



The Wanderer

LOS ANGELES COUNCIL OF HOSTELLING INTERNATIONAL USA

WINTER 2007/2008



Leaders of the Pack

The City of Los Angeles Marathon, now in its 23rd year, has always been a fun and spirited way to fundraise for Hostelling International USA (HI-USA). Since 1995, the Official Charities Program has enabled HI-USA to raise funds to support our environmental educational youth program, Discover Your World. In 2008, we are launching a Water Science Program to address environmental and water conservation issues. We are also expanding the Cultural Kitchen Program, a program that offers Girl Scouts an opportunity to explore the culture of another country without leaving ours, to LAUSD school groups!

With these exciting, new programs and our commitment to the HI-USA vision; *"That hostellers become caring world citizens who are catalysts for intercultural exchange and understanding, and who are stewards of the earth,"* we must maintain visibility in the community. The LA Marathon has consistently served as a great opportunity to do just that. In March, we have two opportunities to reach both our goal of increased exposure and of raising \$10,000 to sponsor disadvantaged schools' participation in our programs.

For visibility, we expect a big turn-out at Mile 5 in West Los Angeles on Sunday,



Top left: Mile 5 of the 26.2 mile route for the City of Los Angeles Marathon. Top right: Volunteers cheering on the athletes. Bottom: At the corner of Vine & Willoughby, HI-USA and friends pose for the camera.

March 2nd to cheer on our volunteers running on behalf of HI-USA; Ursula Krummel, Jayme Leslie, and Aimee Wyatt! Volunteers are needed from 8 a.m. to 12 noon to cheer on the runners and help at a water station. There will be food, music, good people and noise-makers. Your participation would help get HI-USA noticed and give our runners the boost they need on their run! The first 100 volunteers who sign in will receive a LA Marathon T-shirt and Goodie Bag.

We are also holding a pledge-drive that concludes with an Opportunity Drawing, to be held on March 15th, offering serious prizes! You can participate by collecting pledges or making a pledge

yourself. For every \$10 donated, a ticket is given to both pledge-raiser and pledge-donor (unless they are the same person, in which case only one ticket will be issued). Rail Europe has donated a pair of First Class 15-Day Eurail Global Flexi Passes, valued at \$1972, as the drawing's Grand Prize. Other prizes include a weekend at the Pala Hotel & Casino, Dodgers tickets, amusement parks, and more. Don't miss out on this opportunity to help us meet our goal and to have a chance at a fabulous prize!

For information on volunteering at either the Marathon on March 2nd or the pledge-drive and drawing please contact John Estrada at (310) 393-3413 x25 or by email at john.estrada@lahostels.org.

“World Travel 101”

Workshop Schedule

February 9 - Women Traveling Solo
 February 16 - Europe
 March 8 - Europe

Go to lahostels.org for the most current list of topics and dates

Our informative budget travel workshops aim at preparing you for your trip abroad. Geared toward first-time travelers, our volunteers are experienced travel vets who can help you stretch the most out of your budget. Workshops are held on Saturdays at 11 a.m. in the HI-Travel Store, 1434 Second Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401 (between Santa Monica Blvd. & Broadway). Parking is available across the street in the public parking structure #6. *All dates subject to change; Call to confirm (310) 393-3413.*



Our effort to make the HI-USA vision a reality in our community includes not only operating quality Los Angeles area hostels, but also providing quality programs.

Such programs include our **World Travel 101 Workshops**, which help first time travelers in planning a trip abroad. Our **Discover Your World Program** promotes and teaches environmental education, interpersonal skills, and intercultural understanding to grades 4-12. Our **Cultural Kitchen Program** offers Girl Scouts an opportunity to explore the culture, cuisine, geography, government, lifestyle, and people of a another country. The Cultural Kitchen program is now expanding to serve LAUSD school groups, and

will serve grades 4-12. Finally, we are also launching a new **Water Science Program** with the LAUSD aimed to address environmental and water conservation issues, and will serve grades 7-12.

If you would like to volunteer and help HI-USA with any of the above mentioned outreach programs, or believe that your travel experience qualifies you to become one of our travel workshop speakers, please contact us.

If you are a student and your school has an intern or work study program that would allow you to work with us in our offices in Santa Monica we would like to hear from you as well.

Last of all don't forget the upcoming Los Angeles Marathon. If you would like to help us at Mile 5 on March 2nd please give us a call or send us an email message.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact John Estrada at (310) 393-6991 x 25 or via email at john.estrada@lahostels.org.



The Mission Statement of HI-USA:

“To help all, especially the young, gain a greater understanding of the world and its people, through hostelling.”

The HI-USA Vision:

“That hostellers become caring world citizens who are catalysts for intercultural exchange and understanding and who are stewards of the earth.”

