



Wednesday, March 20

## The Road to WISH

**Jennifer KumiYama**  
City of Long Beach, Citywide Accessibility Coordinator

**NOT MEETING AT THE GRAND**

**THE PETROLEUM CLUB - 3636 Linden Avenue, Long Beach**

**12:00 Noon - LUNCH**

**12:15 - 1:30 p.m. - Program**



**Jennifer KumiYama** was born with Arthrogryposis and uses a wheelchair daily. KumiYama earned a spot on Warner Bros. reality TV show "Popstars 2" and national accolades from many publications including Variety Magazine and TV Guide "referring to her as "the girl in the wheelchair, who's voice blew everyone out of the water". Shortly after that in 2002 "Jennifer was cast in Disney's "Aladdin; a Musical Spectacular" at Disney California Adventure Theme Park, where she is the first performer in a wheelchair to ever be on any Disney stage in the world. She performed 4 times a day for 8,000 guests a day, who visit from every corner of the world. It was at Disney that Jennifer took on her real role as an advocate for people living with disabilities "showing the entire world that talent sees no boundaries. This motivated her to become a speaker "sharing her story with schools, social groups, and major businesses. Her new passion, in addition to singing "is being a voice for people living with disabilities by breaking attitudinal and architectural barriers. "Aladdin; a Musical Spectacular" closed on January 10, 2016.

In 2010, Jennifer was crowned Ms. Wheelchair California and Ms. Wheelchair America 2011, 1st Runner Up. During her reign she spread the message of hope through her platform "Empowering Children with Disabilities to Make Their Own Dreams Come True".

Jennifer was cast in a major role as "Carmen" in Sundance Film Festival hit and Academy Award Nominated film "The Sessions", MTV's teen sensation "Awkward" and "Celebrity Undercover Boss".

Since the closing of 'Aladdin' Jennifer worked for former Long Beach Councilwoman, Senator Lena Gonzalez, Long Beach Mayor Dr. Robert Garcia and is also an elected AD 70 Delegate in the California Democratic Party.

Jennifer can be heard as the voice of *Dahlia* in Disney's hit animated feature *WISH*.

Jennifer is currently the City of Long Beach Citywide ADA Coordinator.



## Your Long Beach Rotary Scholarship Foundation

By Cam Doherty Killingsworth, Long Beach Rotary Scholarship Foundation Chair



So how did we get here?

In 1929, Rotarians created the Welch Hanbery Student Loan Foundation, officially incorporated in October 1934. 25 Rotarians set it up, providing "loans" to students training as "skilled technicians," from nurses, automotive repair, aircraft builders to bookkeepers, and trade workers.

The Long Beach Rotary Scholarship Foundation as we know it today was formed in 1963, led by Rotary President and Superintendent of LB Schools, W. Odie Wright. The "seed" money came from **Rotarian Hap Appleton** who donated appreciated stock he bought in the 1930's from what was then a relatively unknown company "IBM.

In 1992 the **Albert Reingardt Foundation** donated its fifty percent (50%) interest in an industrial building in the Irvine Industrial Park. The rent continues to provide a large amount of our annual scholarship funding. He is by far the largest benefactor of our Foundation. In addition to the building, cash was donated over several years. He was a major building contractor. In addition to commercial buildings, including The Petroleum Club where we are meeting



[Snelley Hanks](#)  
Sergeant-at-Arms



[Debbie Thorpe](#)  
Sergeant-at-Arms



[Denise Dahlhausen](#)  
CCO-Club Comm. Officer



[Rayne Sherman](#)  
Career Service Director



[Robyn Gordon-Peterson](#)  
Community Service Director



[Stephen B. Shaw](#)  
Club Service Director



[Lisa Finn](#)  
Fellowship Service Director



[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

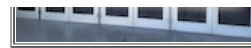


[Wayne C. Slavitt](#)  
President-designate



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

addition to commercial buildings, including The Petroleum Club where we are meeting Wednesday, he built a limited number of custom homes including the Miller House, now the residence of the CSULB President. For those of you at LB State youâ€™ll find one entrance at the Pyramid named in his honor, where he was a major donor.



