



# ROTARY MEANS FELLOWSHIP – ARTS – BUSINESS – SERVICE FABS

## This Week's Program

**Wednesday, July 19**

**Big Bang on the Bay**

**John Morris**  
Entrepreneur

**12:00 Noon - LUNCH**

**Early Start - 12:20 - 1:30 p.m. - Program**

**MARK BIXBY LEADERSHIP AWARD PRESENTATION**



**John Morris** is a trailblazing entrepreneur with a rich history of contributing to the vibrant City of Long Beach. In 1979, he made his mark on the hospitality industry by opening Legends, the world's first-ever sports bar. This groundbreaking venture showcased his foresight and set the stage for his remarkable career.

Continuing his entrepreneurial pursuits, John took on various leadership roles that helped shape the landscape of Long Beach. He served as the President of the Belmont Shore Business Association during the 1980s, where he played a pivotal role in the business community and was the founder of the Belmont Shore Christmas Parade.

John's visionary leadership then led him to become the President of the Downtown Long Beach Associates, where he revitalized Pine Avenue and transformed the downtown area into a bustling hub of commerce and culture.

In recent years, John's dedication to community-building extended to organizing the Big Bang on the Bay, an annual firework event that celebrates Independence Day. Despite facing legal challenges from an environmental agency over the Clean Water Act, John successfully defended the event in court, ensuring its continuity and allowing it to thrive.

Under his guidance, the 2023 edition of Big Bang on the Bay became the most successful one to date, raising over \$125,000 to support local charities. This accomplishment exemplifies John's commitment to giving back to the community and making a positive impact on the lives of others.

Today, as the owner of Boathouse on the Bay, John continues to create memorable experiences and contribute to the flourishing spirit of Long Beach. His leadership and entrepreneurial spirit remains at the forefront as he drives innovation and fosters a sense of community through his endeavors.

## Birthdays This Week



**Willetta Jo  
McCulloh,  
CID**  
July 18th



**Brian Camp  
Russell**  
July 18th



**Freda  
Hinsche Otto**  
July 20th



**C. Robert  
Luskin**  
July 22nd



**Braden  
James  
Phillips**  
July 23rd

## JUNE Years of Service



**Fox M.  
Boswell**  
37 Years



**Brad A.  
Willingham**  
35 Years



**Sofia M.  
Riley**  
29 Years



**Andrew J.  
Barber**  
23 Years

# We're Off and Running!

By Michele A. Dobson, RCLB President



Our first meeting is in the books and I have to say, I am a better human being for having the experience of gaveling the Club into Year Number 107 and seeing all of the Rotarians smiling faces. On behalf of myself and our 2023-2024 Board of Directors, thank you for lifting us up as we continue the proud tradition of leading the Club into another year of service to the Long Beach Community. We had our Avenue of Services and Committee Faire and it was well received by our members. Kudos to our Avenue Directors and Committee Chairs for their imaginative displays at the meeting. As our more seasoned Rotarians will echo, coming to the meetings on Wednesdays is not enough, we need you to help lead the Club by serving on an Avenue of Service or a Club's Committee. That is where the real connections are made, Rotarian to Rotarian.

I wanted to highlight, from our Membership Avenue of Service's Rotary Cares Committee. For this Committee to function well, we need your assistance. As I indicated at our meeting, we are adopting the Rotary International Theme to Create Hope in the World. As Rotary International President R. Gordon R. McNally states, "The goal is to restore hope — to help the world heal from destructive conflicts and, in turn, to help us achieve lasting change for ourselves." In addition to promoting peace, this year's theme, To Create Hope in the World, emphasizes mental health and wellness. To that end, we want to check in on each other this year. Please make a note if someone is missing from our meetings and alert us so we can reach out to that Rotarian. Perhaps the reason for the absence is transportation. Perhaps the reason for the absence is health or mobility. Hopefully, just once a month, we can buddy up and bring that missing or shut-in Rotarian to a meeting so they can have an outing and some Rotary fellowship. We are not only about service to the Community, we are about service to one another.

