

# EL RODEO

THE ROUNDUP

Year 114  
Issue 01  
Aug 2022



LA5



# #5

THE CLUB. FOUNDED IN  
1909 AND AGING LIKE  
FINE WINE

## FROM THE EDITOR

Hello LA5-ers,

Your Editor here, at your service. I am excited to bring 2022/2023 El Rodeo to life every month. I am most excited about the fact that President Malinda has pretty much given me free range and complete creative freedom. I know what you may be thinking—oh here we go again! Ah, but think not. Unlike my past work with El Rodeo, you will not see any mischievous content coming from me this time around. Unless the Downey Club has something to say (which they always do). In that case, I'll need to dust off my meme generator and fire it back up again.

In all seriousness, I do hope that you will have as much fun reading this first issue as I had making it.

YIRS,

*Tammy Nguyen*

LA5  
**Rotary**   
Club of Los Angeles

555 W. 5th Street, 35th Fl  
Los Angeles, CA 90013

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# Student Corner

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AND MEMBER JARED SMITH

for helping us keep the lights on, fun, and fancy



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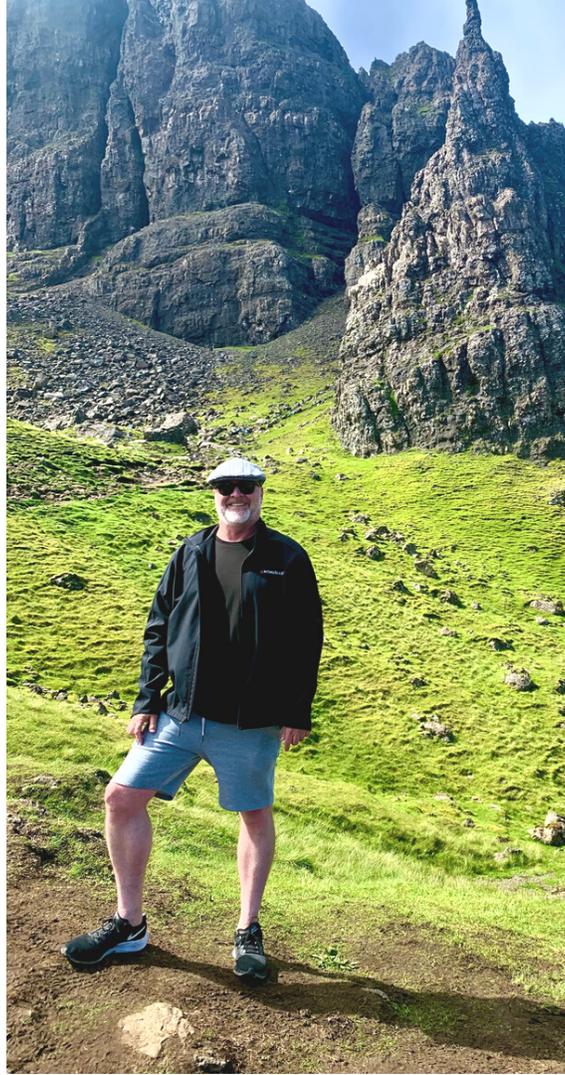
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# Rotarians

ON VACATION

**FINED!**

...for enjoying their summer vacation and missing President Malinda's first meeting.

Upon their return to California Club, these unknowing Rotarians were welcomed back with a very peculiar Act of Service. They were fined. Some even fined extra for their creative puns.

**Let us take a look at how devastated they all were to be absent for Malinda's first meeting as Rotary LA5's President...**

Azim and Tammy had a blissful time in Maui. They snorkeled, relaxed, and even got lei'd. Azim cleverly captioned his photo as he sat in front of rocks, "I wanna rock wit-cha." Tragically, Tammy's left hand cannot relate. Our team here at El Rodeo would like to offer a completely neutral, non-biased, objective opinion- Azim should be fined separately for that. Anyway folks, it's all pun and games until Malinda finds out.



