Rotary International District 5300
Garbis Peace Institute
29th ANNUAL PEACE CONFERENCE

BE THE INSPIRATION

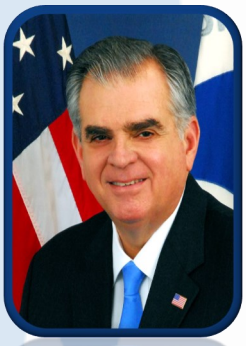
Rotary

"Peacebuilding: One Person at a Time"

Saturday, February 23, 2019 / 8:00 am - 1:00 pm
Ann & Steve Morgan Auditorium / University of La Verne

Yvonne Dutra-St. John M.A., MFT
Challenge Day Leader

Dr. Tom Le, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Politics at Pomona College



The Honorable Ray LaHood
U.S. Secretary of Transportation (2009-2013)
Member of U.S. Congress (1995-2009)

Ellen Chilemba
Founder of Tiwale: a youth-led community-based organization that supports Malawian women

Thomas D. Allison, Esq.
Founder and President of Social Justice Advocacy Project

Rotary District Governor
John Chase

Conference Chair
Dr. Garbis Der-Yeghian, PDG

Conference Emcee
Michael D. Driebe

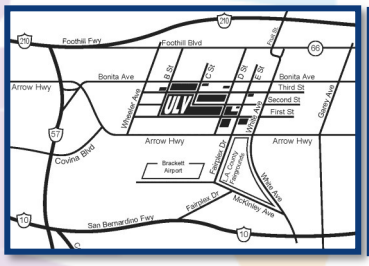
Donation (includes continental breakfast)

$30.00: pre-registration by February 16, 2019
$40.00: at the door if seats are available
$5.00: students with ID

Event Registration:
http://www.ismyrotaryclub.org/register4/index.cfm?EventID=77383034

Event Website:
http://district5300.org/peace-conference/

- Youth-Centric Programing
- Art for Peace Student Contest
- Youth Peace Champions
- Peacemaker of the Year Award



LEGEND
University of La Verne
1. Parking Structure 2021 D St.
2. Registration/Breakfast—Campus Center 2000 2nd St.
3. Peace Conference Morgan Auditorium 1950 3rd St.

For further information, registration, and sponsorship opportunities contact Hassan Kheradmandan Tel: (310) 721-2083 E-mail: hassank@sbcglobal.net

Brief Biographies of Our Distinguished Speakers

Keynote Speaker: **The Honorable Ray LaHood**

Ray LaHood served as United States Secretary of the Transportation from 2009 to 2013. Mr. LaHood represented Illinois's 18th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1995 to 2009. In 2015, his book, "Seeking Bipartisanship: My Life in Politics", was published by Cambria Press.

Mr. La Hood was born in Peoria, Illinois, the son of Edward M. LaHood, a Lebanese American and Mary Lahood-Vogel, of German ancestry. He graduated from Bradley University in Peoria, earning a Bachelor of Science in education and sociology in 1971. Following graduation, he taught middle school social studies at public and Catholic schools. Teaching kids about the constitution and government stirred his interest in politics. He also served as Director of the Rock Island County Youth Services Bureau.

Mr. LaHood was a strong advocate for preserving the legacy of Abraham Lincoln. His District covered much of the territory that Lincoln represented during his single term in the House. LaHood authored a law that established the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, which laid the groundwork for celebrating the 16th President's 200th birthday in 2009.

Distinguished Speaker: **Yvonne Dutra-St. John, M.A., MFT**

As CEO and leader of the Training Department for Challenge Day, Yvonne Dutra-St. John was program designer and lead trainer for Challenge Day's youth programs, mentoring and leadership training and the Be the Change Workshop series.

Currently, Ms. Dutra-St. John serves as a Challenge Day Senior Leader, Be the Change Workshop Facilitator and Program Designer. As a Founder of Challenge Day, she is a lifetime Board Member.

Distinguished Speaker: **Dr. Tom Le, Ph.D.**

Tom Le is an Assistant Professor of Politics at Pomona College. His research interests include militarism norms, Japanese security policy, East Asia regionalism, and war memory and reconciliation. His work has been published by Foreign Affairs, the Washington Post, the Diplomat, among others. His current book project titled Japan's Aging Peace: Security Among Militarisms examines how demographics shape Japanese security policy and cultural norms on militarism. He is a former Fulbrighter (Japan) and Pacific Forum CSIS Sasakawa Peace Foundation non-resident fellow.

Distinguished Speaker: **Ellen Chilemba**

Ellen Chilemba is the Founder and Director at Tiwale Community Based Organization. She was born and raised in Malawi. When she was 16 years old, Ellen received a scholarship to represent Malawi at the African Leadership Academy (ALA) in Johannesburg, South Africa. ALA is an institution that seeks to enable lasting peace and prosperity in Africa as it develops and connects the continent's future leaders. At ALA, Ellen completed a diploma in Leadership, Entrepreneurship and African Studies. This inspired her to take a year off and launch Tiwale when she was 18 years old. For her work with Tiwale, Ellen has been recognized as Glamour Magazine's College Woman of the Year, Forbes' Africa's 30 Under 30, and she is an Ashoka Future Forward Winner, a Commonwealth Youth Awardee for Excellence in Development Work, a Powell Emerging Leader Awardee, among others.

Distinguished Speaker: **Thomas Allison, Esq.**

Having been licensed and ordained a deacon in his church as an early teen, Thomas Allison experienced a fall from grace that ultimately brought him to a crossroad. Embarrassed and confused, Thomas knew he had to be different, that he was different. Now an accomplished attorney licensed in five states, owner of his own law practice, founder and President of nonprofit organization Social Justice Advocacy Project, Inc. Thomas has been published twice, instructs at the University of La Verne as an adjunct professor, coaches college mock trial and debate, and manages Chaffey College's Legal Pathway Program. Above all else, he is a devoted husband and father to a beautiful little girl.

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For further information, please email
Hassan Kheradmandan at: hassank@sbcglobal.net