



**IMAGINE  
ROTARY**

**Club Meeting**

Long Beach  
Meets at THE GRAND  
4101 E Willow Street  
Long Beach, CA 90815  
Time: Wednesday at 12:00 PM

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**CALLING ALL ROTARY TALENT!**

**This Week's Program**

<p><b>Wednesday, February 15</b></p> <p><b>Uncorking 2023 with Power!</b></p> <p><b>Rene Roberts-Nijinsky</b>  <i>Founder, Team Synergy  New Dragon Boat Team in Long Beach</i></p> <p><b>12:00 Noon - LUNCH</b>  <b>12:30 - 1:30 p.m. - Program</b></p>	
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**Rene** was born and raised in Long Beach and currently lives in Lakewood. She attended St. Cyprian Elementary School, St. Joseph's High School and Lakewood High School. Rene is married with 2 grown sons and one precious granddaughter.

Rene has been an elementary school teacher for 27 years and taught Special Education part time for 20 years at Cerritos College. She is an advocate for the disabled, an author, and a passionate Dragon boat paddler and coach. Recently Rene took a leap of faith to start a new dragon boat team in Long Beach called Team Synergy. Team Synergy focuses on the inclusion of all! Some paddlers have physical disabilities, others are deaf or hard of hearing, others are blind and many teammates have no impairments but choose this team over others because of the people, the passion and the perseverance we exemplify! Synergy represents the interaction and inclusion of two or more groups in order to produce a result greater than the sum of its separate parts!

Rene would describe herself as a wife, mother, teacher and athlete. This might seem ordinary unless you know that Rene was born 10 weeks premature with Severe Spastic Cerebral Palsy. At birth doctors were unsure if Rene would ever walk, talk or be educated. She has far surpassed these expectations and will share her story of triumph with you today!

**The Return of Evening Dinner Focus**

**By John E. Romundstad, EDF Committee Chair**



Evening Dinner Focus (EDF) returned to the Rotary calendar on Wednesday, February 1st. Kudos to the hosts and facilitators at each location for their effort and dedication to that special Rotary event.

Our gracious hosts were Sathya Chey, Shelley Hanks, Matt Kinley, Adriana Lanting, Willetta McCulloh, Lisa Ramelow and Nancy Zwiers.

The LB Rotary Charitable Foundation Board members who facilitated were: Dana Buchanan, Michele Dobson, Rich Gibson, Juan Huizar, Julie Meenan, John Romundstad, Dennis Smith and Leslie Wiberg.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Long Beach Rotary Charitable Foundation (LBRFCF), thank you to everyone who participated in the Evening Dinner Focus, where the focus was on the future of the LBRFCF.

We have an amazing Club, whose members provided many great ideas for the Board to consider in our planning for areas of concentration for funding, as well as opportunities for raising funds that can expand the scope and depth of support we can provide.

The LBRFCF Board of Directors will soon be receiving reports from the facilitators regarding the EDF discussion at each host home. Those reports will be reviewed and the core conclusions from them will be distilled and reported out to the Club membership in the coming weeks.

The LBRFCF By-Laws stipulate that "the Foundation may receive and distribute funds in a manner that

further the mission, projects and goals of the Rotary Club of Long Beach." As might be expected, over time the "mission, projects and goals" of our Club have evolved, and will no doubt continue to do so. The LBRCF intends to keep pace with, and be responsive to these changes.

Please be on the lookout for the forthcoming EDF report on what transpired in the homes of your fellow Rotarians on February 1st.

## Write a Caption!



**WHAT** - Submit a caption for this photo  
'Tina Barry'

**WHEN** - by EOD Thursday, February 16

Send caption to -  
Wayne Slavitt - [wayneslavitt@gmail.com](mailto:wayneslavitt@gmail.com)

**Top Winners will be announced  
at the February 22 Lunch meeting**

## Welcome New Rotarian...

By Dennis C. Smith



**Maria Hunter** immigrated from Nicaragua with her family when she was ten. A graduate of El Rancho High School in Pico Rivera, she continued her education at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia, earning a Bachelor of Science in Finance and Economics. Upon graduation she began her career in the banking industry.

After working in Virginia for five years, she returned to Southern California to continue her career and be closer to her family. With eighteen years' experience in the industry, Maria has reached her current position with Enterprise Bank and Trust as Senior Vice President, Relationship Manager.

Primarily working with small and medium sized businesses for all their banking needs and assisting them to meet their cash flow and credit needs, Maria is known for her vast knowledge and experience, resulting in very strong client loyalty. She considers herself not just her clients' banker, but their advocate and partner, knowing them on a professional and personal basis, and their needs for their business and industry.

Several members of our Club know Maria from her eight plus years serving on the Board of the Los Altos Branch of the YMCA of Greater Long Beach. She has served in many capacities as a member of the Board, including Board Chair for three years.

When asked why she would like to join Rotary, Maria said she wants to have an impact on our community. She is particularly interested in being a role model for those with a similar background, showing children of immigrants, particularly girls and young women, that like her, they too can become a successful professional and contributing member of their communities.

