-food treats such as fresh fruit, veggies, nuts, cookies, brownies and the like. See email for more suggestions.

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## **JUNE 2015**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 Basics & Beyond SIG 7:00 PM	9 General Meeting 7:00 PM	10	11		13 nology and Conference
14 Flag Day	Board Meeting 7:00 PM	16	17	18 Ramadan Begins	19	20
21 Falher's	Digital Photo SIG 7:00 PM	Day SIG 1:00 PM	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	1	2	3	4

## This Calendar may change.

### Check your email or with the SIG leader before attending a meeting.

The SIGs meet at the Santa Monica College Bundy Campus unless otherwise noted.

The Board may meet at Maurice's home or at the college. It may be changed to the first Monday. Members in good standing are welcome to attend.

We are scheduled to be in Room 235 through June 30, 2015.

## 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 Stocksdale	310-720-0603	2nd Mon. 7 PM SMC, Bundy Campus
Daytime Sig	Jim McKnight	310-823-7829	4th 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

## **ADDRESSES**

Dinah's Family Restaurant, 6521 Sepulveda Blvd., LA 90045 (on Sepulveda, just S. of Centinela) Felicia Mahood Senior Center, 113368 Santa Monica Blvd., West LA 90025 (at Corinth)

Fellowship Hall, 8065 Emerson Ave., Westchester 90045

Santa Monica College Bundy Campus, 3171 S. Bundy Drive, LA 90066 (½ block south of Airport Avenue) Our room number may change each semester. Look for it on a sign opposite the elevator on the first floor. We have room 235 through June, 2015.

## **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 email 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 email 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	То
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	Schneir, Jerry	310-451-4140	9:00 AM	10:00 PM
15	Van Berkom, 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**

Title	Name	Term	Telephone
President	Maurice Stephenson	2015	310-625-0450
Vice President	Vacant		
Secretary	Lee Freehling	2015	310-837-4022
Treasurer	Elliott Stern	2015	310-880-9891
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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 Berkom	2015	310-389-6734
Director	Stanley Johnson	2016	909-782-0103
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Car Pools	Lance Hegamin		310-202-8926
Changes	Karl Springer		424-646-3410
"	Gene Jacobs		310-397-8457
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Asst. Hospitality Chair	Vacant - See page three		
Membership Database	Gene Jacobs		310-397-8457
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Publicity	Mark Presky		310-398-0366
Quick Consultants	Leah Clark		310-677-2792
SIG Coordinator	Heshmat Laaly 310-838-714		310-838-7140
Web Master	Gilbert Ialongo		310-641-7906
Welcome Chair	Ida Riordan		310-837-9851

## Los Angeles Computer Society

## **Contact Information**

Website	www.lacspc.org	<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	editor (at) lacspc.org
Voice Mail	1-310-398-0366	Webmaster	sitemaster (at) lacspc.org
email	ContactUs (at) lacspc.org	<b>Change of Address</b>	changes (at) lacspc.org

The **ContactUs (at) lacspc.org** address goes to our **president** and **immediate past president**. If the message is for another board member, they will forward it to the correct person.

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

## (Basics & Beyond SIG Report)

(Continued from page 5)

shut down Windows. Do not do this! Fortunately, neither piece of equipment was injured, but they could have been. Electrical equipment is delicate and needs to be handled with care. More is going on than is immediately apparent. Just changing the power status of equipment can damage hardware and software. Press at the same time the Control, Alt and Delete keys. Chose "Start Task Manager" and then the "Processes" tab. Dozens of processes (up to 50 or 70+) are often running even though the "Applications" tab shows little or nothing running except Task Manager. If a program is saving something to a hard drive and the power goes out, that data is lost. The entire file or backup may be seriously damaged. Be careful, and do not "help" until you learn to handle computers correctly. Always close Windows first and let it finish whatever it wants to do including installing updates - before you turn off its power.

