UNITE FOR GOOD

Rotary

## Club Meeting

Long Beach
Meets at The Grand
4101 E. Willow St.
Long Beach, CA 90815
Time: Wednesday at 12:00 PM

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## EVENTS

January 21st
**Rotary Weekly Club Meeting**
**Speakers:** Ryan Antes and James McLanahan
**Subject:** Unsung Heroes: the World of Special Forces

January 22nd
**RoToastados - A Rotary Toastmaster Alliance Club**

January 26th
**RCLB Board of Directors Meeting for FY 2025-2026**

January 28th
**Rotary Weekly Club Meeting**
**Speaker:** Peter Samuelson
**Subject:** "Finding Happy"

January 29th
**Rotary Connections**
**C**ombined with 5 O'Clock Somewhere
Bring a prospect

January 30th
**Rotary Club Monthly Golf Outing**
January at LB Sky Links Golf Course

February 4th
**Rotary Weekly Club Meeting**
**Speaker:** Daniel Swain
**Subject:** Climatology

# This Week's Program

## Wednesday, January 21

*Queen Mary Twilight Evening Dinner Meeting*

### "Unsung Heroes: the World of Special Forces"

**5:00 - 6:00 PM - Bar and Buffet Open**
**6:00 - 7:00 PM - Meeting Program**

An Interview with Ryan Antes and James McLanahan

*Ryan Antes was born and raised here in Long Beach. He was part of the 1997 and 1998 California State Champion Cross Country Team and graduated from Long Beach Poly in 1999.*

*He enlisted in the airborne infantry and served in the 75th Ranger Regiment. He saw combat in Afghanistan and Iraq before being honorably discharged and returning home.He graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science in Marine Biology and Minor in Chemistry from CSULB before obtaining his Juris Doctorate from Loyola Law School. Ryan spent 15 years as a civil trial lawyer and now runs a solo practice out of his home in the Wrigley District.*

*Ryan served eight years on the Long Beach Veterans Commission, is the Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees for American Gold Star Manor and President of the Long Beach Area Veterans Collaborative.*

*James McLanahan is a seasoned leader, educator, and operations specialist with over 20 years of experience in elite military and security roles.*

*He has participated in over 300 direct action missions and developed systems that enhance efficiency and accountability under high-stakes conditions.*

*James combines tactical expertise with strategic vision, having trained foreign forces, managed multimillion-dollar logistics, and learned Mandarin Chinese for cross-cultural operations.*

*He uses adventure as a teaching tool to empower families, teams, and communities.*

*In addition to his operational career, James has performed stunts over several seasons on the hit television series SEAL Team, blending action with storytelling.*

and the Palisades & Hughes Fires

February 5th
**RoToastados - A Rotary Toastmaster Alliance Club**

February 8th
**Super Bowl Party**
Hosted by Deborah Williams
**Subject:** $35/person Buffet/snacks, beer/wine

February 11th
**Rotary Weekly Club Meeting - Twilight on the Queen Mary**
**Speaker:** Space Beach Panel

February 14th
**Centennial Park Clean-up**

February 18th
**Rotary Weekly Club Meeting**
**Speaker:** Bonnie Nixon
**Subject:** Sustainability - PoLB

February 19th
**RoToastados - A Rotary Toastmaster Alliance Club**

February 23rd
**RCLB Board of Directors Meeting for FY 2025-2026**

February 25th
**Rotary Weekly Club Meeting**
**Speaker:** Guitarist Pepe Romero

February 27th
**Rotary Club Monthly Golf Outing**
**Speaker:** February - El Dorado

## Birthdays

Genevieve Brill Murphy
January 18th

Frank R. Newell
January 20th

## Club Leaders

Kelly Ruggirello
President

Joseph Wayne Hower PE, DEE
Assistant to the President

Olivia Maiser
Assistant to the President

Jane Close Conoley
Vice President

John M.

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## Long Beach Rotary Scholarship Foundation Presentation
### Elizabeth Lucas Scholarships to Two Students!

