



Rotary



Club of Long Beach



IMAGINE  
ROTARY

## This Week's Program

### Club Meeting

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

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**Wednesday, December 14**

**Annual Holiday Lunch**

**Featuring The Heart-N-Soul Band  
Special participatory "12 Days of Christmas" Sing-a-long**

**LUNCH starts @ 12 Noon  
This is a sit-down, plated lunch**

**Reservations are closed**

## Announcing the 2023-2024 Board of Directors and RCLB President #109

By Michele A. Dobson, RCLB President #108



My Fellow Rotarians:

Please allow me the pleasure of introducing our 2023-2024 Board of Directors and our President-nominee. Here are the Rotarians that have committed to serving on the Board of Directors including monthly board meetings, monthly committee meetings and attending the Wednesday Rotary Meetings.

Dedicated to keeping the Club running logistically including the weekly set-up of the meetings is **Club Service** headed by Avenue Director **STEVE SHAW**.

**Membership Service** Director, **SARAH SORIANO** has a goal of pushing the Club's membership past 300 members by 2024.

We are seeking to increase the number of Interact Clubs in the City and increase the Club's participation in the citywide parades. This effort will be led by **Youth Services** Director **CONOR WEIR**.

With a goal of creating a sustainable committee structure and financing to carry out our current and future International projects our **International Service** Director is Past President **MATTHEW KINLEY**.

**RAYNE SHERMAN** will return as **Career Services** Director leading our fellowship through our different business connections.

For 2023-2024, we are seeking "boots on the ground" projects for Rotarians to engage in hands-on service projects. This effort will be led by **Community Service** Director, **ROBYN GORDON-PETERSON**.

**LISA FINN** will lead the **Fellowship Avenue of Service** keeping you partying through happy hours and fellowship opportunities.

**Communications** Director will be **DENISE DAHLHAUSEN** making sure the wider community knows what's going on within our Club and raising the profile of the Club's service projects.

Our **Sergeants-at-Arms** are **DEBBIE THORPE, SHEL-LEE DAVIS, THERESA CORNWELL** and **SHELLEY HANKS**. They will keep us on time and on task during our meetings with an iron grip on the microphone.

Our Vice Presidents have vowed to keep speakers of high quality and entertaining so Club members remain engaged and attendance is high. The **Vice Presidents** are **MARCELLE EPLEY, DEB KAHOOKELE, JOSEPH HOWER** and **SUMER TEMPLE**.

Our 2023-2024 **Treasurer** is **JOHN ROMUNDSTAD** and our **Assistants to the President** will be **JEAN BIXBY SMITH** and **GAIL SCHWANDNER**.

President **ALFREDO VELASCO** will be **Immediate Past President** to the Home of Feeding the Future, the Home of the Mozambique Water Project, the Home of the largest scholarship donor to Long Beach City College and the Home of the second largest donor of scholarships to California State University Long Beach and so much more.

And our **President-elect** is the incomparable **STEVEN HOCKETT**.

Taking the baton after Steven Hockett to orchestrate the future of this Club is Current Vice President and Executive Director of the Long Beach Symphony Orchestra **President-nominee, KELLY RUGGIRELLO**.

This is your **Board of Directors for 2023-2024** and congratulations **President-nominee KELLY RUGGIRELLO**.

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## Welcome New Rotarian...

By **Olivia Maiser**



**Raymond Cervantez** is a Vice President of Farmers and Merchants Bank and the Branch Manager of the F&M Los Altos branch. He has been in banking for 28 years, first with Bank of America and then Citibank before joining F&M 8 years ago.

I have known Raymond since in 2017 when I served as a retreat leader for his Leadership Long Beach class. I learned during his 10-month program that he is genuinely committed to community involvement.

Raymond has a long and impressive history of volunteering, and the depth of his involvement in each organization exemplifies his commitment to service: Board President, Pathways to Independence; National President, Delta Sigma Chi (a co-ed, social Latin-based fraternity); Vice President, Alpha Phi Omega International; Board of Directors, Jewish Family & Children's Service; and, along with several other Rotarians, the Tipplers Club.

Raymond's initial interest in becoming a Rotarian was driven by his desire to affiliate with people who share his values. In the past few months since he started attending Rotary lunches and events, he has found Rotary to be a perfect fit.

Raymond has an interest in RCLB literacy projects and is also impressed by our international projects. If you haven't met Raymond yet, I encourage you to get to know him. You will find that he is approachable, curious, and eager to learn about the various service opportunities our Club offers.

In his spare time, Raymond loves reading about the Tudors and watching Game of Thrones. Please join his **co-sponsor, Leslie Wiberg**, and me in welcoming new Rotarian, **Raymond Cervantez!**

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## Welcome New Rotarian...

By **Gregory Haeseler**



When **Gilbert** initially reached out to Madrid to inquire about our legendary Club, I followed up to invite him to a lunch. By the time I arrived at 11:45 am, Gilbert was already there helping Rich Gibson set up the meeting! Right away, I knew this man was a Rotarian at heart.

