

Yes, We Can!



The
**Neighborhood
Leadership
Program**

Alumni News

**Alumni Reunion Dinner
January 14, 2009**



UNITE FOR A BETTER LONG BEACH!



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Class of 1994

Greg Diaz continues to serve as the City Attorney for the city of Merced. He and his long time girlfriend, Angela, recently got married. Greg attended the California League of Cities conference in Long Beach and brought several elected officials to the City of Long Beach's Neighborhood Leadership Program booth to encourage them to consider creating a similar program in their City.

Margaret Madden continues to serve as the Membership Committee Chair for Neighborhoods, USA.

Linda Palacios is serving on the Redevelopment Agency's Central Project Area Committee.

Class of 1996

Autrilla Scott helped to organize the annual Halloween event for the East Hill Street/Salt Lake Street Neighborhood Watch Club. The club gave out 100 pumpkins and gifts for best costume. The club also gave out forty (40) \$25.00 gift cards to residents for being good neighbors and working together regardless of race. She also won one of the first Peacemaker Awards from the City of Long Beach. Autrilla also continues to serve on the Redevelopment Agency's North Project Area Committee.

Nick Sramek is serving as a commissioner on the City of Long Beach's Harbor Commission. He was awarded the Mayor Beverly O'Neill's Lifetime of Leadership Award at the 2008 Neighborhood Leadership Conference.

Class of 1997

Christina Aronhalt moved to San Antonio Texas and is working for their local Chapter of Habitat for Humanity.


Class of 1997, (continued)

Sharon McLucas is serving as the Historian of the National Council of Negro Women, Inc. Long Beach Section.

Class of 1998

Blanca Galvez is serving on the City of Long Beach's Human Relations Commission.

Vice Mayor **Val Lerch** was selected by his fellow Councilmembers to serve as Long Beach's Vice Mayor.

Class of 2000

Lydia Calvillo has been a long time classic car collector. She is the Founding President of Pride in My Ride, which has been in existence since January 13, 2008.

Stella Davis made front-page news on the Press Telegram for the five-year anniversary of her Feed the Hungry program to serve hot meals once per month at King Park.

Class of 2001

Martha Cota continues to be an advocate for clean air and fair housing in Long Beach. She has testified before a number of elected officials and is very active in the fight for clean air and tenants rights.

Sunshine Daye was featured on the front page of the Press Telegram for performing multiple weddings of several same sex couples at the Gay & Lesbian Center of Long Beach on the first day these marriages were legally recognized by the State of California.

Mary Islas is serving as a commissioner on the City of Long Beach Civil Service Commission.





Class of 2001, (continued)

Cynde Soto was reappointed to the Metro (MTA) Gateway Cities Sector Governance Council. She is the first and only quadraplegic woman to serve on a Sector Council. The sector serves the 26 cities and unincorporated areas of South East Los Angeles County (which includes Long Beach). The Gateway Cities Sector Governance Council oversees the planning and implementation of service within its area.

Class of 2002

Raymond Chavarria was hired as the Associate/Project Director for the United Cambodian Community (UCC) in February 2008. He is also a Board Member of New Generation auspice of Long Beach Seed and Weed as well as the Founder of Latin American Community Center (LACC) "Building Strong Latino Children and Families."

George DeWitt Miller is working as an Intern at the Neighborhood Resource Center. Working as the latest addition to the Neighborhood Resource Center staff, he has been in charge of coordinating presentations to Home Energy Assistance Program clients regarding various services that may be beneficial to the residents that use the program. He also served as a judge in the Miss Lakewood competition.

Class of 2003

Ines Echegaray won the 2008 Gene Lentzner Award from the California Conference from Equality and Justice.

Annie Greenfeld-Wisner is serving as the Chair for the Redevelopment Agency Central Project Area Committee and on the Community Development Advisory Commission.

Deborah Joseph moved to College Park, Georgia.



Class of 2004, (continued)

Griselda Perez is now working for the Neighborhood Services Bureau. She was hired to serve as the secretary for the Housing Rehabilitation Division.

Gavin McKiernan is a board member for the Wrigley Association as well as their newsletter editor. He was also the 2008 Chairman of the Neighborhood Advisory Group (NAG).

Henry Salzer is serving on the City of Long Beach's Board of Examiners, Appeals, and Condemnation (BEAC).

Class of 2005

Ann Chau is continuing her education at UCLA. Last summer, she worked as an Intern in Councilmember Suja Lowenthal's Office.

Class of 2006

Will Cullen served as the Official Photographer for the Class of 2008 and has volunteered again to serve for the Class of 2009. His photographs are included on the Neighborhood Leadership Program webpages.