Welcome to the Rotary Club of Long Beach, **Maria!**

## Rotarians Appreciate Wine (RAW)

By Tammy J. Newland-Shisido, RAW Committee Chair

*RAW- Rotarians Appreciate Wine Fellowship Group  
February 21, 2023 5:30-8:30 p.m.  
Tammy Newland's Home - 373 Avenida Granada, Long Beach  
Upon RSVP to Madrid, gate (off Colorado) code will be provided*

*This fellowship group is limited to 24 people.*

*This is a blind regional tasting with education of the featured AVA.  
Cost is \$20 pp (to go toward a Culinary Scholarship).*

*Everyone bring a Bottle of the AVA featured Wine (bagged)  
and an Appetizer to share for 6 people.*

*Prizes given for Best Chef and Wine (we vote)*

*This month's is: Central Coast-Paso, Chalone, Santa Cruz Mountains, Santa  
Maria & Santa Barbara County*



## February Golf Outing

By Richard Gibson, Monthly Golf League Committee Chair

I have set up four foursomes for 16 players at the **Navy Course** in Cypress. We will be playing on the Destroyer course. I have been trying for the last 3 years to get on this course and until now it has not been available. It is a great and fun course to play. We are set up for **Friday, February 24th** with the **first tee time at 12:30**. The green fee is \$76 including your cart. The address for the course is, 5660 Orangewood Ave. Cypress, CA 90630.

I will be taking the first 16 players so don't hesitate in letting me know.

I look forward to a great Friday of golf and spending time with fun Rotarians.

Rich Gibson  
Golf Chairman  
562-879-9743



## CALLING ALL ROTARY TALENT!

By Alfredo Velasco, RCLB President



Our next **Talent Show** is fast approaching, and we are still seeking Rotarians with hidden talents.

We know Rotarians are extremely talented and whether you play an instrument, are a vocalist, a juggler, a comedian, a magician, a dancer, a unicyclist, etc., let us know.

E-mail Madrid ([madrid@rotarylongbeach.org](mailto:madrid@rotarylongbeach.org)) to schedule your audition (we've never actually had an audition since *The Four-Way Test* applies) to be part of the **March 8<sup>th</sup> Club Meeting Talent Show** facilitated by **Host, Wayne Slavitt**.

## Upcoming Events - Click Title for More Info and for Meeting RSVP

February 15th  
[Long Beach Weekly Club Meeting](#)  
Speaker: Rene Roberts  
Subject: Uncorking 2023 with Power!

February 16th  
[Business Breakfast Roundtable](#)  
Speaker: Mary Zerafa Loos  
Subject: Discuss Obvious Adams, The Story of a Successful Businessman  
Invitation by EVITE for LB Rotarians only  
Limit - 15 Rotarians

February 16th  
[Roto5320 Toastmasters](#)

February 21st  
[RCLB Board of Directors Meeting](#)

February 21st  
[Rotarians Appreciate Wine \(RAW\)](#)  
Hosted by Tammy Newland  
Blind Wine Tasting & Pot-luck Dinner

February 23rd  
[Roto5320 Toastmasters](#)

February 28th  
[5 O'Clock Somewhere](#)  
The Beach House (15 - 1st St., Seal Beach)  
formerly River's End

March 1st  
[Long Beach Weekly Club Meeting](#)  
Speaker: Cynthia Guidry  
Subject: Long Beach Airport

March 2nd  
[Roto5320 Toastmasters](#)

March 8th  
[Long Beach Weekly Club Meeting](#)  
Club Talent Show, Part 2

March 9th  
[Roto5320 Toastmasters](#)

March 11th  
[Centennial Park Clean-up](#)

## Birthdays This Week - Click Name to Send a Greeting



[Kenneth G. Cecil](#)  
February 17th



[Anthony J. Gales](#)  
February 17th



[Robert Gunsalus](#)  
February 18th



[Karen M. Wyrick](#)  
February 19th



[Karen K. Widerynski](#)  
February 19th



[Shel-lee Davis](#)  
February 21st

**Club Leadership - Click Name to Send a Message**



[Alfredo Velasco](#)  
President



[Mollie Beck](#)  
Assistant to the President



[Mark Guillen](#)  
Assistant to the President



[Olivia Maiser](#)  
Vice President



[Don Rodriguez](#)  
Vice President



[Kelly Ruggirello](#)  
Vice President



[Jean Bixby Smith](#)  
Vice President



[Anthony J. Gales](#)  
Secretary  
Treasurer



[Virginia Baxter](#)  
Sergeant-at-Arms



[Sathya Chey](#)  
Sergeant-at-Arms



[Andy C. McFarland](#)  
Sergeant-at-Arms



[Nancy Zwiers](#)  
Sergeant-at-Arms



[Dana A. Buchanan](#)  
Communications Director



[Rayne Sherman, FIIDA, CID, CSI](#)  
Career Service Director



[Richard Gibson](#)  
Club Service Director



[Tina Barry](#)  
Community Service Director



[Brett Lewis](#)  
Fellowship Service Director



[Freda Hinsche Otto](#)  
International Service Director



[Judy Ross](#)  
Membership Service Director



[Brian Camp Russell](#)  
Youth Service Director



[Dennis C. Smith](#)  
iPast President



[Michele A. Dobson](#)  
President-elect



[Steve M. Hockett](#)  
President-nominee



[Madrid Zimmerman](#)  
Club Executive Director  
Club Executive Secretary



[Wayne C. Slavitt](#)  
Rotary Foundation Chair

<p><b>Rotary Club of Long Beach</b> meets every Wednesday</p> <p><i>LB Skyline Photo Credit Long Beach Convention &amp; Visitors Bureau</i></p> <p>February 15, 2023 Vol. 106, Issue 31</p>	<p><b>Club Office</b></p> <p>400 Oceangate, Suite 470 Long Beach, CA 90802</p> <p>562-436-8181</p> <p><a href="mailto:Rotary@RotaryLongBeach.org">Rotary@RotaryLongBeach.org</a></p>	<p><b>Visit</b></p> <p><a href="#">Long Beach Rotary</a></p> <p><a href="#">District 5320</a></p> <p><a href="#">Rotary International</a></p>	<p><b>Visit our Social Media Pages</b></p> <p> </p>
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