TAKE A LOOK AT

# PAUL'S ITENERARY

---

He booked it out of the country  
immediately after his Presidency

(AND BLAMED IT ON HIS WIFE JOAN)

Our trip included the following locations spanning  
2 weeks and 2 days:

- Dublin, Ireland, too fun, have to go back.
- Killarney, Ireland on the Ring of Kerry, which is absolutely gorgeous. It also included an amazing trip to Skellig Michael Island (Star Wars fame) and 4th of July in Killarney, where they celebrate US Independence Day.
- Edinburgh, Scotland with ventures to the Isle of Skye including the Old Man of Storr. This place is connected to the painting PP Don Crocker made for me at my demotion along with Glasgow, Scotland where we had some of the best Curry I have ever had.
- Blackburn, England to see an old friend of mine.
- London, England to celebrate Xanders 24th birthday including a trip to Abbey Road Studios where he walked the street the Beatles did in 1969.
- 2 days of airport hell, which we refused to let ruin a special family trip, returning home to LA.

## "WE HAD NEVER BEEN!"

Says Past President Alan Bernstein as he reflects on his trip to Niagara Falls. Is there a happier face? Is there a brighter smile? We think not.

Past President Keng Chong did not echo such sentiments about his vacation.

"I wouldn't really call this a vacation...it's not like going to Hawaii, but I was the Lead Advisor for a crew of 10 Scouts and Adults to Philmont Scout Ranch. We did a 12 day backpacking trek through the New Mexico Rockies that covered 66 miles and 15,000 total feet of elevation climb. Our packs were over 50 lbs and we hiked through 90 degree heat, monsoon rain, hail and lightning."

Monsoon? Hail? Rain?

...would you say that washed you up a little Ken?





*Having won zero awards or accolades, El Rodeo's very own Page Six is the finest news source in America, maybe even in the world.*

## By Ken Chong, Past President

After 16 years on either the Club Board or Foundation Board, I was ready to fully embrace my Red Badge status this Rotary year. I was looking forward to taking over one of the back corner tables with my fellow Red Badge Past Presidents as we talk at full volume during the meeting without a care in the world and with total disregard to who is at the podium. I guess I have spoken (out loud) of this scenario often enough over the last 8 years as a Past President. **President Malinda** had the wisdom and foresight to appoint me as the Page 6 El Rodeo columnist, a job that would require me to pay attention during meetings and give me a just enough work so my energies would go towards something positive. It's a far cry from being a Podcast star, but maybe more people will actually read and hear my musings this year.

One of my favorite things when I was President was waiting for the draft of the El Rodeo on Monday or Tuesday to see what **PP Marc Leeka** had to say and who he would talk about. My Page 6 column won't have the same production value as PP Marc's El Rodeo- he has always set the high bar in my book.

Speaking of PP Marc, if you blinked you might have missed him at the 2nd meeting. I'll pay a \$25 fine if you snap a pic with PP Marc while he is actually eating lunch or sitting at a table at the next Rotary meeting.

The 2nd meeting was filled with Presidential awards, smiles, tears, laughter and an inspirational speaker...but I will skip over all that. President Malinda warmed my heart with a barrage of fines on members who missed her first meeting. The gavel was still warm when **PP Paul** took off for London immediately after his last meeting- fine! **Directors Azim and Tammy** flaunted their beautiful Maui vacation photos- fine! **PP Rick** donated 2 tickets in his VIP suite for the James Taylor concert next week to help President Malinda with her \$200,000 Foundation fundraising goal. These auctions sometimes have mixed results because the fuse is short. I think PP Alan thought he could steal these tickets for \$200. PP Erick came in pretty strong with a 2nd bid of \$600. But **Big Mike Ross** wasn't messing around and flexed hard with an \$800 donation. Not bad for week #2.

*Editor's Note: Ken was presented a Presidential Service Award from the White House at this meeting so he's not mentioning the fact that Malinda said the most controversial statement in Rotarian history: "Pineapple belongs on pizza." #yuck*



# Dollars & Sense

## THE TREASURER'S REPORT

This is a new role for me at LA5 and I am thankful that others are there to help with the heavy lifting. Vien Le, our former treasurer, invested considerable effort into defining and refining the club's accounting practices. Vic Marovish, who has served as a board member and club secretary, now lends his substantial experience to managing a new round of dues statements and reconciling bank activity.

Today the club is more financial sound than in previous years because of Past President Paul's success in increasing operational funds while minimizing expenses. Current President Malinda's 2021-22 budget adheres to the same philosophy.

