



Neighborhood Resource Center

Training, Technology and Resources for Neighborhood Organizations, Neighborhood Leadership Program, Neighborhood Enhancement Area (NEA) Program, Neighborhood Problem Solving



**The
Neighborhood
Leadership
Program**

**Alumni Reunion Dinner
January 11, 2010**

ALUMNI NEWS

WE ARE



2009 Year in Review

Residents, volunteers, parents, activists, City commissioners, elected officials, teachers, students -- they are all graduates of the **Neighborhood Leadership Program**. It takes all kinds of people to make up a city. Our Neighborhood Leadership Program graduates play important roles in our community, not only because of their contributions, but because they are part of the fiber of our city.

**WE ARE
LONG BEACH!**

We are proud to share just a few of the accomplishments of our 450 graduates since 1992!

Class of 1992

Bryant Ben and **Chantara Nop** from the Class of 1992 started a free Cambodian literacy program entitled Khmer 101. The

16-week class teaches basic pronunciation skills and how to read and write in Khmer. The course is sponsored by the City of Long Beach Neighborhood Services Bureau's Anaheim Street Community Police Center in partnership with the Mark Twain Neighborhood Library.

Nick Sramek is President of the Long Beach Board of Harbor Commissioners, the five-member governing board for the Port of Long Beach, California. He was appointed in July 2007 to a six-year term by Mayor Bob Foster and confirmed by the Long Beach City Council. He was elected to the one-year term as President by his colleagues on the Board in June 2009.

Class of 1994

Margaret Madden continues to serve on the Neighborhoods



"A community needs a soul if it is to become a true home for human beings.

You, the people must give it this soul."

Pope John Paul II



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

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USA Board of Directors as the Membership Services Chair and was promoted as the City of Long Beach's Neighborhood Improvement Officer.

Class of 1996

Autrilla Scott was featured in the Wednesday, September 9, 2009 issue of *The District Weekly's* I Love Long Beach Column. The article includes a short biography and discusses her work as President Bill Clinton's babysitter. It also recognizes her as a longtime activist in Long Beach.

Class of 1997

Sharon McLucas continues to serve as the Historian of the National Council of Negro Women, Inc. Long Beach Section.

Jerry Caligiuri continues to work as a Field Representative in the Ninth Council District Office. He is also a graduate of Leadership Long Beach and recently graduated from the

Southern California Leadership Network Class of 2009.

Class of 1998

Gonzalo Sanchez and his family are featured on the cover of the report by the Long Beach Housing Development Company (LBHDC) titled "Who Needs Affordable Housing? Everyone" the report can also be seen on the LBHDC website.

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

Class of 2000

Stella Davis was the recipient of the 2009 Beverly O'Neill Lifetime of Leadership Award at the Neighborhood Leadership Conference. Stela and her friend Alice Robinson received an award for their "Feed the Hungry" program at the Los Angeles County Commission on Aging's 44th Annual Older Americans Recognition Day.

'My Ride' sponsored a local soccer team. Team San Jose was formed in part by NLP volunteer Samuel Molina. The newly-formed team qualified for the finals and finished 2nd place in the league. Lydia also continues to volunteer as a tutor with School on Wheels at a home for unwed mothers in North Long Beach. Additionally, she finished her internship with the Neighborhood Services Bureau and is working full time with NLP.

Elisabet Migliori serves as an advisory board member for the Women's Global Network of Long Beach. The Network is an organization that supports women business owners at a national and international level. The organization offers guidance, training, support, conferences, and conventions to its members.

Class of 2001

Cynde Soto continues to serve on the City of Long Beach's Disabled Access Appeals Boards.

Mary Islas retired from the City of Long Beach Civil Service Commission after serving eight years. Mary served as the Vice President of the Commission from July 2004 to April 2005 and again from April 2008 to April 2009. She served as president from April 2005 to April 2006 and also from April 2009 until her retirement in December of 2009.



They also each received a Woman of the Year Award from the Long Beach Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

Lydia Calvillo's car club, 'Pride in





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Martha Cota hosted a Community Resource and Health Fair for residents and business owners on June 27, 2009 at Eben-Ezer Church.

Reverend Sunshine Daye coordinated a rally in opposition of Proposition 8. She also served as the Female Community Grand Marshall for the Long Beach Lesbian and Gay Pride Parade.

