

# EL RODEO



Merry Christmas!

ROTARY YEAR 2019-2020 • ISSUE 26 • VOLUME CXI  
SEE - DREAM - SOLVE  
ROTARY CONNECTS THE WORLD

DECEMBER 24, 2019

**2019 - 2020**

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# THE LITTLE MATCH GIRL

A message from the President

One of my favorite holiday stories, though heartbreaking and tragic, is Hans Christian Andersen's The Little Match Girl. As the story goes, on a frigid New Year's Eve, the last night of her short life, a little girl is sent into the city by an abusive father to sell matches. She dare not come home without selling the full lot for he would certainly beat her. The little girl's clothes were inadequate for such cold weather and she finally seeks shelter between two homes that are beautifully decorated with lights and holiday ornaments. As the little girl nests herself between the houses on the frigid night, she begins to light matches to warm herself. In each lighted match she begins to see visions that comfort her. First, a glowing warm home like those around her. Then a vision of her late grandmother, the only loving adult who had been in her life. Her grandmother had treated her with love and kindness and in a desperate attempt to keep the glow of that vision alive, the little girl begins to light all of her matches. The next morning her lifeless little body is discovered by pedestrians who express pity as they go on their way.

So, which character is the most tragic? Surely it is the little girl herself. Perhaps the abusive father. They are the most obvious choices. I think, however, that Hans Christian Andersen would say the most tragic characters in the story are the pedestrians who look upon the little girl, shake their heads, and go on their way.

In 2020, may we as Rotarians recommit ourselves to caring about and caring for our neighbors in need. I am honored to serve beside you in this endeavor.



*Rick Gibson*

President,  
Rotary Club of Los Angeles  
2019 - 2020





DARK THIS WEEK -  
HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

there's NO Friday meeting!  
See you in the New Year!

# Mark the calendar



- Dec 27** Dark - Happy Holidays!
- Jan 03** Business Exchange - Breakfast at the Cal Club
- Jan 04** Golf Committee - Chevy Chase Country Club
- Jan 10** State of the Club - Lunch at the Cal Club
- Jan 17** Harlan Levine, M.D. - Lunch at the Cal Club

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

# **CHECKING IN WITH LA5 SCHOLARS**

**ELIA, 2017 RECIPIENT  
CURRENTLY ATTENDING  
POMONA COLLEGE**

**How did you use the scholarship money?**

**"This past year I used the scholarship money for school supplies, books and lab fees. I took a ceramics class that required a fee for materials and some of the funds covered that."**

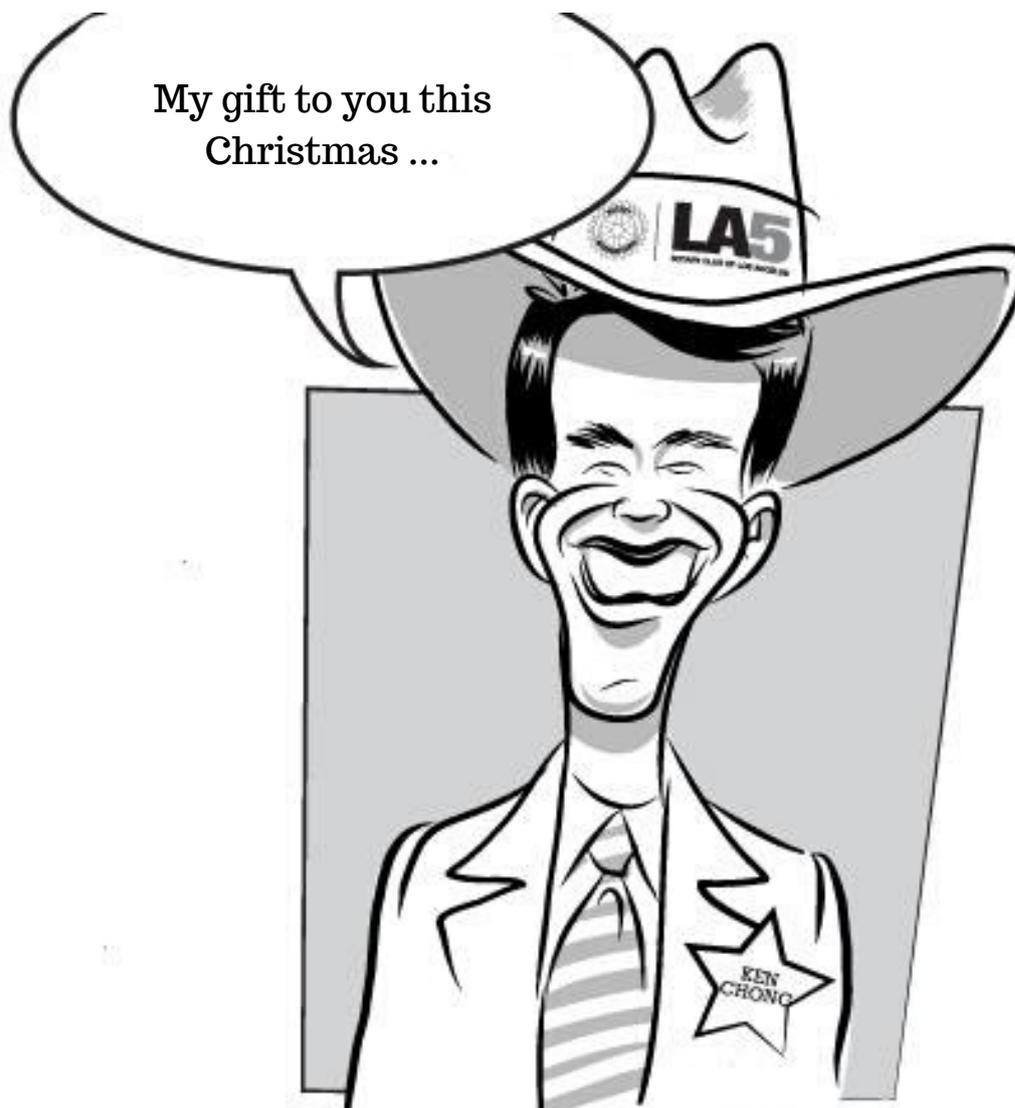
**Brag to us about what you did this year...**

