

**Alumni Reunion Dinner  
January 10, 2011**

**The  
Neighborhood  
Leadership  
Program**

## ALUMNI NEWS

# LONG BEACH STARS

### 2010 Year in Review

**Neighborhood Leadership Program** graduates play important roles in our community and work tirelessly to improve our neighborhoods. They are shining beacons and great examples of what is needed to make a great community even better. This year, we celebrate our Long Beach Neighborhood Leadership Program Graduates -- our Neighborhood Stars!

We are proud to share just a few of the accomplishments of our 477 graduates since 1992!

### Class of 1992

**Teresa Gonzalez** was honored as the sixth recipient of the Beverly O'Neill Lifetime of Leadership Award. The award is named after the former Mayor of Long Beach. Teresa is a longtime volunteer, community leader and city employee. She works at the Willmore Community Police Center

helping residents with neighborhood problems, referring them to city resources and organizing neighborhood cleanups and other activities. Although Teresa works for the city, her efforts go far beyond the scope of her job and her volunteerism predates her employment.

### Class of 1994

**Margaret Madden** continues to serve on the Neighborhoods USA Board of Directors as the Membership Services Chair.

### Class of 1996

**Autrilla Scott** was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation from Deputy Chief Robert Luna and West Division Commander Joe Levy thanking her for her many years of service as a Neighborhood Watch Captain.



**Teresa Gonzalez**

"A life lived with integrity—even if it lacks the trappings of fame and fortune is a shining star in whose light others may follow in the years to come."

-- Denis Waitley

For more information, please call (562) 570-1010



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**Nick Sramek** continues to serve on the Harbor Commission as President.

### Class of 1997

**Jerry Caligiuri** is currently Senior Field Deputy for the 7th District Council Office. He is also a graduate of Leadership Long Beach, the Southern California Leadership Network Class of 2009 and recently graduated from Leadership Los Angeles.

### Class of 1998

Former 9th District Councilman **Val Lerch** has been named to the Los Angeles County Housing Commission.

### Class of 1999

**Marcos Lopez** graduated from California State University, Long Beach majoring in Latino Studies.

### Class of 2000

**Lydia Calvillo** coordinated "Let's have lunch!" The event was held to support George's 50's Diner, which was burglarized. The restaurant had all its meat stolen along with a collection of classic model cars.

### Class of 2001

**Martha Cota** received the Gene Lentzner Human Relations Award at the 47th Annual Dinner of The California Conference for Equality and Justice (CCEJ). She also organized a Health & Air Quality Forum as well as a Health and Resource Fair for the community. Martha also volunteers at the American Heart Association. She is a teacher / trainer and presents at various schools and churches to inform the community how to eat healthy.

**Sunny Daye** hosted the 2nd

Annual "Walk of Love" event a Celebration of Health, Love of Self, Love of Community and Love of Life. This event benefited CCEJ's Building Bridges Youth Human Relations Camp.

**Sunshine Daye** worked for the U.S. Census as Crew Leader. She also put together a *Sisters at Sea* cruise. The cruise is a 7 day of fun in the sun to Cabo San Lucas, Puerto Vallarta and Mazatlan, Mexico.

### Class of 2002

**Raymond Chavarria** helped to organize the 3rd Annual Summer Street Health Fair event. Over 35 health agencies and City agencies participated in providing information and resources to the community. A total of 975 people attended the event.

### Class of 2003

**Annie Greenfeld-Wisner** is serving on the City of Long Beach Community Development Advisory Commission and is the Chair of the Redevelopment Agency's Central Project Area Committee.

**Griselda Perez** is the Coordinator for the Central Neighborhood Improvement Strategy Area.

### Class of 2004

**Maria DiGirolamo** is in the clothing manufacturing business. Maria manufactures Scottish kilts for Sport Kilt®. She originally intended to start



**Martha Cota**



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a sewing school but instead started a business where she helps people learn a trade while having a job that opens up prospects for their future.

**Ricardo Linarez** is currently working as an Administrative Aide for the 9th District Council Office. Ricardo also graduated from California State University, Long Beach and majored in Communication Studies.

**Gavin McKiernan** serves as the President of the Long Beach Neighborhood Foundation's Board of Directors. He presented a \$650 check to Jackie Robinson Academy to support the school's AVID Program (the acronym stands for Advancement Via Individual Determination). Additional money from the event is going to support AVID scholars at Cabrillo High

School. The money comes from the great support they received from the 2nd annual Wrigley River Run in 2009. Also on Super Bowl Sunday he ran the Surf City Marathon in Huntington Beach. The Surf City Marathon was to raise money for the Parents Television Council (PTC).

