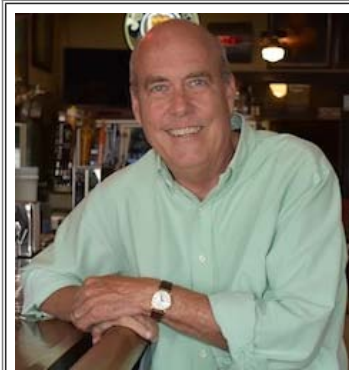




# ROTARY MEANS FELLOWSHIP – ARTS - BUSINESS - SERVICE FABS

## This Week's Program



**Wednesday, September 13**

**The Many Faces of Long Beach  
The Rich Film Industry of Long Beach  
as other Settings**

**John Robinson and Megan Marron  
Long Beach Locations, Inc.**

**12:00 Noon - LUNCH  
Early Start 12:15 - 1:30 p.m. - Program**



The realm of movies and television shows filmed in Long Beach has an extensive and storied history. Hailing from Long Beach, **John Robinson** has been a pivotal figure in this domain for over three decades. His roles have encompassed that of a film coordinator-photographer for the City of Long Beach, coupled with the operation of his independent enterprise dedicated to location services in the film industry. Established in the year 2000, Long Beach Locations proudly reigns as the preeminent location agency and the ultimate resource for Location Scouts within the entertainment sector, especially for areas situated to the south of Los Angeles.

Embarking on her professional voyage within the hospitality landscape, **Megan Marron's** initial strides led her to the prestigious position of Director of Events at Shade Hotel Manhattan Beach. The year 2020, marked by global upheaval, witnessed one of the earliest casualties in the realm of hospitality. Amid these challenging circumstances, Megan and her husband, John Hixson (*an adept film location scout with a quarter-century of experience*), seized the moment to inaugurate their own venture, UV-Scene. This pioneering establishment was dedicated to leveraging UV technology for disinfection purposes, focusing on film sets. Through this endeavor, Megan garnered invaluable insights into the world of film production, becoming deeply enthralled by its allure. The pivotal juncture arrived in September 2022 when Megan's trajectory converged with that of John Robinson at Long Beach Locations. Presently, united as partners, they synergistically facilitate a surge of cinematic opportunities, enriching the tapestry of Long Beach's engagement with the world of film.

## Rotary Means Arts

By caryn desai, Chair, Rotary Means Arts Committee

I recently received a letter from a dear friend of mine on the East Coast. As she read "Team of Rivals, the Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln" by Doris Kearns Goodwin, my friend wrote:

"When I read how much the theater did for Lincoln,  
my heart went immediately to you."

Interestingly enough, I started reading Lincoln's biography years ago and still haven't finished it because most of my time is spent reading plays now. But my friend shared with me a section

## Birthdays



**Lori Dwight**  
September 15th



**Judy Seal**  
September 17th



**Tammy J. Newland-Shisido**  
September 18th



**Randall S. Kemner**  
September 19th

## Club Leaders



**Michele A. Dobson**  
President



**Gail B. Schwandner**  
Assistant to the President



**Jean Bixby Smith**  
Assistant to the President



**Marcelle H. Epley**  
Vice President



**Joseph Wayne Hower PE.**  
DEE



from the book:

"Lincoln's ability to retain his emotional balance in such difficult situations was rooted in an acute self-awareness and an enormous capacity to dispel anxiety in constructive ways. In the most difficult moments of his presidency, nothing provided Lincoln greater respite and renewal than to immerse himself in a play at either Grover's or Ford's. Leonard Grover estimated that Lincoln had visited his theater 'more than a hundred times' during his four years as president . . .

It gave him an hour or two from worry. The drama drew his mind into other channels of thought, afforded him the most entire relief . . . he was transported into a realm far from the troubling events that filled the rest of his waking hours . . .

Lincoln seated in his presidential box could enjoy the communal experience which allowed him to feel the pulse of the people."

