



This Week's Program

<p>Wednesday, September 18</p> <p>"Building Beach Athletics"</p> <p>Bobby Smitheran CSULB Executive Director of Athletics</p> <p>The Queen Mary 12:00 Noon - LUNCH 12:15 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. - PROGRAM</p>	
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Bobby Smitheran was named the 13th Executive Director of Athletics at Long Beach State in August 2023. Smitheran has more than 20 years of experience in intercollegiate athletics, previously serving as the Executive Associate Athletics Director at San Diego State.

In his role at SDSU, Smitheran was responsible for managing a comprehensive academic support program, as well as supervising the areas of Athletic Medicine, Strength & Conditioning, and Student-Athlete Development.

Smitheran has been the Sports Supervisor for the Aztec football and softball programs, and the Director of Operations for the football team, when the Aztecs appeared in two bowl games and captured the Mountain West championship.

Smitheran began his career in intercollegiate athletics as Compliance Coordinator at the University of North of Texas before spending seven years at UC Irvine, including the final three as Assistant Athletic Director of Compliance and Student Support. Smitheran worked closely with the Anteater 2007 NCAA Champion Men's Volleyball team, and with the Baseball Team when they appeared in the 2007 College World Series.

A native of Riverside, California, Smitheran played four years of collegiate baseball at the University of New Mexico, earning Academic All-Conference Honors with the Lobos. After receiving his undergraduate degree in Communications, he completed his master's degree in Physical Education at UNM with a specialization in Sports Administration.

Smitheran and his wife Karen have two children, Tyler and Cooper.

Memo from Madrid

By Madrid Zimmerman, RCLB Executive Director





September 18 Rotary Lunch Program

THANK YOU to all of you who **RSVP** early for our meetings - it is SO helpful!

Come early to vote or turn in Ballot #1 - due no later than the RCLB 9/18 Meeting.

We will start the meeting early at **12:15pm** so we'll have time for the Annual Reading by 9 Fundraiser (with Frank Newell) and our program speaker, Bobby Smitheran, CSULB Executive Director of Athletics.

Queen Mary Parking

- Reminder at this time of the year:
 - Closest lot to the ship is B7
 - Handicap parking is in the first row.
 - If you need special assistance or arrive later and park in a different lot, there is a phone number to call and ask for a golf cart to come pick you up.
 - **562-435-3511, dial Zero 0 to ask for parking lot ride to Rotary Meeting.**
 - Golf carts should be available between 11:15am-12:30pm and 1:30-2:15pm

Madrid Zimmerman

Executive Director

Rotary Club of Long Beach

The Queen Mary

1126 Queens Hwy.

Sylvania Room

Long Beach, CA 90802

562.499-1752

Rotary@RotaryLongBeach.org

Welcome...

By Brian Camp Russell, RCLB President #98





Past Rotary Scholarship Winner Joins Rotary Club of Long Beach

Kevin Pichardo recently attended a meeting and Connections with the goal of joining the group that gave him a boost in college when he needed it. Kevin was born to Nicaraguan and Salvadoran parents and was raised in Long Beach from the tender age of 8 months. As the youngest of five children, Kevin faced numerous challenges, but his determination and resilience led him to excel both academically and professionally.

After spending just one year away at UC Santa Barbara, Kevin returned to Long Beach to be closer to his family's support. It was at Long Beach City College where he discovered his passion for business, a passion that was significantly boosted by a Rotary Scholarship. This invaluable support allowed him to focus on his studies at Cal State Long Beach, where he graduated with a degree in Finance, becoming the first and only member of his family to graduate from college.

Kevin's career in banking began at Comerica Bank, where he participated in the esteemed Credit Analyst Program. His role took him to Dallas, Texas for a time, and he is now a Vice President of Relationship Management at Banc of California. Despite his professional commitments, Kevin remains deeply connected to his alma mater, Cal State Long Beach, mentoring students and speaking at various events. He is passionate about mentoring youth from challenging backgrounds, inspired by his parents' unyielding work ethic.

