



SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES

Club Meeting

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

There will be NO ZOOM call for the event.

Remaining Meetings through June 2022 will be held at THE GRAND

RSVP as soon as you can for **ALL JANUARY** RCLB Meetings, please, we must order ahead for seating/room set up for January 5, 12, 19 and 26 thank you!

In This Issue

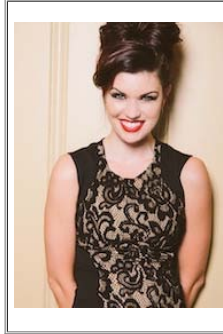
[This Week's Program](#)

[President 105's Post #24](#)

[Member of Our Rotary Family Turns 109](#)

[Congrats 2022-23 RCLB Board and President-designate Steve Hockett #108](#)

This Week's Program



Wednesday, December 15

'A Little Holiday Cheer'
Musical Theatre West's
Sara Elizabeth Combs and David Burnham

12:00pm - Lunch and Program

Even if on the Meal Plan, please RSVP in advance!

Masks are required for everyone, whenever you are not at your table, eating.



Sarah Elizabeth Combs studied musical theatre and classical voice at Idyllwild Arts Academy and went on to the prestigious Eastman School of Music in New York as a Vocal Performance Major. After her education, Sarah moved back to Southern California to pursue a lifetime career in musical theatre. Sarah has performed leading roles for major regional theatre companies across the Los Angeles and San Diego areas. Sarah spent over two years in Phantom of The Opera in Las Vegas where she had the honor of playing Christine Daae. She then spent another couple of years honing her comedy chops in the company of I Love Lucy Live On Stage, as understudy to the iconic role of Lucy Ricardo. Sarah also had the great pleasure of sailing the high seas as the lead female vocalist aboard the six-star luxury liner, Crystal Serenity. She is a proud member of Actor's Equity Association.

David Burnham is a composer, an award-winning performer, director and choreographer. He has recorded two solo CDs, which include original music that he co-wrote with Mark Vogel. He co-founded "Camp Sing," a writing/performing camp for young artists. As a performer, he's appeared on Broadway in *The Light In The Piazza* and starred as "Fiyero" in *Wicked*. He has appeared in many national tours, and has performed his solo concert across U.S. and Canada. David has starred in many Musical Theatre West productions over the years, including *Disney's The Little Mermaid*, *Sunset Boulevard*, *La Cage Aux Folles*, *The Hot Mikado*, and *Children of Eden*.

President 105's Post #24

By Dennis C. Smith



Was it really two years ago that we gathered on the Queen Mary for our annual holiday luncheon and listened to our members in a ♦Carol-Off?♦ We have some beautiful singing voices in our Club, and some♦

On Wednesday we will have our final meeting of 2021, and be entertained by two professional singers from Musical Theater West. I hope you have already made your reservations to join us; if you haven't call Madrid immediately as we must have an accurate headcount as lunch will be served and not a buffet.

Like the rest of the world, the Rotary Club of Long Beach transitioned from remote meetings via Zoom to being able to meet in person in 2021. Matt did a wonderful job picking up where Mollie left off and continued leading our Club through the backside of the pandemic shutdown. Their efforts have been evident each Wednesday by the number of Rotarians and guests attending our meetings.

While we had fewer in-person encounters in 2021 due to the pandemic, what we did not have were fewer engagements with our community. Our charitable giving to non-profit organizations; scholarships to college students; books and grants to students and teachers in the Long Beach Unified School District; and our donations to assist hungry undergrads at Long City College and Cal State Long Beach; and donations to Rotary International, all continued and will continue through 2022 and beyond.

I hope you feel proud to be a member of our Club, I certainly am. Looking back the past twenty-plus months and the commitment our members have had to each other, our Club and Organization, and community has been a bright light in the shadow the COVID-19 cloud casted across our lives.

As we enter 2022, we will continue with these commitments, enriching our lives and those in our community who benefit from your generous donations of time and resources.

When you gather on New Year's Eve to ring in 2022, if you are making resolutions, it is my hope that the Rotary Club of Long Beach is among them. Attend a few more meetings, volunteer a few more times, donate a little bit more, and strengthen your relationships with other members.

I wish you a very wonderful, happy, joyful Holiday season, hoping your gatherings with family and friends are filled with laughter, tears, reflection, and love.

I look forward to seeing you often in 2022!

We are Long Beach Rotary,

Dennis

Member of Our Rotary Family Turns 109

By Craig R. Dougherty

A member of our Rotary family, **Margaret Merrick Russell**, turned 109 years old on November 12, 2021. Margaret was married to Rotarian **Dick Russell**. She has lived in the same house on the Naples Canal on Treasure Island for over 50 years located just down the walkway from **Bob Luskin**.

