

EL RODEO

THE THANKSGIVING ISSUE



ROTARY YEAR 2019-2020 • ISSUE 22 • VOLUME CXI
SEE - DREAM - SOLVE
ROTARY CONNECTS THE WORLD

NOVEMBER 26, 2019

2019 - 2020

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TALK TO US:
elrodeola5@gmail.com

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FRIENDS,

Thanksgiving has quickly arrived. For many of us this means robust meals and quality time spent with loved ones. (How lucky we are!)

But Thanksgiving is more than festivities; it gives us time to ponder upon lessons learned, and how we can spread happiness around. It's a time to look back at all the great memories and good people who have come into our lives.

We hope that as you recount all of those happy souls, that you are adding your fellow LA5ers to the list of those you hold dear. We know we will.

We appreciate you so much, and thank you for continuing to allow us to get to know you this year.

Speaking of getting to know each other better, what better exchange of friendship is there than sharing our thoughts of gratitude? Read on for some thoughts from our fellow friends... and a Happy Thanksgiving to you and yours!

YOURS TRULY,

El Rodeo

ELRODEOLA5@GMAIL.COM



**from
the
editors**



ANGEL CITY CELEBRATION

PURPOSE

Angel City is celebrating its 10th anniversary, it evolved from a simple toys and food giveaway in a church parking lot to an event featuring many components intended to improve quality of life for underserved families and young children in The annual Angel City Celebration, partnering with both LA City and County Parks Departments, has rotated its site among several parks in South LA. Recognizing how much the event can impact the quality of the life for families in South LA, Rotary Clubs have joined forces with community volunteer groups, local businesses, churches, schools and LA County government agencies to meet the needs of this underserved community.

DESCRIPTION

Designed to serve 4,000+ residents of South Los Angeles, including children from age 4 to 13 and their families. With help from 400+ volunteers, we serve breakfast, distribute books, toys and men's clothing (including jacks, slacks and more-this year only); stage the resource & health fair focus on preventive health issues and mobile health clinics with doctors and health care professionals provide services.

NEEDS

- Financial sponsorships
- In kind support
- Extra volunteers

DATE & TIME

Saturday, December 7, 2019
7:30am – 4:30pm

LOCATION

Jesse Owens Community Regional Park,
9651 South Western Ave, LA 90047

CONTACT PERSON

Marjorie Heller
Rotary Club of Los Angeles
AngelCityCelebration@gmail.com
(323) 463-0304

Light breakfasts and lunches will be provided to volunteers!

Please click the Angel City Volunteer RSVP to register

[ANGEL CITY VOLUNTEER RSVP](#)

GRATITUDE FOR FAMILIES

A message from the President

Like many of you, I am looking forward to sitting down to a traditional Thanksgiving feast on Thursday to share good food and joy with my family. This year, however, beyond those sitting around my table, I will be thinking about other families that are not my own, but with whom I feel a special kinship.

My Rotary experience at the Edelman Children's Court last Saturday opened my eyes to a broader understanding of what makes a family warm, happy and necessary. For the National Adoption Day festivities, your club sponsored first family portraits on two floors of the courthouse as well as food for the reception. It provided a great way for members of LA5 to get to know the families, judges, attorneys, and advocacy groups who were present. LA5 volunteers looked on as children, toddlers to teenagers, began to embrace their new reality as a true son or daughter, brother or sister. By noon, over 230 children had been adopted at the courthouse that LA5 helped to build. (By the way, Judge Nash asked me to share his best wishes to LA5. He has not forgotten our club's role in building the current facility.)

It will be impossible for me not to be thinking about the families I met that day who are undoubtedly grateful for the new members of their family. I will also be thinking about you, my Rotary family. I am grateful to be counted as a member of a club that cares deeply about the future of our community and understands that caring for young people is one of the best ways to make a difference. Best wishes for a happy Thanksgiving.

See you for breakfast on December 6.



Yours in Rotary Service,

Rick Gibson

President,
Rotary Club of Los Angeles
2019 - 2020



Happy
Thanksgiving!



DARK THIS WEEK:
HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Mark the calendar



- Nov 29** Dark - Happy Thanksgiving !
- Dec 02** Cosko Golf Event - Los Angeles Country Club
- Dec 06** Thomas Iland - Breakfast at the Cal Club
- Dec 07** Service Opportunity - 10th Annual Angel City
- Dec 10** Angel City Holiday Party - 6 pm at the Cal Club
- Dec 13** Dark - Happy Holidays!
- Dec 20** Dark - Happy Holidays!

