



**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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Photography - [CaughtInTheMoment.com](#)

**WORLD REFUGEE DAY**

Saturday, our very own **Suzan Al Shamhari**, 2016 Mark Bixby Leadership Award Recipient 2018 Rotary International Global Grant Scholar was visited at her home in Brooklyn, NY by UN Secretary-General **António Guterres**.

Click on the link below to view the article and then click on the photo in the article to enjoy a video of Suzan and UNSG Guterres posted on the United Nations website.

[UN World Refugee Day-Suzan Al Shamhari](#)



**President 105's Post #49**

By Dennis C. Smith



In last week's RotaryGram we presented the criteria for the three awards our Club presents to deserving recipients. Below are the remarks made at the Presidents' Party last Wednesday and pictures of the awards bestowed.

While the criteria for each of the awards is different, all three have the foundation of, and all three of our recipients embody, Service Above Self.

Congratulations Robyn, Harry and Madrid, on your very much deserved recognitions for all you do for our Club and community.

We are Long Beach Rotary,

Dennis

**REMINDER - NO Lunch meetings on June 22, June 29 and July 6**

**2022 Josh Owen Memorial Award - Robyn Gordon-Peterson**

By Henry C. Fung

On behalf of all the Avenues of Service Directors, I would like to express our appreciation for the Rotarians' participation in the diverse activities and programs offered this past year. In our role, we had the opportunity to meet and learn more about the participants. And we also understand that for an event to be successful, there is a lot of work which occurs behind the scenes accompanied with the solid support provided by our Rotary Office.

The **Josh Owen Memorial Award** was established to recognize a Long Beach Rotarian who demonstrated Service Above Self in the past year with his/her active participation in a project or program. This Rotarian also embodies the 4-Way Test in how s/he thinks, says, or does while engaging Rotarians and members of the community.

The Avenues of Service Directors have had the pleasure of working with many Rotarians who have contributed to the successes of the 2021-22 Rotary Year and it was very difficult to recognize only one person.

At President Dennis' request, nominations were received and reviewed at the May 19th Board of Directors' meeting. A secret vote followed and **Robyn Gordon-Peterson** was selected as this year's honoree for the Josh Owen Memorial Award.

Robyn, please join me at the podium while I share the nomination received on your behalf. Robyn Gordon-Peterson was the moving force behind maintaining and revitalizing Rotary's Centennial Park (RCP) so residents in the adjoining neighborhood would feel more comfortable in being able to utilize the Park with their family. Robyn has not only organized the Park's monthly cleanups but also taken upon herself to contact people in the City to help clean, maintain, augment the needed safety, and facilitated the public services to help the homeless individuals who inhabited the Park.



On the Park's safety, there are at least 3 entrances to the Park and only the entrance by the neighborhood is left open. The others are secured by a chain and lock.

I digress a moment to illustrate how serious Robyn is about the Park being a safe place for the neighborhood to enjoy.

Robyn keeps a spare chain in her bag to replace the chains when cut. Thanks to Kay for taking the photo.

Robyn's monthly cleanups are well organized, effective, and provide fellowship for Rotarians and their friends who pitch in with the cleanups. In addition, Robyn undertook and reinstated the Annual Mark Bixby Easter Egg Hunt with the addition of the Paul Kennard Book Fair. This event required coordination and collaboration with the Long Beach Unified School District, the Park's City Councilperson, Long Beach Recreation and Park Department, the Long Beach Police Department, and purchases of the many items in addition to the services provided by our Rotary Office. The tremendous coordination of the multiple details needed for a successful event required an organized individual who worked through all the challenges that did and could arise.

Her efforts did not stop with respect to having the families in the neighborhood feeling more comfortable in utilizing the Park. Estimates are being obtained and contacts with the LB Park and Recreation Department have been made to restore the burnt and damaged playing surface beneath the children's playground equipment.

She is also working to have a Music in the Park event later this year for the neighborhood children and their families.



This is in addition, to serving as one of four great Vice Presidents this year to arrange for interesting and informative luncheon speakers.



Please join me in congratulating **Robyn Gordon-Peterson** for being recognized as this year's **Josh Owen Memorial Award** honoree.

## 2022 Cup of Kindness - Harry Saltzgaver

By Dennis C. Smith

First awarded in 1966, the Rotary Club of Long Beach's Cup of Kindness is awarded annually to "citizen(s) of our community who have made notable contributions to others without thought of reward, personal gain, or recognition."

This year, our **Cup of Kindness** is presented to an individual who has been ever present in our community for over three decades of service. I am willing to bet that many people in this room have at one time or another served on a community or non-profit board with our Cup of Kindness recipient.

Our recipient embodies Rotary's motto, Service Above Self. Not one to toot their own horn, but at the same time opening up their thoughts and opinions, slings and arrows be damned, which has earned respect throughout our city and community.