Her family has a long history with Rotary - in addition to her husband Margaret's father **T.F. Merrick** was a member as were brothers **Jack and Harry Merrick**. Her nephew **Tom Merrick** is currently a member. Tom's sister Mary married **Dick Van Der Laan**, a many year member of our club (and recipient of the **RCLB 1998-1999 President's Award**). **Harry Merrick** came within two weeks of being a member for 50 years.

[Enjoy this link to a 2019 story on her from the Grunion Gazette!](#)

Congrats 2022-23 RCLB Board and President-designate Steve Hockett #108

By Alfredo Velasco

One of the privileges of having been selected #106 four months before a global pandemic changed our world was -

- a front row seat observing Mollie in March of 2020 responding gracefully
- Matt bridging our Club through the ebb and flows of the crisis 2020/21 and
- Dennis helping our club figure out the new normal has been nothing short of inspirational. Thank you Mollie, Matt and Dennis.

My internal Board theme is **Rooted in Service** - The inspiration for this theme was an actual Rotary inspiration I shared a few years ago, comparing our Rotarians to Sequoia trees - similar to the Sequoias that stand as the tallest, most magnificent conifers, each occupying their own space but with their shallow root system that intertwines at their foundation. They prop each other up and leverage their energy and power - stand tall and monumental while everlasting impervious to natural barriers. But they stand as GROVES; seldom do see one alone. Similarly to us, we are rooted in our foundation, we occupy our own spaces (backgrounds, perspectives) but we come together, leverage our collective resources and prop each other up, at our foundation, rooted by our values and that is how stand tall, monumental in service to Long Beach, in service to each other, in service to those who need help, locally and globally. We are rooted in service!

My task today is to reveal the Rotary Club of Long Beach leadership for 2022/23. The Rotary leadership who will take the baton from the current Board in six months and three weeks, and one year later hand off to #107 and Michele Dobson's Board. There is so much phenomenal leadership and plenty of batons and help needed. So if you feel left out, don't... there is much to do and we need all of you!

Please join me in thanking and offering congratulations to the **RCLB 2022/23 Board of Directors!**



FRONT ROW - L to R

Olivia Maiser
Kelly Lucera
Jean Bixby Smith
Michele Dobson
Steve Hockett
Alfredo Velasco
Dennis Smith
Ginny Baxter
Sathya Chey
Andy McFarland
David Sommers

Vice President Chair
 Vice President
 Vice President
 President-elect
 President-nominee
 President
 Immediate Past President
 Sergeant at Arms
 Sergeant at Arms
 Sergeant at Arms
 Sergeant at Arms

BACK ROW - L to R

Dana Buchanan
Don Rodriguez
Rich Gibson
Brian Russell
Tony Gales
Mollie Beck
Mark Guillen
Brett Lewis
Tina Barry
Judy Ross
Freda Hinsche Otto
Rayne Sherman

Communication
 Vice President
 Club Service
 Youth Service
 Secretary/Treasurer
 Co-Assistant to the President
 Co-Assistant to the President
 Fellowship Service
 Community Service
 Membership Service
 International Service
 Career Service



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

December 14th
[RCLB Board Meeting](#)

December 15th
[Long Beach Weekly Club Meeting - Annual Holiday Lunch](#)
 Program: Musical Theatre West presents "A Little Holiday Cheer"
 January 8th
[Centennial Park Monthly Clean-up](#)

December 22nd
[Long Beach Weekly Club Meeting](#)
 DARK for Christmas Holiday
 NO MEETING

December 29th
[Long Beach Weekly Club Meeting](#)
 Dark for New Year's Day Holiday
 NO MEETING

January 5th
[Long Beach Weekly Club Meeting](#)
 Speaker: Mark Seidel
 Subject: Relativity Space and the Next Space Age

January 12th
[Long Beach Weekly Club Meeting](#)
 Speaker: An Interview with Naomi Rainey (NAACP)

January 13th
[5 O'Clock Somewhere Mixer](#)

Birthdays - Click Name to Send a Greeting



[Conor Kenneth Weir](#)
 December 17th



[Michael Peters](#)
 December 18th



[Tony T. Chi](#)
 December 20th



[Laura Doyle](#)
 December 21st



[Cathy Wieder](#)
 December 21st



[Jeremy Harris](#)
 December 24th



[Joyoti Banerji](#)
 December 25th



[Joseph Wayne Hower PE, DEE](#)
 December 28th

[Dorian Bolick](#)
 December 28th

[Robert G. Foster](#)
 January 1st

[Mark Gray](#)
 January 3rd



Rotary Club of Long Beach
meets every Wednesday
LB Skyline Photo Credit
Long Beach Convention & Visitors Bureau
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[E-Club of the West](#)

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