In 1995, under the leadership of **Rotarian Bill Marmion**, the Scholarship Foundation reported investments, excluding real estate, a market value just over \$2M.

In 2000, **Rotarian Jerry Lane** â€™ for 8 years - led the Scholarship Foundation - initiating new scholarship programs. He raised the bar and a decision was made to hire an Executive Director, Colleen Bragalone and, when she left she introduced us to Letty Totah. Letty organizes us, maintains extraordinary relationships with both schools, our high school counselors and countless liaisons. She continues to be a gift and an inspiration!

We have a dedicated Board guiding and overseeing the vision of those Rotarians preceding us. We have representatives from both schools who sit on our Board â€™ from LBCC it is Yvonne Gutierrez-Sandoval, Dean, Enrollment Services and from CSULB, Scott Apel, Vice President, Administration and Finance and Chief Financial Officer. The broad expertise of the Board AND commitment from our donors and volunteers â€™ continues the vision of Rotarians who preceded us.

Several years ago, we invited Rotarians to join us reading applications, writing articles and releases and serving on selection committees â€™ special thanks to John Graham, Braden Phillips, Vali De Vries, Dan Tapia, Michael Neils, Rayne Sherman, Lisa Ramelew, Dennis Smith, Deborah Williams, Michele Dobson, Dorian Bolick and Theresa Cornwell.

There are several opportunities to support scholarships at every level. Starting at \$1,250, a scholarship can be named for a year at LBCC and \$2,500 at CSULB. The initial minimum gift to sponsor a PERMANENT named scholarship at LBCC is \$25,000 and at CSULB is \$50,000. In addition to making personal connections with our scholarship recipients, the program is managed by a Board of committed Rotary members with 100% of the donations going to the scholarship.

We have strong support from our LBUSD Counselors who invest precious time into connecting our local HS students with Rotary. And we have extraordinary experts who dedicate invaluable hours with our students at both campuses, Oliver Mamangun, CSULB Associate Director of Scholarships | Financial Aid & Scholarships and Shyra Compton, LBCC Associate Director of Scholarships.

We have brought back **Career Day With A Rotarian** â€™ 20 Rotarians (including 9 LBRSF Board Members) are graciously sharing time with a Rotary scholarship recipient â€™ time to learn about their business, make connections and enhance their Rotary experience.

We are working closely with our Club's **Youth Services Avenue** to ensure our Camp Enterprise and Interact Students are informed about scholarship opportunities. And we continue to share the value of Rotaract membership with our students.

We are partnering with **F&M Bank** to provide Financial Workshops for our scholarship recipients.

We **annually present checks** to both LBCC and CSULB (*this Friday, March 22, the CSULB check will be presented at Blair Field â€™ â€™Dirtbags vs. Titansâ€™â€™ come join us!*) Reception at 5pm (RSVP to [scholarships@lbrsf.org](mailto:scholarships@lbrsf.org) TODAY) and purchase your game â€™ 6pm â€™ ticket!

In our 70+ year history, the Long Beach Rotary Scholarship Foundation has funded over 5,500 annual student scholarships totaling more than \$6 million.

*The Foundation is one of the longest and largest annual supporters of LBCC and CSULB. This year the Foundation will provide 235 scholarships totaling \$438,000.*

Enjoy learning more from our website - <https://lbrsf.org>

I would love to have the ability to see into the future but I do know this. Rotaryâ€™s commitment to our Long Beach students attending City and State will continue to evolve, meet needs and add extraordinary students to our Rotary family â€™ students who are making a difference, every day.

## Your Rotary Journey

By Sarah Soriano, Membership Service Director

- **You spoke and we heard you.** At our recent Evening Focus Meetings, many of you talked about the need to engage and retain our members as a top priority for the Club.
  - We all remember how it felt when we joined Rotary - thrilled to be a part of such a wonderful organization, but a bit unsure about how to "step-in" to activities and find our way.
- To help with both engagement and retention, we've developed a program called **Your Rotary Journey**, with the following goals:



- Explore the various parts of our Club
- Find out what you're excited about and assist in next steps for your "journey"
- Enjoy some time for fellowship and getting to know each other!
- Our focus is on new members, but please join us if you want to learn more about Rotary (*or to fill in some "gaps"*).