In his free time, Kevin enjoys playing golf and pickleball, with the goal of staying active and enjoying life. His ultimate aspiration is to enrich his family's life, providing his parents with experiences they missed due to financial constraints.

Kevin's story is not just about personal success; it is also about giving back to the community that shaped him- a true embodiment of Rotary's principles of Service Above Self.

Please join me in giving a warm welcome to Kevin Pichardo, a remarkable addition to our Rotary family.

Congratulations... Newell Family Scholarship Recipient

By Stephanie James, 36 Year RCLB Member & Friend of Gaia



ROTARY SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION AWARDS NEWELL FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP*

Talented musician and scholar **Gaia Clark**, this year's recipient of the Newell Family Scholarship, has begun coursework at Long Beach City College (LBCC), as she prepares for a career as a Music Educator.

During her four years at Wilson High School, where her pathway was Performing Arts, Gaia maintained a cumulative 4.00 GPA, while also taking Advanced Placement Courses. She completed two Dual Enrollment Courses at LBCC, including a class in Macroeconomics. Receiving an A in every course she took earned Gaia the designation as a Valedictorian in her graduating class of 900.

While achieving academic perfection, Gaia also was a standout musician throughout Long Beach Unified School District. She was a soloist and Principal Cellist leading the Wilson Chamber Orchestra through competitions and concerts, as well as the All-District LBUSD Honors Orchestra. She honed her leadership skills as President of the Wilson Musicians Guild, which raises funds for music programs on campus through musical performances.

Last June, Gaia was a featured musician in a Long Beach Symphony Orchestra Family Concert, *The Carnival of the Animals*, in the Terrace Theater. She performed Saint-Saens' "The Swan".

She also continues to serve as an Ambassador for Long Beach Symphony, helping to raise funding and awareness for the educational and musical programs it offers. Simply put, "We adore Gaia!" Kelly Ruggirello, President of the Long Beach Symphony, has said.

Additional leadership positions, educational and extracurricular involvements abound.

Gaia served as Editor-in-Chief of *The Loudspeaker*, Wilson's newspaper and its website. She was Commissioner of the Link Crew, which trains junior and senior class leaders, and organizes the logistics of freshman orientation. She served as an intern for the Billie Jean King Library, organizing programs for children and teens.

After attending LBCC, Gaia plans to transfer to CSULB. Her ultimate educational goal is to receive a Master's Degree in Music Education. Her career goal is to teach music in Long Beach.

Gaia lives in Long Beach with her parents, Rob Clark and Lisa Diaz, and her brother Lucius.

“This is an honor that I will always cherish, and I know my hard work and dedication throughout my high school years have paid off because of this incredible opportunity. The gratitude toward Rotary I have in my heart will forever remain,” she said.



*Frank Newell - Margie Newell - Gaia Clark - Lucias Clark (Brother) - Lisa Diaz (Mother) - Rob Clark (Father)
Caught in the Moment Photography*

***NEWELL FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP**

The Newell Family Scholarship supports students who attend either Long Beach Polytechnic or Long Beach Wilson high schools, and who also plan to attend either Long Beach City College or California State University Long Beach.

Congratulations... Newell Family Scholarship Recipient

By Virginia Baxter, Long Beach Rotary Scholarship Foundation Board Member



ROTARY SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION AWARDS NEWELL FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP

Aloni Franco is a graduate of Wilson High School who will be attending Long Beach State with a career goal to become a Lawyer.

Aloni's background is a source of inspiration to us all. She is a daughter of immigrants. She lost her father, not to death but to the prison system. Her mother has been her sole provider for the last four years and still struggles with full employment for a household of three.

Aloni is pursuing a degree in Criminology and Criminal Justice at CSULB. She is looking for an internship in the Long Beach City Prosecutor's office and wants to see both sides of the legal profession, defense and prosecution. She believes in the power of the justice system to change lives.

Academically she is amazing. She has straight A's maintained through 8 AP classes including Calculus and has been declared Female Leader of the Month in the Female Leadership Academy. When given a choice she chooses to sit with new people and make new friends.