Sunshine & Sunny Daye hosted a New Year's Women's Spiritual Retreat to have silence, reflection, meditation, movement, song, rest and relaxation, intention setting, visioning and the creation of the individual in Big Bear Lake.

Sunny Daye won the

Class of 2002

Hadassa Jackson continues to work as a Community Relations Deputy for the 6th District Council Office and was featured in a community highlight article in the September 7, 2009 issue of *The District Weekly* for her work as a liaison between the police and the community.

Class of 2003

Gabrielle Weeks and **Coby Skye** converted their Geo Metro into an electric car. The vehicle was exhibited in January 2009 at Santa Monica in a "Plug-in Vehicles on Parade"

event along with other electric vehicles.

Class of 2004

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

Class of 2004

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

The Long Beach Neighborhood Foundation (LBNF), under the direction of **Gavin McKiernan** held it's 2nd Wrigley River Run. LBNF is a 501(c)3 not for profit organization committed to helping at-risk youth and promoting athletics for all ages by organizing and sponsoring athletic events and programs in Long Beach. These events promote community involvement, education, tolerance, and a healthy non-violent lifestyle.

Francisco Rodriguez received the 2009 Anthony B. Rogers Volunteer Services Award from



the California Conference for Equality and Justice (CCEJ).

Class of 2005

Peggy Kozlowski continues to be part of the Craftsman Historic Village Focus Group.

Class of 2006

Will Cullen served as the official photographer for the Neighborhood Leadership Program Class of 2009. His photographs are included on the Neighborhood Leadership Program web pages.

Alena Eshom led a fundraising drive in September 2009 for Rise Above for Youth. Rise Above for Youth is a nonprofit organization that provides at-risk youth with tools that foster self awareness, personal growth, and successful futures.

P.G. Herman helped organize the Wrigley Association's second Martin Luther King Candlelight Peace March on January 9, 2009. PG also helped with





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the Candlelight Vigil for the Women’s Shelter of Long Beach. The vigil honored the memories of those who lost their lives as a result of intimate partner violence and to support those survivors taking the steps to escape violence. In addition, PG hosted a clean up on Sunday, September 20, 2009 along the L.A. River from Anaheim Street to Hill Street.

Angel Perea continues to serve on the City of Long Beach’s Human Relations Commission.

Patrick Thompson serves on the City of Long Beach’s Citizen Police Complaint Commission.

Matt Brown serves as an Assistant Principal for Long Beach Unified School District at Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo High School. He is the first graduate to run the Boston Marathon. In April of 2009, he qualified with a time of 3 hours and 17 minutes! Matt also finished his Administrator’s Cre-

dential and Master’s in Educational Administration.

MsTmusze (Misty Muse, NLP Class of 2006) helped to organize a holiday project entitled Warm Expressions. The event was held on December 19, 2009 and it was a partnership between LBCreative, the Living Love Foundation and the Villages at Cabrillo. Donations of ready-to-eat food, toys, books and art supplies were collected during the event in support of children and families experiencing homelessness in Long Beach.

Thelma Turner and **Rina Castaneda** from the Class of 2006 were part of the Fox News documentary titled **Miracle on Andy Street**. Rina and Thelma have been active in turning their neighborhood into a safer place for the residents

that live in the area. The video is available at MyFoxLA.com.

Class of 2007

Ana Del Valle and **Esther Del Valle** continued their work with the Stevenson/YMCA Community Leadership Institute Alumni Group. Ana serves as the group’s Treasurer and Secretary and Esther serves as Group and Meeting Facilitator.

Michael L. Dixon continues to serve on the Board of Long Beach Lesbian and Gay Pride, Inc. This year, the organization





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held its first **Pride Star** talent contest and awarded \$2,500 cash and a recording contract from a local music production company. Michael also serves on the Anaheim Street Community Police Center Advisory Board as its treasurer.

Jinhong Zhang served as a panelist in a financial management workshop offered at the Center for Nonprofit Management in Los Angeles. The workshop provided information for nonprofits on how to create a good financial management system that attracts funders and resources.

Laura Storke is working for the City of Long Beach Department of Community Development as a Community Parking Program Assistant.