Here is to all of us finding that respite and renewal through our shared communal experience of live theatre or whatever art form serves you.

## Welcome New Rotarian...

By Gregory Haeseler, RCLB President #96



I first met **Ali Vaghefi** years ago when he joined our regional Wells Fargo Advisor offices to become our lending specialist. Fortunate for all of us advisors, Ali was well versed with Wells Fargo's vast lending capabilities and helped us countless times to find financing for our clients.

It was also apparent that Ali had a heart for service. When a Wells Fargo Foundation officer asked me to coordinate employees for a volunteer day at the Long Beach Rescue Mission, Ali was one of the first to respond. He did a masterful job repapering the shelves at the women's house. Not only was he a superb lending specialist, he was a superb repapering specialist as well!

Since being promoted to be our branch manager a couple years ago, Ali showed me yet another side: he is a resourceful, responsive, trustworthy and extremely capable administrator, all qualities that are transferable to Rotary!

Born in Florida, Ali and his family moved to Iran when he was 8. Spending three years in Iran taught Ali valuable life lessons; the chief lesson being how fortunate he felt to live in America. After Iran, Ali's family moved to Los Angeles.

At age 18, Ali worked for a bank to start his financial services career while attending college to get his BA in Management at Pepperdine University. Along the way Ali met his future wife, Gabriela. They married a few years ago and settled into their new home in Long Beach near Woodruff and Wardlow.

With a desire to be more connected in Long Beach and to give back to his community, Ali saw Rotary as a great fit. Previously involved with Big Brothers, Ali wants to continue with his passion to help young lives.

Ali's hobbies are fishing, camping, cooking and travel. Please welcome our newest Long Beach Rotarian, **Ali Vaghefi**.

## Congratulations... Newell Family Scholarships

By Lisa Ramelow

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Vice  
President



Debra  
Kahookele  
Vice  
President



Sumer A.  
Temple  
Vice  
President



John E.  
Romundstad  
Secretary  
Treasurer



Theresa  
Cornwell  
Sergeant-at-  
Arms



Shel-lee  
Davis  
Sergeant-at-  
Arms



Shelley  
Hanks  
Sergeant-at-  
Arms



Debbie  
Thorpe  
Sergeant-at-  
Arms



Denise  
Dahlhausen  
CCO-Club  
Comm. Offcr



Rayne  
Sherman  
Career  
Service  
Director



Robyn  
Gordon-  
Peterson  
Community  
Service  
Director



Stephen B.  
Shaw  
Club Service  
Director



Lisa Finn  
Fellowship  
Service  
Director



## ROTARY SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION AWARDS NEWELL SCHOLARSHIPS\*

They never fail to amaze me -  
these young people who receive academic scholarships through Long Beach Rotary.

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**Edwin Santos** is the recipient of the Newell Family Scholarship.

I read all about Edwin's upbringing; he and his mother had lived for many years with his grandmother.

As a young boy he struggled to do well in school; unbeknownst to him at the time, he had some learning disabilities that were not yet diagnosed. Also, he was usually the youngest in his class due to his birthday being late in the school year. But in some ways, that motivated him to try even harder.

But above all, he was always quiet. Very quiet.

As a teen he began volunteering at the YMCA.

The organization had a music room set up with complicated musical equipment. Edwin had played some instruments, and he was fascinated by the equipment and setup. The staff allowed him to experiment with the technology.

Over time, he learned by "doing," and he now serves as a technology instructor to anyone needing help with connecting audio equipment, or with running and interpreting a music application known as "Logic."

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I called Edwin and was expecting to speak to a very quiet young man.

But Edwin was far from quiet on the phone. He was cheerful and upbeat.

There was no sadness in his voice about the past. And there was no apprehension in his voice about the future.

He will be starting at Long Beach City College, with the hope of one day pursuing a degree in psychology. And because of the difficulties he encountered while growing up, he wants to help other kids and teens with their problems.

