

LIVE 

# longbeach

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*The Best of*  
Long Beach

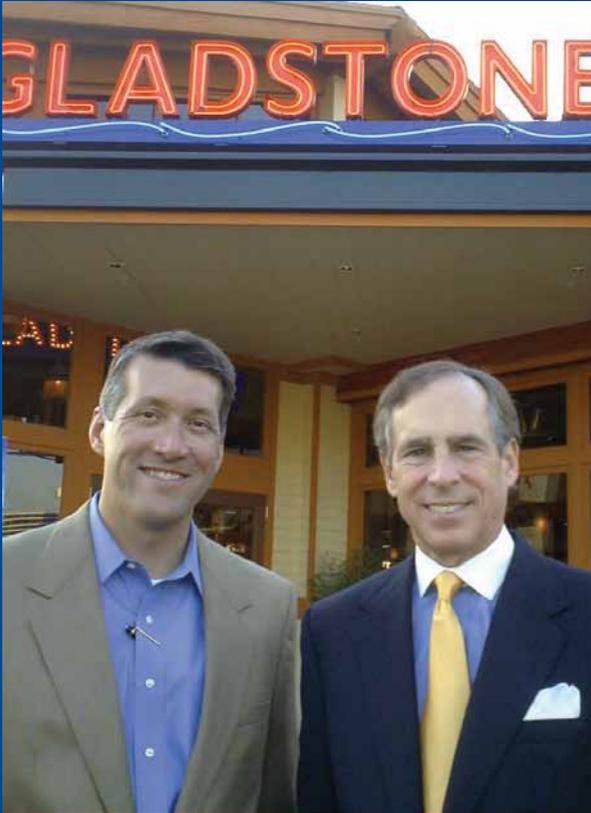
Top Picks · A Notable Site · History In The Making



NOVEMBER 2010 \$3.95

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John Sangmeister, the owner of Gladstones Restaurant, with Robert Franko, President of Beach Business Bank

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"I feel fortunate to have forged a relationship with the executives at Beach Business Bank, who took the time to help me confront and solve the challenges involved in financing a new restaurant," said Sangmeister. "Together we structured a credit facility that helped us meet our goals. The final result is better than we ever imagined and Beach Business Bank played an important role in helping us realize our dream.

"Beach Business Bank provided us with the personal service that the large banks no longer seem to offer local customers," continued Sangmeister. "Because they are headquartered in the South Bay, we met face to face with the bank's decision makers, which made a huge difference in the level of service we received and swiftness of the credit decision."



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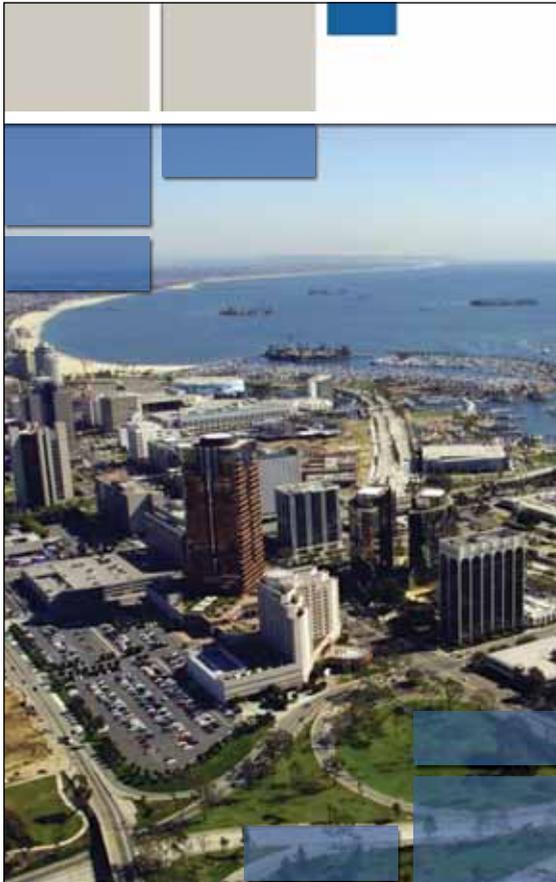
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# FEATURES

NOVEMBER 2010 THE BEST OF LONG BEACH

FEATURE

39

## BEST OF LONG BEACH

Long Beach is one of the best cities in the world and one of the most diverse. When it comes to choosing the “best” things the city has to offer, we compiled a comprehensive list to make things simple.

Written by Dawn Mori, Ryan Ritchie and Live Long Beach Magazine Staff  
 Photographed by Taka and Nicole Tsubaki and Andy Witherspoon

ON THE COVER:

Long Beach Convention Center  
 Photographed by Hartono Tai

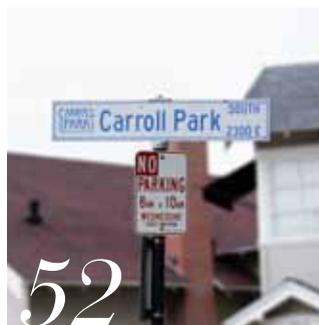
THIS PAGE:

California Heights  
 Photo courtesy of John Royce

FEATURE

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Rich with History



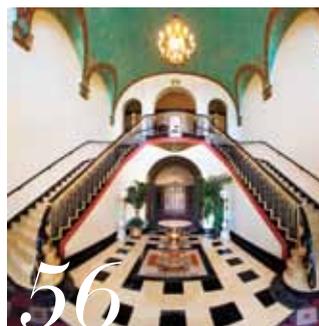
Distinct with character — those are the words that describe the city’s 17 historic districts.

Written By Jerry Roberts  
 Photographed by Hartono Tai

FEATURE

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Sights of the City



Long Beach is home to some of the most remarkable landmarks.

Written by Kevin Hunter



Cindy Miller 61

Cancer diagnosed 12.08.09

Individualized treatment 12.15.09

Cancer-free 03.16.10

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to recovery

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Long Beach Memorial

NEXT MONTH  
HOLIDAY & CELEBRATION

# LIVE longbeach

COASTAL LIVING CITY STYLE VOLUME 6 ISSUE 10

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By Daniel Ramirez

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The Best Shopping In Town

Written by Katie Brown

The next best purchase is right around the corner. Stock up on some of these local favorites on your next shopping spree.



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Nina Cash

Written by Katie Brown

Photographed by Wes Kroninger

Local Regina "Nina" Cash has style that is classic and functional. It is perfect for her role as a working mother and reality TV show contestant.

**FOOD&WINE**



**24** LOCAL FOODIES

Eat Your Heart Out

Written by Alisha Gomez

Photographed by Scott Witter

Two locals are exposing the hidden gems of Long Beach's dining scene.

**27** A TASTE

Long Beach Dining Guide

It's hard to decide where to eat, let alone look, for new restaurants. We help you get a taste of what's available.



**28** BEST BREAKFAST

Best Breakfast in Long Beach

Written by Peter Surowski

Photographed by Peter Surowski

Rise and shine and check out the city's five best breakfast nooks.

**TRAVEL & LEISURE**



**30** GETAWAY

So Much Fun, So Close to Home

Written By Heidi Nye

Venture out of the city and explore neighboring San Pedro and Rancho Palos Verdes. There is plenty to see and do without the hassle of airfare and long road trips.

**HOME&GARDEN**



**32** BEST OF 2010 HOME TOUR

A Designer's Pick

Written by Joen Garnica

Photographed by Matt Fukushima

Photo Assistant Alex Serrano

Home Tour Coordinator Joen Garnica

Home Tour Coordinator Joen Garnica reflects on the best five Long Beach homes featured in 2010.

**37** DESIGN

Fearless in Design

Written by Joen Garnica

Photographed by Matt Fukushima

Meet Kelly McLemore, winner of the best in the "Fearless in Design" by Garnica Interiors. She shares her vintage inspiration and decorating secrets.

---

## BUSINESS&MONEY



### 60 BUSINESS PROFILE

Best of Books and Culture

Written by Peter Surowski

One of the most sought-after bookstores in the city is Cultura Latina. By offering the best in Latino literature, it has set itself apart for years.



### 62 NONPROFIT PROFILE

The Aquarium of the Pacific: The Big Picture

Written By John Molina, Russ Hill, Sen. Alan

Lowenthal, Doug Otto, and Beverly O'Neill

The Aquarium of the Pacific is recognized as one of the city's biggest treasures and the best attraction.

The city's most recognizable locals explain why.

---

## ART&ENTERTAINMENT

### 64 WISE BOOKS

Images of America RMS Queen Mary

Written By Kevin Hunter

A new book reveals the inside story on the iconic Queen Mary.

### 67 NIGHTLIFE

Nightowl

All Things Long Beach After Dark

Written by Ryan Ritchie

Writer Ryan Ritchie on his favorite holiday — Halloween — and the local group that shares his passions for all things spooky.



### 69 ART SCENE

Best Places to See Good Art

Written by Live Long Beach Magazine Staff

When it comes to art, there is never a shortage of places to view amazing pieces. Let us introduce you to some places you might not know of...yet.



### 70 MUSIC

The Sounds of the City

Written by Ryan Ritchie

Long Beach is home to an array of bands whose sounds are as diverse as the city.

---

## FACES & PLACES



### 72 DAY IN THE LIFE OF

... Tim Grobaty

Written By Cheryl Scott

Photographed by Hartono Tai

Hot off the press. Get the story on the city's most popular columnist, Tim Grobaty.

### 74 COMMUNITY HERO

A Man with a Mission

Written by Lily Salter

Photographed by Hartono Tai

Community Activist Dave San Jose was given a second chance to live – he is not taking one second for granted.

### 76 LOCAL HISTORY

Splendor on the Beach

Written By Cheryl Scott

The Spanish Baroque style of The Breakers Hotel has dominated the Long Beach skyline through good times and bad.

### 78 LOCAL CELEBS

The Redevelopment will be Televised

Written By Edgard Zuniga

"Inside Long Beach" hosts Nautica De La Cruz and Faruq Tauheed are helping to raise the city's profile one story at a time.

### 82 SOCIETY

By Brenda Duran

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Written by Peter Surowski

Photographed by Chris Robertson

Locals weigh in: What is best part about Long Beach?

### 90 LAST VIEW

---

# EDITOR'S LETTER

---



Welcome to our annual Best of Long Beach issue!

Every year, we highlight the best things Long Beach has to offer, from restaurants to parks to shopping. This year, we decided to mix it up a bit and focus on one of the things that really make Long Beach stand out – its diverse neighborhoods.

Anyone who lives here can tell you there are as many great things about Bixby Knolls as there are in downtown — all you have to do is get in the car and drive a few miles to find out.

What makes this city special is that it truly is a thriving metropolis with distinct places and people who are actively involved in seeing that their communities thrive.

We have compiled a list of great things to explore in many of the large neighborhoods that make up this city.

Check out our “best of” feature on pg. 40. Regardless of how long you’ve lived here, this list will make you want to explore the best of the city’s neighborhoods all over again.

Part of what makes our neighborhoods great is some of the active community members who live here. On pgs. 50-51 we introduce you to some “movers and shakers” in town who are doing their best to make their communities amazing places to live.

The great thing about this city is also the abundance of rich history it has been able to preserve through its neighborhoods. Writer Jerry Roberts digs deep into the background of the many “historic districts” in the city. What is a historic district? How many are in the city? What makes them special? Find out on pg. 52.

A “best of” issue is not complete without also highlighting the visual landmarks that scream “Long Beach” — the Queen Mary, Cal State Long Beach’s Walter Pyramid... the list goes on and on. Writer Kevin Hunter introduces you to the places that take center stage on thousands of the city’s postcards and photos on pg. 56.

It really would require more than one issue to truly highlight the best of Long Beach, there is so much!

We hope you enjoy this sample. Hopefully, it will inspire you to make your own “best of” list based on our recommendations.

For me, the best part of Long Beach is living here and having something new to explore every day. The options are endless.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Brenda Duran'.

Brenda Duran  
Editor-in-Chief

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# CALENDAR

## SPECIAL EVENTS



**NOV 02**

**General Election Day**

**GoGreen**  
auto rally

**NOV 06**

**GoGreen Auto Rally  
Long Beach-Malibu-Long Beach**  
Drive Green Because You Can!

Call 866.41.GOGREEN or visit  
GOGREENAUTORALLY.COM

**NOV 11**

**7th Annual State of the  
Downtown**

6:30 p.m.  
The event is free to public and  
will be held at the Laugh Factory.  
Reservations are required.

**NOV 11-12**

**Airport Fest**

9 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
Long Beach Airport  
Nearly 100 aircraft on display.  
Live music and food.

[aopa.org](http://aopa.org)



**NOV 01-14**

**Musical Theatre West  
presents...“Annie”**

Carpenter Performing Arts  
Center  
Broadway’s Original Annie  
ANDREA McARDLE stars as  
Miss Hannigan.



**NOV 06**

**Long Beach Veterans Day  
Parade & Freedom Walk to  
Support Our Troops**

9 a.m.

Houghton Park  
[lbveteransdayparade.com](http://lbveteransdayparade.com)



**NOV 06-07**

**Autumn Festival**

9 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
Aquarium of the Pacific  
Delve into the arts & cultures at  
Aquarium of the Pacific’s ninth  
annual Autumn Festival.  
[aquariumofpacific.org](http://aquariumofpacific.org)

**NOV 13**

**Wreck Fest of Champions**

7 p.m.  
Long Beach Roller Derby First  
Ever Championship Bout  
Queen Mary Dome

[longbeachrollerderby.com](http://longbeachrollerderby.com)

**NOV 25**

**5K/10K Turkey Trot  
Turkey Trot Run/Walk**

Belmont Pool

[turkeytrot.us](http://turkeytrot.us)

**NOV 03**

**The Long Beach Experiment**

Electronic, experimental bands  
of all backgrounds.  
The Cellar,  
downtown Long Beach.

562.756.3428

THE  
LION IN  
WINTER

**NOV 05-DEC 11**

**The Lion in Winter**

A drama by James Goldman.  
Now playing in the Studio at the  
Long Beach Playhouse.

The Long Beach Playhouse  
[lbplayhouse.org](http://lbplayhouse.org)

To list December events submit information\* by November 15 to:  
**events@longbeachmagazine.com**  
 \*Long Beach Magazine does not guarantee publication of submitted events.

