

ROTARYGRAM

November 9, 2016 - Vol. 100, Issue 19



In what would have been his 94th birthday November 5, 2016, we remember "Mr. Long Beach Rotary" Ray Berbower. Above, members of the Ray Berbower Society (RBS) join Ray and his wife Wanda Lee in 2011 to celebrate Ray's 89th birthday. Left to right, front to back: Brad Willingham, Jane Netherton, Special Guest Donna Reckseen, Carl Ann Wylie, Ray, Larry Jackson, Bob Graham, Executive Director Emeritus Karen Wyrick, Wanda Lee, Cam Killingsworth, John Gooding, Frank Newell, Whit Latimer, Craig Dougherty, Blake Christian and Don Wylie. For more on Ray and the RBS see Chronieler Report below.

**NOVEMBER 9 AND 30 ABOARD THE QUEEN MARY.
NOVEMBER 16: OFFSITE DOWNTOWN WALKING TOUR.
NOVEMBER 23: DARK - NO MEETING FOR
THANKSGIVING.**

This Week's Meeting - November 9, 2016 - Phil Ansell - LA County Homeless Initiative

In June the State Assembly passed House Resolution 56

Calendar
Bring a Guest

November 9: Phil Ansell - LA Homeless Initiative

November 12: Centennial Park Clean-up 8:00am



urging the Governor to declare a state of emergency on homelessness in California. This swift legislative move followed a unanimous vote by the LA County Board of Supervisors requesting this declaration. Phil Ansell was appointed Director of the County's Homeless Initiative in 2015 when he temporarily left his position as Chief Deputy Director of the Department of Public Social Services, where he played a key role in the design and implementation of numerous programs and services for homeless families and individuals.

Next Week's Meeting - OFFSITE - Downtown Historic Walking Tour **RSVP November 9 for lunch/tour ticket**



Enjoy a guided tour of some of the historic commercial buildings downtown. Start with a box lunch at The Federal Bar (102 Pine Ave., Upper Deck) as we are serenaded by a USO ShowTroupe. Wear good walking shoes. Arrive by 11:45; tour begins at 12:30 and ends at 1:30pm. **RSVP for box lunch (choose tuna, chicken, turkey, or grilled cheese) and tour tickets by November 9.**

Last Week's Meeting - November 2, 2016 - LA County Supervisor Don Knabe



For 20 years, Don Knabe represented the 4th District, a uniquely diverse area ranging from Marina Del Rey through the San Gabriel Valley with a population of 2 million people; LA County is the largest county in the nation with 88 cities. Knabe has spent most of his political career protecting innocent and vulnerable children in Los Angeles County....he is most proud of the Safe Surrender program for babies that he developed in 2001. District Governor Ray Sanford bestowed on Don one of Rotary International's highest recognitions to a non-Rotarian, the Award for Excellence in the Service of Humanity; Greg and Val Owen recognized both Don and Julie Knabe as new Paul Harris Fellows; and LB Rotary named Don an honorary member of the club

Also last week, Jerry Maize, Black Christian, Russ Hill and John Morris were recognized for their runway appearance as a "Few Good Men." Nancy Kindelan thanked the 92 members who have already made pledges for \$235,000 towards our Centennial Legacy project.

(Brian Russell)

November 16: OFFSITE - Downtown Historic Walking Tour (start at The Federal Bar)

November 16: LB Rotary Charitable Foundation Board Meeting 2:15pm

November 18: Golf Outing at Navy Golf Course 11:30am

November 23: DARK - No Meeting for Thanksgiving Holiday

November 27: Ronald McDonald House Sunday Meal Prep (Randy Gordon) 4:00-6:00pm

November 30: Robert Haxby, CBS Studio Archives

November 30: 5 O'Clock Somewhere at The Wine Country (wine tasting) 5:30-7:30pm



Birthdays of the Week

November 7 - **Margaret Albini-Madonna** (American Red Cross, Non-Profit Organizations-ARC)

November 7 - **Wendy Sorel** (YMCA of Greater Long Beach, Non-Profit Organizations-YMCA)

November 8 - **John Lindberg** (Remax Specialists, Real Estate-Residential)

November 10 - **Philip Smith** (The Ship's Carpenter, Cabinetry-Manufacturing)

November 10 - **Rayne Sherman** (Sherman Design Group, Architecture & Interior Planning & Design)

November 10 - **Brandi Collato** (Los Altos Family YMCA, Non-Profit Organizations-Los Altos YMCA)