Each meeting we are going to check in with each other, Table to Table, and Rotarian to Rotarian. Keep an eye out for Red placemats which signifies a new Rotarian to our Club and do not be surprised if you are called upon from the podium to introduce him or her; and fined if you cannot introduce them. Finally, if you would like to host your fellow Rotarians at your business for our Rotary Roots series, that is coming up soon so please speak with Career Services Director Rayne Sherman. Onward and Upward!

## Welcome New Rotarian...

By Braden James Phillips



At our last meeting, we welcomed our newest Rotarian and #107's first new member, **John Keisler**. John is currently the CEO & Managing Partner for Sunstone Management Inc., a venture capital firm located in Southern California that invests in diverse early-stage technology startups through innovative public-private-partnerships that blend unique expertise across government, education, and private sectors.

John spent over 20 years in public service, most recently as the Economic Development Director for the City of Long Beach. Under his leadership, the organization created an innovative Blueprint for Economic Development, and helped to facilitate an historic increase of private sector investment in the City and increase equitable economic opportunities for workers, investors, and entrepreneurs in Long Beach and throughout California.

After completing Bachelors degrees in Philosophy and Religion at St. Olaf College, John committed his life to public service, joining Teach For America and becoming a middle school teacher in Newark, New Jersey. Having first-hand experience with the economic and social challenges facing his students, John turned to a career in city management, completing his Masters of Public Administration at the nationally ranked USC Price School of Public Policy and leading transformational public-private-partnerships across several sectors including public health, safety, finance, and economic development.

John lives in Long Beach with his beautiful wife Laura and their two sons, Christopher and Benjamin, where he serves on a number of non-profit boards and coaches youth sports.

**Welcome to Rotary, John!**



**Jane Roeder**  
22 Years



**Judith A. Vander Lans**  
19 Years



**Lisa Hopkins**  
19 Years



**Willetta Jo McCulloh, CID**  
14 Years



**Wayne C. Slavitt**  
13 Years



**Kevin M. Tiber**  
13 Years



**Dennis C. Smith**  
12 Years



**Kelly Ruggirello**  
11 Years



**Gabrielle Canale**  
11 Years



**Genevieve Brill Murphy**  
11 Years



**Vali J De Vries**  
11 Years



**Whitney Leathers**  
10 Years



**Suny Lay Chang**  
8 Years



**Diane Wood**  
7 Years



**Cathy Wieder**  
6 Years

**Jacqueline Padilla-**

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## Avenues of Service Faire

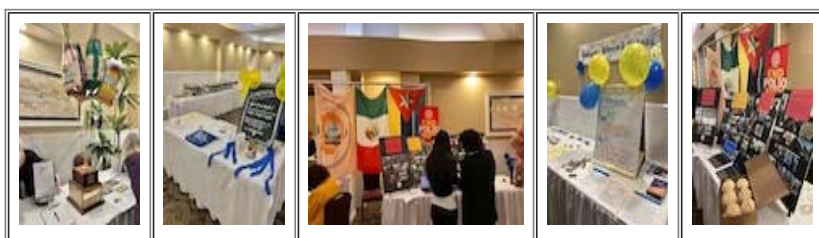
If you missed the Avenues of Service Faire at the first meeting of the year, you can still sign up - Return this [Sign Up Sheet](#) to Madrid!

Avenues of Service - join one, or two!

**Career Service**  
**Club Service**  
**Community Service**  
**Fellowship Service**  
**International Service**  
**Membership Service**  
**Youth Service**

Special thanks to Laura Pio Doyle for photos and Doug Coleman for the video:

To better understand how important our support of the Navajo people is, please watch this:  
[https://www.ted.com/talks/hans\\_rosling\\_the\\_magic\\_washing\\_machine](https://www.ted.com/talks/hans_rosling_the_magic_washing_machine)



[Perez](#)  
5 Years



[Angel Macias](#)  
5 Years



[Jan Hower](#)  
4 Years



[Natalie Hale](#)  
New Member



[Jennifer "Jenny" Stout](#)  
New Member

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## Calling All Singers!