## FUNDRAISERS

## FAMILY/LIVING

### NOV 12-13

#### "Once on this Island"

Performance by students of Renaissance High School for the Arts.  
 Terrace Theater  
 7:30 p.m. nightly.  
 800.745.3000

### NOV 20

#### 2nd Annual Cambodian Arts & Culture Exhibition

Variety of art forms from Cambodia's rich and ancient culture.  
 1321 E. Anaheim St.  
 562.570.6816



### NOV 18

#### Children Today Holiday Cheer 13th Annual Wine Tasting & Silent Auction

6 p.m.  
 \$110 per person  
 Arco Center  
 childrentoday.org

### NOV 16

#### Holiday Preview Sale and Back Patio Reception

4 p.m. – 7 p.m.  
 Free Admission

rancholosalamitos.com  
 562.431.3541



### NOV 13

#### Artist Reception for Carol Swanson

6 – 9 p.m.  
 Sasha's, 3237 East Broadway  
 More info at  
 SashaWitteDesign.com  
 562.434.8824



### NOV 20

#### Trunk Show for Jewelry Artist Frances Lai Wang

1 – 5 p.m.  
 Sasha's, 3237 East Broadway  
 SashaWitteDesign.com  
 562.434.8824

### NOV 10

#### Wine Blast

6 – 9:30 p.m.  
 An evening of wine tasting, hors d'oeuvres, and exciting live and silent auctions.  
 400 Oceangate, 14th Floor  
 \$60.00 per person



### NOV 18

#### Long Beach Memorial Healing Power of Laughter and Play

Free Cancer Lecture

562.933.0961



**MEMORIAL  
 HEALTHCARE**

### ONGOING

#### Weekly Classes at Willow Wellness Center

Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group  
 Meets weekly – Thursdays  
 11 a.m. – Noon  
 562.506.0000

# LIVE EVENTS



**NOV 03**

**Snoop Dogg**  
Gibson Amphitheatre, Hollywood



**NOV 05**

**Cold War Kids**  
The Glass House, Pomona



**NOV 05**

**Alan Jackson**  
Nokia Theatre, Los Angeles



**NOV 10**

**Brandon Flowers**  
The Wiltern, Los Angeles



**NOV 11 & 12**

**Airport Fest**  
Long Beach Airport, Long Beach



**NOV 16**

**So You Think You Can Dance 2010 Tour**  
Staples Center, Los Angeles



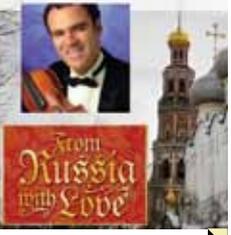
**NOV 20**

**Demetri Martin**  
The Wiltern, Los Angeles



**NOV 20**

**Cambodian Arts and Culture Exhibition**  
Cambodia Town, Long Beach



**NOV 20**

**Long Beach Symphony at the Four Seasons**  
The Four Seasons, Long Beach



**NOV 24**

**Trans-Siberian Orchestra Winter Tour 2010**  
Honda Center, Anaheim



**NOV 26 & 27**

**Weezer**  
Gibson Amphitheatre, Hollywood



**NOV 27**

**Chelsea Handler**  
Honda Center, Anaheim



**NOV 27**

**Too Short**  
The Grove, Anaheim



**NOV 29**

**Freeway Face Off Ducks vs. Kings**  
Honda Center, Anaheim



**NOV 29 & 30**

**Roger Waters**  
Staples Center, Los Angeles

**EVENTS LEGEND**

-  SPECIAL EVENTS
-  ARTS
-  FAMILY LIVING
-  MUSIC
-  CHARITY

# SCENE & HEARD

## THIS MONTH IN LONG BEACH

WRITTEN BY DANIEL RAMIREZ



## RUN, LONG BEACH, RUN!

The city's flat and scenic oceanfront laid the grounds for the Long Beach International City Bank Marathon and Half Marathon held on Oct. 17. Marathoners started their trek on Shoreline Drive and continued through Ocean Blvd. Half Marathoners were directed back and the rest continued the 26.2-mile route to CSULB and back to downtown.

## A FOR AMAZING

Nine local women won the title of "Amazing Women" for their service to their family and community at the Press-Telegram's Amazing Women Awards held on Sept. 30. Among the amazing women: a KKJZ DJ, a Wilson High Co-Principal, a bicycling CEO, Michelle Molina and in sports, our August cover girl, Misty May-Treanor.

## TRUCKIN' IT

Gourmet food trucks came "Truckin' Back to the LBC" on Oct. 9 to take another bite of the LB Street Food Festival at Rainbow Lagoon Park. Food truck worshipers were met by 25 trucks, some locally famous, a beer and wine garden, and live bands. Proceeds benefited the Adopt-A-Teacher program that provides grants to cover classroom costs.

## GIVING BACK

Sixth District Councilman Dee Andrews and Shante Broadus of Boss Lady Entertainment and the wife of legendary rapper Snoop Dogg, hosted a Laughin' Large, a Red Carpet comedy fundraiser on Thursday, October 21 at the Laugh Factory. The event was a collaborative event to raise funds to benefit the I Am S.H.A.N.T.E Foundation and the 23rd Martin Luther King, Jr. Peace & Unity Parade Celebration.



## ZOMBIES!



Zombies invaded Fourth Street on Oct. 30 during the third annual 4th Street Zombie Walk. Businesses from Junipero to Cherry hosted live music, food, drinks and more. The zombies walked from Portfolio Coffeehouse to the Art Theatre for the screening of "Shaun of the Dead."

## GRANTS FOR HEALTH

The St. Mary's Internal Medicine Residency Program is the recipient of a \$1.9 million federal grant to boost its residency number to 38. The grant aims at training and creating healthcare jobs within the state. Another program goal is to strengthen the primary care unit.



## REST IN PEACE

State Senator Jenny Oropeza passed away on Oct. 20. The city remembers her for her many leadership roles — Student Body President at CSULB, board member on the LBUSD Board of Education, and as the first Latina to be elected to the Long Beach City Council. Oropeza also served in the State Assembly and State Senate, and was a renowned champion for women's health issues, the environment, children and education, among many other accomplishments.

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Cute and sophisticated, this Biscotti style dress is just one of many from Luan's Dress Shop, open since 1952, that is perfect for upcoming holiday festivities. \$79.95.

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**FOR STUDENTS**  
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**FOR PETS**  
**"The Swallow" feeders**

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4818 E. 2nd Street  
Pussyandpooch.com

## STYLE PROFILE

WRITTEN BY KATIE BROWN PHOTOGRAPHED BY WES KRONINGER



..... *Nina Cash* .....



---

### **Favorite places to shop in Long Beach**

I love a good bargain so I enjoy shopping at TJ Maxx, Marshalls, Ross, Target, Gap, Big Lots, Factory 2-U and Falles Paredes, plus all the boutiques on Fourth Street.

---

### **Where do you find style inspiration?**

I find style inspiration in my everyday life activities. Something might catch my eye in a magazine or on TV; perhaps it's someone walking by or a particular song. I definitely don't have just one look. My style is very eclectic and it changes all the time.

---

### **TV shows with the best fashion**

"La Femme Nikita", "Make Me a Supermodel" on Bravo, and "Style with Elsa Klensch."

---

### **What is your most cherished piece of clothing?**

A pair of baggy Levi 501's that I made into shorts back in high school. I still wear them with a bunch of patches all over.

---

### **Best fall accessory**

Boots, boots and more boots!

---

### **Personal style motto**

Ageless and timeless...sometimes simple is simply the best.

---

### **Do you have any beauty secrets?**

As a child growing up, these beauty secrets were told to me by my gorgeous mother. They are most famously known as being spoken by Audrey Hepburn, but are words actually written by Sam Levenson: "For attractive lips, speak words of kindness. For lovely eyes, seek out the good in people. For a slim figure, share your food with the hungry. For poise, walk with the knowledge that you never walk alone."

---

Do you know someone with their own sense of style?

Email us at [info@longbeachmagazine.com](mailto:info@longbeachmagazine.com) and let us know.

Regina "Nina" Cash is a Long Beach native resident who proves that style and beauty do not disappear with age. Encouraged by her husband and daughter, Nina tried out for and subsequently competed on the third season of the modeling show *She's Got the Look* on the cable network TV Land. The show, which aired in August, features women of all ethnicities and walks of life with one common attribute – they are all over 35 years old. Nina's modeling career consisted of commercials, catalog work, music videos, and she was also a regular dancer on *American Bandstand*. However, her modeling career was cut short by her choice to give it up and focus on raising her daughter. Regarding *She's Got the Look*, Nina said her experience was like the feeling she had the night before Christmas when she was five-years-old, "Exhilarating. I never wanted it to end!" she said. Although Nina did not win the show, she is entirely grateful for being given a second chance to pursue the career that she had enjoyed for so many years. At 44-years-old, Nina's style is classic and functional, perfect for her role as a working mother and wife. However, there is an admirable uniqueness to Nina's personal style as a result of her being an active participant in the ever-changing fashion world. She incorporates the best trends of past decades in her everyday style.

---

### **Who are your style icons?**

Audrey Hepburn for classic style, Cher and Stevie Nicks for funky and whimsical looks, and Madonna for more cutting-edge style.

---

### **What are some style tips you learned on *She's Got The Look*?**

A good pair of jeans is the new must have little black dress. Make sure to invest in jeans that complement your body style. Since I have a "bootay" the best looking jeans for me would be a boot cut leg with flat back pockets..



TAYLOR NELSON AND CHRIS LIVINGSTON

# EAT YOUR HEART OUT

WRITTEN BY ALISHA GOMEZ

PHOTOGRAPHED BY SCOTT WITTER

Taylor Nelson and Chris Livingston are just a couple of guys who love to eat.

Nelson and Livingston, who run [LBFoodReview.com](http://LBFoodReview.com), made it their goal to wet the appetites of readers with their Long Beach dining reviews and articles.

"We have no problem eating," Nelson joked.

But save the pretentious food lingo for other

snooty food connoisseurs. Nelson and Livingston, who liken themselves to a couple of "average Joes," aren't about pomp and priss. Their site is nothing but straight-forward reviews and articles geared toward the average diner.

They fully launched their site about six months ago. But the idea actually originated a couple of years ago while the two former roommates, Cal State Long Beach graduates and fraternity brothers were sitting at a little hidden sandwich

shop in the city.

"We were sitting there, talking, and we thought, 'Wouldn't it be cool to write about these places no one knows about?'" Nelson said. "We both really enjoy living in Long Beach and we wanted to help promote businesses, get the word out about these places."

That's when the thought of [LBFoodReview.com](http://LBFoodReview.com) was first born. Now the site includes restaurant

reviews in and around the city, bits on upcoming foodie events, some out-of-town restaurant critiques, a travel log and the guys' regular appearance on an online radio show, Swoops' World Radio.

The duo have even held events, such as a Christmas pub crawl, and a big progressive dinner at a few Bixby Knolls' restaurants. It's all geared toward exposing what the city has to offer, Livingston said.

"Long Beach definitely has very eclectic food," he noted. "Pretty much anything you want, you can find here." And they're not afraid to test their own palates with exotic dishes. Recently, they dined on frog legs at Sophy's Cambodian Thai Cuisine. "I'll try anything," Livingston said. "Except bugs. I haven't gotten into bugs. And I have refused to eat Salmon eggs because of the texture."

Their "average diner" demographic keeps places they review relatively low-key. Most restaurants feature dishes in the \$15-\$20 range.

Nelson and Livingston also run another business together, a personalized debt management company, which is their "day job." But they are super passionate about LBFoodReview.com, posting new reviews and articles each week.

Finding restaurants isn't that hard. "We've been in town long enough to know places," Nelson said.

Only positive reviews are posted. If they don't like a place or had a bad experience, they just don't write about it. "We're not out to trash businesses here," Nelson added.

Ask them what restaurants are their favorites and you'll get a "oh it's so hard to say" from both guys.

They rattle off a few, including Sophy's, Chen's Chinese restaurant, famous dive The Prospector, Coffee Cup Cafe, Trattoria Limone and Babe's Kitchen.

La Parolaccia on Broadway is one of the best Italian restaurants around, Livingston said. "They'll make anything you ask for, even if it's not on the menu," according to Livingston, an Italian food connoisseur. His grandmother, a first generation daughter born of Italian immigrants, served as his first food instructor. "She was a great cook," he said. "She taught me how to cook, she taught me about food. A lot of my interest and knowledge comes from her and that influence in my life."

While Livingston is more the culinary arts guy,

Nelson is the editor and technical guy.

"Chris is the adventurer in the kitchen with cooking and such," Nelson said. "He's more up on the food stuff. I'm the taste tester. We work really well together."

Running LB Food Review has become a bit of daily task, but the two hope it will grow and gain widespread attention. They are now adding video to the site, the first featuring footage from last month's LB Food Fest, which brought together a large group of gourmet food trucks to Rainbow Harbor.

For now, it's just the two of them creating content, but they hope to have more writers eventually. Other cities could be considered down the road, but neither is in a hurry to look past the city.

They're also working with Swoop's World Radio and EverythingLongBeach.com to bring more awareness to each other and to this city, feeding off each by linking to the others' sites and working on events together.

"Long Beach is a great place to explore," Livingston said. ■

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## *Celebrate the Holidays at Rainbow Harbor*

Visit The Pike, Shoreline Village, The Aquarium of the Pacific and Harbor Breeze Cruises for great holiday events throughout the season.

### *Upcoming Events:*

#### **The Pike**

- November 21 at 6:00 PM  
**Rainbow Harbor Holidays Tree Lighting Ceremony**

#### **Shoreline Village**

- December 12 from 1:00 to 4:00 PM  
**Snow Day**

#### **Aquarium of the Pacific**

- December 3 - 4  
**Holiday Treats for the Animals**
- Fridays only November 26 - December 17  
**FREE Shark Lagoon Late Nights**

#### **Harbor Breeze Cruises**

- Harbor Tours Daily 12:30 to 6:00 PM

Ring in the holidays along the waterfront with carolers singing songs that epitomize the season on Saturday evenings between 5:00 - 7:00 PM from December 4 through December 18, 2010.

*For a full schedule of events, visit*  
**RainbowHarborHolidays.com**



# A TASTE

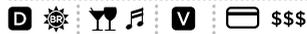


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562.495.1111  
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2300 E. OCEAN BLVD.

Claire's offers indoor seating in the Historic Anderson House or the outdoor patio that surrounds Claire Falkenstein's stunning water sculpture, structure and flow. The Patio also features an unobstructed view of the Queen Mary, Catalina Island and the expansive Pacific Ocean.

562.439.2119  
lbma.com



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The traditional French bistro menu consists of delightful dishes including French onion soup, foie gras, crispy duck a l'orange and scrumptious desserts. Let us cater your next event.

562.494.8787  
frenchysbistro.com



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562.438.7570  
sushiofnaples.com/sato\_menu.htm



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\*Based on appetizer, entrée, dessert, and non-alcoholic beverage for one person.

# BEST BREAKFAST IN LONG BEACH

WRITTEN AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY PETER SUROWSKI



## The Potholder Café

3700 East Broadway  
562.433.9305

If you're really hungry, The Potholder Café is the place for you. Locals know it for its huge portions.

Take "The Mack Daddy," for example. It's an 18-inch pancake served with two eggs, two bacon strips and two sausages. If you can eat it all, you get a well-deserved t-shirt with "I'm a mack daddy" written on it. Of course, big portions are pointless unless the food's good, and The Potholder has that, too.

A local favorite — a Potholder original — is "the french toast kabob." It's french toast pieces, sausages, banana and kiwi slices skewered and served on a bed of scrambled eggs. Another unique goodie is the Mr. Potato Head — potato skins stuffed with cheese, chicken, scrambled eggs, sour cream and avocado.



The Potholder started in 1925 as a bed and breakfast. By 1973, it evolved into a restaurant, said Kevin Pittsey, the owner since 1993.

"I get ideas and I go and expand on them, in the café," said Pittsey.

Each room has a different feel, since the restaurant added them at different times. Photos decorate the walls of people all over the world holding signs reading "Eat at the Potholder."

For a little local history and more food for breakfast than you should eat all day — this is for you.

## Coffee Cup Café

3734 East Fourth St.  
562.433.3292

Breakfast at the Coffee Cup Café is a lot like Southern Californian culture. The best dishes are mixes of American and Mexican classics.

They have the old standbys, of course — pancakes, eggs, toast — but their Mexican breakfasts are what packs the house Sunday mornings.

Here's a tip: ask for the "mashed potato omelet." It's not on the menu, but it's a must-have. It's an omelet stuffed with seasoned potatoes, bacon and cheddar cheese topped with sour cream, green onions and a side of grilled tomatoes. Another highlight is the salsa. Every table gets a bowl of red and green, but here's another tip: they have the extra spicy stuff in the back. It's delicious, but brace yourself. There's a reason it's in the back — it will burn you.