Chronicler Report - Remembering "Mr. Long Beach Rotary" Ray Berbower

Ray Berbower was justifiably known as *"Mr. Long Beach Rotary"* because his passion throughout most of his adult life was Rotary and our Rotary Club. When he died in 2012 he had been a member for 51 years and was no.2 in club seniority. (No. 1 was Earl Newkirk who has now been a member for 57 years). Ray was our 53rd president in 1969-70 and was elected District Governor in 1975-76. He successfully turned around a district that at the time had serious financial problems and in his file there is a comment that Ray's *"sparkling personality at the podium made him a great District Governor."* Ray was frequently referred to by many Long Beach past presidents as the *"All-Knowing, All-Seeing, All-Omnipotent Past District Governor Raymond F. Berbower Jr."* When they were president, Ray could be their harshest critic and at the same time their best friend and no matter which one it was the PP's loved him for it because he had a heart of gold and only wanted them to do better. Ray frequently took the time to send the presidents handwritten notes on DG stationery offering suggestions and comments. Past Presidents will tell you that one of the true joys of the job was the opportunity to really get to know Ray Berbower. He was often congratulated for his eagle-like eyesight which allegedly allowed Ray to tell from 500 yards if you were wearing your Rotary pin and God help you if you weren't, especially if you were a past president. Ray consistently denied good-natured teasing that he was so into Rotary that he must have worn his Rotary pin on his pajamas on his wedding night. Ray and Wanda Lee were high school sweethearts and were married for 67 years. They served as great role models - even in their 80's they acted like two teenagers on their first date, laughing up a storm, having fun.



Ray was a proud graduate of the *"Fairest High School in the Land,"* Woodrow Wilson, attended LBCC and graduated 2nd in his class in civil engineering at Caltech. He served as a Seabee in WWII and later retired as Captain, USNR. Ray worked at the Port of Long Beach for 38 years and retired as Assistant Chief Harbor Engineer.

"The Ray Berbower Society" (RBS) was a club-within-the-club named in Ray's honor. The Society's motto of *"The Club Is Going To Hell"* came from what members fearfully thought Ray felt about the status of Rotary during their year as president. Membership was limited to past presidents with one year, and most importantly, one year *only*, perfect attendance. When started in 2003 twelve past presidents were eligible. The RBS had no other purpose but to gather from time to time with Ray and enjoy each other's company. A highlight of each meeting would be a rousing sing-a-long of the "The Ray Berbower Society Hymn" written by Cam Killingsworth. The last meeting was held at Ray's Park Estates residence September 21, 2011 as an early celebration of Ray's 89th birthday on



Youth Services on the move! Milliken Interact active and growing thanks to Don Cochran and James Ahumada.

NEW QUEEN MARY MENU

Have you noticed lunch lately on the Queen Mary? Like the Street Taco Bar?? Taste of Tuscanyyy?? Asian Stir Fry??? Pannini Delights?

As a reminder there is a minimum charge of \$10.00 to attend the lunch program.

Even if you do not eat anything, we still have to pay for the room facility, Queen Mary staff, parking.



Our club has pledged to donate 100 PINTS FOR BLOOD for 100 YEARS by June 2017 !

Contact Debra Fixen (dfixen@yahoo.com) for dates of upcoming blood drives around the city.

November 5, 2011. Those who attended will remember that although Ray's health was not the greatest he welcomed everyone with a big smile and was as usual, the life of the party. Ray passed away June 19, 2012, just 4 1/2 weeks after Wanda Lee.

[Annual District Rotary Foundation Gala - November 19](#)



Celebrate 100 years of the Rotary (International) Foundation at this year's District Gala. Indulge in the supper club atmosphere of *The Great Gatsby* theme in the Balboa Pavilion (400 Main St., Newport Beach). Festivities start at 5:00pm. RSVP online (www.rotary5320.org/calendar) or through Lauren Pittman (714-878-4646). Cost is \$110 per person, semi-formal attire. Call the office if interested in sitting with other LB club Rotarians.

[Centennial Video Interviews](#)



Help us celebrate our Centennial! You will be contacted by a member of our Centennial Video Brigade to do a brief but fun video interview. Just looking for a 30-60 second sound-bite to use during our meetings, website, Facebook page throughout the Centennial year. Just say YES, when you get the call or email....we want to tape each and every one of you.

Next blood drive: November 22 in front of Chase Bank (2nd Street) from 10:00am-4:00pm

Already have 16 pints....need 84 more!



December 3 - Christmas Parade

Join Belmont Shore's *Candyland Christmas* on Saturday, December 3.

Contact Katherine Peoples-McGill (562-424-4477, katherine@hppcares.org) to help with decorating our float and/or marching with the club.

Lance Kenyon and *The Hammered Nails* will be performing with us.

Rotary Club of Long Beach usually meets every Wednesday at 12:00 noon on the Queen Mary.

Rotary Club of Long Beach:

1119 Queens Highway, Suite 103, Long Beach, CA 90802
562-436-8181; Rotary@RotaryLongBeach.org

Visit: [Long Beach Rotary](#), [District 5320](#), [Rotary International](#), [E-Club of the West](#)