Don't be shy. We have Rotarians with just the right voice (*or pair up with a Rotarian*) to lead us in these upcoming meeting Songs:

Contact [Steve Shaw](#) or [Madrid Zimmerman](#) to sign up!

**Rotary Songs** (*On each song, we sing only long enough to get to the Chorus then stop*)

July 19<sup>th</sup> – Here Comes the Sun, by the Beatles

July 26<sup>th</sup> – America The Beautiful (*caryn desai, confirmed*)

August 2<sup>nd</sup> – Bennie and the Jets, by Elton John

August 9<sup>th</sup> – Hit the Road Jack, by Ray Charles

August 16<sup>th</sup> – Sweet Caroline, Neil Diamond

August 23<sup>rd</sup> – Fire and Rain, by James Taylor

August 30<sup>th</sup> – Big Yellow Taxi, by Joni Mitchell

September 6<sup>th</sup> – Achy Breaky Heart, by Billy Ray Cyrus

September 13<sup>th</sup> – Hey Jude, by the Beatles

September 20<sup>th</sup> – Happy Together, the Turtles

October 4<sup>th</sup> – California Dreamin', the Mamas and the Papas

October 11<sup>th</sup> – Daydream Believer, the Monkees

October 18<sup>th</sup> – Take it Easy, the Eagles

October 25<sup>th</sup> – You're So Vain, by Carole King

November 1<sup>st</sup> – Crazy, by Patsy Cline

November 8<sup>th</sup> – Lean On Me, Bill Withers

November 15<sup>th</sup> – What a Wonderful World, Louis Armstrong

November 29<sup>th</sup> – Born To Be Wild, Steppenwolf

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## New Member Proposal

The following is being proposed as a member of the Rotary Club of Long Beach. Her name is hereby submitted to the membership for a 10-day period as required by the Bylaws. Any comments can be addressed to the President or the Executive Director of the Club during this 10-day period.

**Rachel Massari - Co-Founder, Graphic Designer and Creative Director - Fresh Prints Design**

Proposed Classification: Graphic Design & Printing

Proposed by: Marnee Brooks and Mary Zerafa Loos



## CALENDAR

July 18th, 4:00-5:15 PM  
**RCLB Board of Directors Meeting**  
**Speaker:** Monthly Club Board of Directors meeting

July 19th, 12:00-1:30 PM  
**Long Beach Weekly Club Meeting**  
**Speaker:** Lorrie Fair  
**Subject:** Global Travels with a Champion Female Soccer Player  
**Mark Bixby Leadership Preso**

July 20th, 8:00-9:00 AM  
**Business Breakfast Roundtable : in person**  
**Speaker:** Topic TBA  
**Subject:** For LB Rotarians only

July 26th, 12:00-1:30 PM  
**Long Beach Weekly Club Meeting**  
**Speaker:** John Morris  
**Subject:** Big Bang on the Bay

July 27th, 2:00-3:00 PM  
**Ro Toastados - A Rotary Toastmaster Alliance Club**

July 30th, 3:00-6:00 PM  
**Ronald McDonald House Sunday Meal Preparation**  
Volunteers to prepare Sunday dinner for RMH Families

August 2nd, 12:00-1:30 PM  
**Long Beach Weekly Club Meeting**  
**Speaker:** Blair Kent - Memorial Medical Center  
**District Governor Roy Jefferson**

August 9th, 12:00-1:30 PM  
**Long Beach Weekly Club Meeting**  
**Speaker:** Duke Givens - Care Closet

August 10th, 2:00-3:00 PM  
**Ro Toastados - A Rotary Toastmaster Alliance Club**

August 12th, 8:00-9:00 AM  
**Centennial Park Clean-up**  
Rotary Centennial Park Monthly clean-up

August 15th, 4:00-5:15 PM  
**RCLB Board of Directors Meeting**



**CREATE HOPE  
in the WORLD**

**Rotary Club of Long Beach**  
meets every Wednesday @ 12 Noon

**THE GRAND**  
4101 E. Willow Street  
Long Beach, CA 90815

***LB Skyline Photo Credit  
Long Beach Convention & Visitors Bureau***

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