Look for an upcoming Evite for more details - we're capping the group at 20 people so hurry and sign up (*but we'll be repeating this event often!*)



Reach out to Membership Director,  
Sarah Soriano [ssoriano@younghorizons.org](mailto:ssoriano@younghorizons.org)  
with any questions.

## Rotary Business Breakfast Roundtable (BBR)

By Mary Zerafa Loos, BBR Chair

### "What Great Remote Managers Do Differently"

We would like to invite members to our upcoming Business Breakfast Roundtable (BBR).

The workplace has gone through many changes post-COVID. Today, many business owners need to continue to learn how to best manage remotely. Or do they need to require workers to come into the office? What about a hybrid option? Is working remotely here to stay? What are best practices?

Prior to our Roundtable, we will distribute an article from the Harvard Business Review and use it to kick off our discussion. From there, we will share our experiences.

We hope you can join us in this timely discussion.

**Thursday, March 21**  
**8:00am-9:30am**  
**The Grand, 4101 E. Willow**  
**\$13 (cash preferred) for coffee and pastries**

For more information, please contact **Mary Zerafa Loos** at [562.754.2500](tel:562.754.2500) or [maryzerafa@gmail.com](mailto:maryzerafa@gmail.com).

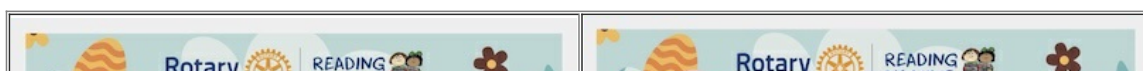
## Spring Egg Hunt & Book Fair @ Rotary Centennial Park

The Centennial Park Committee is again creating new memories for young people in our community. Special kudos to new member **Rachel Massari** for our outstanding flyers!

The event opens for the public at 10:00am on the 23rd. **We need volunteers @ 8:30am** to help set up tables, books and supplies. AND, we are **looking for volunteers** to help the children decorate their bags, pick their favorite book to keep AND help the Easter Bunny!

We are reaching out to two more area schools this year so we anticipate the **need for more Rotarians to join us**, help out and bring joy to the young people. And please wear some sort of Rotary attire, if possible!

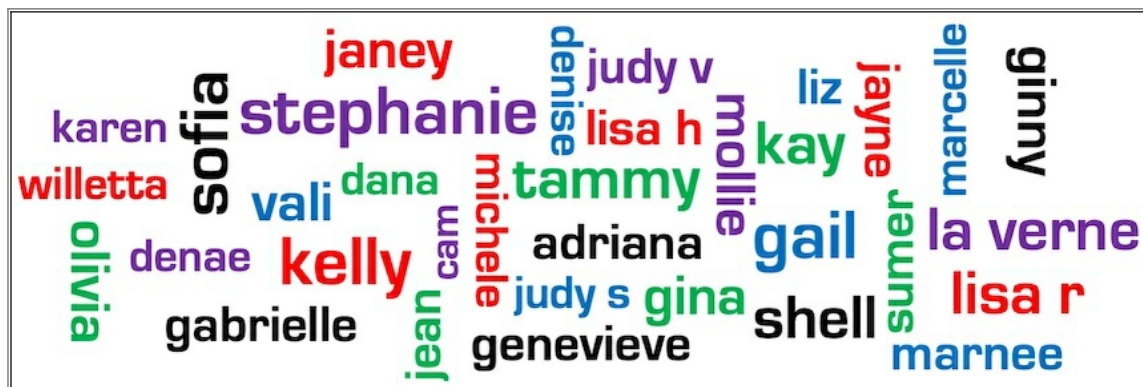
Please email Kay Cofield ([krcofield@gmail.com](mailto:krcofield@gmail.com)) and Robyn Gordon-Peterson ([crobyng@aol.com](mailto:crobyng@aol.com)) if you wish to participate in this fun and inspiring day!