They have a good selection for vegetarians, 10–15 items. "I'm not vegetarian, but I love vegetarian food," said Cindy Atkinson, who opened the café in 1995. "When I first started out, I wanted to appeal to both kinds of customers."

The downside is the parking is tricky. It's on Fourth Street, so get ready to get honked at

as you parallel park. At least it's a block away from Viento Y Agua coffeehouse, which is a great place to dawdle with friends after your meal. Another drawback is they only take cash but note — they have an ATM machine in the dining room.



### Starling Diner

4114 East 3rd St.  
562.433.3292

Nested inconspicuously in a residential block of Belmont Heights, sits one of the city's most stylish breakfast nooks. Starling Diner gives a lighter, more artful spin to a normally staid breakfast menu.

The specialty of this airy diner is french toast, though the dish is so unconventional it hardly fits the name. A mini-baguette with mascarpone cheese stuffed through the middle is dipped in a light batter, broiled, sliced and served, drizzled in fresh berries, crème fraiche and whipped cream.

The egg scrambles are unique too. They include old classics, such as tomato, bacon and cheddar,

and new, vaguely Italian-tasting mixes, such as the goat cheese, spinach and mushroom.

The drink menu is good, especially for a breakfast-lunch place: seven beers and eight wines. Incidentally, they serve their water full of mint and cucumber — nice touch.

When Joan Samson opened Starling, she aimed to do something different.

"I was so tired of it. It's the same breakfast menu at everyplace in Long Beach," she said. "I wanted to expand the lexicon of what you can have for breakfast." The drawback is that the wait on Sunday morning can be more than an hour. Also, parking is sparse, so wear your walking shoes.

### Babe's Kitchen

1106 East Wardlow Rod  
562.427.4897

The main draw to Babe's is its novelty. It's an old-school diner that somehow survived the corporate takeover of neighborhood eateries.

The hash browns are made of freshly shredded potatoes and the pies are made from scratch. So is the bread, the jams and the jellies, so even a side of toast a treat.

"Most places use frozen hash browns," said George Whitlock, the owner. He won't use them. "It's little things like this, that make the difference."

The owner, George Whitlock, opened the place 34 years ago and still stands in front of the grill

almost every day in his white undershirt. The décor's retro, but not in that made-to-look-like-a-50s-diner way. It's more like nobody redecorated since it opened.

It sits in a run-down neighborhood of North Long Beach with abundant concrete, chain link fences and not much else, but all that slips from the mind when inside. The servers — seemingly all elderly people — are so friendly it makes up for their painfully slow pace.

Babe's isn't family-run though — only the owner's step-son works there as a dish washer — but "their staff is like family," said Whitlock.

In fact, one of the waitresses has worked there for 29 years — she's 89 years old. "They don't want to leave when they work for me," he said. "I treat'em good."



### Schooner or Later

241 North Marina Dr.  
562.430.3495

Schooner or Later is what a breakfast on the beach should be.

It sits on the edge of the marina, and its big, umbrella-shaded patio offers a great view of the sailboat-filled harbor.

The river bike trail runs right by it, so it's a great destination for a run or a bike ride. After eating here, you'll be glad you got the exercise, too.

Schooner is known for its generous portions and its original seafood dishes, such as the crab and avocado benedict. They make it with real crab,



and the eggs are done just right, with the yolk nice and runny.

Another local favorite is "The Mess," an accurately-named plate of hash browns, eggs, ham pieces, onions, peppers all mixed together and topped with cheddar. An interesting disadvantage is that Schooner appeared on the Food Network's "Diners, Drive-ins and Dives." As a result, the wait has been insane ever since. Expect to wait 45 minutes or longer, and for a seat on the patio during rush hour, you'll wait a lot longer.

Luckily, it has a little stand attached called "The Little Schooner" where you can pick up a latte and a scone to hold you over.

# SO MUCH FUN, SO CLOSE TO HOME

WRITTEN BY HEIDI NYE



Looking for adventure, but not willing to travel far from home? Here are a few venues just outside the city limits in San Pedro and Rancho Palos Verdes. With costs ranging from nada to upwards of two grand, you're sure to spy something that fits your budget.

## SEE SAN PEDRO



### Warner Grand Theater

The Art Deco interior of San Pedro's Warner Grand Theater would be worth the price of admission, even if it weren't featuring foreign and classic films and live performances. Built in 1931, it was designed by B. Marcus Priteca, the same architect who designed Los Angeles' landmark Pantages Theater.

Warner Grand Theater  
476 W. Sixth St., San Pedro  
310.833.8333 or 310.548.7672  
warnergrand.org

### Sixth Street Shops

While you're at the Warner Grand, take some time to stroll Sixth Street and check out its funky shops. And be sure to get a cup of joe at San Pedro's favorite coffeehouse, Sacred Grounds.

Sacred Grounds  
468 W. Sixth St., San Pedro  
310.514.0800  
angelfire.com/ca2/SGrounds



### U.S.S. Lane Victory/Fishermen's Wharf

For another step back in time, visit the U.S.S. Lane Victory. Built in 1945, the Lane Victory served in World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War, and, between fighting, as a merchant marine ship. Open for self-guided tours daily 9 a.m. — 3 p.m. Adults \$3; children \$1. In the summer and early fall, you can embark on a day-long cruise. Dance to the tunes of the 1940s-era Yellow Hound Dawg Band, hunt for an escaped "German spy" and watch as the ship's gunners ward off a Luftwaffe attack. Adults \$130, children — 15 years and younger \$80.

Next door is Fishermen's Wharf, home to the commercial fishing operations that built the town.

U.S.S. Lane Victory  
Berth 94, San Pedro  
310.519.9545  
lanevictory.org



### Korean Bell of Friendship

Donated in 1976 to the people of Los Angeles by the people of South Korea, this 17-ton bell and the pagoda-like pavilion that houses it, honors the U.S. veterans of the Korean War. Twelve feet high and 7 ½ feet in diameter, the bell is rung only four times a year: Fourth of July; Aug. 15, Korean Independence Day; New Year's Eve; and during September to coincide with bell ringings across the country to celebrate Constitution Week. The grounds surrounding the bell offer unobstructed views of the Los Angeles Harbor and the Catalina Channel. Be sure to explore the ruins of artillery nests and bunkers that dot the hillside. Cabrillo Beach Park far below offers a refurbished bath house and tide pools.

Korean Bell  
3601 S. Gaffey St., San Pedro  
sanpedro.com/sp\_point/korenbel.htm

**TAKE IN THE SIGHTS IN RANCHO PALOS VERDES**



**Portuguese Bend/Wayfarers Chapel**

On your way to Wayfarers Chapel, you will traverse Portuguese Bend, a 260-acre, slow-moving landslide created by the uplift of the Palos Verdes Hills, relative to the Los Angeles Basin. Parking on Palos Verdes Drive is prohibited, but keep your eyes peeled for the ruins of houses that are sliding into the Pacific and others that have been ripped in half by the geological instability of this unusual stretch of coastline.

Wayfarers Chapel is affiliated with the Swedenborgian church, based on the spiritual teachings of the 18th-century mystic Emanuel Swedenborg. Surrounded by a grove of redwood trees, this stone and glass chapel was designed by the son of renowned architect Frank Lloyd Wright. Listed in the National Registry of Historic Places, it features 3 1/2 acres of immaculately manicured gardens with benches that afford unparalleled views of the Pacific. Don't miss candlelit Christmas Eve services. The light of more than 100 candles reflects off the glass walls and ceiling, giving one the impression that stars are close enough to touch.

Wayfarers Chapel  
5755 Palos Verdes Drive South,  
Rancho Palos Verdes  
310.377.1650  
wayfarerschapel.org  
Grounds are open 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. daily. Visitors  
center 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.



**Terranea, L.A.'s Oceanfront Resort**

Opened in June of last year, the 582-room Terranea is a high-end destination spa. Whether you are staying in the 360-room hotel or one of the 20 bungalows, 50 ocean-view casitas or 32 villas, all rooms have private balconies. Indulge at the 50,000-square-foot spa complex, complete with 25 treatment rooms, or work out at the 5,000-square-foot fitness facility. Several dining venues, miles of hiking trails and a secluded beach complete this luxurious package. Room rates vary by season, but currently run \$315 – \$1,500 a night. Day passes are available for the golf course and spa. Dining reservations are accepted.

Terranea  
100 Terranea Way, Rancho Palos Verdes  
310.265.2800  
terranea.com

**Trump National Golf Club**

Opened in January of 2006, the Trump National Golf Course features 18 holes, stunning oceanfront vistas and a 45,000-square-foot clubhouse. Hiking trails meander through the course to Bluffs that overlook the Pacific and to a beach and a public park. The Sunday brunch is known to be the very best with a wide selection of exquisite food. Green fees range from \$80 in the early evening to \$275 for early-morning tee-off.

Trump National Golf Club  
310.265.5000  
trumpnationallosangeles.com



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# A Designer's Pick

WRITTEN BY JOEN GARNICA      PHOTOGRAPHED BY MATT FUKUSHIMA  
PHOTO ASSISTANT ALEX SERRANO      HOME TOUR COORDINATOR JOEN GARNICA

People often ask me what my decorating/design style is. My answer is always the same, "I don't design in only one style. Personally and professionally I enjoy an eclectic mix of styles." My favorite Home Tour homes of 2010 reflect this precisely, not only in style but also in neighborhoods. A luxurious mansion in the Virginia Country Club, a Craftsman home bursting with color in California Heights, a sprawling early California Ranch home in the Old Country Club Estates of Lakewood, a perfectly decorated modest Spanish style home in Wrigley and a dialed-in designer's loft Downtown. Can't get more diverse than this.

*The key to a beautiful interior is to surround yourself with items that make you happy and represent who you are.  
These homes demonstrate this beautifully.*

## A Luxurious Mansion

When I first walked up to this impressive mansion that sits on almost an acre the day of the scout, my very first thought was "Wow! I didn't know homes like this existed in Long Beach." I have seen a lot of homes over the years in Long Beach. This mansion was something out of the Hollywood Hills. Once

you pick your jaw off the floor right past the grand entry, a sense of warmth and dare I say — coziness — comes to play. Louis and Kevin know fine living. With exotic chickens (and the colorful eggs they produce), pheasants, roosters and fantail doves, roaming the property along with gorgeous artwork

and a collection of pianos Beethoven would envy, their backyard aptly has hosted the Gypsy Kings. But, the most significant element of the home is the welcoming ambience — to their humble abode.





### Colorful Craftsman

You can't help but smile when you walk into this colorful craftsman. Eric and Jill have a fun sense of style. They have combined their craftsman home with mid-century style in perfect harmony. This couple definitely is not afraid of color and I love it! Around every corner there was something that made me smile, whether it was artwork, or a fun unexpected touch or their impressive colorful glass collection. A collection, impressive, not only in quantity and color, but that they have one with two tiny tots. My favorite elements of their home — the bold colors of the master bedroom inspired by a handmade quilt, a gift from Jill's mom and the serene and well-manicured backyard.





## Sprawling Early California Ranch

Sprawling is the first adjective that came to mind when I rounded the corner to scout this 3,600-square-foot home that sits on a corner lot. The very next impression was a sense of nostalgia. This early California Ranch home is reminiscent of my grandparent's home in Mexico with its adobe walls, a long corridor porch in the front and back of the home and Spanish tile floors. Lonny and Marji Eggleston have surrounded themselves with great finds from their travels along with items that reflect their love of the SouthWest. The architecture of the home is somewhat simple — the décor is uncomplicated, but all beautifully done.



## A Modest Spanish Home

Modest only pertains to size when it comes to this 1,986-square-foot home in Wrigley. What I enjoyed the most are the many layers to Starr Scott's decorating. There was attention to detail in her choice of décor. Although many people shy away from large scale or over-sized furniture in a small space, Starr was definitely not shy and made it work. Her home not only has great space planning, making good use of every nook, but it also boasts creative use of items, such as an intricately carved table top mounted over the sofa in the living room and a conch shell that holds paperclips on her desk. In addition, Starr and her family frequently enjoy an outdoor living area that overlooks a serene Koi pond.





### A Designer's Downtown Loft

My friend Garry Sandlin's downtown loft is one of my favorite homes of the year because as a fellow designer, I know how difficult it is to design your own space. Designers are pros at designing other people's spaces, however we are very indecisive when it comes to our own space. As Garry himself says, "It was a difficult task." The loft's aesthetic appears effortless and flawless, the calling card of a great designer. Garry seamlessly blended the industrial architecture of his loft and classic décor into a cohesive and luxurious space. No detail was left behind for this professional. sofa in the living room and a conch shell that holds paperclips on her desk. In addition, Starr and her family frequently enjoy an outdoor living area that overlooks a serene Koi pond.



# FEARLESS IN DESIGN

WRITTEN BY JOEN GARNICA PHOTOGRAPHED BY MATT FUKUSHIMA

Kelly McLemore showed no fear when she entered Garnica Interiors' "Fearless in Design" Contest on Facebook mid-September. It's no surprise Kelly's favorite quote is listed on her Facebook page as "Whether you think you can or can't – you're right!" Not only did Kelly can, she did! – win the first Garnica Interiors "Fearless in Design" Facebook contest.

Kelly is an Arbonne International Independent Consultant who loves vintage and thrift shopping for her home. Last month, I was greeted by Mr. Pickles (a very happy Pembroke Welsh Corgi pup) as I walked into Kelly and her husband Dan's home nestled between the Traffic Circle and Signal Hill. I immediately saw her love of vintage. Kelly's home is peppered with 60s vintage finds that complement mid-century inspired new pieces.



## Q&A with Kelly McLemore

**Joen Garnica: Congratulations Kelly! How did you feel about winning the Fearless in Design contest?**

**Kelly McLemore:** I am really happy! I wanted to win. I was really happy you had the contest. It made me finish the room with a hard deadline. Without the contest I would've still been working on it.

**Joen: Did you have an inspiration piece when you started your master bedroom?**

**Kelly:** Yes. I purchased a grey and yellow coat that I really love. I really liked how the two colors went together so I started there. The room was very different before. I had my mom's hand-me-down quilts and a blanket on the window as a curtain. It was really bad.

**Joen: What piece(s) did you start with?**

**Kelly:** I already had the dresser. I got it at a thrift store in North Long Beach for \$20. I loved it! My husband didn't want me to get it. I think he just didn't want to carry it. It's pretty heavy.

**Joen: Part of the contest rules was to describe how Garnica Interiors Facebook decorating tips/posts inspire you. What inspired you in our many decorating tips and information?**

**Kelly:** I look at all of the photos and tips you post all the time. I like the bold colors. I saw a photo of — I believe — it's a kid's room. It had bright colors so I added bold colors to my décor. I used your tip about hanging curtains high to the ceiling to make a room appear larger. My favorite tips are about repurposing/refinishing old things to give them new life.

**Joen: Tell me about how you combine old and new into your décor.**

**Kelly:** I look at a lot of magazines like Dwell and Atomic Ranch. They mix a lot of old and new. I enjoy repurposing old and sometimes tacky things and making them new and cool again.

**Joen: What is your favorite piece in the room?**

**Kelly:** I really like the birds on the wall. I got them on ebay for \$5. They are Syroco gold birds from the 60s. I spray painted them high gloss black. I have more of them in my project box. My husband always asks me why I'm doing this or asks what I want with all this "junk." He doesn't see my vision. I can take something that is in poor condition, clean it up and make it look really good again.

**Joen: We got a lot of comments on our Facebook page about the turquoise phone. It seemed to be a favorite. Does it work and where did you find it?**

**Kelly:** It doesn't work. It's never been plugged in. Haha I don't even have a land line. I found it at a thrift store.

