

# EL RODEO



ROTARY YEAR 2019-2020 • ISSUE 21 • VOLUME CXI  
SEE - DREAM - SOLVE  
ROTARY CONNECTS THE WORLD

NOVEMBER 19, 2019

**2019 - 2020**

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TALK TO US:  
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# LET'S GET BEHIND THE KIDS

A message from the President

Not again! Just as I was reflecting on the first anniversary of the Borderline shooting in Thousand Oaks where 12 people, most of them young adults, were killed, news popped up on my phone that another shooting had taken place in Southern California, this time at a high school in nearby Saugus. So much anger, grief and fear can only lead to a sense of dread or even hopelessness, which psychologists tell us leads to more anger, grief and fear.

There is an opportunity for Rotarians to stand in the gap. We must help young people see that life has promise and opportunity and that love, generosity and acts of kindness can be found in abundance. I rejoice as I consider our club's efforts to support young families at Angel City Celebration, and lending a hand at National Adoption Day at the Edelman Children's Court where forever families are united, and to offer scholarships for talented and hard working students heading to college. I am inspired by our members who work with the Boy Scouts or Big Brothers and Big Sisters. And of course, I love our USC Rotaracters. I believe that mentorship, encouragement, support and shared resources offered by Rotarians to young people will make a big difference in our world.

There are many needs that require our attention; but I am persuaded that efforts to disrupt the cycle of fear and hopelessness in our young people must be a priority. Let's get behind the kids!

See you on Friday.



*Rick Gibson*

President,  
Rotary Club of Los Angeles  
2019 - 2020



# Electrifying Clean Vehicle Incentives



THIS WEEK:  
LUNCH WITH BRIAN GOLDSTEIN  
Executive Director, Energy Independence Now

at the Cal Club  
[click here for tickets](#)

\*board meeting immediately following\*

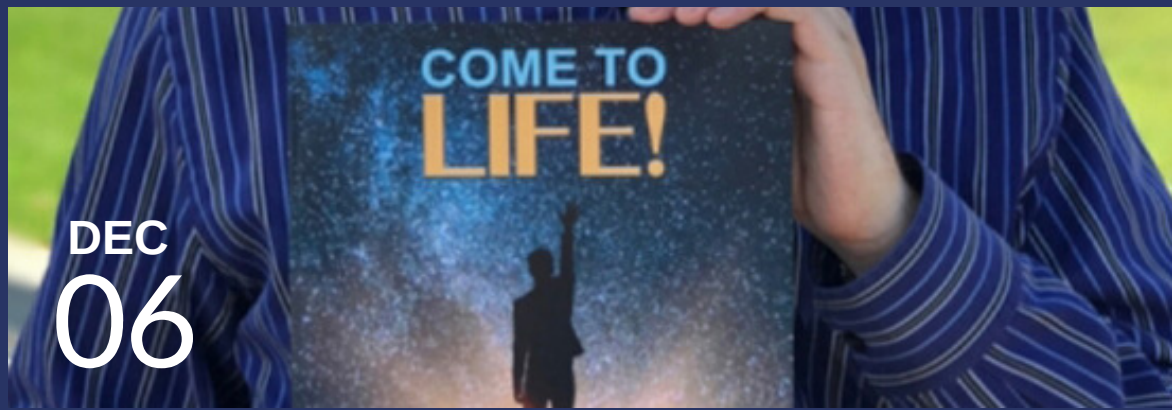
# Mark the calendar



NOV  
23



DEC  
02



DEC  
06



DEC  
07



DEC  
10

- Nov 23** Service Opportunity - National Adoption Day at Edelman Children's Court
- 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

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





NATIONAL  
**ADOPTIONDAY**

**IS THIS SATURDAY,  
NOVEMBER 23  
AT THE  
EDMUND D. EDELMAN  
CHILDREN'S COURT**

**231 adoptions, 180 first family  
photos, refreshments for  
600, setup and teardown,  
Rotarians needed!  
Click here**



*Who was*

## **EDMUND D. EDELMAN?**

*... eponym of  
the Children's Court*

Convivially known as 'Ed,' Mr. Edelman was a former L.A. County Supervisor with a long career of service to Los Angeles.

"Ed's long career in government at the city and county level was one of great distinction. He served on the Los Angeles City Council from 1965 to 1974 and on the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors from 1974 to 1994.