#### To Pin or not to Pin?

We discussed and demonstrated **pinning**. The purpose of pinning is to make finding programs, website links, folders, documents, etc. easy the next time or (on some websites) to make the item available to others. You can pin a frequently used program or document to the Task Bar at the bottom of your screen. The Task Bar begins with the Windows Start icon and may already contain icons for Internet Explorer and other programs. If the item has an icon on your desktop, grab that with your mouse and pull it into an empty area of the task bar. If it doesn't have a desktop icon, you can either give it one or put it directly on the Task Bar. (It doesn't need to be on both.)

Pinning a Program to the Start Menu: Go to Start and locate the program. Right Click on its name and choose between: Pin to Start Menu, Pin to Desktop or Send to Desktop (Create shortcut.) Click on whichever you want.

**Pinning to Your Desktop**: To create a desktop icon to double click to take you to a website or web page, go to that website. Look for the icon to the left of the address of the web page. Click on it and drag it to your desktop. Right click on the icon and rename it.

You can also create a desktop icon (shortcut) that takes you to a folder or file on your computer. Use Window Explorer to navigate to (not into) that folder or file. Its place should show in the first fillable line on your screen. Click on the icon at the left of the folder's address and drag it to the desktop. Right click and Rename.

Smartphone Google Maps and GPS
We showed what Google Maps looks like on a large or smartphone screen and discussed what the symbols mean. See tutorials on You Tube. (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mUR08cdI hTO) and help on the Maps.Google.com website. You can use the map application to find local restaurants, businesses and public places near your selected address. It lets you choose alternate routes and alternate forms of transportation (driving, taking public transportation, biking or walking.) It estimates how long the trip will take using various routes and lets you choose between them or even change them.

#### WAZE

WAZE is free software for Android, Apple and Windows smartphones that provides a different kind of mapping function. (See U.F. May 2014) You need to register to download and install it. Your phone needs to be GPS locatable (a setting) and you turn it on when starting your trip. It keeps track of where your smartphone is and tells you about upcoming hazards such as accidents, the police, construction, etc. It marks the major nearby roads for the speed of traffic now: green for 50+ miles per hour, amber for 25 -50 and red for less than 25 mph. It gets this information from data WAZE users send to the company. WAZE suggests alternative routes to save time getting to your destination. It is controversial because it directs drivers to residential streets to avoid gridlock whic creates much more traffic in these areas. The L.A Times had several articles on its effects.

## **FTC Scam Alerts**

We briefly went to <u>www.consumer.ftc.gov</u>, the **Federal Trade Commission**'s website which contains a lot of useful information on scams and what to do about them. The commission accepts complaints from the public and prosecutes some of the scammers.

We also answered some members' questions. Please watch your email for information on future Basics & Beyond SIG programs. ◆

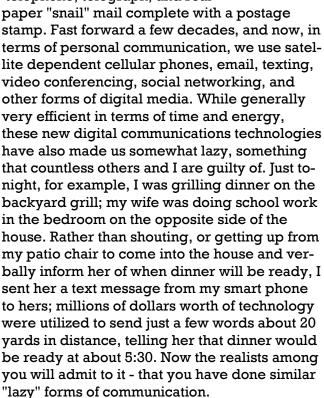
## THE INTERNET OF THINGS

## by Ira Wilsker

Golden Triangle PC Club, <u>www.gtpcc.org</u> iwilsker(at)sbcglobal.net

www.theexaminer.com

In the not too distant past, we communicated with each other with the spoken and written word, telephone, telegraph, and real



Now, with the rapid advances in digital technology and the nearly universal availability of Internet connected Wi-Fi and cellular networks, we have gone from the traditional Internet of web searches and email to an evolving utilization of the "Internet of Things", commonly abbreviated "IoT". While there are multitudes of often parallel and competitive developments of technology that can connect more of our everyday home, business, health, and other devices to the Internet, major players in this evolving technology cannot even agree on what it really is and what to call it. Rather than the widely used "IoT" acronym, technology giant GE calls it the "Industrial Internet", and networking powerhouse Cisco calls it "The Internet of Everything." Whatever we call it, this IoT is aready ready becoming big business with an estimate of about seven billion currently connected devices, according to a report published by BI Intelligence. According to this same BI Intelligence report, this number of connected devices will double to about 15 billion devices within the next two years, and is estimated to increase to about 25 billion connected devices by the year 2019, a scant four years from now. Cisco, the networking company, predicts 50 billion connected IoT devices in the same time frame.