To let her brain cool off, she enjoys baking and thinking about art history, gothic architecture and traveling. She has her own bucket list of *places she'll go and the things she wants to see.*

Aloni's role models are Donajo Hernandez (mother), Sandra Gallardo (grandmother), Sarahi Hernandez (aunt), and Naema Franco (sister). She says they keep her motivated to do well in school and in life.

Please join in congratulating our 2024 Newell Family Scholarship Recipient, **Aloni Franco.**



Sarahi Hernandez (Aunt) - Donajo Hernandez (Mother) - Alona Franco - Naema Franco (Sister) - Sandra Gallardo (Grandmother)
Caught in the Moment Photography

READING BY 9 BEGINS SECOND 25 YEARS ON SEPTEMBER 18TH

By Frank R. Newell, RCLB President #83

Please join us at the ROTARY meeting on **SEPTEMBER 18TH** as our **READING BY 9** Program returns to the Queen Mary and we raise funds for the 26th consecutive year. New Rotarians this is always a fun and inspiring meeting as in a few minutes you will see the generosity of our members as hands go in the air and many thousands of dollars are raised to support our goal of having kids read at grade level by age 9.

Last year we set a fundraising record of over \$130,000 and over 115 Rotarians and guests contributed to our success as we celebrated the 25th year of Reading by 9. We have now raised **\$1.145 Million** since the inception of the Program and donated more than **375,000** books and ebooks to Long Beach students, classrooms, libraries and literacy programs. We continue to focus on serving students from low income households and underserved areas; and identify programs that address the early education and literacy needs in our community. Our goals this year are to raise \$120,000 or more for the third year in a row, maximize matching donations, and increase Rotarian participation to as close to 100% as possible. These are lofty goals, but the need to support early literacy is greater than ever as we continue to see lower reading scores and an increased learning gap following the pandemic and school closures.

Please join us on **September 18th** at Rotary to be part of our 26th year of fundraising! At the meeting we will provide you with more detailed information on programs your donations funded last year, programs we will be supporting this year, our matching grants, and examples of what your donation will accomplish. If you are unable to attend the meeting on September 18th and would like to donate in advance please contact me or Madrid at the Rotary Office. Following the meeting we will provide instructions for those who were unable to attend the meeting. Don't be surprised if myself, or one of the other 20+ members of our Literacy Committee, encourages you to attend the September 18th meeting and support Reading by 9. The Literacy Committee will work hard to maximize the effectiveness of your donations to provide books and support Preschool, TK (transitional kindergarten) to 3rd grade students, teachers, and nonprofit and community literacy programs, by focusing on putting books in the hands of youngsters.

...essence, teachers, and nonprofits and community literacy programs by reading or posting books in the names of youngsters, especially in underserved areas.

Thanks to all of you for your past support. We hope you will again consider a generous donation to Reading by 9 to benefit youth and early literacy in our community.

Frank Newell, On Behalf of the Literacy Committee

Rotary Business Breakfast Roundtable

By Mary Zerafa Loos, BBR Chair

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

Join us to discuss: Changes in Real Estate Rules: What You Should Know >> *How New Changes in Real Estate Rules Will Affect You*

Thursday, September 19
8:00am-9:30am
The Grand, 4101 E. Willow
\$13 (cash preferred) for coffee and pastries

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



Business Breakfast Roundtable

Changes in Real Estate Rules:
What You Should Know
How New Changes in Real Estate Rules Will Affect You.

Thursday, September 19, 2024

8:00am-9:30am

The Grand, 4101 E. Willow

\$13 (cash preferred) for coffee and pastries

RSVP: Mary Zerafa Loos | maryzerafa@gmail.com

To foster discussion, the maximum number of participants is 18.

To foster discussion, the maximum number of participants is 10.