**Joen: You were able to get a lot of good tips and information from Garnica Interiors Facebook page. What's the best piece of advice you would share with readers about starting a decorating project?**

**Kelly:** Go with things that make you comfortable and happy. Stick with your style. Stick with something that's not too big of a project. I'm still sore from painting!

**Joen: You say "stick with your style". How did you identify your style?**

**Kelly:** I've always liked vintage shops, thrift stores and estate sales. I didn't want to make my room too new. I wanted unique pieces. Things I couldn't find just anywhere. If I like the way something looks or maybe not, I can always make it look the way I want.

**Joen: Making things look the way you want. Is that challenging?**

**Kelly:** Sometimes. I have things in my project box that didn't turn out so well. My husband got his grandmother's art deco vanity. It had been painted with regular paint. We tried to refinish it and it was a nightmare! I will probably not attempt refinishing wood again.

**Joen: Where is the vanity now?**

**Kelly:** We stuck it in the garage. We will probably send it out to get professionally done. I am not touching that again!

**Joen: What is your best find?**

**Kelly:** Probably the table lamp. I've had it for over 15 years. I love the tiered lamp shade. I also like the chair. I got it at a Leisure World estate sale for \$25. I've seen them on ebay for like \$300.

**Joen: What other fun decorating projects are you are working on?**

**Kelly:** I'm working on my home office. The colors are going to be light blue walls with red, white and black accessories and furniture. I have a vintage vinyl padded hope chest and a bunch of old suitcases from the 40s and 50s. I can't wait to see what other tips you post! ■

Follow Garnica Interiors on Facebook. [Facebook.com/GarnicaInteriorsFan](https://www.facebook.com/GarnicaInteriorsFan)

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## COME SEE OUR NEW HOME...



The Aquarium has opened not one, but TWO special exhibits in 2010. Check out our new BP Sea Otter exhibit and discover the Molina Animal Care Center where you can see how we care for our animals and never before seen medical procedures.

*Aquarium of the Pacific*

aquariumofpacific.org 562-590-3100 100 AQUARIUM WAY, LONG BEACH, CA 90802



# BEST OF LONG BEACH

WRITTEN BY DAWN MORI, RYAN RITCHIE AND  
LIVE LONG BEACH MAGAZINE STAFF  
PHOTOGRAPHED BY ANDY WITHERSPOON  
AND TAKA AND NICOLE TSUBAKI



Unique restaurants. High end retail boutiques. Mom and pop shops. The perfect combination of class and character. Friendly residents who walk their dogs and jog the streets at night. A breathtaking coastline and more water activities than the summer Olympics. These are but a few of the reasons that make the communities of Naples, Belmont Shore and Belmont Heights amazing places to live. The truth is, anywhere in this vicinity is a great place to be, but a few locations have come to define the region and its people. Here, for your enjoyment, is a sampling of the best of the best.

### BEST PLACE TO TALK TATTOOS WHILE GETTING A HAIRCUT

Being a barber means not only knowing how to cut hair, but also making small talk and no one is better and friendlier at both than Pedro at RazorBacks Barber Shoppe, Inc. Any topic is fair game when you're in the maestro's chair, but you're blowing a golden opportunity if you aren't talking ink.

**BEST VEGAN PIZZA** Live here long enough and you're sure to come across the many varieties of pies at Z Pizza, but you haven't lived until your taste buds and stomach have met the Berkeley Vegan. The pizza — loaded with vegan cheese, marinara sauce, veggie burger crumbles, zucchini, tomatoes, bell peppers, mushrooms and red onions — will make the most diehard carnivore beg for more.

### BEST CHINESE RESTAURANT THAT FEELS LIKE IT BELONGS ON THE EAST COAST

Walking through the doors at Chen's Chinese Restaurant Mandarin Cuisine, you'd expect to feel like you are transported to another place. And you are, except not the one you'd expect.

Instead of faux traveling to China, Chen's has this magical ability to make its diners feel like they are sitting in a corner restaurant in one of New York's five boroughs. Don't ask how they do it, just eat the delicious food and pretend that after dinner, you're going to a Broadway play.

**BEST CHEAP DATE** Times are tough and that girl or guy you've been crushing on for months finally agreed to go out with you. If you're smart, you take that special someone to Gallagher's Pub & Grill on a Thursday. With a rocking karaoke hosted by a blonde named Echo and two dollar beer specials, you'll have a million dollars worth of fun for less than triple digits.

**BEST USE OF SUNGLASSES** Sunglasses are a great way to keep the sun out of our eyes. They are also a great way to not get caught staring at attractive people. And what better way to stare at beautiful people than a beach nicknamed Horny Corner?

**BEST LATE NIGHT DRUNKEN EATS** Is Shore House Café the best late night restaurant because it's open 24 hours or because you can order pancakes while your friend orders lobster? Either way, it's pretty awesome, but if your night of drinking has left you with more money in coins than bills, you might want to think about Taco Bell on Broadway.

### BEST BUILDING TO BE INSIDE ON A BEAUTIFUL DAY

We all want to soak up the sun on a warm day, but those who want/need to avoid the heat while still enjoying the atmosphere can look no further than the Bay Shore Library. With a killer selection of books and an even more killer view of the bay, if you have to be inside, this library is the place to be.

### BEST SELF-INDUCED HEART ATTACK

The Cajun fries at MVP's Grill & Patio are local legends and rightfully so. One serving just about feeds Rhode Island and costs less than a car wash.

### BEST COFFEE ALTERNATIVE

It's 4 p.m. and a friend wants to meet for coffee. You say ok and suggest Viento y Agua Coffee House & Gallery because coffee at four means you'll be tossing and turning all night. It also means you get to embark on a delicious journey otherwise known as the PBO. Made with peanut butter, bananas and oats and served in a Mason jar, your tastebuds and your bed will thank you later.

### BEST BAR TO RUN INTO SOMEONE BORN AND RAISED IN LONG BEACH

There isn't a single person born and raised in Long Beach who hasn't been to Crows Cocktails. And most of them are there on the weekends in case you don't believe me.

### BEST WAY TO GET HER TO SAY YES

Listen fellas. If you're nervous about asking her to marry you, just book a trip through the Naples canals with Gondola Getaway. Bring a bottle of wine, pay the gondolier to sing a song in Italian and if she still doesn't say yes, you didn't want her anyway.

### BEST FROGGER-ESQUE VALET

When he's not singing for On Blast, Josh Brown is parking your car on Friday and Saturday nights at Café Piccolo. This might not sound like much, but when you consider the restaurant doesn't have a parking lot and it's Brown's job to not only park your car, but find a spot on Broadway then run across the busy street to get to other vehicles, it's pretty impressive.

### BEST PLACE WHERE GAY AND STRAIGHT PEOPLE MINGLE

For some dumb reason, Broadway has plenty of great watering holes that unfortunately cater to either gay or straight people, but not both. Luckily, the exception is Paradise Piano Bar, where people from all walks of life enjoy drinks, food, lively art and live music without all those annoying invisible boundaries.

### BEST PLACE TO PRETEND YOU'RE MICHAEL PHELPS

Seeing how only people with death wishes swim in our ocean, the Belmont Plaza Olympic Pool is Long Beach's best spot for underwater exercise.

### BEST WAY TO PRETEND YOU'RE RICH



ALAMITOS BAY



GONDOLA GETAWAY IN NAPLES CANAL

If you put a towel real close to the boardwalk at The Peninsula and then look back into the home you're lounging in front of, it's easy to imagine you actually live there. And if you're lucky, someone else on the sand might think you live there, too.

**BEST PLACE TO GET NAILED** Normally, it's not a good idea to walk down Second Street in tattered clothes and dirty fingernails, but if you do and someone gives you the stink eye, tell 'em you're going to Billings Ace Paint & Hardware. That'll shut 'em up because Billings is as much a part of that community as the exquisite restaurants and fancy boutiques.

**BEST REASON TO GET UP EARLY ON SUNDAY** You could sleep in on Sundays and try to hit the Southeast Farmers Market before it closes at 2 p.m., but by that time most of the good stuff is gone. If you want cheap tomatoes, the best apples you'll ever eat, sprouts to die for and handfuls of bok choy for less than a dollar, you'd better get there no later than noon.

**BEST PLACE TO SELL CDS YOU DON'T LISTEN TO AND TRADE THEM FOR SOMETHING YOU WILL** One day you'll wake

up and ask yourself why you own four copies of No Doubt's "Tragic Kingdom" when all you listen to is Michael Buble. When that day comes, head to Fingerprints, ditch those extra three copies and get something new.

**BEST WAY TO SHAKE YOUR GROOVE THANG** The average Gregg Young & the Second Street Band set glides through jazz, blues, R&B and rock 'n' roll so effortlessly you'll think you're listening to four different bands. But you're not – just one that knows how to get people out of their seats and onto their feet.

**BEST PLACE TO LEARN HOW TO ELBOW SOMEONE AND GET AWAY WITH IT** Elbowing a person in the chest isn't just wrong, it's illegal. Unless, of course, you're at Moxi Roller Skates, where anything and everything that has to do with roller skating and roller derby is for sale.

**BEST REASON TO STAND IN LINE FOR FOOD** Getting a cavity filled is more fun than waiting in line at a restaurant, particularly when you know the food you are waiting for is outstanding. Such is the case at Open Sesame Mediterranean Grill, where a hefty wait is as common as the sun rising. One bite into the

spicy hummus and you'll swear you'll wait for days for food this tasty.

**BEST SUNDAY AFTERNOON BAR** There's something about the nautical décor, the blue walls, the cold beer, the hip jukebox and the smell of fish and chips that make The Pike Bar & Fish Grill the ultimate lazy Sunday hangout spot.

**BEST BAR TO GO TO WHEN THE PIKE IS JAM PACKED** When all you want is a drink and a seat and the Pike has the former but not the latter, head across the street to Ashley's Bar & Grill, home to more booths than John Wilkes' family reunion.

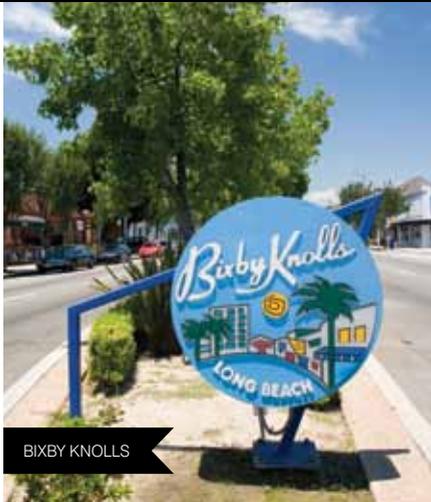
**BEST REASON TO GO TO O'CONNELL'S DURING THE DAY** There are plenty of bars open during the day, but only O'Connell's shares a wall with Shillelagh.

**BEST "WINK WINK NUDGE NUDGE" DRUG REFERENCE** My mom or dad might not understand the reference when they bite into a fatty taco at Chronic Tacos, but I sure do!

**BEST WAY TO SPEND THE CHANGE YOU FOUND IN YOUR COUCH** Quarters are good for three things: No. 1 — Laundry. No. 2 — Parking meters. No. 3. The \$.49 potato tacos at Hole Mole. Sure, the first gets your clothes smelling good and the second helps you avoid ridiculous parking ticket fees, but only the potato tacos taste like heaven.

**BEST STORE TO BUY YOUR MOM THAT NEIL DIAMOND T-SHIRT SHE'S ALWAYS WANTED** Shopping for your mom is the most difficult thing of all time. Either you can't afford what she wants or what she wants means having to visit stores you otherwise wouldn't dream of entering. But then you remember Mom has a Neil Diamond record and that Meow has an array of vintage t-shirts that won't break the bank. She'll love it and just maybe you'll pick up a vintage dress or blazer while you're there.

**BEST PLACE TO WATCH YOUR GRANDMA SING "SUSPICIOUS MINDS"** The best part about Long Beach is how lots of different types of people can exist under the same roof. Nowhere is this more evident than karaoke on Wednesdays and Fridays at the Prospector. One minute four frat dudes are ruining "Bohemian Rhapsody" and the next, someone who easily could be your grandparent takes the mic. You watch and expect a Queen-sized trainwreck only to discover the oldie but goodie blasting through an Elvis tune is way more talented than you'll ever be.



Believe it or not, there is life in Long Beach north of the Pacific Coast Highway. Bixby Knolls, California Heights, and the Wrigley District are home to one-of-a-kind events, thriving public spaces, and long-time family businesses. You will find a vibrant First Fridays artwalk, active community gardens, as well as restaurants and shops whose friendly staffs keep locals coming back.

The area can trace its roots to Manuela de Cota, daughter of Spanish soldier Manuel Nieto, whose heirs sold her 27,000 acre Rancho Los Cerritos ("Ranch of the Little Hills") to cattle baron John Temple. He would eventually sell the land to Flint, Bixby & Co., owned by brothers Thomas and Benjamin Flint and their cousin, Lewellyn Bixby. It was Lewellyn's brother, Jotham, who turned the Rancho into a thriving sheep ranch, stretching from what is now the Los Angeles River, down to the ocean.

The original Rancho Los Cerritos has since made way for other cities, including Lakewood and Bellflower, but an estimated 80,000 people still call the area around the Rancho's original adobe house their home. There are beautiful estates surrounding the Virginia Country Club, a revitalized Atlantic Avenue corridor, and the much anticipated return of the California Heights Annual Home and Garden Tour in 2011. Here are 25 great reasons to wander north of PCH and discover three of the best neighborhoods in the city.

## BIXBY KNOLLS

**BEST PIES. EVER.** If you haven't tried their lemon meringue pie yet, drop this magazine right now, get in your car and GO. We'll be here when you get back. You can thank us later.

Jongewaard's Bake-n-Broil  
3697 Atlantic Avenue

### BEST LUNCH WITH A SIDEWALK VIEW

If you are lucky enough to get a table by the window, this local Lebanese favorite is a fun place for some serious people watching. Baba Ghanouj also is a great choice if there are vegetarians in your group. The menu features delicious falafel, lentil soup, and hummus along with a wonderful garlic sauce.

Baba Ghanouj  
4276 Atlantic Avenue

### BEST PLACE FOR DINNER WITH FAMILY

The menu is classic Italian and the location is in the heart of Bixby Knolls. This neighborhood landmark has been in business since 1958 and remains one of the best reasons to dine in Bixby Knolls. The good food, warm atmosphere, and welcoming staff makes Nino's the perfect place to entertain family and friends.

Nino's Italian Restaurant  
3853 Atlantic Avenue

**BEST STEAK** Phil Trani still does most of the cooking in his own restaurant. His talent has kept locals, star athletes and restaurant critics from around the Southland returning to this relaxed, elegant Bixby Knolls dining room since 1990. Pasta, seafood, and chicken entrees occupy a good portion of his menu but it is the sheer perfection of his steaks that keep regulars coming back.

Phil Trani's Restaurant  
3490 Long Beach Boulevard

### BEST NEIGHBORHOOD BAKERY

Alsace Lorraine Pastries is the neighborhood favorite for cakes, chewy brownie cookies, cream puffs, and their signature napoleons. Named after a small territory between France and Germany, the bakery has only changed hands twice since Norberd and Rita Boughgobacher sold their first sheet cakes in 1947.

Alsace Lorraine Pastries  
4334 Atlantic Avenue

**BEST BURGER STAND** One of the best places for a burger is a take-out stand in a Chevron station parking lot. You can't beat the food at this local favorite where a burger with grilled onions and the basic fixings is less than \$3. There is a limited menu, no fries only bags of chips, and the soda is out of a can. But you cannot beat the price and the chicken burgers are good too.