The potential for revenues and profits is not lost on the players in this technological advance; according to an article posted by Forbes, dated April 22, 2015, citing a report published by MarketResearch.com, "The healthcare Internet of Things market segment is poised to hit \$117 billion by 2020. ... they recognize that the \$117 Billion in healthcare devices is only a slice of what's coming."

So, what is this dynamic technology of IoT that is now becoming so common in our homes, businesses, doctors' offices, and other places? Basically, it means that more of our common devices, other than our current crop of smartphones and other intelligent devices that most of us already use, will be joined by other mostly already existing devices that will be connected through the use of "smart sensors". Wikipedia defines the IoT as:

The Internet of Things (IoT) is the network of physical objects or "things" embedded with electronics, software, sensors and connectivity to enable it to achieve greater value and service by exchanging data with the manufacturer, operator and/or other connected devices. Each thing is uniquely identifiable through its embedded computing system but is able to interoperate within the existing Internet infrastructure.

Several years ago, while I was attending the Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas, I was amazed by the demonstrations of how some common household devices could seamlessly connect to the Internet. One major manufacturer of residential washers and dryers demonstrated how these



### (The Internet of Things)

(Continued from page 13)

appliances would self-monitor their internal workings, sending an email to the owner, manufacturer, repair service, or other appropriate party as needed. If a part was in danger of failing, the appliance itself would simultaneously send emails to the user advising him of the problem; another email to the manufacturer describing the problem and the part number of the failing part; and still another email to a nearby authorized repair facility with the part number that needs to be replaced, the location and contact information of the owner, and even arrange for payment if the item is still under warranty.

I was amazed by what appeared to be an everyDaytime microwave oven, similar to what is already in millions of kitchens, but this was a "smart microwave oven", connected to what we are now calling the IoT. The control panel on the microwave oven was a bright LCD touch screen that did not just have the traditional time and power buttons, but also offered much more through its Wi-Fi connection to the household Wi-Fi network. Being connected to the manufacturer's server via the Internet, not just would the oven report its condition and functionality to the maker and owner, but it also would display customized recipes, generate emails with shopping lists correlated with the recipes, and calculate and implement the proper programming in order to have the selected meal completed and ready to serve at precise-

ly the desired time.

An Internet connected refrigerator was intended to save its owner time and money at the supermarket, as well as the now common function of monitoring and reporting its performance. An optical bar code scanner was installed on the door of the refrigerator, which



could be used to scan the UPC bar codes of any grocery items that need to be purchased. A

touch screen, resembling to Daytime's common tablet devices, was also on the door, which was connected to the supermarket of choice. On the touch screen, shopping lists could be created and edited, with sale items displayed (the weekly supermarket sale book), along with a listing of available digital coupons which can be automatically applied at the time of checkout. A digital shopping list could be sent to the user's smartphone, or printed on the home printer via a Wi-Fi connection between the refrigerator and the printer. What was especially interesting to me was that the printed or digital shopping list was coordinated with the supermarket, such that the items on the shopping list were in the same sequential order that they would be found in the aisles and shelves in the participating store, greatly speeding and easing the grocery shopping process. For those too busy, or otherwise unable to do the grocery shopping, the shopping list could be transmitted directly to the selected supermarket, where the items could be preselected for pickup, or even delivered, if delivery service was available.