Before I list more attributes and contributions to our community, let's have our recipient come to the stage. If we could please have the author of the column "A Pinch of Salt" come up to the stage.

**Harry Saltzgaver** came to Long Beach from Colorado in 1992, and from the moment he arrived he has committed himself to making Long Beach a better city and community. As the Executive Editor of the weekly community newspaper The Grunion Gazette, Harry has shined the light on the many community organizations and non-profits, and the volunteers who make them successful, providing much needed exposure to their efforts and great results of their work.



Harry admired and learned from his dad's selflessness – his dad's watchwords were "service to others, caring for family, and doing the right thing," while not a Rotarian, Harry truly puts Service Above Self.

Besides attending many community events, either as a member of the media, but more often as a member of the event's organization or as a supporter, Harry's wife, Maria, can be found close by his side. Maria is also selfless as she shares Harry with the following organizations on whose boards he has served. A partial list includes:

- Long Beach Water Commission
- Long Beach Parks and Recreation Commission
- Goodwill of South LA County
- Grand Prix of Long Beach Foundation
- U.S. Vets Advisory Board
- Salvation Army of Long Beach
- WomenShelter of Long Beach
- Precious Lamb Preschool
- Public Corporation for the Arts
- Long Beach Chamber of Commerce
- Hearts for Long Beach, and
- Rancho Los Alamitos Foundation



When asked about his all-in participation on multiple boards and organizations, Harry answers that he has been called by God to service. Thankfully for us, Harry answered that call for hundreds of thousands of lives in our community who have unknowingly benefited from his efforts.

Harry, for your tireless efforts to improve our community, to lift up others through your professional and volunteer roles, for your embodiment of Service Above Self, I am honored on behalf of the Rotary Club of Long Beach to present you with the **Cup of Kindness**.

## 2022 President's Award - Madrid Zimmerman

By Dennis C. Smith

**The President's Award** is presented by the current Club president to a Rotarian in good standing who has performed outstanding service to Long Beach Rotary during the current year. Club tradition is to have a long build up in the introduction before the President's Award recipient is announced. Tonight we will not have a long lead in as I want the awardee to come to the stage for your recognition before some of the background. I will share this with you. We started our relationship with the Rotary Club of Long Beach at the same time ten years ago when **Madrid Zimmerman** became our Executive Director and member of our Club. Please come up to the stage Madrid.



Long time, very long time Executive Director Karen Wyrick notified the Club in 2012 that she was retiring. Then President Blake Christian put together a search committee to find a new ED. The committee consisted of Chair Jack Hinsche, Cam Killingsworth, Carl Ann Wiley, Craig Dougherty, Craig Cross, Brad Willingham, Incoming President Greg Haeseler and Blake. They vetted sixteen candidates and to quote Cam, "she rose to the top." As with many things Long Beach, Randy Gordon had a role in Madrid's hiring, as she had called the Chamber asking about possible job openings and Randy referred her to our Club knowing the ED position was opening.

The committee sent Madrid an offer to begin work starting June 1<sup>st</sup> 2012. She replied that she accepts the offer but was intricately involved in the White Squirrel Festival in Brevard, North Carolina, and wanted to see that through before leaving for Long Beach.

Madrid's departure from Brevard was a big deal, making the local newspaper.

Madrid started on June 6, 2012. At the lunch meeting that day I was introduced to the Club as a new member by my sponsor, Dana Buchanan. Yes, our first Long Beach Rotary meetings were the same day.

Starting with Blake Christian, Madrid has worked with, supported, encouraged, cajoled, perhaps admonished a time or two, laughed with, presented solutions to and was leaned on by, Greg Haeseler, Kay Cofield, Brian Russell, Greg Burnight, Jayne Lastusky, Steve Keesal, Gail Schwandner, Mollie Beck, Matt Kinley, and myself. The same will occur with future presidents, and seeing the interaction between them, I know incoming president Alfredo Velasco has already experienced many of these actions with Madrid.

Haeseler said about Madrid, "When Madrid and I had our first luncheon together she said something I'll never forget, When it comes to putting on an event we are like swans, cool and calm above the surface while underneath paddling feverishly."

Gail Schwandner, when asked about Madrid said "she made me a better President, for instance starting an email with "read all the way to the end," Gail admits to skimming through emails and messages and to read to the end was to make sure the importance of the message was not lost.

The Covid-19 pandemic moved our meetings to Mollie's dining room, to Matt's patio, to Cambrian Healthcare where Mollie and Matt introduced most of our Members to Zoom, and like the rest of the world or motto became "you're on mute." Shifting gears to e-meetings was somewhat seamless in very large part due to our always steady Madrid. Jayne Lastusky summed up Madrid's ability to handle change, which she, Jayne, experienced as our Centennial year celebrations kicked-off, "always the quintessential professional who is highly respected by her peers. Her impressive planning and organizational skills are invaluable to the Club."

