

# EL RODEO



ROTARY YEAR 2020-2021 • ISSUE 9 • VOLUME CXII  
ROTARY OPENS OPPORTUNITIES

SEPTEMBER 1, 2020



“Diversity is not how we differ. Diversity is about embracing one another’s uniqueness.”

- Ola Joseph

# A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear LA5 Rotarians,

Our first “Community Conversation” was held this weekend. It was a wonderful reminder of the vision we all seem to want: to love our neighbors as ourselves and let our actions demonstrate that attitude.

Kudos to our special committee of LA5-er’s who put together this Conversation, led by professional facilitators. They began with an understanding of our members’ common foundation in Rotary’s 4-Way Test and our motto of Service Above Self. Consequently, the focus of our Conversation was reminiscent of a company retreat themed on diversity. The goals of the day seemed to focus on reminding us of our individual and collective responsibility to be decent human beings, (aka: Rotarians) who are non-judgmental, anxious to serve and open-minded to the growing diversity in our Club; a diversity which is beginning to look more and more like the demographics which make up Los Angeles.

With that foundation, the Community Conversation led me to, once again, personally reconsider how I regard other people in every situation. For example, their exercise to discuss our own names, their origins and the correct pronunciation of each: it became a marvelous reminder of how each individual has a story, and that their perspective should be considered in every exchange we have together. In brief, every person deserves our time, attention and consideration in every interpersonal encounter.

This conversation was a marvelous overview and a visionary reminder of how we need to remember to treat one another. As we personally add the “water” of Rotary service to all we do, then I believe our Club will resemble the video we were shown in our community conversation: total strangers thrown together to work and solve a problem. When we work together side by side, we can’t help but learn a new respect for individuals unlike ourselves; we grow together, develop new a new perspective and respect, and we become stronger.

It seems we know what to do...it’s just remembering to do it in every situation.

A huge thanks goes out to our Special Committee who is helping remind us of how to proceed. We look forward to this continuing conversation, as well as implementing any policies or procedures that might structure LA5’s desire to practice equality, respect and inclusion in all our associations.

With sincere gratitude,

*Matt Ball*

President  
Rotary Club of Los Angeles  
2020 - 2021



# Mark the calendar

Sept  
**3**

**SOCIAL  
HOUR**

Sept  
**3**

**CLUB  
BOARD  
MEETING**

Sept  
**4**

**DARK**

Sept  
**11**

**A DAY OF  
SERVICE AND  
REMEMBRANCE**

Sept  
**15**

**BUSINESS  
EXCHANGE**



All Current Events are ZOOM Video Meetings Unless Otherwise Noted

- Sept 3 Social Hour
- Sept 3 Club Board of Directors Meeting
- Sept 4 Dark - Happy Labor Day!
- Sept 11 A Day of Service and Remembrance
- Sept 15 Business Exchange

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

# Happy Rotary Anniversary

Past President Mike Birkholm, 34 years

Past President Bob Aldridge, 32 years

Jan Razia, 27 years

Chris Chen, 24 years

Brenda Wiewel, 21 years

Gus Oppermann, 20 years

Past President Jay Richardson, 20 years

Manny Ahsan, 20 years

Howard Schneider, 17 years

Adam Weiss, 14 years

Eric Garcetti, 10 years

Adam Bar, 9 years

Barry Hytowitz, 9 years

Ylenia Mino, 8 years

Dr. Helen Williams, 5 years

John Chiang, 5 years

Elizabeth Skrzat, 4 years

Osei Stewart, 4 years

Vinod Budchauhan, 4 years

Gracie Abalos, 1 year

Patrick Chylinski, 1 year

Joe Reilly, 1 year

*Thank you for you years of service to  
LA5 & the Los Angeles community!*

# Thank you Executive Director Judge Green!



FIVE THINGS WE LOVE ABOUT JUDGE GREEN



The way John writes a response expectation in the subject line of his e-mail.

SENDER: JOHN GREEN  
Subject: URGENT!! Please Respond by 9:00 am or Else.  
TIME: 8:52 am



The way John sends a follow-up to that email with a text message.

8:53 am  
RICK, just sent you an email. Not urgent. Well...kind of urgent but only if you have time. Will close club bank account if I don't hear from you in next three minutes. Will go golfing with Bo afterwards.



John's remarkable ability to take a complex issue and make it ten times more complex.



The way John supports his opinions with lengthy, detailed and intellectually rigorous arguments only to respond with a simple "10-4" when you decide not to heed his advice.