Flora Easter is serving on the City of Long Beach Citizens Advisory Commission on Disabilities.

Yoklim Tauch helped to organize a successful community

clean up with the Anaheim Street Community Police Center Advisory Board on Saturday, November 21, 2009. The cleanup covered the streets and the alleys on the east side of McArthur Park. Thirty (30) volunteers participated and they collected illegally dumped trash, debris, and large items that resulted in collecting 9 tons of trash. The event provided an opportunity for the neighbors to work together to improve the physical appearance of their neighborhood.

Class of 2008

Louise Kripal continues to serve as editor for the monthly East Village Association newsletter.

On December 8, 2009, **Eric Pieper** served as a workshop presenter at a training event held by St. Mary Medical Center, Long Beach Veteran's Administration Hospital and The Greater Los Angeles Veteran's Administration Hospitals. The training focused on hazardous material decontamination train-

ing for first receivers in case of an emergency.

Dan Pressburg held a political brunch for the candidates of the April 2009 1st Council District Special Election. The event was attended by five of the six candidates as well as several elected officials and neighborhood activists.





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City Sound Drum and Bugle Corps, under the direction of **Nathaniel Lewis**, was featured in an article by drum corps magazine. City Sound's goal is to make available performing arts opportunities to young adults, to steer them away from street violence, to provide them with an excellent performing arts education, and to provide a place of refuge from the everyday problems that young adults face.

Caprice Rothe continues to direct the 3rd Sunday Project at The Long Beach Playhouse. She also directed THE OLD BIRD by Lynn Wells Nelson as part of The LA Women's Theatre Project: 20% New Works Festival.

Joey Summers took part in organizing the annual State of the Center Breakfast put on by the Gay and Lesbian Center of Greater Long Beach. The event featured updates about The Center's Mental Health Counseling Program, the youth and 20-something groups, The Center's new HIV Testing Program as well as other programs.

Charles Wade Jr. was on hand to receive the IMPACT Award from the City Prosecutor's office. The award was given to the Central Neighborhood Advisory Committee (CNAC) for the group's work in the community. CNAC meets monthly to

make presentations, conduct forums, and inform citizens about important issues and resources. He also worked on CNAC's holiday event for the community at Burnett Library on December 17, 2009. The group collected and fundraised to provide a holiday event to give away more than 400 books and toys to Central Area children and families.

Dr. Diane West was interviewed as part of a film titled "A Soldier's Story." In the documentary, female veteran Angie Peacock discusses her stay at the Long Beach, VA Renew program and videotaped her experience. The Renew Program was started by Dr. West and Dr. Laurie Katz at the Long Beach Veteran's Administration Hospital.

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

A Neighborhood Leadership Program project team from the Class of 2008 made up of **Veronica Lynn Ah-Mann, Edgar Garcia, Maurice Nichols, Roland Reed, Diane West, Barbara Williams and Anna Wooten** worked on a Neighborhood Leadership Program



community project. The name of their team was **Team Lid-erazgo** and the name of their project was **Unity in the Community**. The team held a youth-focused mural painting project and invited youth to paint the canvas of a temporary mural during a school carnival. Local artist Alex Abner Rivera designed the mural and worked with the youth painting. The team's project inspired a larger mural entitled "**Welcome to Long Beach**" located at 6454 Long Beach Boulevard. The Neighborhood Services Bureau, Partners of Parks and the Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine Mural and Cultural Arts Program made it possible to make Team Lid-erazgo's concept a reality!

Michael Bush and Travis Miller have teamed up in creating a consulting agency on issues of "community." They are offering conflict mediation, group harmony seminars, and leadership workshops, free of charge to all Long Beach neighborhood organizations. Find them at www.selfequalsother.org, or





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contact Michael at mbush@selfequalsother.org.

Class of 2009

Olenka Krupa won a drawing at a Bixby Knolls Business Improvement Association event. She became the owner of a piece of Long Beach history when she received a brick from the recently demolished Roberts Department Store.

Lacey Clark continues her work in training and consulting through Sister's Sanctuary™. The goal of her organization is to bridge and heal the gap between older and younger women of color via the promotion of self-love, self-respect and personal empowerment.