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE CLUB CALENDAR](#)

The Rotary Club of Los Angeles

Celebrating 10 years of service
to Los Angeles

\$130

PER GUEST

\$30 goes
to support
Angel
City

ANGEL
CITY
HOLIDAY
PARTY

TUESDAY
DECEMBER

10

6 PM
RECEPTION
7 PM DINNER

CALIFORNIA
CLUB



TICKETS ROTARYLA5.ORG

Musical Guests

CARLY AND THE KING



LAST WEEK IN PHOTOS

HYDROGEN CELL TECHNOLOGY WITH BRIAN GOLDSTEIN, AND NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY



The featured speaker is a winner! ... and not just because he had LA5 as an audience.



President Rick let go of the gavel for a mere moment, and PP Erick was eager to address his feeling of withdrawals



The next time we see this face, ... it won't be as full of energy.



Part of the crew that helped with National Adoption Day at the Children's Court



Capturing the first family photos for the newly established families was meaningful and rewarding!



ED John Green and fellow judges visiting from Seoul, South Korea!

MEET: CHARISSE LARA

As a Client Advisor for a Restaurant Accounting Firm, what is your favorite thing about your career?

The favorite thing about my career, is that I get to empower local restaurant owners and operators to be more profitable.

What is your proudest accomplishment?

Having served as the 109th (and 5th female) President of the Rotary Club of Los Angeles.

How did you become a Rotarian?

I was working for Morton's The Steakhouse on Figueroa and seeking a professional organization where I could invest my time that intersected community service and business networking. Former member Dianne Lee said I needed to check out Rotary with her. The rest is history.

Are you usually early or late? Why?

Early because if you are early, you are on time, if you are on time, you are late. I really don't like to rush or disrespect other people's time.

What quirks do you have?

Too many to name, but to list a few...I am a stickler for time...I bite my nails...I don't sit still very well...I have been known to use my outside voice (A LOT)...I drive and walk fast...

Where do you consider your hometown?

Burbank ,CA

What's your zodiac sign?

Taurus

What's your love language(s)?

Quality time & acts of service

What are some small things that make your day better?

When I get to work with a team to solve problems or make something better

What's the most daring thing you've ever done?

Toss up between skydiving, riding a motorcycle through the streets of Rome, and becoming a mother. I'll be happy to provide an update come December when I give birth to my first child.

What stereotype do you completely live up to?

Tauruses are stubborn.

There are two types of people in this world ... what are those two types?

Those who make things happen and those who wondered what just happened.

PHF, Club Secretary 2014-15;

Vice President & Program Chair 2015-16;

President Elect 2016-17;

President 2017-18;

Assistant District Governor 2018-19;