The first significant accomplishment of the new term is the publication of the club's Financial and Control Policies. The document was authored by Vic and Malinda to define financial responsibilities, a separation of duties, who is authorized to sign checks, and the board's responsibility to approve larger expenses. The club also has a new Accounting Oversight Committee comprised of former club presidents and members who are accounting professionals to review the club's compliance with proper financial systems and controls.

And two more Shout Outs for Darin Marinov, a former LA5 treasurer whose company maintains our bookkeeping, and Jim Balbin who files the club's annual tax returns. Members can feel confident that so many dedicated volunteers are committed to the security of contributions and the sustainability of our club.



**S O C I A L**

*Engagement*



July 19, 2022



**Herb and Samantha** celebrated their engagement with friends and family. The party was held at The Seafood Grill and Bar in San Clemente.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU BOTH!**

# THANKS FOR ALL THAT YOU DO.

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# DINE ABOUT



## BY JERMAINE EE

The idea behind [Dine About](#) is to use food as a gateway to experience the wonderfully different cultures of Los Angeles. For almost every cuisine, we can certainly find a Rotarian connected to that culture. Join us as we discover our city, one nosh at a time.

**DINE ABOUT**  
*w/ Jermaine*

OAXACAN AT MONTE ALBAN

Wednesday, August 17  
7 pm

\$40 per person

[REGISTER](#)

LA5

## sept Oktoberfest

Saturday  
lunch to dinner  
Alpine Village  
Torrance

Details TBD

## oct Korean BBQ

Weekday dinner  
Partner with  
KTOWN Rotary

Details TBD

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# Get To Know Your Board

a not-so-in-depth feature of your favorite board member



Douglas Montgomery

What do you do when you're not at work or Rotary?

Work on my film festival

What album or artist are you listening to right now?

Always ACDC

If you could fix one problem in the world, what would it be?

Income inequality

Your favorite quote

"everything you see on the earth was created by someone else" (therefore you can do it too, Steve Jobs)



Sign  
Up

# LA5 Arts Committee

Samantha Kim & John Spokes

## Join Arts Advocacy!

[sign up here](#)

LA5 Members Samantha Kim and John Spokes cordially invite you to join the Arts Committee.

If you choose to join, you will be e-vited to local arts events throughout the year. Some of the events will be free, and some will be at cost. You get to choose which events to attend.

We hope you will join us (and recommend your favorite events) and look forward to celebrating the diversity of culture in Los Angeles.

*Examples of upcoming events:*

- *Free jazz at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA)*
- *Open Exhibits at the Hammer Museum*
- *"A Few Good Men" by Aaron Sorkin at La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts*

## WELLNEST OPENS DOORS OF THE NEST ON FLORENCE

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Charlene Dimas-Peinado  
President and CEO, Wellnest

Wellnest, L.A.'s leading emotional health and wellness organization serving children, youth, and families, celebrated the grand opening on Friday, July 8, of The Nest on Florence—David & Susan Hirsch Building, its first permanent supportive housing project for young adults at risk for chronic homelessness.

The Nest on Florence, located at 410 E. Florence Ave. in Los Angeles, will help vulnerable young adults ages 18-25 “forge new pathways to long-term independence,” said Charlene Dimas-Peinado, President and CEO of Wellnest. “These young men and women are resilient, courageous and filled with promise. We are pleased to be part of their journey.”



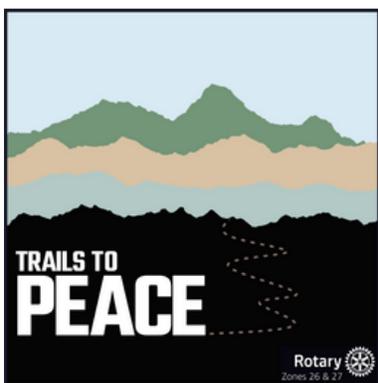
The 5-story, 40,848-square foot David & Susan Hirsch Building, named in honor of two sustaining donors, features 34 studios of about 420 square feet, 16 one-bedrooms at 428 square feet, and one two-bedroom manager-in-residence apartment.

The unique development also provides a supportive network of on-site services from Wellnest, designed to serve young adults – many with very young children - who are at risk for or have experienced homelessness, may be aging out of the foster care system and who have a mental health condition that can inhibit their ability to maintain stable housing.