**Reservations are Closed**

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# RoToastados

**By Natalie Hale, Fellowship Service Co-Director**

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# Super Bowl with Rotary

**By Natalie Hale and Linda Rahn, Fellowship Service Co-Directors**

Graham III
Vice President

Douglas P. Haubert
Vice President

David A Lott
Vice President

John E. Romundstad
Secretary Treasurer

James A. Ahumada
Sergeant-at-Arms

Mollie Beck
Sergeant-at-Arms

Raymond Cervantez
Sergeant-at-Arms

Sarah Soriano
Sergeant-at-Arms

Whitney Leathers
CCO-Club Comm. Offcr

Henry C. Fung
Career Service Director

Jeff Kellogg
Club Service Director

Tina Barry
Community Service Co-Director

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## Appeal to Readers

**By Sarah Soriano, Sergeant at Arms**

### Volunteers Needed: Share the Joy of Reading!

For over 15 years, the Rotary Club of Long Beach Literacy Committee has proudly partnered with the Long Beach Early Childhood Education Committee to bring the gift of books to young learners. This year, we continue that tradition at the Early Learning and Kindergarten Festivals on:

- **Saturday, January 24, 2026**, Burcham Elementary
- Time: **9:00 AM – 12:00 PM** (**Volunteers needed at 8:30 AM Set-up**)

- **Saturday, March 7, 2026**, Dooley Elementary
- Time: **9:00 AM – 12:00 PM** (**Volunteers needed at 8:30 AM Set-up**)

- **Saturday, April 25, 2026** This festival will be combined with the Celebration of the Young Child at Billie Jean King Library & Lincoln Park
- Time: **10:00 AM - 2:00 PM**

We need volunteers to help hand out books to children—a simple act that creates a lasting impact. Each child will have the joy of selecting a book of their very own, sparking curiosity and inspiring a lifelong love of reading.

You can volunteer for:

- One hour
- Two hours
- Or the full event

Shelley Hanks
Community Service Co-Director

Natalie Hale
Fellowship Service Co-Director

Linda Josephine Rahn
Fellowship Service Co-Director

Theresa Cornwell
International Service Director

Tanya Adolph
Membership Service Co-Director

Leslie Wiberg
Membership Service Co-Director

Jon L. Mesko
Youth Service Director

Judy Ross
Strategic Planning

Steve M. Hockett
iPast President

Wayne C. Slavitt
President-elect

Freda Hinsche Otto
President-Nominee

Madrid Zimmerman
Club Director
Club Executive Secretary

## Years of Service

Mark A. Kachigan
12-11-2002
**24 Years**

John M. Graham III
12-03-2003
**23 Years**

Your time and smile will make a difference!

Sign up today and help us share the magic of books with the next generation.

Contact **Sarah Soriano**, **ssoriano@younghorizons.org**.

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# Golf in the New Year!

**By Michael J. Wilson and Don Serafano**

**Hello Rotarians, Happy New Year!**

Our next golf outing is scheduled for
**FRIDAY, JANUARY 30,**
at **Sky Links Golf Course in Long Beach,**
with the **first tee time at 11:30 am.**
Golfers of all skill levels are welcome, and as always, friends and family are invited to join us.

If you would like to play, please let Don Serafano **(dserafano@gmail.com)** and me **(wilsomik@gmail.com)** know as soon as possible.

Additionally, please mark your calendars on **Friday, 2/27,** for our **February golf outing at El Dorado.** More details to follow.

We look forward to seeing you on the links!

Kind regards,
*Mike Wilson*
*Don Serafano*

*"I know I am getting better at golf because I am hitting fewer spectators."*
*President Gerald R. Ford*

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# Evening Dinner Focus

**By John E. Romundstad, Chair, Evening Dinner Focus Committee**

Our annual Evening Dinner Focus (EDF) took place on Wednesday, January 7, 2026.

Once each year, *in lieu* of our regular Wednesday luncheon meetings, we gather instead for dinner at members' homes to discuss a specific topic of Club interest. This year, the focus of discussion was what role our Club should play in the upcoming 2028 LA Olympics, numerous events of which will be held here in Long Beach.

Significantly, over 90 Club members attended EDF this year. Special thanks to the following Club members who graciously opened their homes to host this once-a-year occasion: **Laura Doud, Stacy Mungo Flanigan, Natalie Hale, Shelley Hanks, Steve Hockett, Mary Zerafa Loos, Greg and Val Owen, Judy Ross, Brian Russell, Karen Widerynski, Deborah Williams,** and **Nancy Zwiers**. Your hospitality is greatly appreciated!

