

Alumni News

Alumni Reunion Dinner January 14, 2008

Class of 1994

Greg Diaz is now the City Attorney of the City of Merced. He has been in discussions with their City Manager to create a Neighborhood Leadership Program in their city.

Margaret Madden was the keynote speaker at Escondido Leadership Program graduation. The City of Escondido sent staff and residents to attend the Long Beach Neighborhood Leadership Conference and are now planning a conference in their city based on our model.

Linda Palacios is a member of the Redevelopment Agency Central Project Area Committee.

Class of 1996

Carol McCafferty won the Mayor Beverly O'Neill Lifetime of Leadership award at the Neighborhood Leadership Conference on November 17, 2007.

Autrilla Scott won a \$2,250 grant from Kiwanis Club of Long Beach for her East Hill/Salt Lake St. Neighborhood Watch Club to help develop a park for children in her Central Area neighborhood. Her group also gave away 100 pumpkins to neighborhood families donated by Forest Lawn for the second year. In addition, her neighborhood watch received an anonymous donation that enabled them to give away \$1,000 in \$25 gift cards to 40 families on Salt Lake and East Hill Street.

Class of 1996 (continued)

Autrilla was also featured in a story in the Orange County Register because she was the featured speaker to share her life's experiences with members of the National Council of Negro Women's Orange County chapter at the group's National Women's History Month program. An excerpt from the newspaper article:

"The first known event in Long Beach when black and white children played together was at [Autrilla Scott's] backyard party for her son, Olen Jr.'s fifth birthday. A mural of the children playing still decks a block wall off a freeway off-ramp in Long Beach."

Read the article here:

http://www.ocregister.com/ocregister/homepage/abox/article_1623177.php

She also continues to serve on the Redevelopment Agency North Project Area Committee (North PAC.)

Nick Sramek was appointed to the Harbor Commission. He worked on a special project for Mayor Foster to research and make recommendations to the City's Boards and Commissions structure and outreach.

Class of 1997

Jerry Caliguiri is a field representative for **Councilmember Val Lerch, Class of 1998.**

Class of 1998

Councilmember Val Lerch won the Mayor Beverly O'Neill Lifetime of Leadership award at the Neighborhood Leadership Conference on November 17, 2007.

Class of 2000

Stella Davis has been her block's Neighborhood Watch Block Captain since the 1970's. She hosted her 22nd Annual National Night Out Dinner in her front yard. She continues with her Central Area neighbors to host monthly home cooked "feed the hungry" lunches at King Park.

Class of 2001

Sunshine Daye was bestowed a Reverend of Religious Science and is part of Namasté, a spiritual community. She was also promoted to Senior Program Specialist of Youth & Community Programs for California Conference for Equality and Justice (CCEJ,) formerly NCCJ.

She was the featured speaker in Bakersfield, California at the spiritual community of **Christina Aronhalt, Class of 1997**.

George DeWitt Miller has been elected Secretary of the Anaheim Street Community Police Center Advisory Board. .

Mary Islas serves on the City of Long Beach's Civil Service Commission.

Class of 2002

Rosa Cortez is the leader of the Madres Unidas group in her Westside neighborhood. She organized nearly a dozen monthly neighborhood clean-ups during 2007. She is an amazing neighborhood organizer. Together with **Maria Palacios, Class of 2007** and **Martina Cerda, Class of 2007**, they have brought an average of 30 neighbors per month together to the clean ups and over 400 participants to each of their major events including a Health & Safety Fair, a Spring Egg Hunt, a Halloween Carnival and a Posadas event.

Hadassa Jackson has been elected as the Vice President of the Anaheim Street Community Police Center Advisory Board. She was also serves as a field representative for Councilmember Dee Andrews' Office.

Ren Payne serves as the President of Roosevelt Neighborhood Association.

Class of 2003

Ines Echegaray is the founder and president of the Ridgewood Heights Neighborhood Association. She also is an organizer of a home schooling cooperative group called the Caminos Cooperative. She and 5-10 other parents share home schooling resources and sponsor non-violent parenting classes to facilitate respectful education and parenting techniques.

Check out their bilingual (English/Spanish) website at:
www.CaminosCooperative.org

Ines has also been busy hosting La Leche League of Long Beach meetings in her home.

Annie Greenfeld-Wisner serves as Vice-Chair of the Redevelopment Agency Central Project Area Committee and is a Community Development Advisory Commissioner.

Class of 2004

Henry Salzer serves on the City's Board of Examiners, Appeals, and Condemnation (BEAC) and was appointed to the 7th Street Community Police Center Advisory Board.

Ricardo Linares serves on the City of Long Beach's Citizen Police Complaint Commission.