## Did You Know...



Rotary International made a groundbreaking announcement that Jennifer E. Jones, Rotarian from Canada, would become its first woman President in its 115-year history. She served as the RI President in 2022-2023. Stephanie Urchick, Rotarian from Pennsylvania, has been announced as RI President for 2024-2025. We reflect on the story of women in our own Rotary Club of Long Beach.

Of the 97 women who are currently Active members of the RCLB, 34 have been Rotarians over 10 years and some for 37 years! Six have been Presidents of the RCLB and one is President-nominee!

### The Women of Rotary

The book, *A Century of Service: The Story of Rotary International*, details the various ways women were involved in the organization's history since the early 1900s -- except as members. Click on this link, [Women in Rotary](#), for an overview of events leading to court rulings outlawing gender discrimination in what had been traditionally all-male private clubs.

Following a historical decision by the United States Supreme Court on May 4, 1987, the RCLB implemented a compliance plan to integrate women into their membership ranks. The next day, on May 5<sup>th</sup>, RCLB leadership made phone calls inviting women to join as members. In September, included in the RotaryGram list of proposed members were the names of 4 women.

### Trailblazers

Between October 1987 and December 1988 six women became RCLB members: Jean Bixby Smith, Jane Netherton, Jayne Lastusky, Cam Doherty Killingsworth, Stephanie James, and Beverly O'Neill. Each considered it an honor to be asked to join the Club, known for its tradition of service to Long Beach.

There is a story of the famous Table 13 whose members, at the Golden Sails, first invited a woman to their table and she was late. It was Beverly O'Neill and there were a group of Rotarians who wanted her to run for Mayor! Mayor O'Neill is now an Honorary Member of the RCLB. Donna Reckseen joined in 1990 and served as an Active member for 26 years. Today, as an Honorary member, she continues to give her time promoting and recognizing new Paul Harris Fellows. Honorary member Karen Wyrick served as the RCLB Executive Director for 33 years (1979-2012).

### Transitions

Incoming President #71 Craig Dougherty led the RCLB through the initial transition time, skillfully handling what is now recognized as the science and psychology of "exchange management".

The RCLB had been an all-male domain for 70 years, and not everyone was comfortable allowing women at first. Some considered leaving Rotary if women became members. In a 2017 interview with the Long Beach Business Journal, Jean Bixby Smith said, "I will say that despite the feelings" and I was warned that I might not get a very warm reception from some. I absolutely never felt it. As with all social change, acceptance was gradual, and eventually the women members were accepted by everyone. Rotarians began to see that the new members were people with whom they did business, socialized and were their friends. The RotaryGram on September 30, 1987 listed the four females proposed for new members along with four other proposed new members and then were introduced formally to the Club over the next few months.

Many stories filled those first few years... in particular when women traveled and visited other clubs, especially internationally. It was and continues to be important to respect the varied cultures/religions worldwide as this was and is a gradual process. In some areas, there are women-only clubs. We elect to roll with it - it's not quite the same everywhere we go:

- Women were not always welcome and some were denied entry to visiting clubs.
- One was asked to be the 'speaker of the day' as they had no experience how to recruit women.
- One was welcomed at the door with 'you must be an American' as no clubs in that country had women as members.

### Growing into the Future

Today, the RCLB is not the Club of 1917 when it was founded or 1987 when women first joined - nor will the future Club be the same as it is today. The RCLB is a dynamic organization with leadership that embraces diversity of its members, understanding that it strengthens the Club as a whole. Each member brings a unique perspective, talent, and contribution -- all working together in the spirit of the Four-Way Test and Service Above Self.