# 2022 PEOPLE OF ACTION SUMMIT

OCTOBER 1, 2022

## Stop Human Trafficking



[REGISTER TODAY](#)

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

Come to San Diego's Liberty Station Conference Center on October 1, 2022, to learn more about what human trafficking looks like in our own communities and what we can do to help prevent it. Rotarians throughout our paired zones will develop actionable plans that we can all use to amplify our work as People of Action. Registration is \$50 for in-person tickets or \$50 for a virtual all-access pass link, which can be used for multiple participants. Special reduced pricing is available for students, as well as Interact and Rotaract members.

Human trafficking worldwide is the second largest criminal activity, second only to drugs. Whether forced labor or sex trafficking, it is in every corner of the United States, and your community is not immune to this heinous crime. As Rotarians or members of our communities, we need to be at the forefront of combatting modern-day slavery. Leave with an action plan and a playbook for your district or club that will allow everyone to protect their families and community.

# GET WELL SOON

## ANN RUTH



Annie Ruth is now at UCLA  
recovering from recent bouts of COVID 19

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Accepting cards at:

**Annie Ruth c/o Santa Monica UCLA Medical Center**

1250 16th St

6MH Intermediate Unit, Room 5488

Santa Monica, CA 9040



# new member applicant

**NICK LARA**  
BEVERLY HILLS CHAMBER  
OF COMMERCE

*Per our club's bylaws, Article II, Section 1(d):*

*Information about the proposed new member shall be submitted to the Club's membership. A ten (10) day period shall then be allowed during which any member may comment, favorably or unfavorably, on the proposed member and/or the proposed membership.*

Nick is the Director of Sales for the Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce, or, most notably known as Past President Charisse's husband. He enjoys outdoor activities, working out, volunteering, and traveling. He like business, economics, and politics. Nick was a staff sergeant in the U.S. Air Force.

Sponsored by: Charisse Lara, Malinda Monterrosa, and Jermaine Ee

*Will he adequately fill Past President Todd Johnson's shoes? Only an approval and time will tell ...*



# new member applicant

REBECCA  
HAUSSLING  
ABILITY FIRST

*Per our club's bylaws, Article II, Section 1(d):*

*Information about the proposed new member shall be submitted to the Club's membership. A ten (10) day period shall then be allowed during which any member may comment, favorably or unfavorably, on the proposed member and/or the proposed membership.*

Rebecca is the Senior Director of Marketing and Communications for Ability First. She holds a masters in Organizational Leadership and Development. Through her membership with LA5, she looks forward to networking and gaining invaluable business insight from the many various and unique members.

Sponsored by: Josh Mandell and Malinda Monterrosa



# STAY TUNED

## ROTARY STARS AWARDS PROGRAM

We will be turning up the focus on the amazingness of our members with the Rotary Stars Awards Program, coming in September. If you like complimenting people because it makes them feel so good (and think you are nice), this program is for you. Each week, three lucky Rotarians will have the opportunity to recognize a fellow Rotarian for something positive (a warm smile, helpfulness, kindness, etc). There will be raffles and prizes for those who participate. So, get out your best smiles and be ready to get your Rotary Stars Award when you attend an LA5 Rotary meeting.

**Brenda Wiewel**

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# A BIT OF HISTORY



## 1913 - THE GOODFELLOWS

For some years it had been the custom of the LA Post Office to turn over to Al Malaikah Shrine all of the letters received that were addressed to Santa Claus. In 1913 the Shriners received an unusually high number of these letters. LA5's club president was also a Shriner and conceived an idea for LA5 to participate, for both clubs to establish a large group of individuals and ask each to take a letter and attend to it personally by playing Santa Claus to a family. Other clubs were enlisted to join. Those who were part of the Good Fellows movement were:

- Los Angeles Advertising Club
- Los Angeles Athletic Club
- Bankers Club
- California Club
- Press Club
- Los Angeles Realty Board
- University Club
- Los Angeles Credit Men's Association
- German American Alliance
- Jonathan Club
- Sierra Madre Club
- Traffic Club
- Union League Club

The idea of the Good Fellows took flight, and soon, contributions of clothing, food, toys, cash, medical supplies and services, and more were collected and donated by more than 2,500 "Good Fellows."

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