He doesn't know exactly where he will go to school later, or where he will end up finishing school.

But he's OK with that.

Because Edwin lives in the present.

And far from the quiet child he once was, Edwin now has a definite presence.

\* \* \* \* \*

The recipient of the Newell Rotary Scholarship is a first-born, first-generation student named **Lizbeth Martinez**.

Lizbeth understood at an early age how important it is to be of service to others. Her parents had immigrated to the United States as a young couple, hoping to provide a better future for their family.

As their first-born child, Lizbeth was frequently called upon to translate things for her parents. In fact, she became the "family translator" of sorts – sometimes her aunts will call her to translate her cousins' homework, and she is always happy to assist.

As part of Link Crew at Long Beach Poly High School, she was also frequently asked to translate for other parents and their incoming students.

Lizbeth noted that while Poly is a very diverse school, there was very little information available about the Latino culture, so she decided to join the "Latino Empowerment in Action" club. They were able to hold rallies at their school to provide information to other students about their culture, and sometimes they even sold tacos and other Latino specialties at school events.

Besides helping others, it was also her goal to get good grades. And she did – she graduated Valedictorian at her High School.

Lizbeth was never sure what she wanted to do when she grew up, but one day she heard an announcement at school about the "Long Beach Memorial Simulation Lab" program; she applied and was accepted. At the hospital program, she was taken on a tour, and she met a nurse who described her job and what it encompassed.



[Matthew L. Kinley](#)  
International  
Service  
Director



[Sarah Soriano](#)  
Membership  
Service  
Director



[Conor Kenneth Weir](#)  
Youth  
Service  
Director



[Alfredo Velasco](#)  
iPast  
President



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



[Kelly Ruggirello](#)  
President-Nominee



[Donald E. Cochran](#)  
Rotary  
Foundation  
Chair



After that, Lizbeth knew she wanted to become a nurse, a pediatric nurse.

She has just begun her freshman year at CSULB, and is beginning her general education requirements and pre-nursing requirements. She hopes to one day be accepted into their nursing program.

Above all, Lizbeth wants to live and work, and continue to give back, in her hometown of Long Beach.

#### *\*NEWELL FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP*

*Frank and Margie Newell made a generous gift to the Foundation to fund scholarships for high school graduates of the two schools where members of the Newell Family received their education – Wilson and Poly. Scholars are awarded \$5,000 for CSULB and \$2,500 for LBCC.*



**The Newell Family with Edwin and Lizbeth**  
*Caught in the Moment Photography*

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## Have you voted?

### **ELECTION COMMITTEE VOTE** *(the 7 will select the 2026-27 RCLB President)*

- Ballots sent via email/snail mail must arrive in the office by 10:00am - September 20
- On Wednesday, September 20 you can vote at The Rotary Meeting before the meeting starts at 12:30pm



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## Reading By 9 Celebrates 25th Year on September 20

**By Frank R. Newell, RCLB President #83**

Last year we set a fundraising record of nearly \$130,000 and over 120 Rotarians and guests contributed to our success as we celebrated our Club's 5,000<sup>th</sup> meeting and passed the **\$1 Million** milestone in funds raised since the inception of the program. We have now donated more than **350,000** books and ebooks to Long Beach kids, classrooms, libraries and literacy programs. As we celebrate our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary we are committed to maximizing our fundraising results and to identify programs that address the early education and literacy needs in our community. Our goals this year are to raise a total of \$100,000, maximize matching donations, and to increase Rotarian participation to as close to 100% as possible. We realize these are lofty goals, but as we continue to emerge from a pandemic that has adversely affected reading progress, providing books to kids (especially lower income and at-risk kids) and supporting early literacy endeavors is more important than ever.



Please plan on joining us at the ROTARY meeting on **SEPTEMBER 20<sup>TH</sup>** as we raise funds and celebrate the 25th year of our **READING BY 9** Program. New Rotarians, this is always a fun and inspiring meeting as - in a few minutes - you will see the generosity of our members as hands go in the air and many thousands of dollars are raised to support our goal of having kids read at grade level by age 9. We are glad to be "live" at The Grand to again raise funds to benefit kids in the Long Beach community!