Alma Campos and her husband Aroldo Campos were named Peacebuilders of the Month for December 2009 and January 2010 by Peacebuilders, Inc. Alma was also named as Co-Chair of the Neighborhood Restoration Committee of the City's Weed and Seed Program.

Jim Danno wrote the winning entry for a Dreyer's Ice Cream Neighborhood Salute ice cream party for his Willmore City Historic District neighbors. He serves on the Willmore City Heritage Association Board. The event featured music by the Long Beach Municipal Band, courtesy of Long Beach Heritage.

Debbie Flynn started a Grant Neighborhood Association group on Facebook.

Anna C. Ulaszewski is serving on the City of Long Beach Housing Development Company Board.

Damon Johnson and Lacey C. Clark started a Neighborhood Leadership 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.

STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Joe Levy is one of the founders of the new Law Enforcement Cancer Support Foundation. The mission of the Law Enforcement Cancer Support Foundation is to provide a free emotional support system, guidance and resources to all members of the law enforcement community, during a cancer experience.

ALUMNI IN ACTION!

Francisco Rodriguez, Class of



2004 and **PG Herman**, Class of 2006 presented before a class at California State University Long Beach. The Class was a Geography course that focuses on the study of Metropolitan Problems. Francisco presented the Neighborhood Leadership Program and PG gave a presentation about the "Taking Back" events that she coordinated in Long Beach.

Long Beach was ranked No. 3 out of 10 cities for having the most urban gardens per capita in 2009! Congratulations to those of you that have made a demonstrated change in our city and helped to make this ranking possible! Our city has more to brag about with the creation of the Class of 2009's **Wrigley Village Garden**, located at **2044 Pacific Avenue** and the **first organic children's garden** for preschoolers at the Young Horizons Central Pacific Site (**1840 Pacific Avenue**). We also thank those of you that helped create other gardens





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and are active growers at these gardens. You are an example to other residents and other communities about the possibilities for run-down vacant lots.

Michael Dixon, Class of 2007, **Jean Curley**, Class of 2007, **Flora Easter**, Class of 2007, and **George Miller**, Class of 2002, continue to serve on the Anaheim Street Community Police Center Advisory Board.

Marcos Lopez, Class of 1999, **Sunshine Daye**, Class of 2001, and **Francisco Rodriguez**, Class of 2004 served as volunteer facilitators at Weaver Elementary's 1st Weaver Ambassador's retreat in Los Alamitos, CA. The Ambassador's Program is led by **Lysa Gamboa-Levy** and is designed to empower students by providing them with the opportunity to develop leadership, communication, team-building and human relations skills.

Autrilla Scott, Class of 1996, **Cyndi Soto**, Class of 2001, **Maria Boecker**, Class of 2004, **Anita Romero**, Class of 2004, **Katherine Gonzalez**, Class of 2007, **Flora Easter**, Class of 2007, **Robert Navarro**, Class of 2009, and **Olenka Krupa**, Class of 2009, were part of the fourteen community volunteers that completed seventeen hours of training by The California Conference for Equality (CCEJ) and Justice in partnership with the City's Human Dignity Program. The training's goal is to teach volunteers how to assist victims of hate crime and bias incidents in the City of Long Beach.

Alma Campos's (Class of 2009) family, including her daughter **Nancy Torres**, Class of 2009 formed a community-serving organization called New Generations. The organization held its second 'The Gift' event on January 9, 2010 at the Washington Middle School Soccer Field. The event helped residents in need and featured free gifts, free food, free haircuts, free books, free bicycle repairs and referrals to city resources. **Maria Vargas** and **Matt Sun** from the Class of 2009 as well as **PG Herman** from the Class of 2006 also helped with the event.

Henry Salzer, Class of 2004, and **David Clement**, Class of 2007, continued their work with the North Alamitos Beach Association (NABA). Part of the work included working with the management of a lo-



cal convenience store to clean up the store's exterior, next to a high-traffic bus stop. The association also held it's 2nd Family Fun Day at Miracle on 4th Street Park.

An anonymous **NLP graduate** (you know who you are!) worked with Neighborhood Services Bureau Staff to give back to our community. The graduate "adopted" two families who are active neighborhood improvement volunteers in the community and are experiencing hard times during our current economic situation. Thank you for your kindness and generosity!

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.



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