District Breakfast Co-chair 2019-20

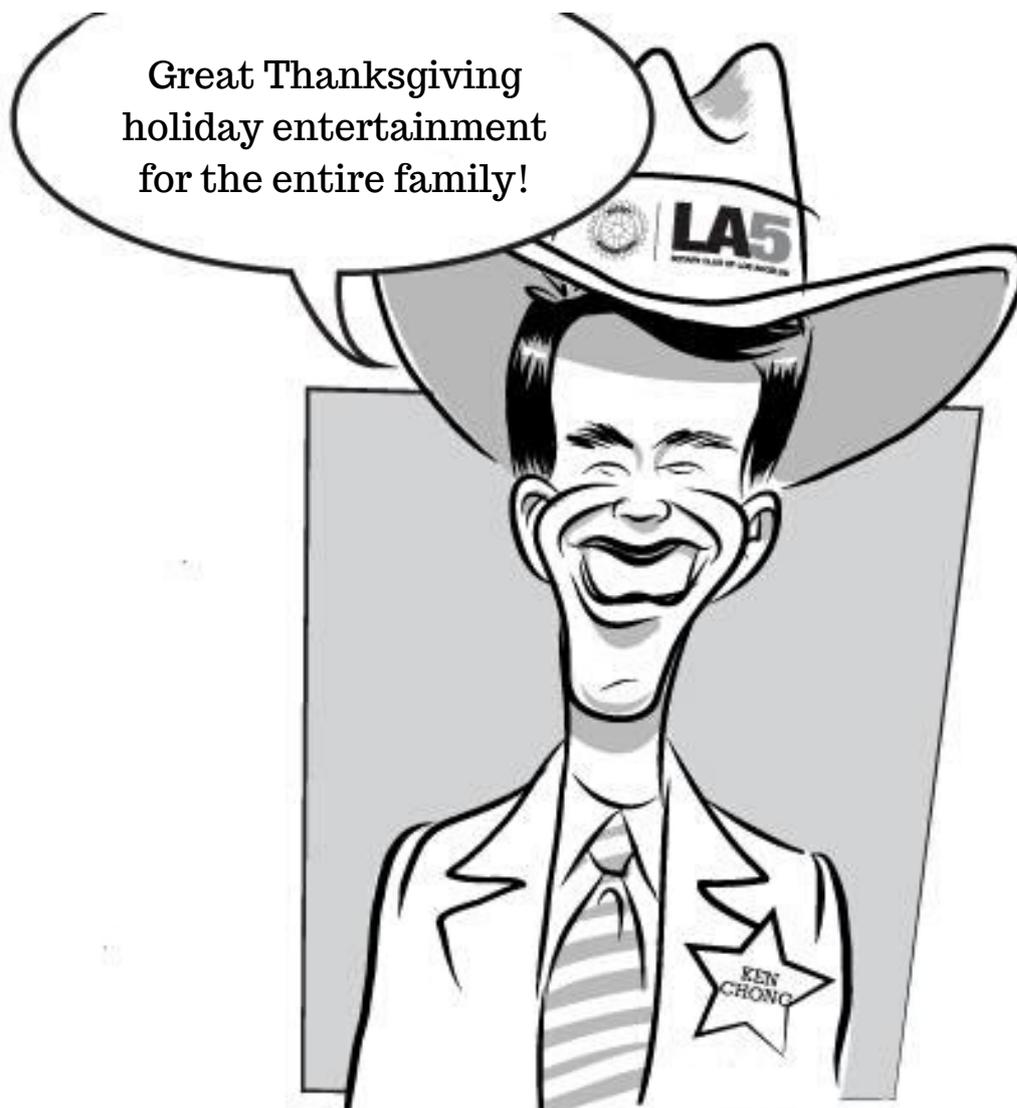


New Episodes!

THE WASHED UP PRESIDENT'S PODCAST

AVAILABLE ON

SPOTIFY, GOOGLE, APPLE, BREAKER, RADIO PUBLIC, POCKET CASTS



CLICK HERE TO LISTEN



**I HAVE ALL THAT I NEED AND
EVERYTHING THAT I WANT.
BEING ABLE TO GIVE AND SERVE
IS A REMINDER OF HOW LUCKY I
AM. I AM THANKFUL FOR
FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND ROTARY.
-PP KEN CHONG**

I AM
THANKFUL
FOR THE
REVIVED
EL RODEO -
WHICH I
READ
EVERY
WEEK.

JOSH MANDELL



(El Rodeo is thankful for this photo.)

“ LA5 HAS A LONG HISTORY WITH THE CHILDREN'S COURT... ”



Last Saturday November 23 dawned bright, warm, and full of promise. The light traffic made for a quick trip to the Edmund Edelman Children's Court in East Los Angeles for National Adoption Day.



Arriving there was a distinct contrast, with a steady stream of cars entering the parking structure, and once inside the building and exiting the elevator onto the fourth floor, the din of excited children and families filled the air.



People of all ages, many sporting t-shirts with their child's name, were awaiting their time to enter a courtroom and with other relatives also present, finalize the dream of becoming a family.

LA5 has a long history with the Children's Court, the first of its

kind in the country built from the ground up solely for the safety and well-being of children who have few options.

In the 1990s our club formed a non-profit foundation specifically to raise funds to supply the courthouse with furnishings, art and other amenities children need while awaiting their court appointments. Over the years we have maintained this relationship and continue to fund their ongoing needs.

Along with other organizations, LA5 was there to help celebrate the adoption of nearly 240 children by their foster families, the joyous culmination for many of a long, arduous and complex journey through Los Angeles County social services.

These children, from infants to teens, faced abuse, neglect or other

cont'd...

“ ... FEW IF ANY OTHERS ARE PROVIDING FOR THE NEEDS AS LA5 ROTARY IS. ”

trauma as their birth family was unable to raise them. After one- or many - foster homes, the families at Children's Court on this special day were those who before a judge and under oath pledged "to raise these children as our own natural children."

To get it all ready, on Friday **Malinda** and **Hugo Monterrosa**, along with **USC Rotaract** set up in advance in conjunction with the Alliance for Children's Resources who oversaw the whole event. On Saturday, Malinda and Hugo, as well as **President Rick Gibson, Tim Brown** (Chair of the Children's Court Committee), **Chrissy Moses, John Green, Anna Flores, Paul Ekstrand, Mandi Budd, Brenda Wiewel-Frankenstein**, myself (**Lauren Schlau**) and my friend **Natalie White** assisted the photographer who took a picture of every family, and setup and staffed

refreshment tables for the 600 people there.

Having experienced this process first-hand at six months old I felt as if I was reliving a part of my past I had no memory of, which my adoptive parents has described to me. I could see the same excited anticipation but also some trepidation until the judge's gavel marked the joyful completion of the process. There was not a dry eye in the courtroom - until the families posted for photos with the judge when beaming smiles were all around!

Our involvement in the Children's Court is both important and singular as few if any others are providing for the needs as LA5 Rotary is. This was truly a day when we brought to life my motto, "services enhances self!"



by **Lauren Schlau**

"I'm thankful for
the people in my
life who care about
making the world a
better place and
support me to do
my best."