**Ida Rossi** takes a bus trip every year courtesy of the Grand Prix Association of Long Beach which offers this to the residents that live along the route of the Grand Prix.

**Henry Salzer** is serving on the City of Long Beach Board of Examiners, Appeals, and Condemnations. He also continues to serve as Vice President of the North Alamitos Beach Association (NABA).



## Class of 2005

**Colleen McDonald** serves as the President of the Wrigley Association.

**Lillian Villa-Quintero** and her husband Jorge were quoted in the Press-Telegram as parents who support a California law that seeks to ban the sale and rental of violent games to children.

## Class of 2006

**Will Cullen** continues to serve as the official photographer for the Neighborhood Leadership Program. His photographs are included on the Neighborhood Leadership Program web pages.

**P.G. Herman** was officially given the title by a vote of the Board of Directors of Long Beach Organic, Inc. as "Community Liaison". She also helped to organize and host the WE LOVE LONG BEACH Breakfast in Wrigley. She was also the event coordinator of the Garden Party at the Wrigley Village Community



**Maria DiGirolamo**





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Garden and the South 40 Community Garden in North Long Beach.

**Allen Hose** graduated from Long Beach City College with an Associate of Arts in Accounting.

**Patrick Thompson** is serving as Vice Chair on the Citizen Police Complaint Commission.

**Angel Perea** is a Commissioner on the City of Long Beach Human Relations Commission.

### Class of 2007

**David Clement** helped with the beautification of the parking lot located on 4th Street and Cherry Avenue. He also continues to serve as President of the North Alamitos Beach As-

sociation (NABA).

**Michael L. Dixon** continues to serve on the Board of Long Beach Lesbian and Gay Pride, Inc. and is the parade co-chair for the Long Beach LGBT Parade.

**Robin King** organized the 5th Annual Prayer & Prophetic Summit which was held on October 7-9, 2010 at the Golden Sails Hotel. The event's goal was to empower women.

**Joe Kuban** continues to volunteer with the Anaheim Community Police Center.

**Ana Del Valle** and **Esther Del Valle** continued their work with the Stevenson/YMCA Commu-

nity Leadership Institute Alumni Group. Ana serves as the group's Treasurer and Esther serves as Group and Meeting Facilitator.

### Class of 2008

**Veronica L. Ah-Mann** is the Producer for Long Beach City College Radio/Television Association (RTVA). The RTVA held a scholarship fundraising event for Long Beach City College students completing Certificate and Associate Degrees in Radio/Television.

**Nathaniel Lewis** continues to lead City Sound Drum & Bugle Corps. The Corps makes performing arts opportunities available to young adults, steering them away from street violence, and providing them with an excellent performing arts education. The Corps also provides a place of refuge from the everyday problems that young adults face.

**Caprice Rothe** continues to direct the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Project at The Long Beach Playhouse. She was also honored at the Women In Theatre (WIT) event. Los Angeles Women In Theatre produces the Red Carpet Awards in October to honor National Arts and Humanities Month.

**Joey Summers** continues to be part of organizing the annual State of the Center Breakfast put on by the Gay and Lesbian



**Caprice Rothe**



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Center of Greater Long Beach and was also honored for five years of service. Joey was diagnosed with cancer in January 2010 but went through treatment and is cancer free as of September.

**Diane West** runs one of the few programs in the country specifically designed for homeless women veterans at U.S. Vets in Long Beach.

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

**Louise Kripal** and **Steven Stein** were among the 25 Long Beach artists that collaborated in a three-month project to capture an amazing moment in the arts in Long Beach. The event was called "Local Celebrities Model for ArtistsAsArt."

**Roland Reed** and **Marlene Garcia** joined in matrimony in 2010. Roland and Marlene met while they participated in the Neighborhood Leadership Program as members of the Class of 2008.

## **Class of 2009**

**Alma Campos** continues her work with New Generations (NG). She is currently planning the third annual The Gift event.

**Jim Danno** is a member of the Willmore City Heritage Association



Board. The Association and Jim made a difference through the 7th Street and Maine Avenue Beautification Project. The project consisted of the removal of barricades that attracted blight and replacing them with concrete planters containing drought tolerant succulents, protective bollards, a drip irrigation system and an educational California native garden that will attract butterflies and birds. In the future, there will be a painted mural, as well as a tiled exit sign over the pedestrian crossing bridge. Willmore City Heritage Association also won the Neighborhood of the Year Award from Neighborhoods, USA.

