

September 21, 2023



La Rueda

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COG Bios

Marzena Wiesnewska, MaryAnn Leffel & Mitchell Friedman

Marzena Wiesnewska is a co-founder and a Center Director of Mathnasium of Monterey, the math only learning center. She arrived in the United States in 2010, and established her residence in the Bay Area. With a background of a professional musician she has always seen a close connection between math and music.

After nearly a decade of working as an Executive Assistant and Operations Manager for an entrepreneurial Silicon Valley couple, she decided to take a turn in her career and start her own business. Encouraged by the success of her friend, she became a Mathnasium franchisee. Marzena is enthusiastic about helping every child in the Monterey County community to truly understand math by teaching it in the way that makes sense to them.



MaryAnn Leffel retired from a 45 year banking career. Since that time, she has been deeply involved in our community.

MaryAnn currently serves as an elected official on the Monterey Regional Airport Board and Chair of LAFCO, Monterey County. She is Vice Chair of the Monterey County Workforce Development Board, also serving as chair of the Business Services Committee. Presently, her additional board involvement also includes the Carmel Valley Art Association, Legal Services for Seniors, the Regional Taxi Authority and the Old Monterey Foundation.

MaryAnn was the co founder of CSUMB's Institute for Innovation and Economic Development, Monterey County Business Council, Monterey Bay Economic Partnership, Central Coast Broadband Consortium, Competitive Clusters Monterey County and Leadership Monterey County. Past board positions include those organizations as Chair along with Chair of the Monterey Peninsula Chamber of Commerce, Volunteer Center of Monterey Peninsula, Leadership Monterey, Monterey County Overall Economic Development Commission, Natividad Hospital Board, Monterey County Agricultural Education and Monterey County Revolving Loan Fund. In addition, she has served on Meals on Wheels Monterey Peninsula, Interim Inc, Monterey County Film Commission, Carmel Business Association, Old Monterey Business Association United Way Monterey County, and Seaside's Economic Development Commission. MaryAnn was California Chamber of Commerce Small Business Advocate of the Year in 2001 and Monterey Peninsula Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year in 2012.

After moving all over the world with the military, she lives in Monterey with her husband Hal, a retired US Army LTC. They have 2 adult children and 3 granddaughters and an adorable 4 legged boy, BUZZ!

Mitchell Friedman is a native New Yorker, and proud of it! He currently serves as a Senior Lecturer at the Naval Postgraduate School, where he has taught courses on communications, leadership, and organizational behavior since 2016. In addition, Mitchell facilitates the Leadership Monterey County program and advises organizations on how to develop the communication and leadership skills of their employees. He's also serving as Vice President of the Board of Directors of the Riverwood Community Association in Carmel, CA.



After earning a B.A. in History at Brandeis University, Mitchell moved to California to continue his education. He attended Stanford University, where he earned an M.A. degree in Modern European History. Within a few years of completing his degree,

Mitchell began a career in public relations, which spanned three decades and included agency, in-house, and independent consulting work with high technology,

real estate, finance, non-profit, and other organizations. Starting in 1998, Mitchell concurrently taught university-level courses at several institutions located throughout the greater San Francisco Bay Area.

In 2007 Mitchell returned to school to earn an EdD (Doctorate in Education) in Organization and Leadership at University of San Francisco, as he aspired to transition from public relations into full-time employment in higher education. That same year he landed his first higher education administrative position as Director of Career Services for the MBA program at University of San Francisco, which was followed by a position as Associate Dean of Student Affairs and Career Development at Presidio Graduate School.

Mitchell also founded Bay Area Street Hockey (1998), the first street hockey league in the San Francisco Bay Area. It continues to thrive. As a Toastmaster for thirteen years (1986-1999), he earned numerous public speaking and leadership awards.

Mitchell and his wife, Arete Nicholas, live with their cat, “King” Silas, in San Francisco and Carmel.



Rotary Club 633
February 10, 2024

CLUB EVENTS

Friday, September 29
Final Friday
John Scherer’s House

Saturday, September 30
RCoM Annual BBQ
Indian Village, Pebble Beach

Saturday, February 10, 2024
RCoM 100th Year Anniversary
Del Monte Hotel, NPS

Rotary
Club of Monterey

SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER 2023

Thursday	– 09/21	Board Meeting	– 10:30 AM	– Hilton Garden Inn
Thursday	– 09/28	Dr. James Lindholm	– Monterey Bay’s Living Laboratory	
Thursday	– 10/05	CSUMB President Dr. Vanya Quinones	– CSUMB	
Thursday	– 10/12	Jane Russo	– Quo Vadis Home Health Care And The Hospice Industry – A CCVNA Perspective	
Thursday	– 10/19	Dianne Dreissen	– Housing For Kids	
Thursday	– 10/26	Bill Briggs	– Who Was The Pirate Hippolyte Bouchard?	

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Kirby Garry - September 27

September Membership Anniversaries

Rusty Ward	09/27/81	42 Years
Dan Kreer	09/23/82	41 Years
Steve Merrell	09/01/05	18 Years
Henry Ruhnke	09/06/07	16 Years
Renata Barnwell	09/15/16	15 Years
Anthony Cosentino	09/22/11	12 Years
Chris Gatward	09/27/12	11 Years
Randall Freeman	09/19/19	4 Years
Nate Kadlecek	09/19/19	4 Years