My wife's car is a current participant in the IoT, as it sends her periodic and frequent emails and text messages presenting her with the current details on the physical condition of the major components in her car, as well as immediate notifications of newly detected problems. Many modern home security and energy management systems are Internet connected, allowing the user to remotely view video cameras, control the temperature and lighting in the house, and perform other household functions. Both my household cable TV system and my supplemental Amazon TV Fire Stick are Internet connected; cable connected devices such as DVRs can be controlled remotely from anywhere by smart phones with the appropriate app; my Amazon Fire Stick can be controlled by my smart phone via my Wi-Fi connection, rather than through its separate remote control. IoT can also be used to maximize the household energy savings by coordinating energy use with the utility company's "Smart grid" program.

In terms of health care, Wikipedia states, "IoT devices can be used to enable remote health monitoring and emergency notification sys-

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### (The Internet of Things)

(Continued from page 14)

tems. These health monitoring devices can range from blood pressure and heart rate monitors to advanced devices capable of monitoring specialized implants, such as pacemakers or advanced hearing aids." Articles have been published about IoT connected glucometers for monitoring diabetics, which can automatically compile and remotely send blood sugar reports to the physician. Other connected devices could automatically monitor the well being of senior citizens, and persons with mobility impairments.

#### Wikipedia at

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Internet of Things also explains other areas in which the IoT is in the process of being utilized, including marketing and related marketing research, such as tracking shoppers' smartphones and displaying personalized coupons and special offers while in a participating store.

IoT can also be used for environmental monitoring, which will use smart sensors to monitor water quality, air quality, soil conditions, seismographic activities, weather conditions, and wildlife movements. With the recent spate of volcanoes, tsunamis, and earthquakes (such as the recent disaster in Nepal), the IoT can be used for helping to predict potential natural threats, provide an early warning system to other connected devices alerting the population, and even in rescue and disaster recovery. Industrial users are widely implementing the IoT to monitor and control infrastructure and manufacturing processes. IoT can monitor the conditions and the repair and maintenance needs of manufacturing and other industrial equipment. Safety and security devices can be interconnected, monitoring in real time the relevant concerns. Loss due to theft and pilferage can be reduced, as the activities of IoT connected inventory and equipment can be continuously monitored. Effective energy management is not just good for the environment, but it can also save a lot of money, with IoT connected devices reporting energy needs in real-time. If coupled with utility company energy demand planning and "smart grid" technology, and energy consumption is managed in order

to take advantage of variable energy pricing, significant savings can be realized.

There is much more to the "Internet of Things" that will become more prevalent in the near future, as more of the technology is implemented in our everyDaytime devices. Some major concerns now being heard in the cyber security community have to do with the privacy of the IoT users as well as the potential for hackers to break into almost any Internet connected device with potentially expensive and disastrous results. The growth of an IoT security industry will parallel the growth of the IoT itself.

The IoT technology is getting interesting; watch for it in your home, car, doctor's office, and place of business.

#### **WEBSITES:**

http://www.foxnews.com/tech/2015/04/18/hacking -into-your-home-tvs-refrigerators-could-be-portalto-most-sensitive-info/

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Internet of Things http://share.cisco.com/assets/images/Internet of Things Infographic.jpg

https://youtu.be/OaTIt1C5R-M

http://www.microsoft.com/en-us/server-

cloud/Internet-of-things.aspx

http://www.theInternetofthings.eu

http://whatis.techtarget.com/definition/Internet-of-Things

http://techcrunch.com/2015/04/19/we-need-to-get-the-Internet-of-things-right/

http://share.cisco.com/Internet-of-things.html

http://www.businessinsider.com/how-the-Internet-of-things-market-will-grow-2014-10

http://www.forbes.com/sites/tjmccue/2015/04/22/117-billion-market-for-Internet-of-things-in-healthcare-by-2020/ ♦



Simplify and streamline everyDaytime tasks, from extending the dryer cycle from your couch, to preheating the oven from the grocery store.