Dave's World Famous Burgers  
3396 Atlantic Ave

**BEST MILKSHAKE** If you are a milkshake purist, then this Orange Avenue take-out stand

is for you. The flavors are basic and the recipe is simple — just hand-scooped ice cream and milk in a blender. Be prepared for a wait if there is only one person working the counter, but the result will be worth it — pure shake nirvana.

Brandy's Burgers  
4001 Orange Ave

### BEST YOGA STUDIO AND COMMUNITY CENTER

Andrea Testa has created a welcoming neighborhood center from her yoga studio. While yoga classes run seven days a week and are still the main reason people fill the space, the energy amps up when FreeSpirit becomes an art gallery during First Fridays. The lobby also doubles as one of the best places to find information on community events.

FreeSpirit Yoga  
3910 Atlantic Avenue

### BEST BLOOMS

Melinda and her friendly staff have been at her Carson and Atlantic Avenue location for 25 years. The family-owned shop creates beautiful fresh arrangements that have become Mother's Day and Valentine's Day favorites. Be sure to check out the fun seasonal window displays, a must-see stop on neighborhood walks.

Melinda McCoy's Flowers  
611 E Carson Street

### BEST PLACE TO BUY A SNAKE

From turtles and bearded dragons to boas and pythons, Reptiles Unlimited is definitely not for the squeamish. If reptiles and their food sources are a few of your favorite things, then you will find this Bixby Knolls storefront to be one of the best places on earth.

Reptiles Unlimited  
4236 Atlantic Avenue

### BEST HARDWARE STORE

While there are two much larger hardware emporiums south of the 405, the local OSH is where the neighbors go when they need to get things done. From duplicating keys to gardening supplies, the super staff is always there for friendly service and useful advice.

Orchard Supply Hardware  
4480 Atlantic Ave

### BEST WAY TO MEET THE NEIGHBORS: BIXBY KNOLLS

Art and music bursts from nearly every storefront on the first Friday of each month along Atlantic Avenue. Local businesses host art exhibitions and sidewalks are filled with live music that ranges from Dixieland to classic rock. This month, celebrate First Friday's fourth

anniversary and catch a special presentation on the 40th anniversary of Bicycle Moto Cross (BMX), founded in Long Beach.  
First Fridays Long Beach  
Atlantic Avenue from Bixby Road to San Antonio Drive

**BEST PLACE TO SPEND THURSDAY AFTERNOON** Run by the Harbor Area Farmers' Markets, this popular Bixby Knolls market always attracts a diverse after work clientele. It is busy enough that there is always a crowd but laid back enough so farmers have time to answer questions. Check out Beyond Bok Choy for Asian vegetables and herbs, Wrigley District-based Peanut Dudes for healthy snacks, and the always-helpful Smith Farms for organic veggies and strawberries.

Long Beach Uptown Farmers' Market  
Atlantic Ave. and E 46th Street  
3:00pm – 6:30pm every Thursday

**BEST PLACE TO RELAX** Relax under the large willow and cottonwood trees (don't forget your favorite book). Breathe in the history as you travel back in time to learn about how people survived before electricity (good for the kids). Inhale the sweetness of the peaceful rose gardens and the calming earthy aroma of the Adobe home. The Rancho is open Wednesday through Sunday beginning at 1p.m, with the last tour starting at 4 p.m.

Rancho Los Alamitos Historic Ranch and Gardens  
6400 Bixby Hill Road  
562.431.3541  
rancholosalamitos.com

**BEST EXAMPLE OF MID-CENTURY MODERNISM** Architect Edward Killingsworth designed this local landmark in 1955 and his influence can still be seen throughout the city. Killingsworth was discovered when he was asked to participate in the Case Study House program, building Frank House in Naples in 1962. The Wilson High School grad also served as the master planning architect for CSULB for more than forty years.

Edward Killingsworth Office Building  
3833 Long Beach Boulevard

**BEST WAY TO BRING HISTORY INTO YOUR HOME** Finger through (with gloves, of course) over 30,000 historical black and white photos depicting Long Beach from as far back as the 1800s. Choose the ones you would like, and within a few days you'll be able to hang a bit of Long Beach history on your wall. Any size is available, 8"x10" for \$30.

Long Beach Historical Society  
4260 Atlantic Avenue  
562.424.2220  
historicalsocietylb.org

**BEST PLACE TO MEET THE NEIGHBORS:**



**CANINE** One of five off leash Dog Parks in the city, the Uptown Dog Park on the western end of Scherer Park was recently expanded to include new fencing, more benches, updated landscaping and, most importantly, more room for dogs to run. There are separate areas for small and large dogs, nearby picnic areas and a parking lot.

Uptown Dog Park at Scherer Park  
4600 Long Beach Boulevard

## CALIFORNIA HEIGHTS

**BEST PLACE TO MEET THE NEIGHBORS:**

**CALIFORNIA HEIGHTS** With the Annual Home and Garden Tour on hiatus for 2010, this weekly California Heights Neighborhood Association program has become the best way to meet the neighbors in Cal Heights. Join volunteers each Thursday morning and help keep one of the city's most beautiful neighborhoods free of litter, trash and illegal signage.

Cal Heights Clean Streets  
Wardlow and Atlantic corridors

**BEST PLACE TO HUG A TREE** Cal Heights Neighborhood Association president, John Royce, leads these scheduled tree plantings and tree care days. Use your master gardening skills to help nurture some of the city's youngest residents on key neighborhood streets.

Cal Heights ReLeaf  
Atlantic, Orange, Lime and Lewis Avenues

**BEST LOCAL STORY TIME** Dana Library joins the First Fridays celebration with a new family event. Join Councilman James Johnson and special guests as they read favorite children's books with live entertainment and refreshments. Story time begins at 5:30 p.m. every First Friday.

First Books at First Fridays  
Dana Library  
3680 Atlantic Ave

## WRIGLEY DISTRICT

**BEST LUNCH WHEN YOU ARE IN A HURRY FOR CURRY** Sometimes, you just need a little red curry to get you through the week. This Wrigley District restaurant is the second location for this family owned business, following their first location on Melrose Ave. The staff is quick with suggestions for the undecided and an illustrated

menu helps you navigate through the different soups, salads, noodle and curry dishes.

Khun Dom Thai-Chinese Cuisine  
1990 Pacific Avnue

**BEST LUNCH WHEN YOU ARE IN A HURRY FOR CURRY PART 2** If you can avoid being

hit by the Blue Line as you turn into the parking lot, this tiny Indian restaurant near Long Beach Memorial is another great place for a quick curry fix. Most customers take-out but there are a few tables and chairs. Prices are reasonable so you can have your fill of spicy chicken curry or vindaloo.

Taste of India  
2620 Long Beach Boulevard

**BEST LUNCH IN A BAKERY** Just ignore the Bakery sign and the wedding cakes in the window of this Wrigley District establishment. El Rey serves up tortas and tamales that are delicious and inexpensive. While the take-out menu is a mix of English and Spanish and a small buffet holds more traditional dishes, the signs above the counter and the approachable staff will help you out in a pinch.

El Rey  
2016 Pacific Avenue

**BEST PLACE TO MEET THE NEIGHBORS:**

**WRIGLEY** Urban farming is alive and well in the Wrigley District. Long Beach is third in the nation (after Seattle and Portland) for community garden plots per capita and Wrigley boasts two hearty gardens of its own. Local not-for-profit Long Beach Organic has transformed a once vacant lot on Pacific Avenue into the organization's newest garden. The Wrigley Community Garden on Henderson Avenue is a two year project created to help transform the street.

Wrigley Village Community Garden  
2044 Pacific Avenue

**BEST NEIGHBORHOOD HOLIDAY PARADE**

The Daisy Avenue Christmas Tree Lane and Parade brings together a diverse community for the only holiday parade in the U.S. held on a residential street. Says Councilman Johnson, "this year, neighbors are coming together to re-energize the parade in order to continue its tradition of bringing outstanding entertainment to the Wrigley area and to Long Beach."

Daisy Avenue Christmas Tree Lane and Parade  
Daisy Avenue from Hill Street to Pacific Coast Highway



VETERAN'S DAY PARADE

Of all the areas in Long Beach, none are more misunderstood than North Long Beach. It is a community of diverse socio-economic neighborhoods whose infrastructure supports new community centers, ongoing after school programs, and annual local events that welcome the entire city. There are two active city council districts, organized neighborhood groups, and long-time family run businesses. Most unexpectedly, it is an area filled with green spaces. Other Long Beach residents drive directly to the 710 and 91 freeways without any knowledge of the community gardens, public parks, wooded hiking trails, and fragile wetlands they pass along the way. North Long Beach is an area that takes the time to acknowledge its past while taking the future of its young people seriously. Here are some of the best reasons why residents call North Long Beach home.

**BEST TRES LECHE CAKE** You have not lived until you have had the Tres Leche Cake at Katy's Bakery. The Rodriguez Family has been baking these light, milky sponge cakes for North Long Beach residents for 20 years. There is always a line as regulars fill silver trays with self-served Mexican pastries, cookies, and breads from the display cases but the queue is worth the wait. Individual Tres Leche cake slices are available for \$1.50 each.

Katy's Bakery  
5417 Long Beach Boulevard

**BEST FAMILY DINING** The North Long Beach branch of the 11 location family-run chain has been a local fixture since 1972 when the family invested \$5,000 to open the restaurant. Now run by its third generation, Avila's El Ranchito is the perfect place for family dinners and Sunday breakfast.

Avila's El Ranchito Restaurant  
5345 Long Beach Blvd.

**BEST SOUTHERN BBQ** If barbecued ribs, pulled pork, and hot links make your day, then this friendly restaurant on the border of North Long Beach and Bixby Knolls is for you. And don't forget the sides with unbelievably good homemade biscuits, macaroni and cheese, and sweet potato fries.

Johnny Rebs'  
4663 Long Beach Boulevard

**BEST WAY TO MEET THE NEIGHBORS: NORTH LONG BEACH** World War II veteran, Clarence Bramley, is the grand marshal for the 14th annual parade which also honors Rosie the Riveter, the World War II icon representing the women who undertook essential factory and manufacturing jobs. A post-parade Freedom Walk pays tribute to our veterans by inviting the public to follow the parade route as individuals, families, or teams.

Veteran's Day Parade  
Atlantic Boulevard, south from Harding St. to 56th St then returning north  
Saturday November 6, 2010 at 10am

**BEST NEIGHBORHOOD MURAL** Long Beach artist Jose M. Loza transformed a blank wall on the Atlantic Avenue corridor into a tribute to North Long Beach's past agricultural roots and its current urban revitalization. The 46 foot long mural is one of the latest projects for Loza, who began his artistic career as a youth volunteer with the City's Mural and Cultural Arts program, and has now worked on more than 30 murals throughout the Southland.

Jose M. Loza, A Neighborhood Perspective, 2009  
Atlantic Avenue at 56th Street

**BEST SKATEPARK** The city's first skatepark opened in 2004 and is still a busy multi-cultural spot for skateboard and inlines skates, although a few alternative forms of transportation also were spotted. With the organic street art and cruising police cars, the park has a distinctly urban feel. It is free but unstaffed with helmet, knee pads and elbow pads required.

Houghton Park Skatepark  
Northeast corner Atlantic Avenue and Harding Street

**BEST URBAN BIKE SHOP** This small shop is packed to the rafters and is the place to go for bike enthusiasts who enjoy making their own repairs. The shop's myspace page (myspace.com/junkyrustybikes) is the best place to go if you need to buy, sell or rent a bike, with models that range from vintage to well, junky and rusty.

Junky Rusty Bikes  
5955 Cherry Ave



6255 De Forest Avenue

**BEST COMMUNITY SPACE** On one Sunday afternoon, the 30 acre Houghton Park was home to several picnics, baseball games, soccer games, and couples sitting quietly on ceramic tile benches underneath groves of trees. An interesting note, the Park's original three acres of land was donated to the city in 1924 by Stanley, Dove, and Elizabeth Houghton, in memory of their father and his wife Eliza Donner Houghton, the orphaned daughter of the very same Donner party that died in the snow at Donner Lake.

Houghton Park  
6301 Myrtle Avenue



**BEST PUPUSAS** Pupusas are thick corn tortillas filled with various combinations of meat, beans, and cheese – and some of the best pupusas you will ever have are here at this small family-owned restaurant. Pupusas are made to order but two or three pupusas topped with curtido, a vinegary cross between cole slaw and relish, along with tomato salsa, make it a meal worth your wait.

Chiltepe Restaurant  
5631 Atlantic Boulevard

**BEST SEAFOOD RESTAURANT** This small family-owned restaurant serves mouthwatering grilled fish, shrimp, octopus, and scallops as well as traditional carne asada and chicken dishes. The Grill for Two gives you plenty of food along with rice, beans, grilled chili peppers, onions, potatoes or bananas. The seating area is only a few tables so get there early. Free parking is available in a lot just south of the restaurant.

Los Eduardos Restaurant  
5428 Long Beach Boulevard

**BEST COMMUNITY RESOURCE** Every year, nearly 100,000 visitors use the library for reading, research, and internet access. The library started in 1926 with humble beginnings, a book stock of 229 volumes located in an old bank building. Now the branch has been in its current mid-century modern building since 1951 and is heavily used by students and children and the library offers free weekly classes in beginning internet and email as well as word processing for adults.

North Neighborhood Library  
5571 Orange Avenue

**BEST NEW USE OF AN OLD BUILDING** After sitting vacant for more than a year, the former Police Athletic League Building has found new life as a community center for young people. After school programs become even more important in the winter and here students will find homework help, games, tournaments and will be able to play basketball on courts behind the building.

North Long Beach Community Center  
2311 E South Street

**BEST URBAN NATURE WALK** Paralleling the concrete-lined Los Angeles River, the Dominguez Gap opens up to walking and biking trails and pathways of reeds, wildflowers, and a seasonal bird population. The area is better seen during the wettest times of the year, winter through early summer.

Dominguez Gap  
East side of the Los Angeles River

**BEST HISTORY OF A SCHOOL NAME** When Dooley Elementary opened its doors to students in 2007, it preserved the legacy of its namesake, Dooley's Hardware Mart. Formerly the largest hardware store in America, the Dooley family first purchased the site in 1918 then expanded its general store to eventually fill three blocks. Locals knew Dooley's as the place to find fixtures for older homes and the store carried everything from appliances and furniture to craft supplies and hot dogs.

Dooley Elementary School  
5075 N. Long Beach Boulevard

**BEST CORNER PARK** Tucked away just off Long Beach Boulevard, this small neighborhood park is the perfect place for kids to run off some energy with a colorful play area for smaller kids and half court basketball for taller ones. The park marks the site of the Chace Lumber Company and was named for the businessman and former

member of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors.

Burton W. Chace Park  
Northwest corner of Market Street and Dairy Avenue

**BEST COMMUNITY GARDENS** North Long Beach became a little healthier this year as non-profit Long Beach Organic and the Grant Neighborhood Association opened the South 40 Community Garden in March. Space was set aside to grow food for charity, "Jardín de los Santos," after the Francisco de los Santos family who donated the use of their property. The Grace Park Garden opened in 2008, and is located across from Grace Park, named after herpetologist and snake charmer, Grace Wiley, who lived in Long Beach in the 1940s.

