

Center News

Remembering Miss Alex

Alex Delgado-Gonzalez served the Center for Children for eight years. She loved working with children and helping them learn new things. Ms. Alex passed away the last weekend in February with complications from pneumonia. Ms. Alex will be greatly missed.

Ms Mary summed it up well, "It is a great loss and pains our hearts that we lost our good friend and teacher, Ms. Alex. The Center and our parents wish to pay our condolences to Ms. Alex's family and pray that her soul will rest in peace. We all know that she is in heaven with our Heavenly Father."

Service and viewing will be held at:
Bagues and Sons Mortuary
4221 Cesar Chavez Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90063
March 4, 2011
5 pm—9 pm

Flowers may be sent to the mortuary. Cards, gifts and donations can be turned in at the Church office by Thursday evening. We will make sure the family receives them. If you want to provide the family with food, contact Mayola to get the family's home address or make arrangements. Ms. Alex's parents names are Jesus and Maricela Delgado.

Mayola's Corner

It is with a heavy heart sitting here thinking that one of my co-workers, Ms. Alex, whom I have had the opportunity to work with for the past eight years is gone. Thinking to myself, I wonder, "did I say thank you enough? Did she know she was appreciated?" It is so easy to think that we have forever to be with someone or to tell them later, but life is so unpredictable. This experience has taught me to never put off what should be said or done today. Who would have ever known that when Ms. Alex walked out of the building a few weeks ago, it would be the last time we would ever see each other. Spoken words are so important! Make every effort to make the best of each day and tell loves

ones, friends, and family what they mean to you.

As much as the staff, children, and parents will miss Ms. Alex, it is equally important to take this time to reflect and to express our feeling helping each other cope with such a tragedy. Good-byes are hard, but death is so final and it can be devastating. Thank God we have Pastor Rachel to help keep us all sane.

During the month of March we are working hard to plan our week of "The Young Child" an exciting event in April. Volunteers are welcome. Thanks to all who participated in the "Tea Fundraiser." We are working with the owner to make this an ongoing event, so let's drink more tea!

A thank you goes out to

Tricia McReynolds who has worked diligently to keep you all abreast of "LaTijera Happenings"; however we still feel that everyone is not getting all communications. I am setting up a blind e-mail list in the office to allow you the opportunity to receive all school communications, from announcements and reminders to important notifications such as lock down, closures, etc. If I don't have your e-mail please stop by the office. If you are only interested in receiving the important notifications, we can set up a separate list.

We are hosting an "Open House" on March 24th during our regular parent meeting. Parents who bring a receptive family will receive a surprise if the family enrolls. Don't miss it!

Stages I, II, III, & Transition I

Stage I

Hello,

As Stage I welcomes the beautiful spring weather, we also would like to welcome our newest babies to our group, Layla and Gordon. We also welcome back teacher, Kris. Thank you to all our parents for your prayers and kind thoughts.

Stage I Teachers

Stage II

Dear Parents:

March is here and so is Spring!! Soon everything will turn green as we prepare to celebrate St. Patrick's Day on March 17th. Don't forget to dress your child in the color GREEN on that day. This month's color will be green. Our shape will be the circle. We will introduce the numbers 1 & 2,

and the letters L & M. With St. Patrick's Day as our over all theme, we will see leprechauns, shamrocks, and spring rainbows.

We would like to welcome Zoe and Ethan. We are glad to see Elysian back as well. We are very happy to have new friends in our class.

Thanks for all your support by remembering to label your child's belongings, as well as signing in and out daily.

Thank you,
Ms Rosy, Ms. Jessica, and Ms. Nancy

Stage III

Welcome to Stage 3! Our children are continuing to grow and develop in their own unique way. It's fun to watch friendships grow between the children. Music is very much a part of our everyday program. Dancing with instruments

is a must in our room. Many of the children will hold hands and dance together as a group.

This month our children will be learning about the world of insects; watch caterpillars change into butterflies, learn how ladybugs develop their spots and discover how worms move. The caterpillars have arrived, so stop in and discover how quickly they change.