His work contributed to the arts, the environment and, most particularly, to those in need. He played a large role in developing the county's AIDS program, the Homeless Services Authority and a revamped Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS)." (Judge Michael Nash, *The Chronicle of Social Change*, 2016). Mr. Edelman passed in 2016, but his legacy lives on in many ways, notably the court named after him.

The Edmund D. Edelman Children's Court opened in Monterey Park, Ca. in July 1992. The Children's Court was built because of Mr. Edelman's advocacy. He said that it was important for Los Angeles County to have a courthouse that was friendly and sensitive to the needs of abused and neglected children whose cases are heard in our juvenile dependency courts. "The Children's Court was then and still is today the most unique court of its kind in the world." (Judge Michael Nash, *The Chronicle of Social Change*, 2016).



# 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](#)



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



**It was my honor to serve on our Board of Directors during the Capital Campaign we launched for the Children's Court Project the year that John Westwater served as our President (1989 - 1990). The reason we have Foundation Funds available today is because our campaign raised much more money than we needed to complete the project.**

**In keeping with the spirit of Rotary's Four - Way Test ... LA5 went back to all those who contributed and asked if they wanted a partial refund of their gift in light of the significant overage raised.**

**Not one contributor requested any money back. They all asked LA5 to be stewards of the funds for the ultimate benefit of the Children's Court. The most significant contributor was Disney ... "Thank you, Walt!"**

**How privileged LA5 Rotarians are today to be able to maintain and support a program like Children's Court which is so important to the moral fabric of our "City of Angel's" nourishment in the 21st Century.**

**Big dreams ... big thinking is a blessing!**

**PP MIKE BIRKOLM**

*Happiest Birthday,*

# **NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY-ITES**

Anthony Bourg

John Briscoe

Mandi Budd

Angela Fisher

Dan Guerrero

Judy Jenkins

Todd Johnson

John Langfitt

Vien Le

Olympia LePoint

Karl Pettijohn

Jose Luis Sanchez

Steve Schultz

Laura Thompson

Brad Turner

Peter Weinberger

**When Rotary 5 Foundation received a bequest Ben Tunnell was president, and I as treasurer was on the boards of both the Club and the Foundation. It was Ben's idea not to add it to then then corpus of the Foundation but to create a special carve out for the Children's Court and we sold the idea to both boards. The minutes would reflect who the original members of the committee who awarded the grants but the funds were invested in common with the other Foundation assets.**

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**PP DON CROCKER**



"In my year as President the Children's Court Committee made one of the most meaningful grants I can remember. Eight siblings who had suffered severe physical and emotional abuse were residing in a variety of foster and group homes and unable to see each other.



A social worker representing four of the siblings asked the committee to fund a week long summer camp for the children. For the first time in their lives, all eight siblings were living together, allowing them to bond and create their first positive memories with one another.

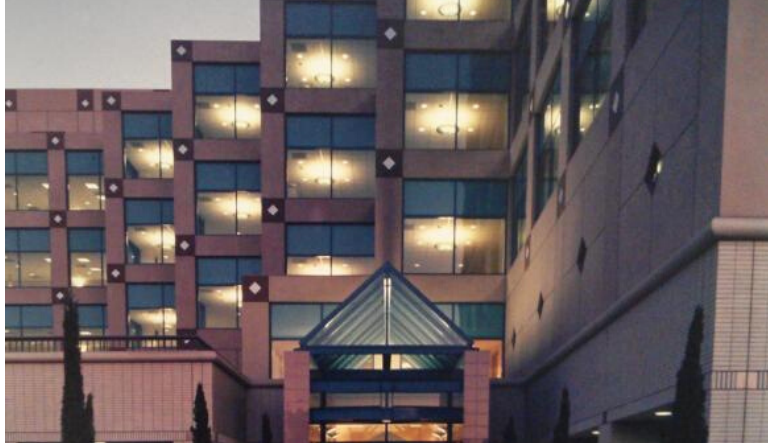
LA5 helped fund their camp fees and purchase the necessary clothing and supplies so they could enjoy the experience.

The social worker (who personally picked up each of the siblings and transported them to the camp together) later visited our club and read hand written thank you notes from the children that expressed how much the experience meant to each of them. There were quite a few misty eyes in the California Club that day!