The way John's lengthy, detailed, intellectually rigorous opinions were right 99% of the time.

LOL, NOW I WISH I HAD FOLLOWED HIS ADVICE MORE OFTEN





“

*Rick has been a faithful author and advocate of the Pepperdine story for more than 20 years, building and leading a world-class marketing and communications team to share our brand story to an ever-widening audience through signature events, publications, and emerging technologies. Over the last several years, Rick has also contributed to Pepperdine's advancement efforts by establishing key relationships and partnerships in downtown Los Angeles. With this transition, Rick will build upon his recent public affairs work with AEG, the California Club, and the influential Rotary Club of Los Angeles, where he has demonstrated his exceptional leadership and networking skills as the club's president last year.*

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**PEPPERDINE PRESIDENT JIM GASH (JD '93)**

*on the recent promotion of PP Rick Gibson to Senior Vice Chancellor*

**Congratulations Past President Rick Gibson!**

**[Read the full press release here](#)**

# LADWP WATER SYSTEM STAKEHOLDERS ENGAGEMENT GROUP

New Awareness  
New Possibilities  
A first for me in over 40  
years in Rotary

- Dr. John Langfitt

President Matt Ball asked me to be (apparently) the first LA5 representative/participant in the LADWP System Stakeholders Engagement Group. My role is to explore the nature of and possibilities for LA5 in this citizen's participation group at LADWP, by invitation from the DWP itself. My first meeting with the group took place August 26th. Other members appear to represent community constituent groups, and perhaps a few themselves as concerned citizens.

The aims of the LADWP WSSEG appear to be to receive information, provide direct feed back to development of and then support for the action plans of the agency, and mobilize community support for implementation plans.

Subjects covered in great detail in my first two and one half hour meeting were all in the category of resource management: water supply, water conservation, water quality, and challenges to supply. Supply challenges identified in the meeting included the potential action of the San Andreas Fault, drought, water cleaning and purification, weather, and regional coordination. Frequent reference was made to a "Master Plan," within which the main focus appears to be water supply, recycling, flood control and the partnerships that usually come from funding decisions. Comments from long-standing members of the WSSEG suggested prior help from the group in the implementation of action plans established by LADWP.

Certainly water is of concern to all, not just Rotary. Rotary and LA5 in particular are focused on service in the community. High quality water for all persons is important in every community to every person. Is this a place for LA5 active involvement? Not sure, but certainly an interesting and important question for a fellow who moved to L. A. in 1947. Stay tuned, fellow Rotarians.

Keep an eye out for future updates in the El Rodeo. To request future reports about the WSSEG to be sent directly to you, email: [klangfitt@earthlink.net](mailto:klangfitt@earthlink.net).



*Happy Birthday  
to this week's  
Birthday-ites*

Paul St. John	Sept 2
Jeff Goodman	Sept 4
Seda Rashidi	Sept 5
Adam Bar	Sept 6
Paul Jacques	Sept 6



# Save the Date

## Virtual

CHEF EXPERIENCE



CELEBRATE WITH  
WOLFGANG PUCK CHEFS

# OCT 8

# 4:30 PM

[CLICK HERE FOR DETAILS](#)

# Overheard

AT THE LA5 BUSINESS EXCHANGE

"During these challenging economic times, I'm providing resume coaching and mentoring services to LA5 Rotarians in career transition – guiding their efforts to successfully re-enter the job market. Please contact me for a complimentary consultation"

JON GIBBY  
JONSGIBBY@GMAIL.COM / 818.530.3298

"I had the pleasure of shopping from Maureen's boutique and viewing her incredible artwork. Her style is second to none! I can't wait to partake in a shopping spree when events can resume!"

PAST PRES CHARISSE LARA SHARING HER EXPERIENCE  
WITH MAUREEN TEPEDINO'S WORK  
VISIT [DESIGNBYMAUREEN.COM](http://DESIGNBYMAUREEN.COM)

"I am available for Caricature Commissions for Rotarians – but a reminder, if you want to be flattered, you want a portrait... I do caricatures."

PAST PRES RICK GIBSON

"Opportunities and insights have been flying in all day after this morning's session. Thanks again. I will be front and center every Tuesday and Thursday morning from now on!"

ANONYMOUS

**WHERE ROTARIANS GO TO  
DO BUSINESS WITH FELLOW ROTARIANS!**

**[CLICK HERE FOR MORE DETAILS AND TO SIGN UP](#)**