Long Beach Rotary Visits Navajo - Oct. 31 to Nov. 3

By Matthew L. Kinley, International Service Director & RCLB President #104

Long Beach Rotary Trip to the Navajo Nation October 31 – November 3, 2024

Planning Meeting Wed, September 18th 1:30pm

This will be an opportunity to visit the Deep Dig facility, meet with tribal members and work on a hogan repair. Come and hear more about this enlightening opportunity!



Principal Hydrologist, Navajo Nation Department of Water Resources - Water Management Branch – Navajo Nation

Crystal Tulley-Cordova, PhD, MWR is a Principal Hydrologist in the Navajo Nation Department of Water Resources - Water Management Branch. She is an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation.



She received a doctoral degree in Geology and an Interdisciplinary Graduate Certificate in Sustainability from the University of Utah. She has received a Master of Water Resources in Hydroscience and a Bachelor of Science in Earth and Planetary Sciences from the University of New Mexico.



She has worked collaboratively with Navajo Nation partners on water-related research since 2013. Her research interests include learning more about the Navajo Nation water budget, namely the interactions of precipitation, surface, and ground waters, and the nexus with Navajo communities. Her past research consisted of three projects conducted in collaboration with the Navajo Nation Water Management Branch, Navajo Tribal Utility Authority, and Navajo Environmental Protection Agency; they are entitled (1) Navajo Nation, USA, Precipitation Variability from 2002 to 2015, (2) Stable isotopes in precipitation and associated waters: Recording the North American monsoon in Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah, and (3) Groundwater sustainability and susceptibility to modern contamination in Fort Defiance, AZ.

Crystal has a passion for working with tribal communities. She realizes the importance to help tribal nations dependent on water resources understand the effects of hydroclimatic changes on their tribal homelands. Crystal hopes the knowledge and experiences she gained over the years will help her assist Navajo communities to use their current knowledge about water to build sustainable water projects, seek funding for water-related research, and protect and manage water resources across the Navajo Nation.

Rotary Sunset Cruise 2024

By Stephen B. Shaw, Rotary Sunset Cruise Captain



Rotary Sunset Cruise

Thursday, October 10, 2024

*Enjoy a sunset cruise from the Long Beach Yacht Club
6201 Appian Way*

*Boats weigh anchor 5:30-5:45 pm
Last boat leaves 6:00 pm sharp!*

*\$80 includes wine, beer, soft drinks & appetizers on the boat
followed by a Hamburger/Chicken BBQ dinner at the club
(No Host Bar provided)*

*RSVP below or email steve.shaw47@aol.com
or madrid@rotarylongbeach.com with questions.*

Name: _____

Guest(s): _____

Please make check payable to Rotary Club of Long Beach

Big Bang on the Bay

By Natalie Hale, Fellowship Service Director

Labor Day Success: BIG BANG ON THE BAY Raises \$3,000 for the RCLB and LBRCF

Labor Day was a resounding success for 30 Rotarians and friends who gathered for the BIG BANG ON THE BAY event. A huge thanks to the generous contributions from Rotarians who attended, John Morris from the Boathouse on the Bay, Don Rodriguez from The Boys and Girls Club of Long Beach who donated tables, and Sumer Temple for her table donation. The event was not only a fantastic fellowship experience for the Rotary Club of Long Beach (RCLB) but also raised an impressive \$3,000 for the Rotary Club of Long Beach and its Charitable Foundation (LBRCF). Now that's what we call "Fun With a Purpose!"



Don't miss these epic Fellowship events:

- **10/10 -Thursday, 5:30pm** Annual Sunset Cruise at the LB Yacht Club. Sailors and boat owners, see Steve Shaw for more details.
- **11/12 -Tuesday, 5 O'Clock Somewhere** hosted by Randy Kemner at the Wine Country

New Member Proposal

The following is being proposed as a member of the Rotary Club of Long Beach. His name is hereby submitted to the membership for a 10-day period as required by the Bylaws. Any comments can be addressed to the President or the Executive Director of the Club during this 10-day period.