Alena Eshom is continuing her education at CSU Bakersfield. She is pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work.

P.G. Herman has led several neighborhood clean up and neighborhood outreach celebrations. The events were held in the Wrigley Neighborhood's most troubled blocks and included "Take Back Pine Avenue" and "Take Back Earl Avenue." The events each brought dozens of volunteers and support from many local businesses and City departments. PG is also serving on the Redevelopment Agency's Central Project Area Committee.

Class of 2006 (continued)

Scottie Hinkey helped the Rose Park Neighborhood Association organize their first home restoration trade fair at Burbank Elementary School. Over 500 people attended and many local small businesses and crafts experts provided information booths at the event and have shared that the event generated a number of new clients. Scottie continues to work as the workshop coordinator and NeighborNews newsletter editor for the NRC and helped organize a holiday school supply drive for School on Wheels, a nonprofit organization that provides tutoring and educational assistance for homeless children.

MsT. Musze created Long Beach Wide Open, a free guide for residents and visitors looking for open mics and local venues offering live (Acoustic, Latin, Jazz, Hip Hop, Soul, etc.) music and spoken word performances in Long Beach.

Angel Perea is serving on the City of Long Beach's Human Relations Commission.

Jack Smith is serving on the City of Long Beach's Housing Development Company.

Patrick Thompson is serving on the City of Long Beach's Citizen's Police Complaint Commission (CPCC).

Class of 2007

Esther Del Valle and **Ana Del Valle** were featured on the front page of the Press Telegram for their work to help save the Long Beach Main Library. They and other parents from Stephenson Elementary School led a petition drive to collect signatures from residents in support of keeping their downtown library open.

Michael Dixon won the 2008 Volunteer of the Year Award from the California Conference for Equality and Justice.

Class of 2007 (continued)

Flora Easter is serving on the City of Long Beach's Citizens' Advisory Commission on Disabilities. She is also a member of the Redevelopment Agency's Central Project Area Committee.

Ken Williamson is serving as President of Board of Directors of the Friendly Village Mobile Homeowners League and the Golden State Mobilehome Owners League. Ken is also serving as the Chair of their newsletter Distribution Committee.

Sylvia Williamson is serving as Treasurer of the Board of Directors of the Friendly Village Mobile Homeowners League and the and the Golden State Mobilehome Owners League Editor of their newsletter. She is also serving on the Redevelopment Agency's North Project Area Committee (NPAC).

Class of 2008

While a participant of the Neighborhood Leadership Program's Class of 2008, **Michael Bush** saw a need for keeping current participants connected. He created the Neighborhood Leadership Program Yahoo Group called *Long Beach NLP*. The internet discussion group now works to keep all alumni from every NLP class in touch through postings and group discussions. **If you would like to join the group and be connected to NLP Alumni that have already joined the group, please visit http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Long_Beach_NLP and click "Join This Group!"**

Louise Kripal Since graduation Louise has remained involved in a variety of neighborhood groups. She continues to fulfill her desire for community involvement by writing newsletter articles for the East Village Association and the Royal Palms Newsletter, a publication of the Home Owners Association in which she lives. Louise also co-chairs the Communication Committee at Royal Palms and occasionally writes articles about the East Village for the Random Lengths Newspaper.

Class of 2008 (continued)

Silvano Ponce is currently involved in the creation of an independent motion picture intended to raise awareness of domestic violence. Once the movie is complete, Silvano hopes to have a fundraiser debut to benefit families affected by domestic violence. He has also established a service center to help families with filling out legal documents or forms that are not available in Spanish.

Dan Pressburg was part of the team behind the **Back to the Future North Long Beach History Project** that won Grand Prize for best neighborhood project in the country from Neighborhoods, USA in April. Dan and his wife Holly also celebrated a 30-year Wedding Anniversary. Dan also continues to serve on the Redevelopment Agency's North Project Area Committee.

Joey Summers continued the "NLP Experience" and received training to become part of the Community Action Team for the City's Human Dignity Program. The training was five weeks long with a graduation date of October 1, 2008. Joey also continues to monitor the hate crimes hotline for the city of Long Beach. Joey was named as Volunteer of the Year by the The Gay and Lesbian Center of Greater Long Beach.

Deloris (Dee) Williams is serving as the Corresponding Secretary of the National Council of Negro Women, Inc. Long Beach Section.

Diane West and **Mary Haynes** submitted a Neighborhood Partners Program proposal to complete a fountain at the Villages at Cabrillo U.S. Veteran's facility. They used the skills they learned in NLP to assist them to apply for this grant.

Our thanks for the great cover design go to Kristine Huliganga, CSULB.