As I continued to invite Gilbert to lunches, Gilbert continued to show up early to help set up. I later learned that Gilbert met Randy Gordon at a Chamber event. No surprise there! When Gilbert was ready to join our Club, Randy and I were enthusiastically ready to sponsor him.

Born and raised in Compton by two hardworking parents, Gilbert learned the virtues of working hard and most importantly to be respectful, loving and caring to all concerned. After majoring in Communications at Biola University, Gilbert has made a career in the banking industry for the last 20 years. He eventually joined City National Bank in 2008 as a Relationship Banker and has since held different responsibilities. Gilbert was rewarded for his faithfulness and dependability by being promoted as the Vice President Branch Manager of the City National Bank office located in the 100 Oceangate building.

True to his upbringing, Gilbert has served on a number of boards of non-profits in downtown Los Angeles serving the homeless and underserved communities. He currently remains a board member at Joshua House that provides medical, dental, optometry and mental health care to the skid row community. Now that Gilbert is in Long Beach, he is looking to join a couple local boards.

Also true to his upbringing, Gilbert has a love for animals and has a pet dog, Arthur, whom he found at a rescue shelter. When not serving others including Arthur, Gilbert enjoys traveling and reading books on theology.

It gives Past President **Randy Gordon** and me great pleasure to introduce our newest Rotarian – **Gilbert Maldonado Wenseslao**.

## Join Us and Ring the Bell! 12.17.22

By **David F. Woody**



We have a tradition here at Long Beach Rotary to **Ring the Bell for the Salvation Army** to raise funds for their organization. They take in the indigents & other poor folk, to be able to shower, get fed & have a nice clean bed to sleep in. The funds help the community throughout the year.

See you **Saturday, December 17** in front of **Chase Bank** on 2nd Street in Belmont Shore - Santa will be there!

We will set it up in **shifts of an hour or two from 10am to 6pm**. We will have red aprons to wear, the red pot for people to put their \$ in and will have our big Rotary sign up. It is satisfying to know it really is for a good cause. Bring your folding chairs. See you there!

Contact:

**Dave Woody:** [dave@woodyfinancial.com](mailto:dave@woodyfinancial.com)  
**Dan Garrett:** [dan.garrett@usw.salvationarmy.org](mailto:dan.garrett@usw.salvationarmy.org),  
**Steve Shaw:** [steve.shaw47@aol.com](mailto:steve.shaw47@aol.com)



## Report from the Chair... Long Beach Rotary Charitable Foundation

By **Dennis C. Smith, LBRCF Chair**

Historically, the **Long Beach Rotary Charitable Foundation (LBRCF)** has been funded almost exclusively by Long Beach Rotarians' donations either as bequests, direct donations, or funds for birthdays or other recognitions.

As of September 30<sup>th</sup>, the Foundation had approximately \$1.345 million



The above figure provides a visual of the separation of funds in our accounts. The chart's large pink shaded areas represents the restricted funds, which is approximately 78%. Please note that the largest slice of the pie (over \$900,000) is a donation from former Rotarian Henry Meyer's estate. These funds when combined with the violet portion of almost \$120,000 donated by Bob Steuber and Family, are all restricted and fund our annual Camp Enterprise project. Thanks to the extremely generous donations of these two

outstanding Rotarians, Camp Enterprise will continue to be funded for many years into the future.

Other restricted funds are designated for Feeding the Future, Reading by 9, Centennial Park, and other Rotary projects.

The majority of the remaining \$300,000 is restricted by a formula that determines the amount available to be awarded each year. The formula takes the average value of the eligible account(s) at the end of each of the prior twelve quarters in a three-year period. From this amount 4% is eligible for spending by the LBRCF. For example, if the twelve-quarter average for the three-year period is \$200,000, then \$8000 is eligible to be spent in the current year.

Earlier this year I announced that the LBRCF Board was expanding by the addition of 2 members in each of the next 3 years with each serving a three-year term. These members are the first Board members who are not in the Club's presidential line nor appointed by Club's Presidents. We are excited to have Rich Gibson and John Romundstad as the first two to join the enlarged Board.

Discussions at recent Board meetings have been concerned with the LBRCF's focus. Where should we concentrate expenditure of our funds and resources? In the past, the LBRCF has utilized a grant process and awarded small grants to local non-profit organizations. Looking forward, the LBRCF Board of Directors would like the funds to support local, regional, and international projects and our Rotary Club's programs. Also, to look for opportunities to collaborate with other community projects which meet our mission.

It is the LBRCF Board's intention to expend funds consistent with the Club's mission. Our goals include increasing communication with the membership and community-at-large and providing more frequent updates to enhance our membership's understanding and support of the LBRCF.

Our Club's demographics have changed over the years, as well as the funding and donations toward the Club's projects and our Foundation. Because of this, we are exploring the possibility of creating an annual fundraising event that will not only raise funds for the LBRCF, but also engage our community and increasing their awareness of the Club.