Grace Park Garden  
Northeast corner of Plymouth Street and Elm Avenue  
South 40 Garden Community Garden  
2813 South Street

**BEST PLACE TO SPEND A SUNDAY AFTERNOON** Day hikers and bikers can spend a leisurely Sunday, losing themselves on the DeForest Nature Trail, which is awaiting funding to restore its natural wetlands habitat. Farther north, the 15 acre DeForest Park includes lighted tennis courts, a sand volleyball court, baseball diamonds, and playgrounds.

DeForest Park and Nature Trail



DOWNTOWN LONG BEACH

Vibrant, laidback, energized, and diverse — Downtown Long Beach is a mix of every part of the city. On weekdays, the area is a metropolitan commerce center, supporting a fast-paced, international business crowd. On weekends, it plays even harder, hosting hundreds of thousands of tourists who fill its restaurants, hotels, and attractions.

With the active Downtown Long Beach Associates and Long Beach Area Convention & Visitors Bureau as well as the work of Mayor Bob Foster and former Mayor Beverly O'Neill, Downtown Long Beach is thriving. During the past decades, the area has built and rebuilt itself and now a new generation of residents and business people are bringing the city skyline to life. Here are 25 great reasons to head Downtown, where everything's waiting for you.

**BEST OUTDOOR WORKOUT** 4.25 miles on the strand beginning at Shoreline Drive to the Belmont Pier in Belmont Shore — then five sets of steps between the Pier and the Cherry Avenue hill.

Shoreline Village to the Belmont Pier

**BEST PLACE TO PET A SHARK** What is the second-happiest place on earth? The Aquarium of the Pacific! At least according to the folks at the Zagat Family Travel Guide, who once rated the Aquarium the # 2 Los Angeles area Family Destination, second to Disneyland. Pet a shark in the 10,000-square-foot Shark Lagoon, free on Friday nights from 6-9pm.

Aquarium of the Pacific  
100 Aquarium Way  
562.590.3100  
aquariumofpacific.org

### BEST PLACE TO ENRICH YOUR MIND WHEN YOUR POCKETS ARE EMPTY

MOLAA is free Fridays and Sundays. Escape to the worlds of Fernando Botero, Rufino Tamayo, Joaquin Torres Garcia and Roberto Sebastian Matta. Four Views from the MOLAA Permanent Collection focuses on their extensive in-house collection with sculpture, drawing, photography and prints, from the 1940s to the present day.

Museum of Latin American Art  
628 Alamitos Ave.  
562.437.1689  
molaa.org

### BEST PLACE TO LET OUT A SCREAM

Dubbed the "most terrifying place on earth" Shipwreck is housed every October aboard the Queen Mary, home to many unexplained haunted happenings and paranormal activities. The only thing not chilling about this annual terror fest is the price. For a safe and sane \$34, this and more scary fun is available for those brave enough to handle it.

Shipwreck at the Queen Mary  
1126 Queens Highway  
queenmaryshipwreck.com

### BEST PLACE TO LAUGH UNTIL YOU CRY

Who couldn't use a good laugh right about now? Comics are top rate and beyond hilarious, offering a little something for everyone. Those with virgin ears though, should be forewarned — the only thing soft and sweet dished out at this venue, is the Cheesecake Olivia off the Outback Steakhouse limited menu.

Laugh Factory  
151 S. Pine Street  
562-495-2844  
laughfactory.com

**BEST PLACE TO SING SHOW TUNES** You never know who you might run into here — entertainment personalities and local artists can always be found at the "Fox". Karaoke Sundays and Wednesdays mean anyone can grab that spotlight.

Silver Fox  
411 Redondo Ave.  
562.439.6343  
silverfoxlongbeach.com

### BEST PLACE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

An online visit to their volunteer database will match your interests to more than 650 nonprofit agencies looking for volunteers. From the arts to the environment to human services, this is your first step in joining thousands of other city residents who regularly volunteer their time.

Volunteer Centers of California  
1407 East 4th St. Long Beach  
volctr-sobay.org

### BEST PLACE TO FLY YOUR RAINBOW

Long Beach has pride! The Lesbian & Gay Pride Festival & Parade is the third-largest in the U.S. More than 75,000 revelers gather and celebrate during this annual May event with seven different stages, dance areas and venues next to the ocean.

Long Beach Pride Parade  
Ocean Boulevard from Lindero Avenue to Alamitos Avenue  
562.987.9191  
longbeachpride.com

**BEST PICKLED EGGS IN TOWN** One of the oldest continuously operating taverns west of the Mississippi River, Joe Jost's has been serving cold beer, Joe's Special Polish Sausage sandwiches, and more than 7 million pickled eggs since 1924.

Joe Jost's.  
2803 Anaheim St.  
562.439.5446  
joejosts.com

### BEST PLACE TO DROP IN ON A FREE INTERNET WAVE

While the chain coffeehouses debate the merits of allowing customers to linger with free internet access, one of the city's best locally-owned coffeehouses makes it a point to let residents freely surf the web. The friendly staff, blended coffee drinks, healthy sandwiches, local art on the walls and even knitting classes make it easy to stay for other reasons, too.

Portfolio Coffeehouse  
2300 E. 4th St  
562.434.2486  
portfoliocoffeehouse.com



**BEST PLACE TO SPOT A GENIUS** The annual Technology, Entertainment, Design (TED) Conference has brought the world's leading thinkers and doers to the Long Beach Performing Arts Center since 2009. Presenters have ranged from Bill Gates to ukulele master, Jake Shimabukuro. Next year's conference is already sold out but residents can listen in via the live webcast.

TED Conference  
Long Beach Performing Arts Center

**BEST LOCALLY-MADE GIFTS** Sandra Christmas has been making her confections of pecans, butter, sugar in her Downtown candy shop since 2006. Named after her mother Mabel, these sweet treats are packaged in bags and boxes and make excellent gifts. You can also find Mabel's at area Farmers' Markets, including the Sunday Marina Market.

Mabel's Gourmet Pralines  
625 Pine Avenue

**BEST TOURIST PLACE FOR LOCALS** The city's sparkling skyline meets the Pacific Ocean at The Pike. Every weekend, thousands of tourists eat, shop, cruise, and relax along Downtown's waterfront – an area that stretches from the Aquarium of the Pacific to the Long Beach Entertainment and Convention Center, with Shoreline Village and the Queen Mary nearby.

The Pike at Rainbow Harbor

**BEST LOCAL PLACE FOR TOURISTS** The East Village Arts District stays up late on the second Saturday of every month as local artists and arts lovers take to the streets. Restaurants, coffeehouses, galleries, and shops keep their doors open and Linden Avenue is closed to traffic for a street art fair. Two stages host live music and performances.

2nd Saturday Art Walk  
Ocean Boulevard, Linden Avenue, First Street, Broadway, and Elm Avenue

**BEST WAY TO SEE LONG BEACH** Organized by the Aquarium of the Pacific, the Urban Ocean Cruise is an extraordinary 2 ½ hour behind the scenes tour of the Port of Long Beach, Terminal Island, and the breakwater. With guided narration from the Aquarium's education staff, the cruise

offers up close views of massive container ships and cranes alongside local sea lions and ocean's horizon – a powerful statement of the delicate balance that defines our urban ocean.

The Urban Ocean: World Port and Sealife Cruise  
Leaves from Dock #2 near the Aquarium of the Pacific

**BEST POWER LUNCH** L'Opera is the Downtown restaurant to entertain clients or close an important deal. Co-owner Enzo DeMuro and Chef Walter Cotta have created a comfortable executive-style dining room and bar with elegant décor, attentive service, and extraordinary meals.

L'Opera Ristorante  
101 Pine Avenue

**BEST (TEMPORARY) PUBLIC ART PROJECT** Greenmeme, artists Freya Bardell and Brian Howe used more than 30,000 feet of rope to create the city's newest, albeit temporary, art installation. It is part of Urban Lab, a program created by the Long Beach Redevelopment Agency and the Art Council of Long Beach to fill vacant lots awaiting redevelopment with temporary art and performance spaces.

Ocean Boulevard and Lime Avenue

**BEST PLACE TO RELEASE YOUR INNER POET** Every Thursday night, this Downtown favorite hosts an Open Mic Night for singers, musicians and poets from 8pm to 10pm. Stop by a few minutes to early to reserve your spot.

It's A Grind  
247 Pine Ave

**BEST PLACE TO SPEND YOUR FRIDAY LUNCH HOUR** Stock up on produce for the weekend every Friday at the Downtown Farmers' Market. A fun mix of fresh produce and hot food, market patrons can receive up to two hours of free parking in the northern or southern CityPlace parking structures.

Long Beach Downtown Farmers' Market  
Pine Avenue and 5th Street  
Fridays 10am – 4pm

**BEST PLACE TO SPEND SATURDAY MORNING** The city's funkiest Farmers' Market is a diverse mix of established farmers, local growers and artisans, hot food vendors, and live music. The market is comfortably paced to match

your morning stroll. Free parking is available on the northwest corner of Broadway at Elm, or bring your quarters with plenty of meters on the street.  
East Village Farmers' Market  
First Street between Elm Avenue and Linden Avenue

**BEST STORY TIME** Library story times are some of the best ways to help children read for fun. This all ages reading program runs from 2pm to 3pm every Saturday at the Main Library and includes reading circles, crafts, games, and songs.

Bookworm Buddy Story Time  
Long Beach Main Library  
101 Pacific Ave.

**BEST PLACE TO BRING YOUR HUMAN** Downtown dogs now have it as good as their Belmont Shore and Bixby Knolls neighbors. Two dog parks are open every day of the week with separate areas for large and small dogs and benches for their owners. The Downtown Dog Park has double entrance and exit gates while K-9 Corner generates 100% of its electricity on site with solar energy.

Downtown Dog Park in Lincoln Park  
Broadway and Pacific Avenue  
K-9 Corner Dog Park  
9th Street and Pacific Avenue

**BEST WAY TO TAKE THE SHOW ON THE ROAD** The Long Beach Opera continues to make a splash. In the midst of a recession, they finished the year in the black while preserving their cutting edge reputation. They also brought back one of their most original stagings with a return to the Belmont Plaza Olympic Pool, remounting Ricky Ian Gordon's Orpheus and Euridice — a sold-out chlorine-filled Night at the Opera.

Long Beach Opera

**BEST CITY TREASURE** LBSO will present a Holiday Celebration with two family-friendly concerts featuring Broadway star Michele Ragusa and a full chorus, under the direction of Guest Conductor Stuart Chafetz. The Symphony has remained one of the City's premier performing arts groups since its founding 1935 and reaches more than 50,000 students per year with its arts education programs.

Long Beach Symphony Orchestra

**BEST STREET DESTROYED IN A BLOCKBUSTER MOVIE** The Long Beach Film Office takes advantage of living inside the industry's Thirty Mile Zone and brings thousands of hours of film, television, and commercial production to city neighborhoods. However, no local filming moment has yet to top the climatic battle scene in the original Iron Man, when Robert Downey Jr. battled his arch enemy and destroyed Shoreline Drive in the process.

Skyline Drive in Iron Man



EL DORADO NATURE CENTER

On the east side of Long Beach, sits a quiet residential neighborhood with shopping, quality schools and active community members. With neighborhoods like Los Altos, the area is known to locals for its family oriented atmosphere that surrounds the outskirts of Cal State Long Beach. Its location is truly the heart of Long Beach. When you visit, you will often find residents taking family bike rides and walks under the heavily shaded streets. It is the perfect place to take a long walk and see another side of the city.

### BEST PLACE TO GET BACK TO NATURE

Winter Break Workshops include Science Sorcery, It's A Bug's Life, Backyard Buddies, and one that we might not want a report on over dinner called "Yuck!". Kids 6-7 years old can take part in morning sessions while the afternoons are for 7-9 year olds. Parents can get in a bit of exercise on the trails while kids learn about the natural world, for only \$9.

El Dorado Nature Center  
[ci.long-beach.ca.us/naturecenter](http://ci.long-beach.ca.us/naturecenter)

### BEST PLACE TO GET SUITED LIKE A MEMBER OF THE RAT PACK

For more than 50 years, Umberto Autore has built a name for himself based on the pillars of quality, integrity and honesty. You can see it in the meticulous attention to detail that is devoted to every custom suit made at his store, Umberto International Clothier. Autore once also fitted the famous crew of the "Rat Pack." That should be enough reason to get a suit.

Umberto's International Clothier  
 2141 Bellflower Blvd.

### BEST PLACE TO GET THE CATCH OF THE DAY

The Fish Tale Restaurant is the oldest

seafood restaurant in the city of Long Beach. Established in 1977, at the corner of Britton Drive and Bellflower Boulevard it continues to offer some of the best seafood dishes from shrimp enchiladas to shrimp melts. Great customer service is the bonus!

The Fish Tale  
 5506 Britton Drive  
[fishtaleseafood.com](http://fishtaleseafood.com)

### BEST PLACE TO STOCK UP ON GOOD CHEESE AND WINE

When it comes to a finding a good gourmet grocery store, in the east part of town it's easy — Bristol Farms. The gourmet grocer offers the very best in cheeses and wine. They stock over 300 varieties of the finest cheeses from around the world, from goat's milk Gouda to Italian Parmigiano-Reggiano. Pair that with a Chardonnay and you're set!

Bristol Farms  
 2080 Bellflower Blvd.

### BEST PLACE TO BE A COMIC BOOK GEEK

Still obsessed with action figures, dolls, toys, comic books and other collectibles from your favorite cartoons, movies and TV shows? Share your enthusiasm at this specialty store. They stock all of the geeky goods.

Amazing Comics & Cards  
 5555 E. Stearns St. #102

### BEST PLACE FOR COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Next time you and the neighbors want to meet up in a central place without the hassle of downtown parking, check out Los Altos Neighborhood Library. While you are there, make sure to check out the great book selection. The original book collection consisted of 28,890 volumes. Today the collection consists of approximately 51,000 volumes.

Los Altos Neighborhood Library  
 5612 Britton St.

**BEST PLACE TO REMEMBER THE 50S'** Ever watch old movies where the waitresses bring your food on rollerskates and Elvis was playing in the background. One still exists — Frisco's Carhop Bar & Grill Restaurant. Great food, great atmosphere.

Frisco's Carhop Bar & Grill Restaurant  
 4750 Los Coyotes Diagonal

**BEST PLACE FOR SUNDAY COFFEE** Simple food and coffee and all-day breakfast makes this place a winner. Large portions for a good price plus a friendly staff would make anyone want to skip the IHOP's and Denny's for this place. Try a breakfast burrito with extra bacon with that coffee.

Best Place Café  
 2099 Bellflower Blvd.

**BEST PLACE TO GET PAMPERED** There aren't many day spas in Long Beach that can boast a long list of services that this place can. They offer all of the regulars – massages and facials. But, if you are looking for alternative beauty methods for losing weight to laser treatments, this is the place. Everyone can use a little pampering.

Indulgence Day & Medical Spa  
 5555 E. Stearns Dr. #101

**BEST PLACE TO GET A BAGEL** When was the last time you found a bagel place with free WiFi, an outside patio and a variety of treats? This bagel place in east Long Beach offers all of this and more. They offer special bagels like the Very Veggie on Everything bagel. The list goes on.

Bagelry & Bistro  
 5514 E. Britton Dr.

### BEST PLACE TO GET A SLICE OF PIZZA

Ecco's Pizza is the best pizzeria in the Los Altos. They have a great selection of pizzas and subs and it truly feels like a community pizzeria when you dine in. The sub selection is great, next time try the ECCO's Submarine filled with Cappicola, Genoa salami, mortadella, lettuce, bell peppers, red onions and tomatoes, artichoke hearts and fresh mushrooms sauteed in white cream sauce. Enough said.