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The Wanderer is a publication of the Los Angeles Council of HI-USA with offices located at 1434 Second Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401. (310) 393-3413

Founded in 1934, HI-USA is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.

www.lahostels.org

NEWS FROM CAPITOL HILL

Hostelling International USA will be celebrating its 75th anniversary in 2009. To help commemorate the occasion, on November 8, 2007, HI-USA representatives from throughout the country visited Washington, DC to call on our Congressional delegates for acknowledgment. HI-USA lobbied the U.S. House and Senate to pass resolutions recognizing Hostelling International USA for 75 years of dedicated service, and for our contribution to intercultural exchange and youth travel.

Thanks to the efforts of HI-USA volunteers, within weeks, the U.S. Senate unanimously passed Senate Resolution #380. Unfortunately, it has been another story in the House. Although Rep. William Delahunt (MA-10) and Rep. Ed Whitfield (KY-1) introduced HR #249 the day of HI-USA's visit, that bill has stalled in committee. Though the bill now has 27 co-sponsors, including California Representatives Howard Berman (CA-28), Susan Davis (CA-53), Bob Filner (CA-51), Maxine Walters (CA-25), Doris Matsui (CA-5), and Lynn Woolsey (CA-6), HI-USA still needs additional support for that bill to be passed! Please contact your Congressional Representative by phone, mail or e-mail and ask them to co-sponsor HR #249. (To find your House Representative, visit www.house.gov.)



Top photo: The Los Angeles Council on Capitol Hill.

Bottom photo from left to right: Board of Directors Vice President, Jayme Leslie; Lifelong volunteer and 2003 Spirit of Adventure recipient, John Lukes; Council Executive Director, John Estrada; Board of Directors President, Leslie Kennedy; and Council Director of Educational Programs, Stephanie Rizzi.



H. CON. RES. 249

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

November 8, 2007

Mr. DELAHUNT submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Recognizing Hostelling International USA for 75 years of service to intercultural understanding and to youth travel.

Whereas travel promotes awareness and knowledge of peoples, places, and cultures;

Whereas hostelling is educational travel, local and global, using hostels and programs to facilitate interaction among travelers, and with local communities;

Whereas hostels are simple, safe, shared accommodations that promote community and cooperation among users and introduce young people of limited means to travel;

Whereas Hostelling International USA (HI-USA) is a nonprofit educational organization established in 1934 as American Youth Hostels to promote hostelling in the United States;

Whereas HI-USA since its founding has welcomed in its hostels more than 22,000,000 overnight stays of visitors from the United States and more than 150 countries worldwide;

Whereas HI-USA today has a network of 70 hostels in areas of cultural, historic, and recreational interest, often in partnership with public, private, and other nonprofit organizations, that annually hosts nearly 1,000,000 overnights stays by both domestic and foreign travelers;

Whereas HI-USA today offers programs through its hostels and local chapters that promote the appreciation of local culture and environment, while facilitating the discovery of both world and self, to more than 65,000 participants annually; and

Whereas HI-USA has made a unique and notable contribution to intercultural understanding in the United States and worldwide, especially among the young: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress—

(1) congratulates Hostelling International USA for its 75 years of service; and

(2) commends Hostelling International USA for its contributions to intercultural exchange and its leadership in the field of youth travel.



Sarah Holden at a Hostelling International hostel in Salerno, Italy. This hostel was an ex-convent.

Travel Grant applications will be accepted from January 1 - March 15, 2008. For more information go to the "Travel Grants & Awards" section at lahostels.org.

Travel Grant

HI-USA can help make your travel dreams come true!

The Los Angeles Council of Hostelling International USA promotes and supports the pursuit of world exploration and experiential education by bestowing an annual travel grant of \$1,000. The grant is awarded to a HI-USA member between the ages of 17 and 26 who lives in the greater Los Angeles area. The purpose of the grant is to assist the recipient in realizing their goals through travel.

Sarah Holden, the 2007 recipient of HI-USA's Travel Grant, used her extra cash to explore Italy. Reflecting on her reasoning, she states, "The beauty of travel is that we are able to acquire a more profound understanding of ideas, people or places than are afforded to us through studying secondary sources." Being a recent graduate of Scripps College, she brought to life her Studio Art and Religion studies as she set out and explored both ancient and modern Italian churches and convents.

Just like Sarah, if you have the itch to explore a part of the world or know someone who does, please apply for the HI-USA Travel Grant by March 15, 2008. Please call (310) 393-3413 or email travel@lahostels.org regarding any questions about the grant. Visit www.lahostels.org to review grant guidelines, read more about Sarah and other past recipients, and download an application form.

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