

EL RODEO

THE ROUNDUP

Year 114
Issue 02
Sept 2022



LA5



#5

THE CLUB. FOUNDED IN
1909 AND AGING LIKE
FINE WINE

FROM THE EDITOR

This month, I'd like to share my favorite short story. This simple story has a beautiful message about living in the present moment. Often, we carry around past hurts or grudges for other's wrong doings. By holding onto feelings of anger and resentment, we are only hurting ourselves.

We all go through times in life when other people say things or behave in a way that is hurtful towards us. We can chose to ruminate over past actions or events, but it will ultimately weigh us down and deplete our energy.

Instead, we can choose to let go of what doesn't serve us anymore and concentrate on the present moment. Until we can find a level of peace and happiness in the present circumstances of our lives, we will never be content, because 'now' is all we will ever have.

YIRS,

Tammy Nguyen

LA5
Rotary 
Club of Los Angeles

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Los Angeles, CA 90013

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@rotaryla5



**IMAGINE
ROTARY**

TWO MONKS & *a* WOMAN



A senior monk and a junior monk were traveling together. At one point, they came to a river with a strong current. As the monks were preparing to cross the river, they saw a very young and beautiful woman also attempting to cross. The young woman asked if they could help her cross to the other side.

The two monks glanced at one another because they had taken vows not to touch a woman.

Then, without a word, the older monk picked up the woman and carried her across the river. He placed her gently on the other side, and carried on his journey.

The younger monk couldn't believe what had just happened. After rejoining his companion, he was speechless, and an hour passed without a word between them.

Two more hours passed, then three. Finally, the younger monk could not contain himself any longer. He blurted out, "as monks, we are not permitted to touch woman, how could you then carry that woman on your shoulders?"

The older monk looked at him and replied, "brother, I set her down on the other side of the river hours ago, why are you still carrying her?"



Rotarians

IN ACTION





...and not on vacation.





TAKE A LOOK AT

LOS ANGELES REGIONAL FOOD BANK PROJECT

By Loresa Grigsby
LA5 Member/ Service Project Chair

Michael Flood
CEO, Los Angeles Regional Food Bank
LA5 Member

EVENT DATE: AUGUST 27, 2022

OUR CONTINUING EFFORT TO END HUNGER IN LOS ANGELES

On August 27, 2022 several **LA5 members** gathered at the **Los Angeles Regional Food Bank**, located on 1734 East 41st Street, Los Angeles CA 90058 to help package food items and assist the food bank in their daily needs.

The attending members were:

Loresa Grigsby, Michael Flood, Don Crocker, Charlene Dimas-Peinado, Razia Jan, Lauren Schlau, Shala Rahimi-Reynolds, James Reynolds, Lance Miller, Malinda Monterrosa, Josh Mandell, Daniel Grant (Glendale Sunrise Rotary Club).

The service project was from 9am - Noon and we began the day with some education on the foundation of The LA Food Bank and how it has grown in capacity and service since 1973. As of today, they now have 3 servicing facilities that serves over 4 million pounds of food a week to the elderly, low income families, the disabled and children.

As a team, LA5 spent most of our time packaging perishable items including plums, peaches and onions. I am so proud to report that **we packaged a total of 6,890 pounds of food** to help service the Los Angeles area and help end hunger in our community.

Way to go LA5! We did incredible work!

*Editor's Note: The **LA5 Foundation** also **donated \$5,000 to the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank**, which will allow the Food Bank to provide 20,000 meals.*



**6,890
POUNDS
OF FOOD**





TAKE A LOOK AT

CAMP PAIVIKA 2022

Josh Mandell
LA5 Member/ Service Project Chair

On July 30, **LA5ers** made their annual trek to Crestline to support **Ability First's Camp Paivika**.

This is Camp Paivika's 75th anniversary. A time capsule from their **50th anniversary** was opened onsite- it included a trove of treasures, including photos of fresh-faced past presidents (like Bob Aldridge) from 25 years ago!

LA5 volunteers participated in camp games and activities with the campers, got a tour of the campground facilities, and met with the families of campers.

EVENT DATE: JULY 30, 2022



Did you know? LA5 is responsible for the founding of Ability First and Camp Paivika.

Chris Cieszko has volunteered to chair the Camp Paivika effort in 2023 where we hope to go and help clean and repair the facilities to ready them for summer campers.



This year, the **LA5 Foundation** is gifting **\$10,000** to **Ability First** to support Camp Paivika.

