

ROTARYGRAM

April 12, 2017 - Vol. 100, Issue 40



In 1927 Rotarian Glenn E. Thomas heard that the New York Yankees were going to town to play an exhibition game and he extended an invitation to legendary slugger Babe Ruth to join him for some duck hunting at the Bolsa Chica Gun Club. Ruth brought with him the team's first baseman Lou Gehrig. Both Ruth and Gehrig are in the Baseball Hall of Fame. The Bolsa Chica Gun Club opened around 1900 on a bluff near the intersection of Warner Ave. and Pacific Coast Highway in Huntington Beach. It featured a redwood and cedar hunting lodge and with only 40 members and an initiation fee of \$1,000 it was one of the most exclusive clubs in the area. Thomas, far right, was our 34th president serving in 1950-1951. See Chronicler Report below on connection between Thomas and Past President Monte Davi

(1973-1974). (Photo courtesy David Combs, The Termo Company)

All remaining April meetings aboard the Queen Mary.

This Week's Lunch Program - April 12 - Maura Hudson - Juvenile Diabetes Research



Maura Hudson is President-elect of the Board of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation Greater Los Angeles Chapter. JDRF is the leading global organization funding Type 1 Diabetes research, that affects millions of children and adults alike, with currently no cure. Based in Long Beach, Maura and her husband Gerry Speirs (Foodness Gracious) are parents of Miranda, 10, who was diagnosed at age 3 with Type 1 Diabetes.

Next Lunch Program - April 19 - Jess Romo - Update on the LB Airport



Jesus "Jess" Romo, an airport executive of nearly two decades in the aviation industry, became the new director of the Long Beach Airport in September 2016. He oversees an airport which is a major economic development resource for the city providing 43,000 jobs and generating more than \$11 billion into the regional economy. Founded in 1923 as the first municipally-owned airport in California, since its 2012 renovation, LB Airport has been recognized by Fodor's Travel Guide and BBC as one of the top 10 terminals in the world.

Save-the-Dates



April 26, 2017 - Is it Cane or a Walking Stick? President 100 Jayne Lastusky will honor the past presidents and PP Kay Cofield will discuss one of the most controversial subjects with the past presidents--is this beloved "baton" awarded to the immediate past president a cane or a walking stick? PP Brian Russell (assuming he didn't mistakenly use it for firewood during the last year) will bring the



Chicago native Paul Harris hopes the Cubs can repeat in 2017

AS A REMINDER.....

\$10 is the minimum to pay when you attend a Rotary lunch program at the Queen Mary. Even if you do not partake of the cookies/coffee, this amount helps defray the costs associated with parking, room set-up/breakdown, service/labor.

So be sure to always stop by the meal ticket table (if not already on the Meal Plan) to pay your share.

Calendar

"Share Rotary with a Guest"

- April 12: Maura Hudson - Juvenile Diabetes Research
- April 19: Jess Romo - LB Airport Update
- April 20: 5 O'Clock Somewhere at Raindance (Shoreline Village)

baton on to Greg Burnight at a special reception for past presidents.

May 3, 2017 - Scholarship Foundation Day. Join us for this very special meeting to be held at noon at the Park Estates home of CSULB President Jane Close Conoley. The highlight of the meeting will be Scholarship Foundation Chair Jane Netherton introducing the winner of the \$15,000 Rotary Centennial Scholarship, the largest scholarship in club history. **Space is VERY limited** so please RSVP to the Rotary office as soon as possible (and no later than April 26).

June 28, 2017 - Presidents' Party. We'll thank President 100 Jayne Lastusky for a great job; welcome President 101 Steve Keesal and honor our Past Presidents at the 2017 Presidents Party to be held Wednesday evening, June 28, on the 14th floor of the Union Bank Building. Be there for an evening of great cuisine, fellowship and spectacular 270 degree view of downtown and the harbor as day turns into night. The RSVP date will be announced in May and invitations will also be mailed out. **No lunch meeting that day.**

Last Week's Meeting - April 5 - Rotary Roots



There's a reason why the first Rotary club in Chicago grew so quickly--members enjoyed taking turns going to each others' place of business for lunch. Last week LB Rotarians had the opportunity to choose from seven members' places of work: Alameda Corridor Transportation Authority, City of Long Beach, Downtown Long Beach Alliance, Fleming Metal, Leadership Long Beach, Primal Alchemy, and the YMCA new Lakewood facility. This was probably the most active Rotary Roots so far where in order to eat lunch, some members had to walk down into a trench pump, walk the treadmill or do a spin class, travel tied to a teammate, tour amongst massive metal machinery (some almost 100 years old), or exercise restraint from devouring a gourmet lunch prepared by a professional chef. Thanks to Rotary hosts--Dana Buchanan, Marjorie Fleming, Kraig Kojian, Stacy Mungo, Connie Rivera, Alfredo Velasco, Jeff Williams (and Leadership LB alumni team)--for sharing what they do so well!

