

# 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

**CLUB OFFICERS**

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**DISTRICT GOVERNOR**

Melody St. John





**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.

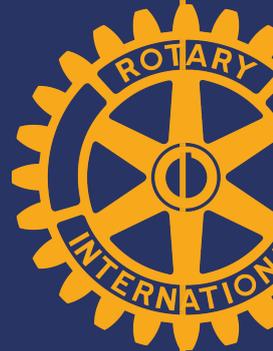
We appreciate you so much, and thank you for continuing to allow us to get to know you this year.

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](http://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

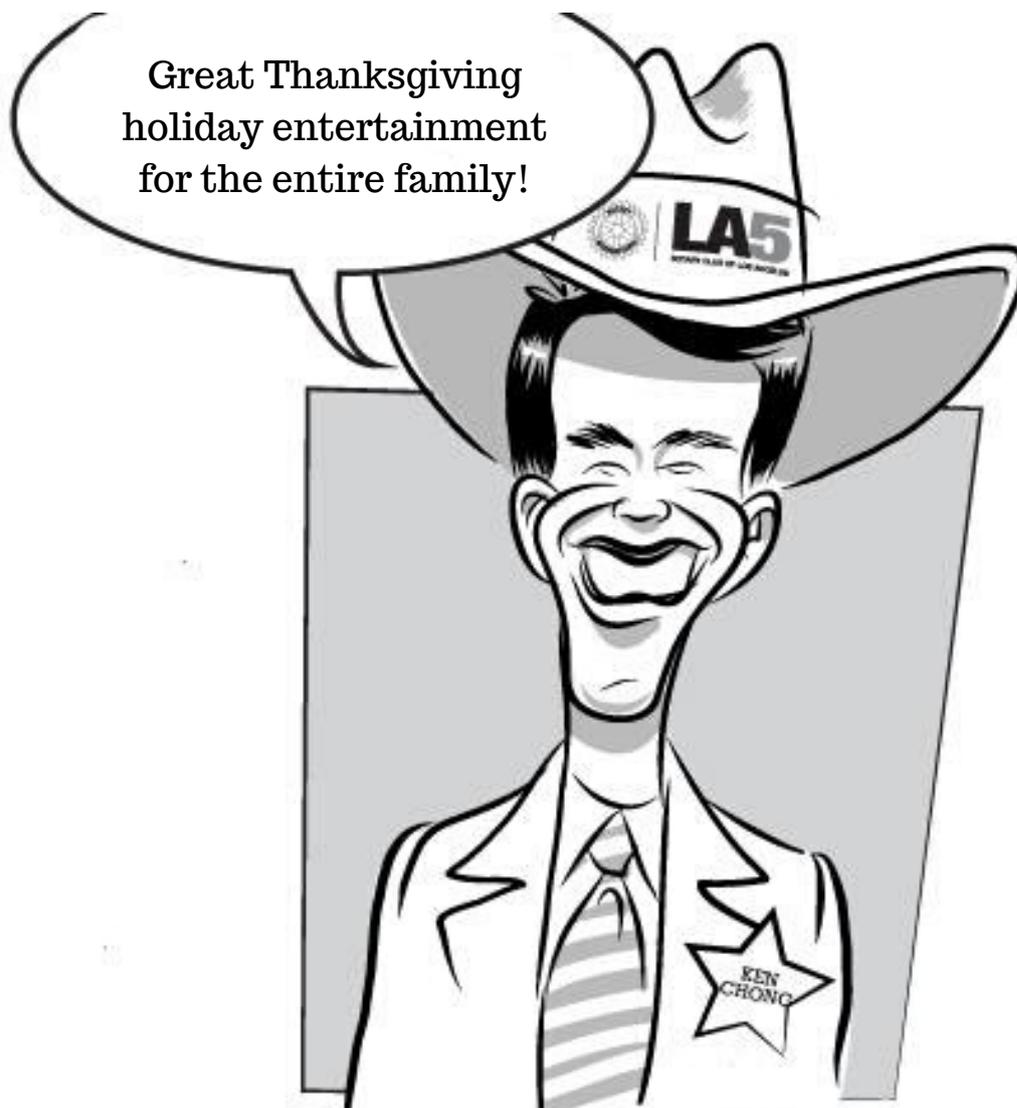


*New Episodes!*

# 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.)*

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# “ 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...*

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# “ ... 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*



## **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**



**"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*