Gavin McKiernan was elected Chairman of Neighborhood Advisory Group and is a Board member of the Wrigley Association

Francisco Rodriguez had a new addition to his family. Daniel Francisco Rodriguez, was born on February 9, 2007.

Class of 2005

Ann Chau is a student at UCLA and completed a research project about families having multiple dwelling units without necessary having the permits to do so. Last May, she presented her research at a UCLA Conference along with other students. During the fall semester, she studied abroad in Hanoi, Vietnam for the fall semester under the UC Educational Abroad Program.

Colleen McDonald helped fight crime in Yucca Valley by using internet resources. She was elected Secretary of the Wrigley Association.

Vincent Puth was awarded the 2007 Anthony B. Rogers Volunteer of the Year Award from CCEJ (formerly NCCJ). He is also a member of their 2007-2008 Board of Directors.

Ama Tupu has accepted a position as the Site Coordinator for an after school program at Leuzinger High School in the Los Angeles Unified School District.

Class of 2006

Matt Brown has been promoted to Assistant Principal at Cabrillo High School in West Long Beach.

Rina Castaneda and **Thelma Turner** were both quoted in the The District weekly news magazine's front page feature on Andy Street improvements. They have both been active with the Andy Street Tenants Association to improve the lives of the residents on their street. Rina and Thelma also helped organize the first annual Andy Street Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony.

Will Cullen wrote a neighborhoods column for a local weekly newspaper. His stories included a feature on the Community Code Enforcement program.

P.G. Herman was elected the Wrigley Association's Sergeant of Arms and is a member of the Redevelopment Agency Central Project Area Committee. She helped organize the City of Long Beach first annual Peace March on January 12, 2008.

Class of 2006 (continued)

Scottie Hinkey joined the staff of the Neighborhood Resource Center. She continues as the Co-Chair of the Rose Park Neighborhood Association and helped launch Rose Park Neighborhood Association's new website at <http://www.csulb.edu/~dcox/rpna>

Allen Hose is the President of the Windward Village Mobile Home Park Association and helped their group host a community fair on January 12, 2008. The event included information from several lenders, loan specialists and an attorney to help residents learn more about their groups' efforts to purchase their mobile home park.

Reyna Ochoa working as a translator for the Neighborhood Leadership Program's Class of 2008.

Jack Smith was recently appointed to the board of the Long Beach Housing Development Company.

Jack Smith, Annie Greenfeld-Wisner, Class of 2003, P.G Herman, and Colleen McDonald, Class of 2005 continued their work with Better Balance for Long Beach to raise money and provide 2,200 gifts for neighborhood children at a holiday event at 14th Street Park.

Class of 2007

Nina Allison met President George W. Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney in Washington D.C. in 2007. She is a board member of Central Neighborhood Advisory Committee (CNAC) and serves as the Chairperson of CNAC's King Parade Committee to organize their float design, permit and participation of their group in the parade.

Bob Cannon, Carol Craver, Michael Dixon, and Katrinka Foster are staying involved after graduating from NLP 2007. All four completed twenty-two (22) hours of training in October 2007 to join our Human Dignity Program Community Assistance Team.

Class of 2007 (continued)

David Clement has served on the Hellman Neighborhood Improvement Strategy Community Code Enforcement Program was appointed to the 7th Street Community Police Center's Community Improvement and Safety Advisory Board. He helped found a new neighborhood organization — North Alamitos Beach Association — and they have already hosted two neighborhood clean-ups and hosted a Halloween Carnival at Miracle on 4th Street Park. They will host a kickoff outreach reception on February 27, 2008 at the Long Beach Senior Center.

Jean Curley and **Flora Easter** have been elected to the Anaheim Street Community Police Center's Advisory Board of Directors.

Ana Del Valle, Esther Del Valle, Andres Garcia, and **Sara Onofre** helped their parents group at Stephenson Elementary School (Community Leadership Institute Alumni) to win a Neighborhoods, USA 2007 Neighborhood of the Year Award in May of 2007. The four were the largest group of family members to graduate from the program in the same year.

Flora Easter and **Autrilla Scott, Class of 1996** are organizing Long Beach's 1st Arkansas picnic. **Flora Easter** also serves on the Citizens' Advisory Commission on Disabilities

Katrinka Foster is in Texas training for her new job with Southwest Airlines.

Cynthia Gonzalez-Soriano is a board member of Central Neighborhood Advisory Committee (CNAC).

Joe Kuban has been re-elected as the Treasurer of the Anaheim Street Community Police Center Advisory Board. This is second time he has been elected to their Board for a one year term.

Sylvia Williamson was appointed to the Redevelopment Agency North Project Area Committee.