Jose Barrera - VP, Branch Manager, WaFd Bank

Proposed Classification: Banking

Proposed by: Raymond Cervantez and Sarah Soriano

Birthdays - Click on Name and Send a Greeting



[Randal S. Kemner](#)
September 19th



[Tanya Adolph](#)
September 20th



[Don Rodriguez](#)
September 21st



[James A. Ahumada](#)
September 21st



[David Clark](#)
September 21st



[Michael M. O'Toole](#)
September 23rd



[LaVerne Davis](#)
September 24th

Club Leaders - Click on Name and Send a Message



[Steve M. Hockett](#)
President



[Katherine \(Kay\) Cofield](#)
Assistant to the President



[Braden James Phillips](#)
Assistant to the President



[Richard Gibson](#)
Vice President



[Lance R. Kenyon](#)
Vice President



[Linda Josephine Rahn](#)
Vice President



[Michael Rivard](#)
Vice President



[John E. Romundstad](#)
Secretary
Treasurer



[Roger Cvalleri](#)
Sergeant-at-Arms



[Lisa Finn](#)
Sergeant-at-Arms



[Randal S. Kemner](#)
Sergeant-at-Arms



[Daniel Eufrazio Tapia](#)
Sergeant-at-Arms



[Whitney Leathers](#)
CCO-Club Comm. Offcr



[Lisa RameLOW](#)
CCO-Club Comm. Offcr



[Nancy Zwiers](#)
Career Service Director



[Timothy Aldrete](#)
Club Service Director



[Leslie Wiberg](#)
Community Service Director



[Natalie Hale](#)
Fellowship Service Director



[Matthew L. Kinley](#)
International Service Director



[Sarah Soriano](#)
Membership Service Co-Director



[Debbie Thorpe](#)
Membership Service Co-Director



[Conor Kenneth Weir](#)
Youth Service Director



[Michele A. Dobson](#)
iPast President



[Kelly Ruggirello](#)
President-elect



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



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



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

Events

September 17th, 4:00-5:00 PM
[RCLB Board of Directors Meeting](#)

September 18th, 12:00-1:30 PM
[Long Beach Weekly Club Meeting](#)
Speaker: Bobby Smitheran - CSULB
Athletic Director
Also annual Rby9 Fundraiser

September 19th, 8:00-9:00 AM
[Business Breakfast Roundtable : in person](#)

September 25th, 12:00-1:30 PM
[ROTARY ROOTS Lunch Program - September 25, 2024](#)
Rotary Roots - individual member hosts

September 26th, 2:00-3:00 PM
[RoToastados - A Rotary Toastmaster Alliance Club](#)

September 29th, 3:00-5:30 PM
[Ronald McDonald House Sunday Meal](#)

October 2nd, 12:00-1:30 PM
[Long Beach Weekly Club Meeting](#)

October 9th, 12:00-1:30 PM
[Long Beach Weekly Club Meeting](#)
Speaker: Gayl Murphy - On Hollywood
Also Visit from District Governor

October 10th, 2:00-3:00 PM
[RoToastados - A Rotary Toastmaster Alliance Club](#)

October 10th, 5:30-8:30 PM
[Rotary Sunset Cruise](#)
Sunset Cruise and BBQ Dinner at LBYC

October 12th, 8:00-9:00 AM
[Centennial Park Clean-up](#)

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

October 16th, 11:00-2:00 PM
[Long Beach Weekly Club Meeting](#)
Feeding the Future
Annual Grab-and-Go packing the bags

October 23rd, 12:00-1:30 PM
[Long Beach Weekly Club Meeting](#)

October 24th, 2:00-3:00 PM
[RoToastados - A Rotary Toastmaster Alliance Club](#)

October 30th, 12:00-2:00 PM
[Long Beach Weekly Club Meeting](#)
Speaker: JordyLeiser
Subject: Competition for Ticketmaster



Rotary Club of Long Beach
meets every Wednesday @ 12 Noon

THE QUEEN MARY
1126 Queens Hwy
Long Beach, CA 90802

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

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

Visit our
Social Media Pages



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