Teachers Lynnette and Claudia

Transition I

The transition I room seems to be going well. We are having fun getting acquainted with the children and their parents. We are looking forward to a great spring with learning experiences and fun.

We have a special prayer in our hearts for teacher, Ms. Alex and her family. She will be greatly missed by classroom staff, parents and children.

Ms Chestina

Transition 2

Congratulations! I am happy to say that most of our children are potty trained; while others are getting the hang of it and therefore, it is a great relief for our parents. Parents, please check your child's cubbies and bring extra clothes including underpants and socks. Our children are developing well in their recognition of numbers, letters, shapes, and colors. Repetition is very important when young children learn. I am so grateful to my parents for their cooperation and support.

Thank you,
Ms Mary

Room 5

Dear Parents,

Thank you so much for your participation in Room 5's Valentine's Day Cookie Party! Room 5 would like to extend a special welcome to Alexis to our class. We've had so much fun getting to know her. Again, it has been a pleasure meeting all of you and it is a blessing to teach your children.

Ms. Jennifer

Room 3

Can you believe it? March is already here! It seems like the months are flying by much too quickly. Spring is in the air! Change is in the air! In February, our classroom was re-designed to have an open air appeal. Thanks to Ms. Mayola for helping to move furniture and cleaning away dust.

On the move—to Kindergarten. Check your local schools for the date and time of their "Kindergarten– Round Up."

Happy Birthday to: Jacob (1st), Sofia (16th), and Jia Li (25th).

Thank you to all of our parents for your efforts and assistance in making our activities and learning time excellent for all involved.

Peace and Blessings, Ms Mal

Extended Care

March has quietly arrived and now the cold winds are ready to blow. Spring time activities will include our super green day party and Shamrock hunt. We will continue with our daily homework and our weekly art with Mrs. Lynnette.

Mrs. Sharon, Mrs. Suzy,
and Mrs. Bernice

Hot Lunch Sign Ups

Name _____

February 28-March 4

- February 28: Fried Chicken Wings, Candied Yams, Collard Greens, Cornbread
- March 1: Spaghetti Os, Corn, Apple Wedges
- March 2: Chicken Nuggets, Oven Fries, Grapes
- March 3: Tacos, Refried Beans, Apple/Carrot Salad
- March 4: Center Closed for Staff Development Day

March 7-11

- March 7: Corn Dogs, Baked Beans, Apple/Raisin/Carrot Salad
- March 8: Chicken Hoagies, Homemade Potato Chips, Jell-o
- March 9: Cheese Burgers, Sun Chips, Chocolate Pudding
- March 10: Chicken Strips, Pesto Pasta, Broccoli Bites
- March 11: Pot o' Gold Potato Soup, Buttered Cornbread

March 14-18

- March 14: Chicken Nuggets, Au Gratin Potatoes, Apple Wedges
- March 15: Sausage with Wild Rice Pilaf, Cucumber and Tomato Salad
- March 16: Barbeque Chicken, Green Beans with New Potatoes
- March 17: Corned Beef and Cabbage, Mini Muffins, Lime Jell-o
- March 18: Breaded Fish Patties, Garden Salad, Potato Cakes

March 21-25

- March 21: Chili w/ Beans, Buttered Corn Bread, Rainbow Jell-o
- March 22: Oven Roasted Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Cheesy Broccoli
- March 23: Pizza, Corn on the Cob, Orange Wedges
- March 24: Chicken Soup, Grilled Cheese, Sliced Pineapples
- March 25: Fish Burgers, Potato Salad

March 28-31

- March 28: Drummettes, Mac & Cheese, Sweet Peas
- March 29: Salami on Rye, Baby Carrots, Apple Tarts
- March 30: Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce, Tossed Salad, Garlic Rolls
- March 31: Enchiladas, Spanish Rice
- April 1: April Fools Day!

What is Lent?

Lent in the Christian tradition, is the period leading up to Easter. The traditional purpose of Lent is the preparation of the believer — through prayer, penitence, almsgiving, and self-denial — for the annual commemoration during Holy Week of the death and resurrection of Jesus, and culminates in Easter, the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Conventionally, it is described as being forty days long to represent the time that Jesus spent in the desert before the beginning of his public ministry.

What will La Tijera UMC do during Lent?

- ✠ Lent begins with Ash Wednesday and the Imposition of Ashes. We will have the Chapel open from 7-9 am, 12 noon-1 pm, and 4-6:30 pm for a time of reflection, prayer, and the Imposition of Ashes.
- ✠ We will celebrate Communion weekly to remember that every Sunday is a "Little Easter."
- ✠ We will host and participate in a book study. The location of the study is still being established. We will read "The Last Week," by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan, which will take us through the last week of Jesus' life.
- ✠ We are planning a Maundy Thursday Service for April 21.
- ✠ We are invited to be a part of the Community Ecumenical Good Friday Service, April 22 at 12 noon at St. Jerome's Catholic Church.

April 24, 2011 is Easter. Everyone is invited to our service at 9:30 am, filled with amazing music as we worship the Risen Christ!

March 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4 Center Closed Alex's Service	5
6 Communion The Gathering	7	8 Joint Board Meeting	9 Ash Wednesday	10	11	12
13 Communion C4C Meeting	14	15 Ad Council	16	17 Happy St. Patrick's Day!	18	19
20 Communion	21	22 LAX Food Pantry Meeting	23	24 P4C Meeting	25	26
27 Communion	28	29	30	31		

Schedule of Events

- > March 4—The Center will be closed for a Staff Development Day.
- > March 4—5 pm-9pm-Service and Viewing for Miss Alex. Details found on page 1.
- > March 6—Communion at the 9:30 service
- > March 6—The Gathering at 6:30 pm. Details list below.
- > March 8—Joint Board of Trustees, 7 pm
- > March 9—Ash Wednesday. The Chapel will be open from 7 am-9 am, 12 noon-1 pm, and 4-6:30 pm for prayer and the imposition of ashes. (Lent begins)
- > March 13—Communion every week during Lent.
- > March 13—C4C meeting at 10:45 (ish)
- > March 15—Ad Council meeting at 6:30 pm
- > March 17—Happy Saint Patrick's Day! Come and be a part of the children's parade!
- > March 22—LAX Food Pantry Annual Meeting at 7 pm at Covenant Presbyterian Church.
- > March 24—P4C Meeting in the Office at 6 pm/

Music & Spirit....

... a song to share

The end of February has brought with it sad news and happy memories . . . the joy of working with teacher, Ms. Alex, and the sadness of her life ending too soon. We all will miss her and are devastated by the silencing of her voice . . . but I believe that her song will still be heard in the laughter of

every child and person she touched here at the Center for Children. Her gifts given so freely to the children she cared for each day remind me of the teachers who taught me so much and who are no longer here. Teachers who helped guide me and gave so much through a simple touch, smile or song. The seeds they planted when I was a

child have grown and now I pray that I too can help a child, a friend, an acquaintance find their own voice and sing their song to the world. Like Ms. Alex . . . and all my wonderful teachers who, even though they are no longer with me, will always be a part of my song and in my heart. Forever.

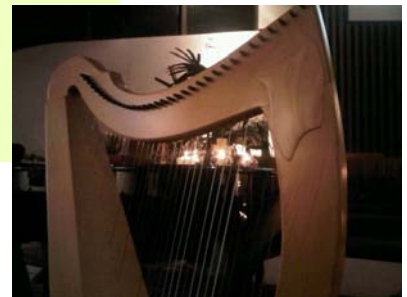
Lyda Eddington

The Gathering—an Evening of Sacred Song & Prayer

On Sunday, March 6th at 6:30 p.m., renew yourself with prayers for ourselves, others and the world with music and silence that speaks to the heart at **The Gathering – an Evening of Sacred Song & Prayer**. Come and immerse yourself in the deep waters of prayer and music

in our evening candlelight gathering the first Sunday of every month at 6:30 p.m. This month's gathering will feature guest musician Dr. Malcolm Cole who will share a musical meditation on the organ. Dr. Cole is Emeriti Faculty with UCLA. He appears frequently

throughout Southern California as lecturer, pianist, organist, and conductor of annual musical retreats. Come and renew your spirit and enjoy Dr. Cole's gifts.



Lyda's Harp with candles behind it. Taken at The Gathering in February

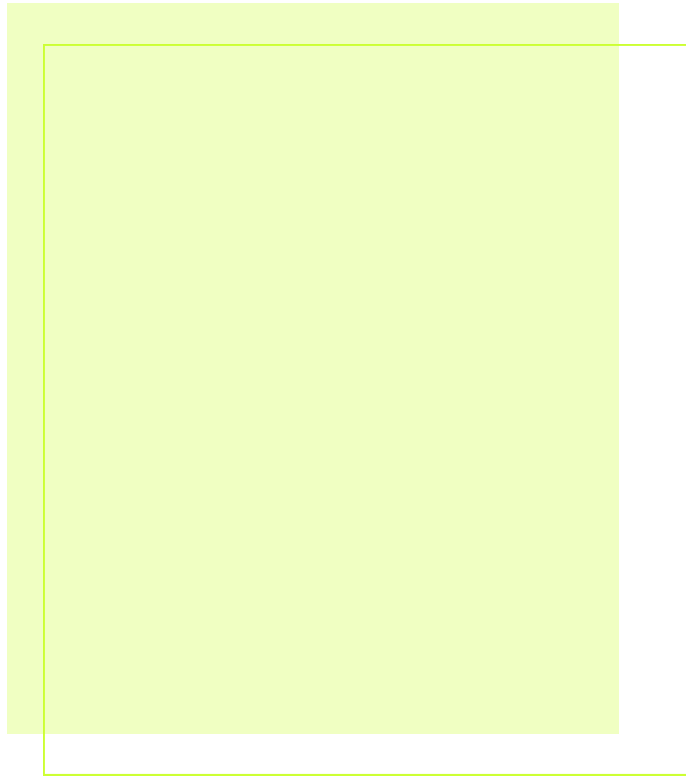
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A Prayer for Ms. Alex's Untimely Death

It is with a sense of sadness that I write this. Alex's death has impacted many of us in profound ways. Some of us are finding words to express our grief; while others are still in a state of shock. We don't think that pneumonia is something that will take the life of a 34 year old. I offer this prayer:

"Jesus, our Friend, you wept at the grave of Lazarus, you know all our sorrows. Behold our tears, and bind up the wounds of our hearts. Through the mystery of pain, bring us into closer communion with you and with one another. Raise us from death into life. And grant, in your mercy, that with Ms. Alex, who has passed within the veil, we may come to live, with you and with all whom we love, in our Father's home. Amen"

Rachel's Ramblings

This past Sunday, I had the opportunity to preach on **Matthew 6:24-34** and **1 Corinthians 4:1-5**. I love these two passages. The Matthew passage reminds us that we can't serve two masters, money and God. I have to say that anyone who works with children definitely is not in it for the money, they are called to take care of children and to be there during the formative years of a child's development. I have respect for all our teachers.

Miss Alex's passing reminds us to take time to say thank you to those who have helped us to show our respect for those who do the jobs that we could never imagine doing ourselves, and appreciate those who follow their hearts to serve others. Ms. Alex served our families with love and energy and she will be missed.

The passage from 1 Corinthians has a phrase that I love. We are "the servants of Christ and the stewards of God's mysteries." I see each of us as the stewards of God's mysteries. God uses us to share the messages of grace, love, peace, and mercy (just to name a few things). At this time, while the Center for Children is grieving, the way we support one another, offer a shoulder to cry on, and walk our path in such a way that we honor Ms. Alex and the ministry she participated in, we are helping to tend to and share God's mysteries with others. I have the confidence that Ms. Alex is with God and we will have the chance to be with her again. May her soul rest in peace and each of us do a task that honors her memory.

Blessings,
Pastor Rachel