Ecco's Pizza & Italian Restaurant  
 2123 Bellflower Blvd.

**BEST PLACE TO DO THE YMCA DANCE** Next time you visit the Los Altos YMCA make sure to bring your swimsuit. There is a pool, with four lanes! There is also a variety of classes for both adults and kids. Get active.

Los Altos YMCA  
 1720 N. Bellflower Blvd.



MUSIC IN THE PARK



COMMUNITY SNOW DAY

### **BEST PLACE TO GIVE IN TO YOUR SWEET TOOTH**

For the perfect chocolate gift, head up to this See's Candies store. The clean, sparkling black and white shop boasts 100 varieties of candies and are packed to order with your selection. A sweet treat for yourself or someone else you want to make happy.

See's Candies  
2129 N. Bellflower Blvd.

### **BEST YOGA SPOT TO SWEAT IT OUT**

If you are looking for a new yoga place, check out Yoga World Studio. The best part about it is that it is studio perfect for beginners, intermediates and experienced. The studio also has a variety of instructors and a downtown location if you want to mix it up.

Yoga World Studio  
5508 Britton Drive.

### **BEST PLACE TO CONTEMPLATE ANCIENT EGYPTIAN BUILDING TECHNIQUES (OR WATCH NBA HOPEFULS)**

The 18-foot pyramid contains three full basketball courts and five volleyball courts, and is home to Division 1 men's, women's basketball and volleyball teams. The Southern California Summer Pro Basketball League uses the Pyramid in July.

Did you know: Each side of the perimeter of The Walter Pyramid measures 345 feet, making it a mathematically true pyramid?

The Walter Pyramid at CSULB.

### **BEST WAY TO WALK IT OFF**

The City of Long Beach was once named 8th Most Walkable City in the US in the national Walk Score survey! 24 Long Beach neighborhoods were ranked, with the top five, one being the East Side. Even better? Beating out L.A., who came in 9th. Strap on your walking shoes and we'll see you out there in the east side.



UMBERTO INTERNATIONAL CLOTHIER



**MOVER & SHAKER OF BIXBY KNOLLS: BLAIR COHN**

The Knolls Ranger is not the only super hero in Bixby Knolls. The brightly dressed neighborhood ambassador is actually the creation of the area's real life super hero, Blair Cohn, Executive Director of the Bixby Knolls Business Improvement Association (BKZIA). Cohn, a hero with a slightly more reserved dress sense, is credited with the neighborhood's current revitalization. Born and raised in Long Beach, Cohn previously served as race director for the Long Beach International City Marathon, and took the BKZIA position for the challenge of transforming an established city area.

"Bixby Knolls had so much potential to be a buzzing, active, cultural vibrant community with a great mix of residents and business owners coming together," said Cohn of his decision. "There already seemed to be a lot going on in the neighborhood and I felt it was important to try to stitch it all together to make one, big connected community – from California Heights to Bixby Knolls, Los Cerritos, and Virginia Country Club. The area has a Rancho, a Trader Joe's, an orthodox Jewish community, businesses that have been in the area for years, and people really care about the area."

Cohn is proud to highlight some of the area's best stories – Nino's Italian Restaurant has been in business for more than 50 years; Elise's Tea Room has been recognized with a multitude of Best Chef and Best Kitchen awards; Howard CDM, the construction, development, and management company, is helping to transform Long Beach Boulevard; and FreeSpirit Yoga has a huge local following.

"Bixby Knolls is an attractive community that has a true sense of community and it continues to grow each day," he said. "The residents,

some second and third generation Bixby Knolls residents, are so very connected to the schools, churches, synagogues, parks, and remember when Bixby Knolls was 'uptown' for shopping and dining. It's still a very special place and we are working very hard to bring back that energy and excitement."



**MOVER & SHAKER OF BELMONT SHORE: JUSTIN RUDD**

When looking for someone to speak about the beach community of Belmont Shore, one immediately thinks of community leader extraordinaire Justin Rudd.

Rudd is the founder of the nonprofit organization Community Action Team (CAT) that focuses on events dealing with welfare projects, kid and animal events, beach cleanups, art, and education. When asked about why he loves Belmont Shore, Rudd noted, "I think the first thing that's special is the people, especially the diversity of the people. I also I love the proximity to the ocean where I run five miles a day on the beach path. I go to the dog park named after my dog Rosie. The trendy shopping and dining district I think is pretty special too. Also, the 'walkability' of it."

Rudd said his inspiration for constantly doing good work for the neighborhood stems from his religious upbringing. "It brings joy to my heart that I have been productive and not apathetic at the end of the day," he said. "I want to continue doing things to benefit this world and the people that I come in contact with."

Rudd notes he doesn't watch TV or very many movies because he rather spend that time getting to know the people who live in his community.

"It is those hours that I'm able to meet with friends or work on an upcoming community events," Rudd said. It is truly refreshing to see so much evidence of a community member like Rudd actively living out the tenets of his faith and creating a better, stronger environment in the process.

Some of the upcoming events Rudd and CAT has organized is and has more information about on his website are: the 30 minute beach cleanup on November 20th, the Long Beach Turkey Trot on Thanksgiving, and the collection of treats and toys for sheltered dogs and cats for his Operation Santa Paws charity starting Thanksgiving weekend.

Clearly, it is not hard to be inspired by Rudd; a man whose empathy and determination has greatly changed and continues to influence the thriving community of Belmont Shore for the better.



**MOVER & SHAKER OF DOWNTOWN: SKIP KEESAL**

When Skip Keesal moved his young law firm, Keesal, Young & Logan (KYL), to Downtown Long Beach 25 years ago, little did he know that the area would someday become one of the most dynamic places in the Southland to live and work.

Today, KYL owns and occupies the Union Bank building, and the highly-regarded Keesal is one of city's most prominent businessmen and philanthropists. As one of Downtown's long-time residents, he can appreciate the area's growth.

"I think Downtown is a special place because, thanks to Mayor Foster, Mayor O'Neill and the City Councils of recent years, there's been a

forward-thinking character added to the lifestyle and to the business-style of Long Beach, which has made it an exciting place to be," he said. "It's combining the old and the new, folks that have been here for a long time with lots of new folks. Everybody has a spring in their step and a forward-thinking approach to many things."

That foresightful approach is reflected in the community investments the 30 year-old firm makes in the city's future, giving both talent and financial contributions to local children's education, medicine and arts organizations. KYL's long time support of the Boys & Girls Club of Long Beach continued this past May as the firm hosted former British Prime Minister, Tony Blair, in its downtown office as part of its annual luncheon fundraisers.

Keesal's effusive community support also spills over to the enthusiasm he has for the firm's downtown home. He credits the city's leadership for allowing growth that is "classy, has character, and adds to business." Growth that has made him proud of the decision he made all those years ago.

"The net result of everything that has happened in Long Beach over the last 15, 25 or 35 years is that it is a vibrant place, that is exciting and fun, where people can really enjoy their lives and be proud of the city that they live in – I certainly am," he said.



**MOVERS & SHAKERS OF NORTH LONG BEACH: MARIO JIMENEZ AND ROSALIND MORGAN** It is a team effort for two of North Long Beach's top leaders.

As co-principals of David Starr Jordan High School, Mario Jimenez and Rosalind Morgan lead one of the county's largest high schools with nearly 4,000 students, 200 staff, and 130 faculty members. Jordan is divided into two campuses, its main campus on Atlantic Avenue and the 800 student Jordan Freshman Academy near Long Beach Boulevard.

Despite its size, Jordan remains a neighborhood school.

"All that's good about North Long Beach is inherently part of Jordan," said Jimenez. "We have very few students who attend Jordan from outside the North Long Beach area and our students love the 'J.'"

A great sense of community shows in the area's deep roots and the concept of neighborhood is alive and well. "Most kids walk to school, we don't have buses, and our student parking lot only has about a dozen cars in it — we're a working class neighborhood," said Morgan.

Jimenez has been a co-principal at Jordan since 2007 and began his career with LBUSD in 1981. Morgan has been co-principal since 2002 and has been in education for 42 years.

It is experience that allows Jordan to support a range of academic programs.

With a high school twice the size of most high schools, a full academic program, sports programs, and a range of after school activities, "it is a busy, busy place," said Morgan laughing.

What makes Jordan work is its two extraordinary leaders, who are committed to ensuring a positive future for North Long Beach's young people.

"That's the plus of having a team – you can capitalize on the strengths of the two people and it doesn't rest on one person's shoulders, especially with all the activities that now occur in high schools that years ago were not there," said Morgan. "This [co-principal] redesign has been in place for 15 or 20 years and it gives us the ability to do what is expected, certainly to do what is needed, and do it well."

**MOVER & SHAKER: JESSICA QUINTANA**

When it comes to recognizing the needs of a growing community, Jessica Quintana is often the go-to person most people call for resources and answers. For years, Quintana has been focused on the issues of the fast-growing Latino community that make up a big chunk of Long Beach's population today.

Quintana serves as executive director of the Community Hispanic Association (Centro CHA) a nonprofit that helps more than 5,000 Latino families living in the city's underprivileged neighborhoods.

As the ambitious community leader and advocate, Quintana leads the tremendous undertaking of combating the problems that exist in these areas through organizing and overseeing services for the thousands of affected families.



"I have been a Long Beach resident for 45 years and had a passion for the Latino community to be better. I was asked to be a board member for Centro CHA and then the leadership changed and I was asked to be Executive Director. I wanted to take the organization to the next level of becoming a hub of information for the Latino community," Quintana said.

Centro CHA has become a hub of information because having the right information in accessible languages is important for people to, as Quintana puts it, "make good choices for their families and become self sufficient citizens."

Centro CHA's most successful programs deal with work force job training and they also focus on youth services to combat the high dropout rates. Regarding Latino youth, Quintana said there are critical needs in the community.

"It's so important that youth understand where they came from and that they have a background. There have been a lot of people fighting for them for so long. Also, it's important that they're given resources and services to be able to become well-developed individuals in society," she said.

Quintana said the best part of her organization is that it allows anyone to get involved to make a difference.

"They can be part of our membership, sit on our board, become an honorary advisory member, volunteer time and expertise, or make financial contributions to support Centro CHA services," she said.

Known for being an incredibly hardworking woman looking to help and make beneficial changes within the Latino community, Quintana said her mission is to ultimately help others make Latino issues a priority for the betterment of the overall community.

She is on her way.



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Believe

# Rich with History

WRITTEN BY JERRY ROBERTS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY HARTONO TAI



Babe Ruth was arrested here. Billie Jean King grew up here. Robert Mitchum first acted here.

Cultural philanthropist Dorothy Buffum Chandler was the daughter of an early Long Beach mayor. Former California Governor George Deukmejian practiced law here. Miss Universe was first crowned here. Nicolas Cage was born here. Snoop Dogg did a whole lot of stuff here... Other notables with local links include: Upton Sinclair, Nat King Cole, Tony Gwynn, Melissa Etheridge, Cameron Diaz. Depending on your interpretation of "historic," more trivia gets barnacled to Long Beach's 50 square miles with each passing year.

And some of those odds and ends are right around the corner. California's sixth-largest city — surpassed recently by Fresno in population, according to 2010 state and 2008 federal estimates, like Secretariat getting dusted by a mule — contains 17 distinct historic districts, some of which use the same names as the 52 distinct neighborhoods that have been identified in the city. Some of the 'hoods, or portions thereof, have the distinction of

"historic," including Belmont Heights, Bluff Heights, Bluff Park, California Heights, and Carroll Park.

Some are only itty-bitty pieces of the map. Consider Eliot Lane, practically a driveway by any urban standards. This historic district in the city's southeast corner consists of one block of 10 houses built in 1923 in both Mission revival and Craftsman bungalow style by the same builder. Likewise, Brenner Place in the south-central portion of the city — adjacent to the much larger Craftsman Bungalow Historic Village, also a city-designated historic district — consists of 10 Spanish revival homes built in a courtyard arrangement in 1923.

Other districts are large tracts, encompassing dozens and dozens of blocks, such as California Heights, located north of Wardlow Road and south of Bixby Road in essentially the center of town above the San Diego Freeway, and Drake Park/Willmore in the city's southwestern corner near the 710 Freeway terminus and the Los Angeles River estuary. To those interested in the sustenance of the city's heritage, these islands of architecture scattered



BLUFF PARK



BELMONT HEIGHTS

“All the gems combined make the necklace, and that necklace is significant to our knowledge and understanding of what came before us, what constitutes Long Beach heritage.”

— *John W. Thomas*

across the urban landscape are “Gems on a necklace,” according to John W. Thomas, whose unspooled historical resume could knock over a vase: author (Long Beach Art Deco, RMS Queen Mary); past presidency, Long Beach Heritage; past director, Historical Society of Long Beach; board member, Long Beach Redevelopment Agency; president, Art Deco Society of Los Angeles, and president, Bluff Heights Neighborhood Association.

“All the gems combined make the necklace,” Thomas said, “and that necklace is significant to our knowledge and understanding of what came before us, what constitutes Long Beach heritage.” Even the, incremental, ad-hoc additions of businesses and the public places — schools, parks, churches — contribute to that understanding. Reading the architecture can also help define and enlarge the record.

“There is evidence in these historic districts, and properties, and unique businesses that afford us glances into the past of the five industries that have historically driven Long Beach — the port, defense, aerospace, petroleum, and tourism,” Thomas said.

That “Babe Ruth-getting-arrested business” still might be throwing you, but there are laws. During a West Coast barnstorming tour, the Bambino signed autographs. When a kid asked for one, the Babe turned jokester and told the kid to dance for it. A rather tight-shoed, yet influential observer was offended and had the slugger booked by the Long Beach Police Department for violating child labor laws.

The keepers of the Long Beach Police Historical Society have the details.

In a historic district, there are very specific laws. The Long Beach Historic District Guidelines have been derived from the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. These guidelines are enforced by the city’s Cultural Heritage Commission and apply only to the exteriors of historic buildings. Interiors only apply if they are public areas or specifically designated. The idea is to retain the original design features of older homes and ensure compatibility between the old and the new during rehabilitations and additions.

So, any drastic or impulse renovations or demolitions probably would be opposed in Rose Park or Wilton Street or Sunrise Boulevard or any other Long Beach historic district — by both homeowners protecting the integrity of their neighborhoods, and the Cultural Heritage Commission to whom such renovations would be appealed. If a home is bought within the boundaries of any historic district, the homeowner doesn’t get to do

whatever he wants on the property.

But he or she does get to change things within reason. “The last thing anyone wants is to encounter a homeowner who wants to do a reasonable room addition or other outside building rehab and then have to go through red tape,” Thomas said. In fact, some renovations can be granted over the counter through the city’s Planning Department’s application process, but major jobs have to be approved on a case-by-case basis by the Cultural Heritage Commission.

“Historic,” as we said, is open to interpretation. Old-money Naples and bustling Belmont Shores aren’t historic districts — at least not yet. But there is a place or three in the city that has been conferred with “historic district” status where one might infer that anyone could become history — after, say, nightfall.

The impetus to attain historic-district status might come from preservationists of great integrity. It might come from that wish to maintain the appearance of a Norman Rockwell neighborhood.

But the fact is that the official designation of “historic” often raises property values. In the Mid-Atlantic states, particularly Pennsylvania, Virginia, Maryland, and North Carolina, property values have been raised in areas after they have been officially named “historic” districts.

Today’s homes are tomorrow’s history. That creaky floorboard over there could soon be an artifact.