RE/Land Dev Dir/Pres \* Non-Profit Regional VP \* Ad Agency Pres \* College Admin \* Econ Dev \* Catering/Event Owner \*  
 Telecom Comm Relations/Fundraiser \* Video Prod Owner/Producer \* Own/Design \* Gift Products/Cards \* Dr. of Optometry \*  
 Educational Psychologist \* Ethical Leadership Center Dir \* Organizational Development/Marketing Consultant \*  
 Superior Court Judge \* Car Wash Owner \* Attorney \* Writer/Author \* AV Production Owner \* Realtor \*  
 Co-Own/Design Dir \* Arch/Int Design \* Storage Office Manager \* Foundation CEO \* Municipal Government Consultant \*  
 Non-Profit Health Facilities \* Catering Proprietor \* Child Non-Profit \* Mortgage Loans \* Arts/Entertainment President \*  
 Retail Jewelry/Art \* Insurance Owner/Agent \* Travel/Tour Consultant \* LBUSD Education Foundation \*  
 Real Estate Sales \* Owner/Attorney \* Home Care Health Care \*

### 10+ Years in Rotary

#### (P) Past, Present and Future President

37 Jean Bixby Smith	27 Liz Lucas	18 Judy Vander Lans	13 Sumer Temple	10 Kelly Ruggirello (P)
37 Jayne Lastusky (P)	27 Kay Cofield (P)	18 Lisa Hopkins	12 Marcelle Epley	10 Genevieve Brill Murphy
37 Cam Doherty Killingsworth (P)	24 Shell Grossman	15 Denae Oatey	12 Olivia Maiser	10 Vali De Vries
36 Stephanie James	24 Marnee Brooks	14 Michele Dobson (P)	11 Karen Widerynski	10 Ginny Baxter
30 Gail Schwandner (P)	21 Mollie Beck (P)	14 Dana Buchanan	10 Denise Dahlhausen	10 Judy Seal
28 Sofia Riley	20 Janey Roeder	14 Tammy Newland-Shishido	10 Adriana Lanting	10 Lisa Ramelow
27 LaVerne Davis	20 Gina Rushing Maguire	13 Willetta McCulloh	10 Gabrielle Canale	

## What's Next? A Message from #107

By Michele A. Dobson, RCLB President



As we head towards the off ramp of our year, and the letters for your Rotary Membership Renewals (tongue and cheek), I wanted to be a little open about my "Why Rotary?" I have been asked this question a lot over the years. Reading by 9 has supplied books to Long Beach Unified School District and the wider community for 25 years. Although my father was a Teamster Truck Driver, he was functionally illiterate well into his 30s, a fact he kept well-hidden with the help of my Mom, a great memory and an amazing sense of direction. A self-proclaimed "Country Boy," my Dad dropped out of school and started working in his early teens in a factory in his small North Carolina town. When he and my Mom moved to California in their late teens, he got the job as a union Teamster Truck Driver which was sufficient for him to purchase a home, provide his family with health benefits and feed into a retirement plan. He was earning and did not see the value of further education. However, in his mid-30s, Dad got lit by a fire and developed a desperate desire to learn to read. I was still a kid when I started recording passages onto cassette tapes for my Dad who wanted to learn to read. Remember cassette tapes? At the end of his workday, he would sit at our dining room table for hours listening to those cassette tapes. Seeing him nightly at our dining room table for hours listening to my voice on cassette tapes and trying to read along with the passages, showed me how much my Dad missed finishing his education and made me value the educational opportunities that came my way. Our Literary Programs, our Scholarships and programs for Food Insecure Students resonate with me; and Rotary is a one-stop shop contributing to all of it. That's just one of many ways I can answer the question, "Why Rotary?"

Just to close the loop on the above story, my Dad learned to read well enough to enter the seminary to become Assistant Pastor of the Church where I grew up in West Long Beach.

In the coming weeks, we are extremely busy and I have a lot to get on your calendars.

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On **March 20<sup>th</sup>** is our **Women's History Month Celebration** celebrating the Fab Four, the female Presidents and the Members of our Rotary Club back in 1987 when women started joining. We are calling that group "Club 87." If you really want to have some fun, go in your closets and wear your best "80s" outfit. Remember, the Grand cannot accommodate us that day so we will be at the Petroleum Club.