Volunteers: Kathleen Kavanagh, Josh Mandell, Brenda Wiewel, Paul Ekstrand, Chris Cieszko, Rebecca Haussling, Malinda Monterrosa, Katya Pronichenko



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

This is supposed to be the section of the El Rodeo filled with gossip, scandal and juicy news on our members. Instead, all I have to report on is **Brenda Weiwei's** new Rotary Stars. Every week, Brenda anoints a secret star-finder and someone is chosen for their LA5 awesomeness! First Rotary Star: **Anthony Vasquez**. Speaking of LA5 awesomeness, **Secretary John Spokes** was bright red at the podium when **President Malinda** gave him special recognition.

Nothing warms my heart more than seeing (other) people get fined. You would think **Past President Paul** was a judge by the way he levied all those fines last year. I didn't believe him when he said he would out fine me. I really should relinquish my Thor hammer gavel to him, but myname is engraved on it and **President Malinda** might raise the fine bar to another level. **PP Erick** paid two big fines already for the month of August. **Paul Jacques** paid a fine for a viral clip of him playing the guitar... at a LA5 meeting! That's flexing. WTG Madame President! Anyone else loving the viral TikTok clips at the end of the meeting?

My kids want to know how I know about the corn and the juice. I hope someone gives **President Malinda** some Emmanuel Todd Lopez Emu merch for Christmas.

PP Todd Johnson and **PP Dave Tomblin** both requested membership transfers to other Rotary Clubs. Big 🤔 I didn't realize they are both so desperate to be back at the podium and hold the gavel. They must be joining these new clubs so they can get in line and be president again. There are easier ways to get the attention gentlemen! In all seriousness, we wish you both well and Beverly Hills and Milwaukee Clubs are lucky to get you.



Through the month of August picture bounty stays on, still no photo of **PP Marc Leeka** eating lunch. I'll up the bounty to \$50. I did get a picture of him sneaking in at the end of the meeting to fill his pockets with the leftover cookies. *Rich people know how to stay rich.*

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Dollars & Sense

THE TREASURER'S REPORT

BY MARC LEEKA

The Treasurer's role at LA5 does not come with a great deal of glamour because my job chiefly consists of receiving invoices, documenting and gaining approval for expenses, and issuing checks. Vic Marovich, the higher wattage bulb in our accounting team light fixture, has the privilege of working with the club's electronic payments that frantically zoom in from multiple directions. I'm playing pickleball while he tangos on the court with Roger Federer.

My supervision of the club expenses does give me some insight into areas most members never think about. For example, virtually no Rotarians – and for that matter, zero Kiwanians – have any idea why they have to pay club membership dues and where the money goes. Did you know that your annual LA5 dues actually include your annual dues to Rotary International? That significant chunk covers your RI dues, a supplement for RI's Council on Legislation, general liability insurance, Director and Officer insurance, and the Rotarian Magazine subscription I eagerly await every month.

Wait, there's another group waiting with their hat in hand: our Rotary District 5280. We pay another sizeable chunk to cover expenses incurred by the district administration, including gas money for the Governor, the district's one staff employee, and a long list of uninteresting overhead.

So to summarize, you pay annual LA5 membership dues but actually LA5 is collecting its club dues plus two other dues. I'm still trying to figure out why they say Membership has its Rewards.

Thanks from your accounting team to every member who pays their dues on time because, by the time your payment is processed, we've already written the checks to Rotary International and District 5280. If there is one wisdom I've gleaned as treasurer it would be, "if our dues checks don't arrive in their mailboxes on time, they become very concerned."



Your Rotary Moment



Paul Netzel

Past President, Rotary Club of Los Angeles
1997-1998

Several weeks ago President Malinda shared with us her Rotary Moment. (I can only imagine what other LA5 members could share.) To me, a Rotary Moment is that extraordinary experience one has in Rotary – typically with a local or international project – that immediately changes us from being just a “Member of Rotary” to becoming a Rotarian.

For me, I had been a member of Rotary far too long – several decades – before I had what I call “My Rotary Moment!”

In November of my year as District Governor in Los Angeles – 1997-98 – I lead a team of 10 Rotarians from District 5280 on a polio corrective surgery project to two districts covering Bombay (Mumbai) and Pune, India.

As result of the trip, nearly 750 children – who had been crippled by polio – had their lives changed, forever.

Tragically, for them polio immunizations came too late!

This project was funded in part by a \$250,000 Grant from TRF and our local Rotary clubs. On our first morning, I was working with several Indian Rotarians outside the entrance of an old wooden building which served as a makeshift medical center for the surgeries.

I spotted a boy – about nine (9) years old – off in the distance crawling on his hands & knees across a dirt path.

I could see he was on his way to the building’s entrance. (Later I learned his name was Pareek.) Before long, I was surprised to see that he and his parents were approaching me.