## Fall 2023 Rotary Roots is coming up!

*Online Registration opened September 6th - be sure to check your email to sign up.*

On **Wednesday, September 27, 2023** Rotarians are invited to participate in **Rotary Roots**

There will be no general meeting at The Grand on this date.

We are deeply grateful to this season's hosts:

**City National Bank** hosted by **Gilbert Maldonado Wenseslao**;

**Kensington Investment Counsel** hosted by **Jeff Wimbish**;







**Long Beach Post** hosted by **Melissa Evans**;

**Long Beach Unified School District** hosted by **Dr. Jill Baker**;

**Museum of Latin American Art** hosted by **Solimar Salas**;

and the **VA Healthcare System** and **Fisher House** hosted by **Linda Rahn** and **Braden Phillips**

Register for any of these sites online! If you have any questions, do not hesitate to reach out.

<b>City National Bank</b> <b>Gilbert Maldonado Wenseslao</b>	<b>Kensington Investment Counsel</b> <b>Jeff Wimbish</b>	<b>Long Beach Post</b> <b>Melissa Evans</b>
		
<b>Long Beach Unified School District</b> <b>Dr. Jill Baker</b>	<b>Museum of Latin American Art</b> <b>Solimar Salas</b>	<b>VA LB Healthcare System &amp; Fisher House Southern CA</b> <b>Linda Rahn &amp; Braden Phillips</b>
		

### Calendar Events

September 12th, 5:00-7:00 PM

#### **5 O'Clock Somewhere**

Monthly afterhours mixer  
Alder and Sage (366 Cherry Ave.)

September 13th, 12:00-1:30 PM

#### **Long Beach Weekly Club Meeting**

**Speaker:** John Robinson & Megan Marron  
**Subject:** OFFSITE at "Greek Church" 5761 E. Colorado The Many Faces of Long Beach: the Rich Film History of LB as Other Settings

September 14th, 2:00-3:00 PM

#### **Ro Toastados - A Rotary Toastmaster Alliance Club**

September 16th, 8:00-9:00 AM

#### **Centennial Park Clean-up**

Re-scheduled from September 9

September 19th, 4:00-5:15 PM

#### **RCLB Board of Directors Meeting**

September 20th, 12:00-2:00 PM

#### **Long Beach Weekly Club Meeting**

**Speaker:** Karyn Scissum Gunn - CSULB Provost  
**Subject:** Plus: Reading by 9 Fundraiser with Frank Newell

September 22nd, 5:00-7:00 PM




#### **Mozambique: An Evening with Justin Arana**

**Speaker:** Justin Arana - Water Underground  
**Subject:** Catch up with the Progress of the Water Well

September 27th, 12:00-1:30 PM

#### **ROTARY ROOTS Lunch Program - Fall 2023**

Rotary Roots - individual member hosts

 <p><b>CREATE HOPE in the WORLD</b></p>	<p><b>Rotary Club of Long Beach</b> meets every Wednesday @ 12 Noon <b>THE GRAND</b> <b>4101 E. Willow Street</b> <b>Long Beach, CA 90815</b></p> <p><i>LB Skyline Photo Credit Long Beach Convention &amp; Visitors Bureau</i></p> <p>September 13, 2023 - Vol. 107, Issue 10</p>	<p><b>Club Office</b> 400 Oceangate, Suite 470 Long Beach, CA 90802 562-436-8181 <a href="mailto:Rotary@RotaryLongBeach.org">Rotary@RotaryLongBeach.org</a></p> <p><b>Visit</b> <a href="#">Long Beach Rotary</a> <a href="#">District 5320</a> <a href="#">Rotary International</a></p>	<p><b>Visit our Social Media Pages</b></p>  
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