Thank you.

John E. Romundstad
12-07-2005
**21 Years**

Sumer A. Temple
12-30-2010
**16 Years**

Lisa Ramelow
12-18-2013
**13 Years**

Freda Hinsche Otto
12-03-2014
**12 Years**

Rhiannon Evans Acree
12-10-2014
**12 Years**

Richard Gibson
12-07-2016
**10 Years**

Carolyn Caldwell
12-06-2017
**9 Years**

Susan Collida
12-13-2017
**9 Years**

Diane L Donaldson
12-19-2018
**8 Years**

Jim Better
12-11-2019
**7 Years**

Lee Shoag
12-11-2019
**7 Years**

Michael Rivard
12-09-2020
**6 Years**

Raymond Cervantez
12-07-2022
**4 Years**

Stuart Ledsam
12-06-2023
**3 Years**

Jon L. Mesko
12-06-2023
**3 Years**

Jorge Enciso
12-03-2025
**1 Year**

Eduardo Paschoalin
12-03-2025
**1 Year**

Lonnie Henley
12-10-2025
**1 Year**

Kristian Gragson
12-22-2025
**5 Years**

# Thank you, Port of Long Beach

**By Madrid Zimmerman, Club Director and Executive Secretary**

Thank you Port of Long Beach Community Sponsorship Program!

The Long Beach Board of Harbor Commission provides sponsorship funds to nonprofit and governmental organizations for community projects and events. Through the Port of Long Beach Community Sponsorship Program, $3 million dollars is available for Fiscal Year 2025.

The Long Beach Rotary Charitable Foundation has so far received four sponsorship grants from this current funding: **Bikes for Kids ($2,000)**, **Feeding the Future ($5,000)**, **Reading by 9 ($5,000)**, and **RYLA Camp ($4,000)**. We are very appreciative of the recognition and support of these Rotary Club of Long Beach service projects by the Port program.

**Community Service Avenue Director Tina Barry** and **Youth Service Avenue Director Jon Mesko** took the initiative to apply for these grants.

These photos represent some of the recent activities that have occurred under the Bikes for Kids assembling and safety instruction events (December 12 and 16), the Reading by 9 Holiday Book Giving to Lincoln and King Elementary Schools (December 16 and 19), and the Feeding the Future Grab'n'Go food packing (August 6 at LBCC and January 14 at CSULB).

The Port of Long Beach (PoLB) Community Sponsorship program supports events and projects centered on the environment, education, social justice, the arts and historic preservation, as well as port-related initiatives. Organizations can apply three times a year in January, May, and September. From the January 2025 grant period alone, $1,138,300 was awarded to 320 local nonprofit organizations.

# BIKES *For Kids*

**EVERY THIRD GRADER AT OROPEZA ELEMENTARY RECEIVED A BIKE!**

This is our third year partnering with the YMCA of Long Beach to create this wonderful project. The event brought together Long Beach Rotarians, Interact and Rotaract members as well as YMCA volunteers for bike assembly and fitting. An unexpected benefit was that these youth volunteers had the opportunity to work alongside experienced Rotarians, demonstrating the multi-generational strength of our service community.

We know these bikes help kids stay active and get to know their neighborhoods better, perhaps even exploring areas that are new to them. A lasting partnership is emerging that will help Long Beach families year after year. We don't know where these bikes will take these students, but we've given them the freedom to find out after this week's event.

Thank you to all volunteers who participated and worked so hard. Your commitment to our community's youth made this possible. We look forward to building on this success next year!

Rotary Club of Long Beach

Port of LONG BEACH THE PORT OF CHOICE

JANUARY 14, 2026 at CSULB

# Feeding the Future

Rotary Club of Long Beach

Port of LONG BEACH
THE PORT OF CHOICE

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**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*

January 21, 2026 - Vol. 109, Issue 27

**Club Office**
Rotary Club of Long Beach
The Queen Mary
1126 Queens Hwy.
Sylvania Room
Long Beach, CA 90802
562-499-1752
Rotary@RotaryLongBeach.org

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