These young children who were separated due to no fault of their own, were given a chance to come together as a family for the first time thanks to our club.

Stories like this remind me what a significant impact the Children's Court Committee has on the lives of so many foster children, and why I am honored to be a part of it. "

PP Megan Tunnell-O'Rourke



# Los Angeles Children's Court - Genesis of a New Model

written by Lauren Schlau

In the summer of 1992 a totally unique court was built in Los Angeles, the new Los Angeles County Children's Court, since renamed Edmund D. Edelman Children's Court in honor of past County Supervisor (1975 - 1994) who championed children and this court.

## **WHAT IS THE CHILDREN'S COURT, AND WHAT DOES ROTARY AND SPECIFICALLY LA5 HAVE TO DO WITH IT?**

Children's Court was the first court in the nation devoted to serving children. It was specifically designed to make a very difficult experience more humane for children already traumatized through abuse, neglect or abandonment. It also was a model for a public / private partnership non-existent in the court system.

The new court consolidated two existing severely overcrowded *criminal* courthouses where child dependency cases were heard in downtown LA and Van Nuys,

and expanded capacity from 15 to 25 brand new courtrooms.

Over 40,000 children at that time were supervised by LA County dependency courts.

As importantly, the facility's furniture, decor, equipment toys and amenities as well as its special Shelter Care area where children often have to wait hours to have their cases heard, incorporated many innovations to treat children as victims, that is, those in need, rather than as criminals. It had to provide for children experiencing physical and emotional trauma, limitations and conditions with most unaccompanied by family members, but rather by third parties, e.g., case workers or possibly just the van drivers who brought them to court in the morning.

However while the County constructed the building, the special child-focused furnishings, etc. were not included.

*cont'd ...*

Recognizing the need and its commitment to the children, in 1990 the Child Victims in Court Foundation (CiVIC) was formed by LA5 Rotary to implement the Club's commitment to make a difference by helping to make the court truly child-friendly. The goal was to raise \$1.2 million for this purpose and LA5 committed \$125,000.

The initial CiVIC board was comprised of LA5-appointed Rotarian past-presidents William Lochmoeller, Philip Swan, John Westwater, Wade Piston, Victor Walch, Patrick Shreve and Chris Campbell. In addition, Nancy Howard helped draft the initial by-laws and provided much of the information included in this article. The Board also solicited other funding gifts to reach the goal, and as well to leverage other ongoing funding.

After the facility opened and was furnished using the private funds, \$225,000 remained. CiVIC was dissolved and the funds were transferred to the Rotary Foundation for safekeeping and for future use.

During Ben Tunnell's year as President of LA5, the funds, which were previously earmarked for the court itself, were revived with intended use for the children of the court. The residual funds were paired with an estate gift from a long time Rotarian, and a new committee as well as a special fund within the LA5 Foundation was formed - where it exists today with its own budget line.

The fund is overseen by LA5 Foundation Committee, Chaired by Russ Whittenburg, and the Children's Court Committee chaired by Tim Brown. Fund Requests are made by case workers and others who work directly with the children for any personal need not met by the court, a family or others, with the money sent directly from Rotary to the provider of the goods or services requested.

A future article will explore what Rotary is doing today for Children's Court and what the future might hold as caseloads and children's needs continue to grow.



*The first of its kind  
in the nation.*



# LAST WEEK IN PHOTOS

THE ROSE QUEEN & HER COURT, PP MEGAN HOSTS A BABY SHOWER FOR PP CHARISSE, THE NEWEST PHF, AND TOO MANY LA5 VIPS TO MENTION!





# NEW MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Jessica Hughes

Active Member (New)

Donor Relations, Ability First

[jhughes@abilityfirst.org](mailto:jhughes@abilityfirst.org)

1300 E. Green St.

Pasadena, CA 91106

(661) 264-8956

Classification: Non Profit

Sponsors: John Green, Jared Smith, Rick Gibson



## Brent Jay Lehman

Active Member (New)

Senior Associate,

Olivarez Madruga Lemieux O'Neill, LLP

[blehman@omlolaw.com](mailto:blehman@omlolaw.com)

500 S. Grand Ave

Los Angeles, CA 90071

(213) 334-7291

Classification: Law

Sponsors: Maureen Tepedino, Rick Gibson, Ken Chong