Pareek – crawling on hands & knees – reached me first. He bent his head down and kissed the top of my shoe!

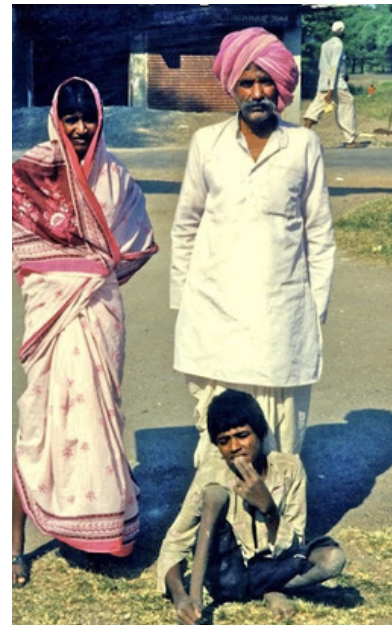
For me, time virtually stopped!!

All I could feel were chills going up and down my spine. Pareek then crawled back so his mother could come forward. She got down on her hands and knees and kissed the top of my shoe. Next, Pareek’s father came over, got down and did the same. A local Rotarian next to me leaned over and whispered in my ear ...

“This is their way of saying thank YOU for changing their son’s and their lives foreverand for giving him back his life!”

It was that moment I realized this is what Rotary is all about!

This was **My Rotary Moment!**





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NEW MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENT

meet the member



NICK LARA

Director of Sales

Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce

[MORE INFO HERE](#)

NEW MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENT

meet the member



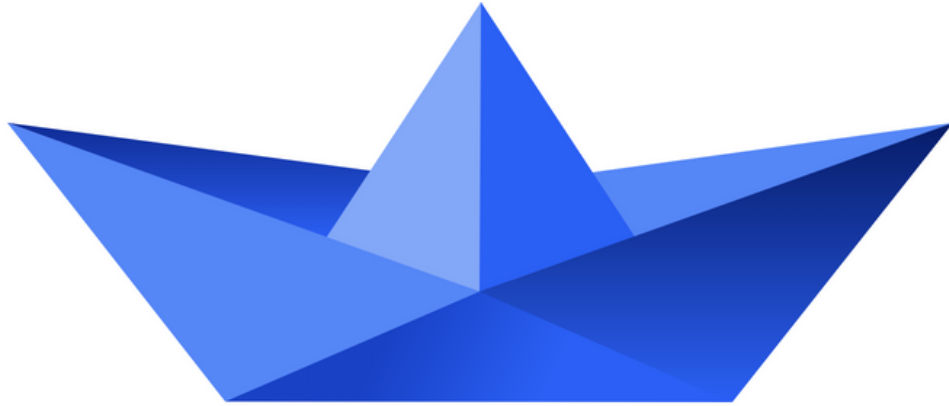
Rebecca

REBECCA HAUSSLING

Senior Director of Marketing & Communications

Ability First

[MORE INFO HERE](#)



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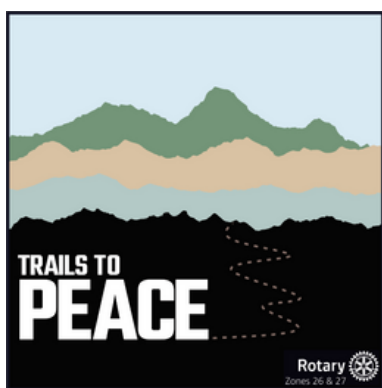
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2022 PEOPLE OF ACTION SUMMIT

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 To Know Your Board

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



Secretary

HI, I'M JOHN SPOKES

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

A: Explore art and nature with my wife, Casey.

Q: Why did you join Rotary?

A: Because I was asked.

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

A: End all hate and intolerance.





Director

HI, I'M TAMMY NGUYEN

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

A: I enjoy traveling and cooking. I have a lot of plants that I care for so much!

Q: Your favorite quote?

A: Everything is figureitoutable.

Q: Why did you join Rotary?

A: Purpose.





Director

HI, I'M BARRY HYTOWITZ

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

A: Spend time with family, cooking, exercising, walking my dog, coaching soccer (in the fall).

Q: What is your favorite meal, or place to eat?

A: Sous-vide beef tenderloin on crostini

Q: Who is your hero?

A: Dr. Oliver Sacks





Rotarians
HAPPY MOMENTS





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:*

- *Open Exhibits at the Hammer Museum*
- *"A Few Good Men" by Aaron Sorkin at La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts*

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SF ROTARY VISITS



KOREATOWN ROTARY VISITS



5

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