**"This summer I was a Dream Summer Fellow at SCOPE (Strategic Concepts in Organizing and Policy Education)- a non profit organization in South Los Angeles. As an intern I was able to learn more about the role of local government and grassroots organizing in leading, creating, and implementing policies that yield direct benefits to the community. As a Public Policy Analysis major, I was thankful to have been able to learn more about the field and work with black and brown communities that are in the margins of society."**

# THE WASHED UP PRESIDENT'S PODCAST

AVAILABLE ON

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



**CLICK HERE TO LISTEN**

# Come to Life – Thomas Iland

By Lauren Schlau  
Photos by Adam Weiss

Almost all of us have in our lives some type of personal challenge and we try to work past them. Our December 6 breakfast speaker Thomas Iland was challenged by being diagnosed with autism at age 13. With highly supportive and caring parents, instead of this being an ending, Thomas and his family made this a beginning of a new path. Being especially motivated both to be himself as someone with autism, and to lead an active and vibrant life, Thomas worked hard to pursue professional goals. He attended and graduated from



California State Northridge, become a Certified Public Accountant, and obtained full-time employment at a major accounting firm. He also achieved personal goals many of us may take for granted such as driving a car, living in his own apartment, and having a girlfriend.

At one point he realized that the life of a CPA was not fulfilling and he took the bold step of quitting this position to become a motivational speaker. To help him do this he joined Toastmasters and became one of a few thousand Distinguished Toastmasters (DTM) in the world, and ultimately addressing the United Nations!

His message for those he speaks to - with or without challenges - is that we can achieve our desires, with hard work and support but also by going out to meet the world rather than waiting for it to come to us. On that theme, he also wrote a book *Come to Life: Your Guide to Self-Discovery*, sharing practical experience based suggestions to help youth and their parents, educators and other advocates find the motivation in themselves to embrace adulthood.

He told us he developed a mantra over the years, "Know Yourself, Love (accept) Yourself, Be Yourself." He said this is targeted to help all of us live a fully authentic life as who we are, not to change someone but for each of us to find our best selves.

He also pointed out that he and others with any type of disability are not their diagnoses but full people with a range of abilities. To that end, Thomas engages in meditation to focus his mind and spirit, does martial arts and now doing Ironman competitions to expand his physical capabilities.

He also salutes Rotary and speaks to clubs as an organization where doing something bigger than ourselves is another way that "Know Yourself, Love Yourself, Be Yourself" helps us all be our best selves.

This inspirational meeting ended with President Rick naming **Maureen Tepedino** LA5 Rotarian of the Month. He noted how much she has put forth to growing membership, as well as her friendly welcome to members at our events, and gave her a prized caricature! Congrats Maureen!



*May peace, love and unity  
bring a*

**HAPPY  
KWANZAA**

*to you*



JOIN US AT LA5'S

# WINE TASTING



## 📍 A TOAST TO CENTRAL COAST

If you want to boast, bring an extraordinary wine to share. Kick off the new year at the lovely historic home of **Lauren Schlau** in Country Club Park.

Enjoy the delicious hors d'oeuvres while sipping on delicious wine. Listen to the musical stylings of LA5 member, **Paul Jacques**.

## 💎 THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

Lauren Schlau, Lauren Schlau Consulting | David Bland, CWS, SVP, D.A. Davidson & Co. | Denise Anthony, Westminster Title | Christina Moses, 3shades design

## 📍 DETAILS

**Saturday, January 25th from  
4pm to 7pm in Country Club Park**

*(Address will be provided before the day  
of the event.)*

## 🍷 WHAT TO BRING

**Bring a bottle of a Central Coast  
wine (red, white, or non-alcoholic).**

Light hors d'oeuvres will be provided.

Sponsorships are available. Sponsors will be able to showcase their company and be listed in the invitation. Please contact Denise Anthony at [danthony@titleguru.com](mailto:danthony@titleguru.com) with any sponsorship questions.