**Jesus Esparza** continues his work in computer repairs and programming. He also ac-

quired an amplified sound system that he can make available to be used in community events. For more information please go to : [www.geniusesofthepc.com](http://www.geniusesofthepc.com).

**Debbie Flynn** was featured in the Grunion Gazette for helping to organize the seventh Long Beach Organic Community garden. The garden is called South 40 Community Garden.

**Erica Guzman** is a recent graduate of California State University, Long Beach. She graduated from the Class of 2010 with a B.S. degree in Accounting and a B.A. in Economics. She was also recently employed by the California Science Center as an Accounting Clerk.





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**Olenka Krupa** was a 2010 Book Week Committee member and helped to organize the Long Beach Reads One Book campaign, "Have YOU Read the Book Yet?" Long Beach Reads One Book engages the city by encouraging everyone in the community to read the same book and discuss it in a variety of venues.

**Robert Navarro** was one of the chefs at the "Breakfast in Downtown" event put on by We Love Long Beach. The event was a free breakfast designed for people to get to know their neighbors.

**Damon Johnson** and **Lacey C. Clark** continue to serve as administrators for the Neighborhood Leadership Program Alumni Facebook page. The Facebook page is designed for graduates of the Neighborhood Leadership Program to connect. If you have a Facebook account, you can find it by doing a search in Facebook under 'Neighborhood Leadership Program Long Beach.' The page was created by NLP Alumni for Alumni.

### Class of 2010

**Cindy Goss** joined the team of coordinators advancing the goals of the Long Beach Time Exchange. The Time Exchange offers a variety of services to participants. Every hour worked for someone gains an hour of credit which can be

used for services from other Time Exchange participants. **Cindy** volunteered gardening services and received services from a Time Exchange volunteer illustrator. She also is the Director of SoCal Harvest.

**Tom Flores** received the "BENEMERENTI" Medal for serving the church, family, and community with distinction. The papal award was presented at a ceremony on Sunday, November 7, 2010 by Cardinal Roger Mahony. Tom was the only Long Beach resident to receive the honor in 2010. Tom's family submitted historic photos of family members to be displayed at the Downtown Anaheim Community Center for the celebration of Dia De Los Muertos (Day of the Dead).

**Alice Robinson**, co-creator of the monthly *Feed the Hungry* Program at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Park held a feeding on September 15, 2010. The *Feed the Hungry* program celebrated its 7th Anniversary this past year. **Stella Davis** (Class of 2000) was unable to participate in the August feeding due to health compli-

cations, and rejoined Alice for the December feeding. Alice was also featured in February in the now defunct *The District Weekly* newspaper.

**Samuel Vela** is now working as a Community Worker at the Neighborhood Resource Center. He is the latest addition to the Neighborhood Resource Center staff. Samuel works with the Home Improvement and the Commercial Improvement Rebate Programs.

**Ernie Villa** held a holiday gathering for his neighbors in his Willmore Historic District home. The gathering included pasteles (Latin pastries) and Champurrado (Latin Hot Chocolate drink) as well as wrapped toys for children in the neighborhood.

**Juanita Wilson** joined the Central Project Area Committee.



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## ALUMNI IN ACTION!

The third annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Peace March and Candlelight Vigil took place in January. **Annie Greenfeld-Wisner** (Class of 2003), **P.G. Herman** (Class of 2006), and **Dan Pressburg** (Class of 2008) were among the Long Beach residents planning and supporting Peace Week activities in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

**Maria Alvarado** (Class of 2004), **Esther Del Valle**, **Andres Garcia**, **Sara Onofre** (all Class of 2007), and **Sergio Parada** (Class of 2009) organized a Dia de Los Muertos event (Day of the Dead) at Stevenson Elementary School. The event was organized by Community Leadership Institute Alumni and Stevenson Elementary's Parent Group.

continues to work as the Program Director for The California Conference for Equality and Justice. He is in charge of the Building Bridges Youth Human Relations Camps. The Camps give high school students an opportunity to address human relations issues around race and culture and how they impact their school communities. Some of the NLP Alumni involved are **Lydia Calvillo** (Class of 2000), **Sunshine Daye** (Class of 2001), **Francisco Rodriguez** (Class of 2004), **Vicent Puth** (Class of 2005), **Desarie A. Gonzales** (Class of 2006), and **Katherine Gonzalez** (Class of 2007).

**Lydia Calvillo** (Class of 2000) and **Reyna Ochoa** (Class of 2006) are soccer coaches on Sundays for the Cesar Chavez Community League. Lydia's team is called San Jose and Reyna's team is called Long Beach. There has been occasions where both teams will meet in the same field to play against each other.