## TABLETS FOR MOBILE **COMPUTING – NEW TO SOME: USEFUL FOR MOST**

By Phil Sorrentino, The Computer Club, Florida, November 2014

http://scccomputerclub.org Philsorr.wordpress.com

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Then most of us think about Mobile Computing, we probably think of Laptops. Laptops are relatively light, making them fairly portable, and they are battery operated, making them just right for mobile computing or computing "on-the-go." Now that tablets have come on the scene, it appears that they may be ready to take over some of the computing tasks previously done by laptops. Why, you may ask. Well, tablets are lighter than laptops, and they typically have a battery that allows for opera-

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## http:--apcuq2.org-node-1867

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www.apcugvegas2015.eventbrite.com

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http:--tinyurl.com-2015APCUG-Hotel

**TUNE 2015** tion two to three times that of a laptop, usually enough for a full day's work. If you are new to the thought of using a tablet for some of your "on-the-go" computing tasks, let's take a look at how a tablet might contribute. It is true, that most tablets do not have a Hard Disk Drive or an Optical Disk Drive, so the computing tasks for a tablet have to be able to be accomplished without these two resources. But, as it turns out, there are quite a few tasks that can easily be done with only the resources of a tablet, for example, checking your email, checking your calendar, Googling something, viewing pictures and videos, reviewing spreadsheets or documents, playing music, checking the weather report, checking your stock portfolio, reading the news, shopping on the Internet, sharing comments and pictures on Facebook, and sending a tweet on Twitter. All of these things can easily be accomplished using an Apple iPad, an Android tablet, or a Microsoft Windows 8 tablet. If you think a tablet might be the way to accomplish some or all of these "computing on the go" tasks, let's look at how to get started with your tablet. All the three aforementioned tablets can do the job, but there are differences and the differences are in the details. Android tablets have over 65% of the market, so I'll use an Android tablet for the details. Tablets, on the surface, are pretty simple devices. There is a screen, and a few basic controls. The first thing to do is to become familiar with these very few controls. Most of them are around the rim of the device. The power On-Off button is used to both turn the power on and off and also to turn off the display when you don't want to drain the battery. With the tablet on, a short press of this but-

## (Tablets for Mobile Computing)

(Continued from page 16)

buttons. Two software buttons will show up on the screen (after the tablet has been turned on), usually at the bottom. These are the Home and the Back buttons. The Home button will bring you back to the home screen you started with, and the Back button will bring you back one step in whatever App you are running. (Yes, we are going to get to Apps.) The Home and Back buttons typically look like this: like the kindle fire HDX, will have the Amazon Store icon (even though they use the Android Operating System.) These two different icons take you to two very different locations on the Internet.

Shown here are the Google Play Store and Amazon Store Icons:







Once you have found all the controls, turn on the device and wait for the home screen. There will probably be 3 or 5 screens available, but typically the one in the center will be the home screen (the screen that comes up on initial power-on.) This screen may have only a few or it may have many icons, depending on the manufacturer. Each icon is a short-cut to an App. The term "App", which is short for application, is used for most of the software programs that you will run on your tablet. (Don't complain to me, I'm only the messenger. Apple coined the term and it seems to have stuck.)

Actually, you may also see the term "widget". Widgets are like Apps, only they show changing data in their Icons. (Think about a "Weather Widget", which constantly shows the temperature and weather outlook for a given location, or a "Finance Widget" that constantly shows the Dow Jones average.) Most of your interaction with the tablet will be through Apps.

Now, there are a few Icons that are extremely important. The most important icon, in my opinion, is the icon that lets you get to the store to acquire new Apps (most are free but some come at a cost.) Most Android tablets will have the Google Play Store icon. Amazon tablets,

Another very important icon is "Settings". The Settings Icon gets you to the settings App which provides information about the tablet and provides controls to set the general operations of the tablet. Settings icons may be different on different tablets, but shown here are two popular Settings icons:



The next most important Icon is the "All Apps" Icon. This Icon will typically be on the home screen, and possibly show up on all screens, and is usually in the upper right corner, or at least somewhere on the right side of the screen. This Icon gets you to the "All Apps" collection. This is where you can find all of the Apps that have been installed on your tablet.