Eleven presidents, each with their own quirks, schedules, plans and dreams, hundreds of members, over 450 weekly meetings, multiple large club conferences, international conferences, and countless other tasks and duties to keep our Club operating—plus a pandemic, and for every president and member, Madrid is there with her smile, her laugh and her support. Matt Kinley summed everything up perfectly for me, and I'm sure as well for the other nine presidents who have served with Madrid, "The best part of being president is getting to know Madrid."

Members and guests,  
the recipient of the **President's Award**,  
**Madrid Zimmerman**



**SAVE THE DATE**









**2022-2023 First Rotary Meeting**  
**Wednesday, July 13**

**Speaker - Donald Clinebell and The Self Driven Life**
















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

- |   |   |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|
| <p>July 9th<br/><b>Centennial Park Clean-up</b><br/>Centennial Park<br/>Monthly clean-up</p>  | <p>July 13th<br/><b>Long Beach Weekly Club Meeting</b><br/><b>Speaker:</b> Donald Clinebell - Former Dep. Attorney General, State of California<br/><b>Subject:</b> The Service Driven Life</p> | <p>July 14th<br/><b>5 O'Clock Somewhere</b><br/><b>Event</b> Monthly mixer<br/>Location varies each month. Invitation by EVITE</p>                     | <p>July 19th<br/><b>RCLB Board of Directors Meeting</b><br/>Board of Directors<br/>Monthly meeting</p> |
| <p>July 20th<br/><b>Long Beach Weekly Club Meeting</b><br/><b>Speaker:</b> Henry Walker - CEO, F&amp;M Bank<br/><b>Subject:</b> Finances in a Post-Pandemic World</p> | <p>July 21st<br/><b>Business Breakfast Roundtable</b><br/>For Long Beach Rotarians only<br/>via Zoom</p>  | <p>July 27th<br/><b>Long Beach Weekly Club Meeting</b><br/><b>Speaker:</b> Dan Hart, CEO, Virgin Orbit<br/><b>Subject:</b> Transformation of Space</p> |  |

**Birthdays - Click Name to Send a Greeting**

- |   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|--|
|   | <a href="#">Owen Kirschner</a><br>June 22nd     |    | <a href="#">Ahmet Atahan</a><br>June 25th      |
|  | <a href="#">John E. Romundstad</a><br>June 27th |  | <a href="#">Suman Naresh</a><br>June 28th      |
|   | <a href="#">Jack E. Hinsche</a><br>June 30th    |    | <a href="#">Jeffrey G. Wimbish</a><br>July 3rd |
|  | <a href="#">Robert D. Bond</a><br>July 3rd      |  | <a href="#">Dennis C. Smith</a><br>July 5th    |

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

- |   |  |   |   |
|---|--|---|---|
|     | <a href="#">Dennis C. Smith</a><br>President                         |    | <a href="#">Dana A. Buchanan</a><br>Assistant to the President  |
|    | <a href="#">Dorian Bolick</a><br>Vice President                      |  | <a href="#">Robyn Gordon-Peterson</a><br>Vice President         |
|     | <a href="#">Daniel Bruce Lipton</a><br>Vice President                |    | <a href="#">Anthony J. Gales</a><br>Secretary<br>Treasurer      |
|  | <a href="#">Aaron Anthony Blackburn</a><br>Sergeant at Arms          |     | <a href="#">Gregory J. Burnight</a><br>Sergeant at Arms         |
|    | <a href="#">Nelinia 'Nel' Varenas</a><br>Vice President              |    | <a href="#">Gaia Valentino</a><br>Sergeant at Arms              |
|    | <a href="#">Brett Lewis</a><br>Sergeant at Arms                      |  | <a href="#">Steve M. Hockett</a><br>Fellowship Service Director |
|     | <a href="#">Richard Gibson</a><br>Club Service Director              |    | <a href="#">Tina Barry</a><br>Community Service Director        |
|  | <a href="#">Freda Hinsche Otto</a><br>International Service Director |   |   |



[Lisa Hajin](#)  
Membership Service Director



[Matthew L. Kinley](#)  
iPast President



President - designate



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



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



[Judy Ross](#)  
Rotary Foundation Chair



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



<p><b>Rotary Club of Long Beach</b> meets every Wednesday</p> <p><i>LB Skyline Photo Credit Long Beach Convention &amp; Visitors Bureau</i></p> <p>June 22, 2022 Vol. 105, Issue 49</p>	<p><b>Club Office</b></p> <p>400 Oceangate, Suite 470 Long Beach, CA 90802</p> <p>562-436-8181</p> <p><a href="mailto:Rotary@RotaryLongBeach.org">Rotary@RotaryLongBeach.org</a></p>	<p><b>Visit</b></p> <p><a href="#">Long Beach Rotary</a></p> <p><a href="#">District 5320</a></p> <p><a href="#">Rotary International</a></p> <p><a href="#">E-Club of the West</a></p>	<p><b>Visit our Social Media Pages</b></p> <p> </p>
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