April 26: TBA

April 26: American Red Cross Bloodmobile Drive at the Queen Mary 10am-3pm

May 3: LBRSF Scholarship Program at President Jane Close Conoley's home - RSVP *OFFSITE*

May 10: Annual Inter Service Club Luncheon - Grand Event Center - RSVP *OFFSITE*

May 17: Development Plans for the Queen Mary and Its Surroundings - Urban Commons

May 24: A Bixby Look at the Founding of Long Beach - Jean Bixby Smith

May 31: What's Happening in North Long Beach? (Michelle Obama Library) - RSVP *OFFSITE*

June 14: DARK - NO LUNCH MEETING

June 21: Last meeting - Celebration of the Presidents

June 28: NO LUNCH but PRESIDENTS' PARTY (5:30pm at KYL) RSVP



Birthdays of the Week

April 11 - **Wayne Slavitt** (Mobul - The Home Mobility Store, Medical Equipment-Home - Retail)

April 11 - **Bob Stemler** (Keesal, Young & Logan, Attorney-at-Law, Securities)

April 13 - **John Morris** (Boathouse on the Bay, Restaurants-Waterfront)

[An Evening with LB Rotaract](#)



The LB Community Rotaract Club invites you to join them on Tuesday, April 25 from 7:00-8:30pm at Cirvello's (4115 N. Viking, LB). Kevin Groves, professor from Pepperdine's Graziadio MBA Program, is an expert in Emotional Intelligence. He'll be providing attendees with an EI assessment and hints on how to improve your EI for successful business interactions. \$25 for non-members for this skills development session. Contact Katie Gaston (katie.rose.gaston@gmail.com)

[Chronicler Report - Monte Davis, Glenn E. Thomas and "The Lights of Paris"](#)



J. Lamont "Monte" Davis was without question one of the most loved and respected members in the 100-year history of our Rotary Club. When discussing Monte the words class, kindness and integrity were always part of the conversation. He was a member for 41 years serving as our 57th President in 1973-1974. Monte was followed as president by "Big" Jim Willingham, the only time Long Beach Rotary has had back-to-back car dealers as presidents.

In 1944 Monte, a Navy fighter pilot, crossed paths with Glenn E. Thomas at the Bear River Duck Club west of Brigham City, Utah, where Monte served as Thomas' guide while home on leave. Thomas owned Glenn E. Thomas Company in Long Beach which became a Dodge dealership in 1934. A bond developed between the two men and knowing Monte would be good in business Thomas offered him a job at his car dealership when the war ended.

Monte and his bride Alene moved to Long Beach in 1945. He started in the parts department at Glenn E. Thomas Dodge eventually working his way up to General Manager of the Dealership. In 1968 he became sole owner of the company. He was awarded the Time Magazine Quality Award and was a finalist for the Time Magazine

April 14 - **Andrew Barber** (Crisell & Associates, Accountants-Certified Public - Taxation)

April 14 - **Bond Nichols** (Prudential California Realtors, Real Estate - Residential)

April 14 - **Jean Bixby Smith** (Bixby Land Co., Real Estate - Land Development)

April 14 - **Jeff Williams** (Leadership Long Beach, Non-Profit Organizations - Leadership LB)

April 15 - **Sofia Riley** (TGIS Creative Cuisine & Event Planning, Catering Services)



Sure, it's easy to recognize our fellow Rotarians from the front but can you identify from the back nine these hard-body Rotarians working out at the Lakewood YMCA as part of Rotary Roots?

Dealer of the Year Award. Monte was inducted into the Automotive Hall of Fame in 1996. In 1990 the dealership left its many-year home on Anaheim Street in Downtown Long Beach for a new multi-million dollar facility in Signal Hill where they now sell Chrysler, Ram Trucks and Jeeps in addition to Dodge. They are the third largest volume Dodge dealership in California.

Monte passed away in September 2007 at age 83. His wife Alene, 91, still lives in the family home on Country Club Lane, Long Beach.

Today, the company is managed by our fellow Rotarian Bob Davis. Bob has been a member for 37 years and his introduction by Monte in 1980 will go down in history for containing one of the best and most-repeated jokes to ever come across the podium. Known simply as the "Lights of Paris" joke Bob said recently he didn't know how funny this joke was until he had grandchildren of his own.

"THE LIGHTS OF PARIS"

The conclusion of Monte Davis' introduction of his son Bob at the Rotary Club of Long Beach in 1980.

"You know Bob and his wife Barbara have blessed my wife Alene and me with four wonderful grandchildren.

Every Sunday afternoon Bob brings the four grandchildren by our house for a visit.

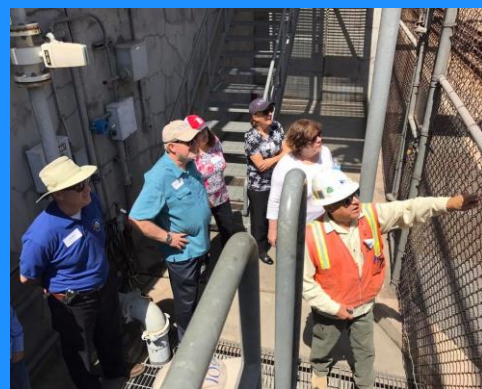
(After a long pause....)

You know Alene and I have been very lucky in our lives.

We've seen the lights of Paris,

We've seen the lights of London,

But let me tell you something, after spending three hours with those grandchildren there's no lights I like seeing better than the taillights on Bob's car headed down the street.



Rotarians were working on the railroad with their Rotary Roots visit to the Alameda Corridor Transportation Authority

GIVE BLOOD FOR OUR 100 PINTS



For our centennial year LB Rotary has pledged 100 pints.
Contact Debra Fixen (dfixen@yahoo.com)
or www.redcross.org

You can give every 56 days.....

.....SIGN UP for our special April 26 Blood Drive at the Queen Mary

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](#)



To unsubscribe from future emails, please click on this link: [Unsubscribe](#)