On **March 23<sup>rd</sup>** at 10:00 a.m., we have the **Rotary Mark Bixby Easter Egg Hunt/Paul Kennard Book Faire at Rotary Centennial Park.**

On **April 7<sup>th</sup>**, at 9:00 a.m., we will participate in the **Long Beach Cambodia Town Parade**, our third and final parade of the year. For the parade, if you have mobility concerns, please reach out to the Rotary Office and we will accommodate you.

On **April 10<sup>th</sup>**, we will hold our **meeting in Cambodia Town at the Hak Heang Restaurant.** The invitation is for every Rotarian to participate.

On **April 17<sup>th</sup>**, keep an eye out for **Rotary Roots** where we visit our fellow Rotarians' businesses. Remember to sign up fast as the slots fill up fast.

We are not done yet, we are forming a **Long Beach Rotary Team** for the **District's Inaugural March for Mental Health** on the morning of **April 27<sup>th</sup>** at 8:00 a.m. If you are not marching on Team LB Rotary, that weekend, (**April 25-28**), Rotary will be visiting the **Calico Ghost Town** our annual fellowship trip.

Finally, get out your hats, fascinators and seersucker suits for our **May 1<sup>st</sup> "Kentucky Derby" theme meeting.** There will be prizes for the best hat and best suit/outfit.

So, there is the menu, pick and choose what interests you and we will see you soon. Cheers.

## Events

March 19th, 4:00-5:15 PM  
[RCLB Board of Directors Meeting](#)

March 20th, 12:00-1:30 PM  
[Long Beach Weekly Club Meeting](#)  
**Speaker:** Jennifer Kumiyama  
**Subject:** "The Road to WISH"  
Special Honor of the Fab 4

March 21st, 8:00-9:30 AM  
[Business Breakfast Roundtable : In person](#)  
**Speaker:** "What Great Remote Managers Do Differently"  
For Long Beach Rotarians only

March 22nd, 6:00-9:00 PM  
[ROTARY NIGHT @ Blair Field LBR Scholarship Foundation](#)  
LB State Dirtbags vs. Fullerton Titans

March 23rd, 10:00-12:00 PM  
[Rotary Park Easter Egg Hunt/Book Fair](#)  
Mark Bixby Easter Egg Hunt and Paul Kennard Book Fair @ Centennial Park

March 27th, 12:00-1:30 PM  
[Long Beach Weekly Club Meeting](#)  
**Speaker:** John Robinson & Megan Marron  
**Subject:** Filming in Long Beach

March 28th, 2:00-3:00 PM  
[RoToastados - A Rotary Toastmaster Alliance Club](#)

March 31st, 3:00-5:30 PM  
[Ronald McDonald House Sunday Meal](#)

April 3rd, 12:00-1:30 PM  
[Long Beach Weekly Club Meeting](#)  
**Speaker:** Mayor James Butts  
**Subject:** Inglewood Intuit Dome;  
Camp Enterprise Kick-off

April 9th, 5:00-7:00 PM  
[5 O'Clock Somewhere](#)

April 10th, 12:00-1:30 PM  
[Long Beach Weekly Club Meeting](#)  
OFFSITE - Cambodian Town  
Hap0 Heang - 2041 E. Anaheim

April 13th, 8:00-9:00 AM  
[Centennial Park Clean-up](#)




April 14th, 5:00-7:00 PM  
[Navajo Friend/Fund Raising](#)

April 16th, 4:00-5:15 PM  
[RCLB Board of Directors Meeting](#)

April 17th, 12:00-1:30 PM  
[Long Beach Weekly Club Meeting](#)  
Rotary Roots  
Register for individual host site, starting March 27

April 24th, 10:30-12:00 PM  
[Peace of Mind Seminar](#)  
**Speakers:** Planning for the Future with Panel of LB Rotarians

April 24th, 12:00-1:30 PM  
[Long Beach Weekly Club Meeting](#)  
**Speaker:** Josh Brost  
**Subject:** Relativity Space

 <b>CREATE HOPE in the WORLD</b>	<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>March 20, 2024 - Vol. 107, Issue 32</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> <div></div>
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