BRENDA WIEWEL
FRANKENSTEIN



**"Thankful to be flying to
Buffalo, NY to spend
Thanksgiving with my
family."**

-Anna Flores





"OF COURSE I AM SO GRATEFUL FOR MY WIFE, WONDERFUL FAMILY AND GOOD HEALTH. ALSO, BEING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF LA5 CONTINUES TO BE AN HONOR, VERY FULFILLING--AND OFTEN GREAT FUN!"

-JOHN GREEN



**I'M GRATEFUL FOR 2019,
WHICH HAS BEEN A YEAR
OF GROWTH, LEARNING,
AND BLESSING FOR BOTH
MY FAMILY AND MYSELF AS
AN LA5 ROTARIAN.**

IVAN LOVEGREN



*"I'm grateful for all
those of us good caring
and engaged people,
working with love to
make our world better!"*

LAUREN SCHLAU



**I'M GRATEFUL FOR
MY FAMILY, AND
THEIR
UNDERSTANDING
OF ROTARY LIFE**

ADAM WEISS

A woman with reddish-brown hair, wearing a black dress and a pearl necklace, is looking down at a silver bowl. She is holding a wooden spoon. The background features a red and white striped curtain and a patterned curtain. The text is overlaid on the image.

***I AM TRULY THANKFUL FOR
AN AMAZING ROTARY CLUB.***

What started out 10 years ago as a club membership designed to help me connect with business professionals and the community has produced long lasting relationships and what I consider an extended family.

-PP Charisse Lara

A man with red glasses and a blue blazer is playing an acoustic guitar. He is looking towards the camera with an open mouth, as if singing. The background features patterned curtains and a framed portrait of a man. A red guitar case is visible in the bottom left corner.

I'M GRATEFUL FOR MANY THINGS THIS YEAR ...

But at the top of my list is my friends at LA5 and in our District. The last year, finishing out my term as President and moving into the Past President role has been extraordinarily gratifying. I cherish our service together. I cherish our collaboration in funding and planning. And I cherish our camaraderie. All of you represent a wonderful diversity of life stories and experiences. Thank you all and I wish you all the happiest of Thanksgivings.

-PP Erick Weiss



**"Family,
Faith, and
Pie!"**

RUSS WHITTENBURG

A decorative arrangement of white pumpkins, cotton bolls, and white beads on a white wooden background. The pumpkins are of various sizes and are arranged in a cluster on the left side of the image. The cotton bolls are also white and are interspersed among the pumpkins. The white beads are small and round, and are arranged in a small cluster at the bottom left. The background is a white wooden surface with horizontal planks.

**"THANKFUL FOR
MY AMAZING
FAMILY, FRIENDS
AND ROTARY,
WHICH HAS
TRULY
ENHANCED MY
LIFE BY DOING
SERVICE WITH
SOME AMAZING
PEOPLE I WOULD
NOT HAVE MET
OTHERWISE."
-PAUL EKSTRAND**



**I AM
GRATEFUL
FOR FAMILY,
HEALTH,
GREAT
FRIENDS
AND A
LOVING AND
FORGIVING
GOD.**

— ALAN BERNSTEIN

**I'M
THANKFUL
FOR A
FAMILY
WHO LOVES
ME AND
FRIENDS
WHO CARE
ABOUT ME.
AND
COFFEE,
DEFINITELY
COFFEE.**

Christina Moses





Top among many things, I'm grateful for this little family of mine.

I'm also extremely thankful for remedies like Pepto-Bismol.

MALINDA MONTERROSA

FORMAL CLUB ANNOUNCEMENT



LA5
Rotary

Club of Los Angeles



As your Immediate Past President it is my pleasure to present to you the proposed slate for our Board of Directors for Rotary year 2020-21 commencing in July of 2020. The following slate is recommended to the club by a unanimous consensus of the Nominating Committee consisting of the 10 most recent Past Presidents willing to serve. Without objection we will have our official vote at our December 6 Breakfast Meeting at the California Club.

In service,
Erick Weiss

PROPOSED 2020-21 BOARD

Executive Officers

President: Matt Ball

President-Elect: Paul Ekstrand

Vice President / Program Chair: Malinda Monterrosa

Secretary: Christina Moses

Treasurer: Darin Marinov

Returning Board Members

John Spokes

Laine Wagensellar

Charlene Dimas-Peinado

Nancy Howard

Kathleen Kavanaugh

New Board Members

Ivan Lovegren

Chris Kim

Gary Jimenez

Vinod Budchauhan

Bo Lee

Ben Harati

Shahla Reynolds

Brenda Wiewel-Frankenstein

Herb McGurk

Sergeant-at-Arms

Azim Vishani

Grace Farrell

Jeremy Weinglass

Jared Smith

Elizabeth Vipond

Anna Flores

Elvia Soukup