

Lopez, Debbie

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**From:** Semcken III, John  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 18, 2014 11:25 AM  
**To:** Valley, Kent; Hunt, Dee Anna  
**Subject:** FW: THANK YOU!

Ed and Kent FYI

Why we gave to Shakespeare Festival

**JOHN**

**John H. Semcken** | Senior Vice President | E-mail: [JSemcken@MajesticRealty.com](mailto:JSemcken@MajesticRealty.com) |  
R.E. License 00979758 (CA) | Direct: 562-948-4306 | Fax: 562-692-1553

**Majestic Realty Co.** 13191 Crossroads Parkway North, 6th Floor, City of Industry, CA 91746 | R.E. License 00255328 (CA)|  
<http://www.majesticrealty.com>

Always remember "We live in the Land of the Free because we are the Home of the Brave."

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**From:** Ben Donenberg [<mailto:ben@shakespearefestivalla.org>]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 17, 2014 6:23 AM  
**To:** Mee Semcken; Semcken III, John  
**Subject:** THANK YOU!

John,

I want to personally reach out and say thank you for the really generous and unexpected \$20,000 (!) gift from Land of the Free Foundation, to support Veterans In Arts, our transitional employment program for vets referred to us through the Compensated Work Therapy program of West LA VA.

I'm sorry its taken me a while, to find my way to doing this - I've been consumed by personal matters and I'm finding a moment to focus my attention on my truly heartfelt appreciation.

I'd love to take you to dinner to say 'thanks' properly and even introduce you to a couple of the 61 vets we have hired and who have "landed" in a positive place, partially as a result of our inter-actions with them, if you have interest and/or the time/inclination?

Also, we're negotiating now for free use of Patriotic Hall, downtown for a Shakespeare-inspired MCLE program on April 23rd, with Richard Dreyfuss and 'pound of flesh' trial scene from The Merchant of Venice.

We're also looking for a veteran owned catering company, if you know of any?

Thanks again for the amazing and deeply appreciated contribution.

Ben Donenberg