Photography by Tony Medley

HANUKKAH

*sameach*



MAY YOUR HOME  
BE FILLED WITH  
LOVE AND LIGHT  
THIS HOLIDAY

NOW AVAILABLE

# AUTO- PAY

FOR CLUB MEETINGS

as low as

**\$27**

per  
meeting

THE MORE MEMBERS  
WHO SIGN UP, THE  
LOWER THE LUNCH  
RATES!

CONTACT ADAM WEISS  
TO JOIN

### **How did you become a Rotarian?**

My dear friend Charisse lured me in. There are certainly finer details to that, but it's the general gist. What kept me a Rotarian is the promise of doing good things in our community, and all the amazing people with whom I've connected over the years.

### **What's your favorite thing about LA5?**

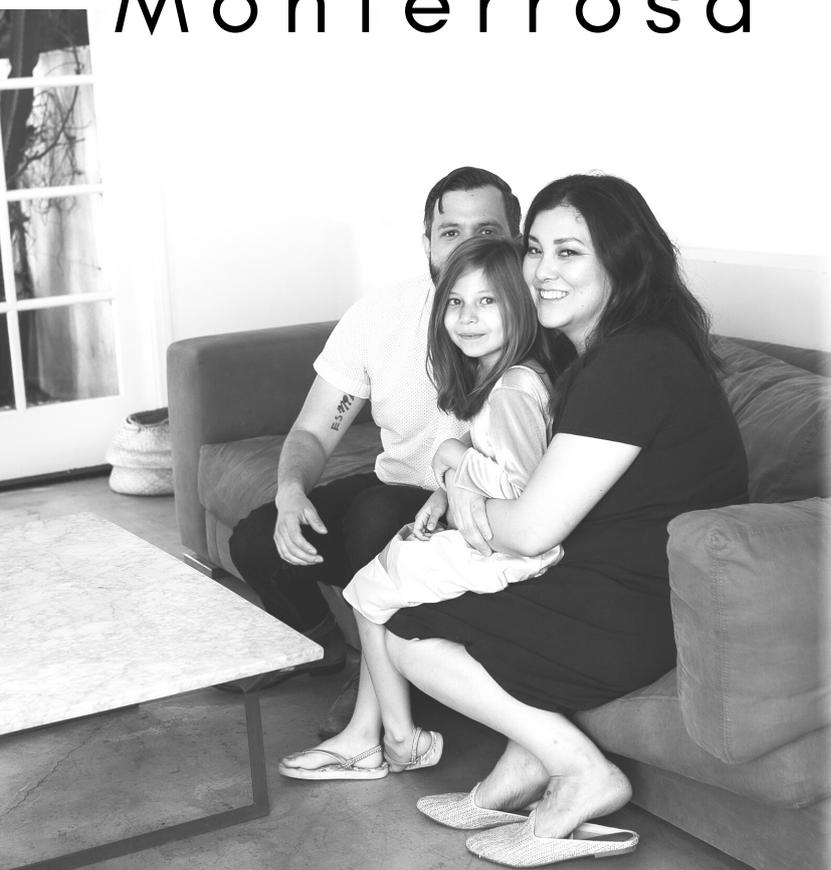
I love that LA5 is this institution that holds fastly to, and celebrates, its history - but still isn't afraid to mold itself for the future - so that it might continue to write history. Also, the Washed Up President's Podcast. Have you heard it? It's so great!

### **What's your zodiac sign?**

I'm a Capricorn cusper. I have no idea what that means.

## **MEET**

# Malinda Monterrosa



**How do you relax after a hard day of work?** If ever there was an opportunity to *really* relax, I would love to sink into an oversized chair with a pint of Salt & Straw and read something interesting and intended for someone over the age of 5.

**What are some small things that make your day better?** When my morning latte has a really good milk froth, a really cold glass of really good iced tea, holding hands with my kid, listening to "wait wait don't tell me", when I bite into a sandwich and the tomato is so in-season that it unexpectedly becomes the star.

**What is something you think everyone should do at least once in their lives?**

Work in a restaurant; it will teach you humility, patience, and empathy - among other things.

**What is something that is considered a luxury, but you don't think you could live without?** Facials. (My future self will thank me - I just know.)

**What are you addicted to?** Chips & salsa. It might be a problem. I could be 30 pounds lighter. But I choose to be happy.

**What irrational fear do you have?** I do not believe that a fear of spiders is irrational.

**What do you want to be remembered for?** Being a generous person and a good friend.

**What's worth spending more on to get the best?** Hotels, handbags, and plane rides.

Member since 2013, Paul Harris Fellow, Foundation Fellow, Marketing Committee, Scholarship Committee, Children's Court Committee

A tropical beach at sunset with palm trees decorated with colorful Christmas lights. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue, and the ocean is visible in the background. The palm trees are silhouetted against the sky, and their fronds are visible. The Christmas lights are in various colors, including red, green, blue, and yellow, and are strung along the trunks of the palm trees.

Have a  
Merry  
Christmas,  
friends!