Touch this Icon for an alphabetically listed view of all of your apps. There are also a few different "All Apps" icons. Shown here are a few examples:





Tablets are useful and fun to use, once you have set them up with the Apps that you want to use. The only way to get Apps on to your tablet, beyond the



Apps that come with the device, is to download them from the Google or Amazon store, (which are somewhere out there on the Internet.) On most tablets, the only way to get on to the Internet is via Wi-Fi. (A few, more expensive, tablets also have the capability to get on to the Internet via the cell phone system. This allows them to get on to the Internet wherever their cell provider has coverage.) Without a connection to the Internet the tablet would just be an old fashioned Personal Digital Assistant. In order to get on to the Internet we have to set up the Wi-Fi. In order to set up the Wi-Fi we need to get into the Settings. (Now you see why Settings is a very important Icon.) So, find the Settings icon and touch it. The settings screen is split in two. The left side is for navigation, and the right side expands whatever was selected on the left side. Usually, Wi-Fi is the first entry on the left under "Wireless & Networks". If Wi-Fi is not on, touch the switch and turn it on. With Wi-Fi selected on the left, the possible Wi-Fi networks will be shown on the right. Select the network you plan to use and then provide the password if needed. (If the little icon next to the network name has a lock on or near it, a password will be needed. If there isn't a lock on or near it, the network is open and does not need a password.) Once you are connected to a network you should see "Connected" under the name of the net-

work you are using. Touch the "Home" software button to get back to the home screen. Now that you are connected to a network, the Internet is your oyster. You can use a browser to generally browse the Internet or you can use your Apps to get specific kinds of information from specific websites. One of the first things to do is to go to your store and download something you want or just something for practice. When you get to your store, look for an App that sounds interesting and try to download it. Maybe it will be an email App, or a game like Candy Crush, or Sudoku. It will be good practice and maybe even fun. Basically, touch your "Store" icon, then touch the "Search" icon (usually at the top on the right) and type in the App name. Select the Apps icon and then "Accept" the permissions and watch it install.

Once the App is installed, you can start to take advantage of some of the benefits of having a tablet, like checking your email, or reading the news, on the go. This might just make you feel that your tablet is useful for mobile, on-the-go computing. •

(Editor's Note: Much of the information in this article also applies to Smartphones.)

#### LAUGHING OUT LOUD

### Life before the Computer

From the closing of Bob Gostischa's General meeting presentation, May 12, 2015

Memory was something you lost with age.

An Application was for employment.

A Program was a TV show.

A Keyboard was a piano.

A Web was a spider's home.

A Virus was the flu.

A CD was a bank account.

A **Hard Drive** was a long trip on the road.

A Mouse was a small rodent.

A Mouse Pad was where a mouse lived.

And if you had a  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inch **Floppy**, you just hoped nobody found out!

## MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

#### **Annual membership Dues:**

Regular		\$ 40
Family-Associate		12
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Contributing		50
Supporter		75
Benefactor		100
Renewal, Electronic		
Newsletter		30
T 1 '	<b>.</b> .	

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.

Who invited you to join LACS?

Students must prove full-time status. In addition to monthly general meetings, members enjoy these special benefits:

- Monthly printed Newsletter User Friendly. We publish your article submissions or free classified ads to buy or sell your computer items.
- Get help by phone from Members who are Quick Consultants listed in User Friendly.
- Get help by email by using our LACSLIST Yahoo Group Mail List. Simply address your email questions to lacslist (at) yahoogroups.com
- Receive important news and announcements via LACS's Yahoo Group email lists.

- Special Interest Groups (SIGs) to help solve your problems regarding selected topics.
- Eligibility to win door prizes in the General Meeting's "Lucky Draw."
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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.