Our objective is to be deliberative and create a long-term funding and distribution plan for your LBRCF. This year is the beginning of the process that will result in a robust organization which is instrumental to improving our community, elevating the presence of the Rotary Club of Long Beach, and providing opportunities for you, our members, to engage in projects and programs.

On February 1<sup>st</sup>, after a two-year hiatus, the Evening Focus Dinner (EFD) meeting discussions (*formerly Evening Panel Dinners*) will focus on the Long Beach Rotary Charitable Foundation. It is our hope that you will save that evening on your calendar and attend one of these meetings to provide your input.

Thank you.



**Thank you so much for participating in the Belmont Shore Christmas parade!!!**

We wouldn't have a parade without you!!!!

The sidewalks were full of people excited to see all of the holiday cheer YOU brought.

All of the decorations, costumes, music was so fun. We can see how much effort you put into your entry.

We'll be announcing the winners of the judged categories on our Instagram tomorrow.

Reminder you can see the recording of the live stream on our website [www.belmontshore.org](http://www.belmontshore.org)

Click through to watch it on YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RgVONGYAEro>  
(Rotary appears approximately 1:40:45). We've already had over 8,000 views!!!

If you're posting photos on Instagram please tag @belmontshorelb

**Your feedback is welcome and essential!**

If you have any thoughts you'd like to share please reply to this email [info@belmontshore.org](mailto:info@belmontshore.org) and let us know about your experience.

We hope you continue to have a great holiday season.

*Heather Kern, Executive Director*

Belmont Shore Business Association (BSBA)



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

December 13th  
[5 O'Clock Somewhere](#)  
**Cancelled** for December

December 14th  
[Long Beach Weekly Club Meeting](#)  
Holiday Lunch Program  
Special entertainment from The Heart-N-Soul Band. Participatory 12 Days of Christmas Sing-a-long

December 17th  
[Centennial Park Clean-up](#)  
**Re-scheduled from December 10**

December 17th  
[Long Beach Rotary Club - Ring the Bell](#)  
Ringing the Bell for the Salvation Army 2nd Street Chase Bank

December 20th  
[RCLB Board of Directors Meeting](#)  
**CANCELLED** this month

December 21st  
[Long Beach Weekly Club Meeting](#)  
**DARK** for Christmas/Holiday week

December 28th  
[Long Beach Weekly Club Meeting](#)  
**DARK** for New Year's/Holiday week

January 4th  
[Long Beach Weekly Club Meeting](#)  
**DARK** - no meeting

January 10th  
[5 O'Clock Somewhere](#)

January 11th  
[Long Beach Weekly Club Meeting](#)  
**Speaker:** Darick Simpson  
**Subject:** Miller Foundation

January 14th  
[Centennial Park Clean-up](#)

**Birthdays This Next Month - Click Name to Send a Greeting**



[Mark A. Kachigan](#)  
December 14th



[Conor Kenneth Weir](#)  
December 17th



[Michael Peters](#)  
December 18th



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



[Dawn McIntosh](#)  
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



[Dan Garrett Jr.](#)  
December 28th



[Dorian Bolick](#)  
December 28th



[Goran Reil](#)  
December 29th



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



[Mark Gray](#)  
January 3rd



[Robert W. Latimer](#)  
January 9th



[Craig R. Dougherty](#)  
January 10th

**Club Leadership - Click Name to Send a Message**



[Alfredo Velasco](#)  
President



[Mollie Beck](#)  
Assistant to the President



[Mark Guillen](#)  
Assistant to the President



[Olivia Maiser](#)  
Vice President

[Don Rodriguez](#)  
Vice President

[Kelly Ruggirello](#)  
Vice President

[Jean Bixby Smith](#)  
Vice President



[Anthony J. Gales](#)  
Secretary  
Treasurer



[Virginia Baxter](#)  
Sergeant-at-Arms



[Sathya Chey](#)  
Sergeant-at-Arms



[Andy C. McFarland](#)  
Sergeant-at-Arms



[Nancy Zwiers](#)  
Sergeant-at-Arms



[Dana A. Buchanan](#)  
Communications Director



[Rayne Sherman, FIIDA, CID, CSI](#)  
Career Service Director



[Richard Gibson](#)  
Club Service Director



[Tina Barry](#)  
Community Service Director



[Brett Lewis](#)  
Fellowship Service Director



[Freda Hinsche Otto](#)  
International Service Director



[Judy Ross](#)  
Membership Service Director



[Brian Camp Russell](#)  
Youth Service Director



[Dennis C. Smith](#)  
iPast President



[Michele A. Dobson](#)  
President-elect



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



[Madrid Zimmerman](#)  
Club Executive Director  
Club Executive Secretary



[Wayne C. Slavitt](#)  
Rotary Foundation Chair

**Rotary Club of Long Beach**  
meets every Wednesday

*LB Skyline Photo Credit  
Long Beach Convention & Visitors Bureau*

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