**Tracy Weaver** and **Mary Zendejas** (both Class of 2002), **Henry Salzer** (Class of 2004), **Travis Miller** (Class of 2008), and **Paula Trzicky** (Class of 2010) have joined the planning committee for The California Conference for Equality and Justice Interfaith/Intercultural Breakfast. The event is a celebration of the diversity of Southern California and it highlights the various cultures and religions in our community.

(Class of 2010) completed 17 hours of training by The California Conference for Equality and Justice to assist victims of hate crime and bias. Our alumni participated in this training in order to become members of the City's Human Dignity Program's Hate Crime Response Team.

**Henry Salzer** (Class of 2004), and **David Clement** (Class of 2007) continued their work with the North Alamitos Beach Association. The association won a Neighborhood Partners Program grant offered by the City of Long Beach Neighborhood Services Bureau to plant 36 trees.

**Autrilla Scott** (Class of 1996), **Debra Gilder** (Class of 1999), **Lydia Calvillo** (Class of 2000), **Sunshine Daye** (Class of 2004), **Michael Dixon** (Class of 2007), **Michael Bush** (Class of 2008), **Maria Vargas** (Class of 2009), and **Paula Trzicky** (Class of 2010) have joined the planning committee for The California Conference for Equality and Justice Interfaith/Intercultural Breakfast. The event is a celebration of the diversity of Southern California and it highlights the various cultures and religions in our community.

**Laura Rutherford-Storke** (Class of 2007) and **Anna C. Ulaszewski** (Class of 2009) serve on the City of Long Beach Housing Development



**Henry Salzer**

**Marcos Lopez** (Class of 1999) 2008), and **Paula Trzicky**



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Company Board.

**George Miller** and **Mary Zendejas** (both Class of 2002), and **Flora Easter** (Class of 2007) are serving on the Citizens' Advisory Commission on Disabilities. Flora is currently serving as the Commission's Chair.

**Linda Palacios** (Class of 1994), **Ben Rockwell** and **Jana Shields** (both Class of 1997), **Annie Greenfeld-Wisner** (Class of 2003), **Colleen McDonald** (Class of 2005), **P.G. Herman** and **Jack Smith** (both Class of 2006), and **Deborah Kearn** (Class of 2009) all participated in the Central Project Area Committee. Annie serves as the Committee's Chair.

**Jean Curley**, **Michael L. Dixon**, **Flora Easter** (all Class of 2007) are serving on the Anaheim Street Community Police Center Advisory Board.

The Press Telegram featured an article about the Andy Street Community Association's "Miracle of Success" event. The article discussed the Association's inaugural fundraiser to benefit youth programs on Andy Street. **Val Lerch** (Class of 1998) and **Rina Castaneda** (Class of 2006) appeared in the article.

**Juanita Wilson** and **Alice Robinson** (Class of 2010) were honored at the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church in recognition of their 15 years of service to the community.

On Saturday, August 21, 2010, approximately fifty volunteers attended a volunteer workday at the new Peace Garden at Martin Luther King, Jr. Park. The volunteer day event was a success, with the help of Community Development Advisory Commissioner **Annie Greenfeld-Wisner** (Class of 2003), **Silvano Ponce** (Class of 2008), and **Deborah Kearn** (Class of 2009). The Neighborhood Services Bureau's Neighborhood Partners Program provided a matching grant of \$5,000 in goods and services to Central Neighborhood Advisory Committee (CNAC) and South Wrigley Neighborhood Advisory Group

(NAG) to purchase the tool shed, hoses and tools to maintain the garden, and also for lumber and garden design services.

**Linda Palacios** (Class of 1994), **Val Lerch** (Class of 1998), **Annie Greenfeld-Wisner** (Class of 2003), **Colleen McDonald** (Class of 2005), **Jack Smith** and **Rina Castaneda** (both Class of 2006), and **Dan Pressburg** (Class of 2008) were involved in the Better Balance for Long Beach 4th Annual (2010) "Christmas Store." The store was filled with gifts purchased with donations, and Better Balance invited needy families to "Shop" with dignity, selecting items of their choice. This year, Better Balance for Long Beach obtained over 5,000 toys and gift.

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The Neighborhood Leadership Program is offered by the City of Long Beach Neighborhood Services Bureau. This five (5) month multilingual program assists grassroots residents and provides them with the skills, knowledge and resources they need to make a difference in the quality of life of our community.

This program is **free** to participants and is partially funded through the Federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program.

Funding support also received from:

