

for your Information

Any opinions expressed herein are the views of individual contributors. They should not be considered as endorsed by the Los Angeles Police Protective League or the *Thin Blue Line*.

LAPD Band

by Christina Challey

"Gary, Indiana, Gary, Indiana, Not Louisiana, Paris, France, New York or Rome, but Gary, Indiana, Gary, Indiana, Gary, Indiana, my home sweet home."



Reggie with LAPD Swing Band performance at Brentwood Library.

Well, Meredith Willson might have written these lyrics in his musical, "The Music Man," but LAPD Band member Reginald Waddell lived them! Reggie grew up in Gary, Indiana, after leaving his birthplace in Chicago. His family moved from Chicago to the west side of Gary, to a new community known as Tarrytown.

Reggie says he grew up surrounded by music. His father had worked in a record shop as a young man and collected many records. His grandmother was a professional musician in Chicago, who published her own original music. Reggie says she was the one who instilled in him the love of the art form. At age 10, Reggie's grandfather gave him a clarinet and taught him how to care for the horn



Reggie and wife, Sharon.

and how to make a sound with it. With instruction from a family friend who grew up with his mother, Reggie was encouraged to compete in northwest Indiana band and orchestra contests. This gave him the determination and incentive to continue to practice so that he could achieve his goal of joining the school band. He also studied and played clarinet with his brother, David, who later became a professional bassist and toured the country with many well-known bands.

From high school, Reggie won a scholarship to Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Mo., where he was a member of the college marching band. He toured with the marching band before leaving school to become a professional musician. He played in Kansas City and in the Chicago area before coming to Los Angeles. In L.A., he played in many local big bands. His ability to play not only the clarinet, but also saxophones, flutes and the recorder, gave him an advantage in pursuing his musical career.

Some of the non-musical jobs Reggie held along the way were in sales. He also was a recreation leader at an after-school playground, a teaching assistant and a tutor. He completed his master's degree in ethnomusicology at the University of California at Los Angeles, and for 26 years was employed in outreach programs

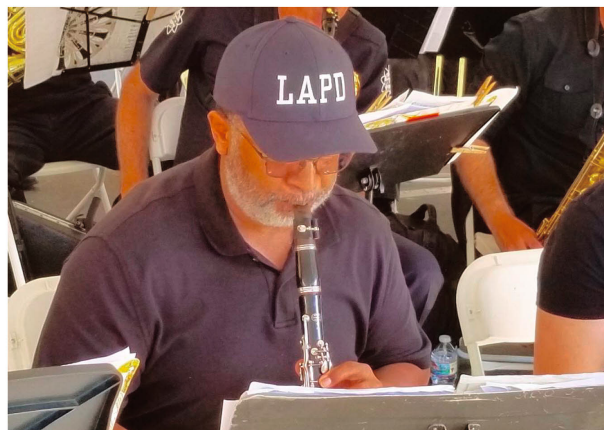
at the university, working as the learning skills supervisor/coordinator and later academic advisor for undergraduate students in the College of Letters and Science. He retired Dec. 31, 2016.

Reggie says he favors "music that includes neoclassical elements and improvisation in the style commonly referred to as jazz." His favorite players include Benny Goodman, Eddie Daniels, Jimmy Hamilton, Barney Bigard, Bennie Maupin, John Goosby and John Coltrane.

His hobby is building model airplanes from the World War II era. His father was one the Tuskegee Airmen, a group of military pilots (fighter and bomber) who fought in World War II. They formed the 332nd Fighter Group and the 477th Bombardment Group of the United States Army Air Force. Reggie's Dad rose to the rank of captain.

Reggie practices Nichiren Buddhism in the Soka Gakkai International. He has a wonderful supportive wife, Sharon, who encourages his music; three children; and four grandchildren.

For more information about the Band, visit www.lasown.com or contact Jim Starr, executive director, at sngcop@aol.com. For greatly appreciated donations, please go to www.lapolicefoundation.org, and under "Comments," put "for the Band." ♦



Playing clarinet at the LAPD recruit graduation.

HAVING WORKERS' COMPENSATION QUESTIONS?

CALL THE TRISTAR DECISION DESK...

...866-842-1547, extension 2366

The Tristar Decision Desk Answer Man Is Poised To Answer Your Questions About Your Comp Case Including:

- Utilization Review
- IOD Benefits
- Medical Treatment

**The Desk Is Open
Tuesday To Friday 8-12 & 1:30-4**

**Call Us With Your Questions
Get The Information You Need**

 **TRISTAR**
RISK MANAGEMENT