



Zen Buddhist Priest and Archery Master, Hirokazu Kosaka, performs a Zen Buddhist blessing ceremony. John Stinson

## Angels Gate Gets New Lease On Life

by John Stinson

November 19th and it was a picture postcard perfect day. On top of the location planned for a future café, the view of Catalina, indeed the entire coast, was nearly crystal clear. The time had come to celebrate the signing of the 30-year lease for Angels Gate Cultural Center after enduring twenty years of a month-to-month and year-to-year lease with the Los Angeles City Department of Recreation and Parks.

“This marks the beginning of a new era for this amazing resource,” remarked Nathan Birnbaum, Angels Gate Executive Director. “The importance of this site and our programs to the immediate area can not be over estimated. We want to see it live up to its full potential.”

Janice Hahn was on hand to praise the efforts of all involved in finally making this dream a reality. Her initial efforts to promote this 30-year agreement were rebuffed by both the City Attorney and Department of Recreation and Parks. It was only after her flat refusal not to give up on the project and through continuing support from the business and art communities, that a deal was finally hammered out.

“We were told that 30-year leases aren’t done in the City of L.A. and getting to this point wasn’t easy,” Hahn quipped. “We had to snatch this from the jaws of defeat a few times, but it was definitely worth it. I believe this will become not only a local center of the arts, but for the world.”

The new lease finally opens the way for serious fundraising for programs and projects that, up to now, had been only a pipe dream. The center, with lease in hand, plans to expand its classrooms and public areas, add a café and theater plus provide more public meeting spaces.

“The future of the center can now be contemplated,” said Birnbaum. “Angels Gate Cultural Center presents a opportunity of a lifetime not only for this community, but the entire region.”

## Making A Difference Thousands Turn Out For Mayor’s Day of Service

by John Stinson

The words were spoken by John F. Kennedy at his inauguration and hit a chord with Americans for generations to come. “Ask not what your country can do for you. Ask what you can do for your country.” They spawned the Peace Corps and inspired a feel-good generation to become the do-good generation.

Slobodan Dimitrov



But helping your fellow man by an act of kindness, whether it’s your next door neighbor or someone starving half way around the world, is still alive and well today and was certainly evident on the Mayor’s Day of Service on October 8th as thousands of people, from children to adults, pitched in to spruce up 16 schools throughout Los Angeles.

The event was organized as a means of encouraging local residents to take pride in their community. It is part of the “Broken Window” theory. By beautifying the local school it will inspire residents to take the initiative to address other problems in their neighborhoods. It is, in theory, a win-win situation.

By the turn out at Banning High, the first part of the equation seemed to be working. Flowers and trees were planted, the grounds were swept, graffiti painted over and a mural was painted with the Banning Pilots logo. The folks weret fed by ILWU Local 13 and Harbor Commissioner Joe Radisich was even on hand to serve up lunch to a crowd of hungry volunteers.

After the work was done there certainly was a sense of pride on a job well done and a professed

## President’s Message

### Talk to Us

By Doug Epperhart

I have trouble reading my own mind most of the time, let alone anyone else’s.

That’s one of the reasons I, along with other neighborhood council board members, need to hear from you. The best way is to come to our governing board meeting and tell us in person. We meet on the third Monday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at the Cabrillo Beach Bathhouse.

If you can’t make the meetings, call us or write us a letter or send us an e-mail. If you run into a board member at the store or in a restaurant, make your opinion known.

It’s said that decisions are made by the people who show up. That’s as true with the neighborhood council as anything else. The more we hear from you, the better informed our decisions will be.

If you really want to pitch in, join a committee. You don’t have to be a board member to serve on, or even chair, a committee. Everyone is welcome to help. We love volunteers.

The things I’ve asked the council to focus on this year include opening the Cabrillo Beach Youth Facility (Boy Scout camp) to the public, the “From Bridge to Breakwater” waterfront development plan, and implementing the “No Net Increase” proposals to curb air pollution.

These are just some of the many important issues the council is tackling. The board is an excellent bunch of people dedicated to making our neighborhoods the best, not just in the city of Los Angeles, but anywhere. You can help us help you. Get involved.

Slobodan Dimitrov



desire to keep the school looking this good all the time. The volunteers, from kids to adults, found that together, by giving something of themselves, they could make a difference in the world around them.

However, making a difference is not just a one-day of the year activity. Everyone has the opportunity to pitch in and help others in the community on a daily basis. Service organizations and non-profit groups abound to provide a helping hand or safety net for those in need and joining one can be the first step in making a difference. The reward in doing so...priceless.