

EL RODEO



ROTARY YEAR 2019-2020 • ISSUE 50 • VOLUME CXI
SEE - DREAM - SOLVE
ROTARY CONNECTS THE WORLD

JUNE 9, 2020

2019 - 2020

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MILES BEFORE WE SLEEP

A message from the President

As he was returning to his home from the market on a winter solstice, Robert Frost, long before he was a celebrated poet, pulled to the side of a snowy road and wept. He had sold very little at the market that day and knew he could not provide for his family much longer. This, he knew, would be especially felt at Christmastime. He felt frustration and shame. The incident inspired him to write one of my favorite Frost poems.

Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening

*Whose woods these are I think I know
His house is in the village though;
He will not see me stopping here
To watch his woods fill up with snow.*

*My little horse must think it queer
To stop without a farmhouse near
Between the woods and frozen lake
The darkest evening of the year.*

*He gives his harness bells a shake
To ask if there is some mistake.
The only other sound's the sweep
Of easy wind and downy flake.*

*The woods are lovely, dark and deep,
But I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep,
And miles to go before I sleep.*

As our world grapples with a deadly global pandemic and social unrest following the senseless deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmad Aubrey (and others before them) we may find ourselves to be troubled, weary, and overwhelmed. In recent days, I have found comfort from this poem because it reminds me to pause, reflect, and even lament, and then find the internal resources to move forward.

I look forward to seeing you this Friday on our regular LA5 meeting Zoom call. Following that, a joint meeting of the current and incoming boards will be held to consider our way forward as a club in these challenging times.



Rick Gibson

President,
Rotary Club of Los Angeles
2019 - 2020



hope. FOR OUR City

A LISTENING & LEARNING CONVERSATION

The swirl of events unfolding over the past few weeks has placed our nation, our Rotary Club and us as individuals at a pivotal cross-roads.

We have a profound opportunity to listen, learn and grow from one another, and go forward on a more informed, rewarding and peaceful path.



To that end **President Rick** and longtime LA5 member **Osei Stewart**, General Secretary, LA Metro Commander at the Salvation Army are hosting a conversation, Hope for Our City.



Osei has seen and personally experienced a spectrum of racial attitudes and behaviors that many people not of color have not experienced or had directed at them. What does that feel like, how does one respond and how can people not of color be more aware of their own interactions and impacts?

We believe that listening to one another can provide perspective and understanding. Rick and Osei will focus on what we have in common underscored by the belief that people of goodwill must and will stand together to fight discrimination and marginalization of anyone in our society.

This talk is an excellent opportunity to be in the front row of a very necessary and engaging conversation, and to ask questions.

Zoom in to Hope for Our City **this Wednesday evening, June 10, 7-8 pm.**

Hope for Our City

A Conversation About Race and Relationship

Register in advance for this meeting: **[REGISTER HERE](#)**

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.



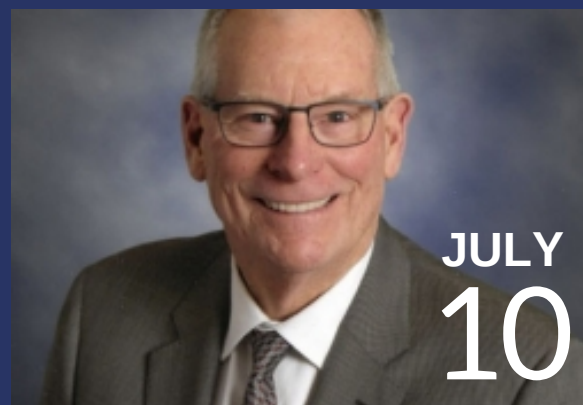
THIS WEEK

Wendy L. Patrick, JD, MDiv, PhD

The Bonding Power of Social Distancing

ZOOM Meeting
[Click here for details](#)

Mark the calendar



- June 12** Wendy L. Patrick, JD, MDiv, PhD - ZOOM
- June 16** LA5 Business Exchange - ZOOM
- June 19** SCHOLARSHIP DAY - ZOOM
- June 26** President Rick's Demotion - ZOOM
- July 12** Matt Ball's Inaugural Meeting with Craid Needham

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

BUSINESS EXCHANGE

**TUESDAY, JUNE 16
8:30 AM**

**ZOOM MEETING
REGISTRATION REQUIRED
[CLICK HERE](#)**

These events are currently open to LA5 Rotarians only, so please do not forward this information outside of LA5.

Sign up to make a professional announcement in one of the following three categories:

- (1) Highlighting and celebrating business you have done with other Rotarians
- (2) Exclusive offers and opportunities
- (3) Job needs or job opportunities

This meeting will be hosted by PP Charisse - which means there will be a prompt start!

ZOOMING INTO ROTARY SCHOLARSHIPS!

BY LAUREN SCHLAU

Another consequence of our lives at home has been the eagerly awaited **LA5 Scholarships**. No, we have not canceled them, just adapting to our new reality and carrying forward.



The effort is again ably co-chaired by **Josh Mandell** and **Gina Doyle** who put in untold hours to pivot to an entirely virtual process. It started with students' initial on-line applications, first round review by Gina and Josh, then further review and on-line student interviews by the committee, unlike last year when interviews were in-person, to the final selection of **25 award recipients** each receiving \$10,000 over four years.

This year the poignancy of the COVID-19 situation entered into the selections as well. By the time the committee was interviewing the applicants, they were no longer in school. While most were learning on-line, their end-of-school activities, events and achievements, no less the graduation ceremony itself, were cancelled. How well these outstanding scholars adapted to all of this speaks volumes about their resiliency and why they earned the honor of a Rotary LA5 scholarship.

As Committee Co-Chair Gina stated, "given the current state of affairs, I am especially grateful for the continued support and dedication of our LA5 Scholarship Committee for their commitment to this program and ensuring that this pandemic did not interfere with our legacy of awarding the most hardworking and most talented Los Angeles Unified high school graduates the financial support they need for higher education. While the process was different this year, the end result remains the same - 25 of the most deserving high school seniors will receive LA5 support that will impact their growth and opportunity."

ZOOMING INTO ROTARY SCHOLARSHIPS!

CONTINUED

As in prior years, these students are from very low income households with perhaps with one wage earner; most will be the first family member to attend college. Yet, year after year this program presents to us young scholars motivated to survive, thrive and succeed despite long odds. Many are accepted to schools including Harvard, Princeton, U C Berkeley, UCLA, Wellesley, as well as traditionally black colleges and other institutions.

As Josh points out, “The scholarship program is one of my favorite parts of LA5 each year. In a world filled with conflict and disheartening events, I am amazed by, find comfort in and hope through the stories of our scholars. They are role models for what it means to be hard-working, smart, and community-minded. It is an honor for me to be a part of the scholarship committee and I am always humbled by these scholars.”

In any other year this process culminates with the LA5 Annual Scholarship Program gala luncheon, but this year it will be on-line. Josh and Gina have something very special planned to celebrate, where members will hear directly from our scholars, and might even see them dance or sing! It will be fun and uplifting as anyone attending this meeting in the past knows how inspiring these young people are!



Make sure to mark Friday June 19, 11:30 on your calendar. Further details will follow through El Rodeo and e-mail.