“We have to start looking now at preserving the Mid-Century Modern 1960s home, the post-and-beam style homes,” Thomas said. “We have to identify and save that next level of architecture.” ■



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# Sights of the City

WRITTEN BY KEVIN HUNTER

As the fifth largest city in California and the 38th largest in the nation with a population of just under 500,000, Long Beach has a charm and diverse culture like no other.

It even has the distinction of being the 8th most walkable city in the nation. Sandwiched between the city of Los Angeles and Orange County, Long Beach, which was incorporated in 1897, is the home to many city, state and national landmarks,

with the two most famous being the Port of Long Beach and the Queen Mary.

There are many other landmarks that highlight the city in every district. The following is a sample of some of the popular and hidden gems that have had and continue to have a great impact on the citizens and tourists from all over.

---

## Best Landmark for Freemason Fellowship — Scottish Rite Cathedral

855 Elm Avenue



Looking for a permanent indoor facility and home for local Scottish Rites Freemasons to congregate and fellowship, the Scottish Rite Cathedral on the northwest corner of Ninth Street and Elm Avenue was the dream of former city commissioner and freemason Aubrey Rivers Parks. Parks was also the first Venerable Master from 1925-59.

Established in 1924 and the first in Southern California, the Cathedral broke ground in December 1925 and was completed in August 1926. The three-story, 44,000-square-foot building cost \$500,000. To offset much of that cost, many members contributed financially. Membership immediately jumped from 950 to 1,670 members. In 1975, the Cathedral saw a huge boost in membership where it shot up to more than 7,700 members.

“Early on, many members were connected with the movie industry,” said Joseph W.R. Ashwill, Personal Representative of the Valley of Long Beach. “Not only did we have, and still do have many celebrities, but top judges, attorneys, medical and civic professional that are members.”

The city of Long Beach was once a hotbed for celebrities and was the home of Balboa Studios. Membership included stars such as Richard Dix, Tom Nix, Gene Autry, Roy Rogers, Norm Crosby and Academy Award winner, Ernest Borgnine, to name a few. The Temple plans to dedicate and name its 800-seat theatre after Borgnine in a ceremony in the near future.

Among its outstanding features is one of the most extensive Masonic libraries in the United States, a restaurant-style kitchen, a board room, ball room, and children’s clinic. The board room features photos of 17 presidents who were freemasons from George Washington to Gerald Ford. The photo of Ford was autographed when he visited the facility.

For more information, call 562.436.3983.



## Best Landmark for Family-Owned Italian Cuisine — Nino's Italian Restaurant

[3853 Atlantic Avenue](#)

Vince, "Nino" and Inge Cristiano began their humble beginnings at this Bixby Knolls restaurant on July 31, 1958, and although in the same location, today it has grown three times in its original size.

Traditional Italian favorites found here which sets them apart from other restaurants include: chicken cacciatore, cauliflower pancakes, authentic pizza (crust made from scratch), homemade manicotti, delicious eggplant parmesan and more.

"We are serving the fifth generation of our patrons. This is truly an honor for me and my family because over the years we have become a part of the community as much as the community has become a part of our family dynamics," said Nino's manager and the daughter of Vince and Inge, Carina Cristiano.

The original dining room drips in 1950s nostalgia of the Italian American era, while the middle dining room reminds you of the 1970s and the banquet room/lounge is now the setting for the hip After Hours First Fridays vibe. Adam Hass curates the art for this venue and after hours festivities are put on by 562 CityLife's Floyd Hampton Livingston and David Leonard.

"It is important to hold on to our traditional roots while exploring new and fun ways to progress with future trends and desires of our patrons," Cristiano said. "We absolutely love our First Fridays' partnerships and the afterhours' dining is fun for everyone."

Nino's has even updated their bar selection and just introduced a new wine list as result of the new interest in their place for after hour dining.

For more information, call 562.427.1003.



## Best Landmark Where You're Least Likely to Drown Cherry Avenue Lifeguard Station



If you've jogged, walked, biked, swum or just enjoyed the stretch of beach between the Belmont Pier and Cherry Avenue, you've obviously passed this lifeguard station. Located on the beach at the foot of Cherry Avenue, where it was moved from its original location on Linden Avenue on the Rainbow Pier. It houses and is the headquarters of the Long Beach Lifeguard Service, one of the oldest city-owned services of its kind on the West Coast.

Designated a landmark by the Long Beach Historical Society in 1982, the Cherry Avenue Lifeguard Station has been remodeled several times since it was first built in 1939. Today the two-story building that sits atop the sand and pilings on the beach is the home to lifeguards, captains, and a safety sergeant and communications center.

"We and the building are a city operation," said Richard "Dick" Miller, a former chief of lifeguards from 1974-84. "We have a tradition and proud heritage. The city has always wanted to maintain its lifeguards and we cover the whole marine environment."

The Miller family has a long history of lifeguard service in Long Beach. Richard's father Vic Miller was a chief lifeguard from 1945-68, and his uncle Roy J. Miller was chief from 1918-58.

Scott Dixon is a longtime Sergeant/Rescue Boat Operator & Swiftwater Coordinator at the lifeguard station. He said that while the building has held up to numerous storms and earthquakes over the years, budget cuts are the one thing that has recently prevented it from reaching its full potential in serving more and more beach goers.

"We wear a lot of hats, but when you have less personnel around, it prevents us from rescuing people," said Dixon. "We do everything from writing tickets to rescues to weapons recovery. But we are a proud bunch and the building represents and relates to every lifeguard. It has a tradition and quality that everyone can identify with."

For more information, call 562.570.1360.

## Best Landmark to See a Game — Walter Pyramid

California State University, Long Beach  
1250 Bellflower Blvd.



It can be seen all over the city and is the home of the Long Beach State 49er's men's and women's basketball and volleyball teams and numerous other events. More importantly, it replaced the small, cramped, hot and sweaty 1,900-seat Gold Mine. Opened on November 30, 1994, the Walter Pyramid is one of the more recent jewels in Long Beach.

The 5,000-seat building was officially named the Walter Pyramid after former dean of the College of Business Administration, Dr. Mike Walter and his wife Arline Walter on March 5, 2005 after Walters contributed more than \$2 million to the school. It was the largest gift given in the history of the school. The 18-story facility also houses a gym for students, athletes and alumni, and also has played host to various high school and college events, including the CIF Southern Section Girl's Basketball Championships, the 2001 and 2003 NCAA Men's Volleyball Championships, and the 2003 NCAA Women's Volleyball Regionals. The Walter Pyramid also played host to the NBA's Southern California Summer Pro League from 1995 to 2007.

And for those with a really good memory, the Walter Pyramid was the home of the Long Beach Stingrays of the now defunct women's American Basketball League. The Stingrays won the ABL Championship in its only season in 1997-98. The team and the entire league went under just after one season.

For more information, call 562.985.4949.

# Best Landmark to Store a Really Big Plane and Boats — Long Beach Cruise Terminal

(Formally known as the Spruce Goose Dome)  
231 Windsor Way



This used to be the home of the world's largest flying boats — famed billionaire Howard Hughes' Spruce Goose, and was one of Long Beach's major tourist attractions. Now it is the home to one of the nation's major cruise ship terminals, and has been used as a movie set for such films as "Batman Forever", "Stargate", "Jack Frost", and the 1999 remake of "The Haunting."

Once the Spruce Goose flew the coop to a new museum in Oregon, the Walt Disney Company, which owned the dome, transferred ownership to the city of Long Beach.

The former Spruce Goose Dome and current Long Beach Cruise Terminal is one of the world's largest geodesic domes and has accompanied the Queen Mary since 1983. It features a single 1,100-foot long, 28-foot deep berth capable of accommodating some of the world's largest ocean liners. It also has a 1,450-vehicle parking garage and a 30,000-square foot embarkation/debarkation facility that takes up nearly half of the existing geodesic dome that once housed Howard Hughes' famous seaplane.

More than 500,000 passengers pass through the terminal every year to take cruises all around the world. After the Spruce Goose's departure, Miami-based Carnival Cruise Lines and five other brands spent \$40 million to transform the dome into a modern cruise facility and docking pier. Artwork and banners blanket the facility inside and outside.

For more information, call 562.901.3232.

Photos courtesy of City of Long Beach

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*"When I came to MOLAA, one of my first goals was to integrate the Museum more into the community. Establishing a fund at LBCF allows us to demonstrate our commitment to Long Beach, and I'm grateful to the Robert Gumbiner Foundation for providing the initial \$100,000 to open the fund."*

– Richard Townsend,  
MOLAA President & CEO



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# BEST OF BOOKS AND CULTURE

WRITTEN BY PETER SUROWSKI

A tiny bookstore on a quiet side street in north Long Beach has been helping immigrant parents pass the cultural torch to their children and shed light on Latino culture for many residents for the past 17 years.

Cultura Latina sits in an 800-square-foot suite on Norse Way in an aging strip mall, off a shared hallway with a nail salon. It's humble, but it's vital for residents living between two cultures.

This small store has made a full-time Long Beach City College professor and her husband, a retired businessman, somewhat of local celebrities with an expertise on all literature pertaining to Latinos.

Unlike large book chains, the Canos take pride in being able to provide answers and recommendations to their diverse clientele eager to read and learn about everything from the history of East Los Angeles barrios to social issues of Central Americans.

"We're not a Spanish bookstore," said Roberto Cano, who runs the store with his wife, Anita.

Cultura Latina carries books written for and by Latinos living in the U.S. and has always set out to merge two cultures, Anita noted.

"We used to import Spanish books from South and Central America," Anita said. "They don't really hit the nail on the head in terms of cultural relevance here in the U.S."

In fact, most of the books in Cultura Latina are in English. A lot of the rest are in both English and Spanish, with only a small number of Spanish-only books.

Roberto and his wife were busy sorting through their shelves one afternoon a few months ago, pulling off old titles and going through boxes of unreleased books deciding what to order for the holidays and the next school year.

Anita pulled out a book from a pile on a table she decided to order, called "From North to South." It told the story, in English and Spanish with colorful pictures, of an American boy whose undocumented Mexican mother was deported from Southern California to Tijuana and his voyage to find her.

This is, sadly, a story a lot of children in this city can relate to, and relating with a story is vital to getting a child interested in reading, Anita said. "If you give them stuff they can't relate to, or they can't see themselves in it, they get bored," she said.

Since the store opened, the Canos have also welcomed over 80 authors for book signings and special events. Some past guests include prominent Latino authors like Victor Villasenor, Graciela Limon, Xyta Maya Murray and Rudolfo Anaya.

She should know. Anita has been a teacher all her life, first at Abraham Lincoln Senior High School in Los Angeles and then at Long Beach City College. Her goal is to reach out to as many people as she can to educate them.

When a man with a subtle Spanish-speaker's accent came into the store one day Anita showed what her relationship with her customers is like. "I don't know if you remember me," he said to Anita. "Of course I do," she cut him off, smiling.

She chatted with him for a minute and then left him to browse.

He was an example of the typical Cultura Latina customer, she said. "Our customers were born and raised here but want to pass on the culture and the language to their children. These children's books are a big deal because it's about what Mexican-Americans are doing here in the U.S.," she said.

About 10 years ago, big American publishers realized, too, what a big deal these books are. That's when they first started releasing Latino-American-themed books in big numbers.

"Publishers realized there was a big gap," Anita said.

The people who really benefit from the rise of this literature are Latino children, the Canos noted.

"We know how significant books are. They're life changing," Anita said.

When Anita was nine-years-old she contracted polio and couldn't go to school for a year, she recalled. So her father went to the library and came home with his arms full of books for her. "My life was swimming, physical therapy and reading," she said.

"Raising bilingual children is good for the country too," she said. "Bilingualism in any context, Spanish-English, Chinese-English, Farsi-English, these will give them an advantage, especially when they get into the workforce. It's in our national interest. It's a matter of national security. We can't protect ourselves if we can't understand people. It's been one of our shortcomings and parents who are smart know this."

After half an hour or so, the customer left with a book under his arm. He was a school teacher when he last came into the store five or six years ago, Anita recalled. He went away to get a master's degree, and now he's back as a school psychologist.

He was the type of local customer the Canos serve everyday proudly.

"People always make their way back at some point," Anita said. ■

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# The Aquarium of the Pacific: THE BIG PICTURE

WRITTEN BY JOHN MOLINA, RUSS HILL, SEN. ALAN LOWENTHAL, DOUG OTTO, AND BEVERLY O'NEILL



Imagine if Long Beach had a venue that brought close to 1.5 million people to the city and \$200 million in economic impact to the region, attracted world-class guest speakers, educated hundreds of thousands of school children, served as a vibrant gathering place for our community and its diverse cultures, set the standard in green business, and acted as a think tank to solve issues facing our planet.

This remarkable vision is a reality, and it is right here — the Aquarium of the Pacific.

In just over 12 years our Aquarium of the Pacific has become one of the nation's top aquariums. It is the fourth largest in the country, the second most attended cultural attraction in the Los Angeles/Orange County area, and one of the most culturally diverse. Its exhibits, education, volunteer and dive programs as well as marketing have received industry recognition. But what makes it most special is it has also redefined the modern aquarium. It is a place where diverse cultures and the arts are celebrated, where important topics facing our planet and our ocean are explored by scientists, policymakers, and stakeholders in

search of sustainable solutions, and where green business is business as usual.

The Aquarium is involved in numerous conservation efforts, including sustainable seafood, watershed education, fresh water resources, and ocean literacy. It opened the first LEED Platinum building in Long Beach and was awarded the Super Nova Star Award by the Alliance to Save Energy for being the nation's most energy-efficient business with revenues under \$150 million. Its partners include the Smithsonian, World Wildlife Fund, and NOAA to name a few.



Otter exhibit and Science on a Sphere.

As it looks to the future, the Aquarium of the Pacific plans to continue to strengthen and grow. The City of Long Beach has reviewed and approved the expansion plans, which will increase the value and capacity of the aquarium facility and will be funded entirely from non-city funds raised by the Aquarium of the Pacific.

The Aquarium of the Pacific is Long Beach's aquarium. It is an investment to improve the economy, stature, and culture of our city. It has met and exceeded expectations to create not only a world-class aquarium, but also much more. It enhances the attraction for conventions and tourists, augments the downtown area, helps expand the local economy, and most importantly, contributes to a sense of pride for residents. While everyone in Long Beach may be proud of our Aquarium's first 12 years, the next 12 are going to show it bursting with activity!

In the end, each of us in Long Beach owns a piece of something that makes our city a better place for ourselves and our planet. ■

Aquarium of the Pacific  
100 Aquarium Way  
562.590.3100

Yet it still looks right here in Long Beach for connections to make a meaningful impact. In a partnership with the Miller Children's Hospital, the Aquarium streams live video from inside its exhibits to the patients in the hospital.

In the early 1990s city leaders saw the potential that an aquarium would bring to Long Beach. They decided the best option was to fund the building by issuing bonds under a 501c3 nonprofit. Studies indicated that ticket sales and ancillary spending could pay the debt service. It soon became clear, however, that this would not be the case.

Continuing to see the importance and the value of the aquarium to Long Beach, city leaders agreed to restructure the bonds. The city became responsible for the bond payment and the aquarium building and facility became the property of the City of Long Beach and its citizens. The Aquarium of the Pacific 501c3 nonprofit organization became the operator of the facility. It pays more than \$3.5 million each year in rent to the city.

Donors want to see their contributions put toward enhancing this great facility. Recent contributions have been made for new exhibits, such as the Molina Animal Care Center, the Sea

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# IMAGES OF AMERICA RMS QUEEN MARY

WRITTEN BY KEVIN HUNTER

When it comes to major landmarks and what really says “Long Beach, California” to locals and visitors from around the world, the major landmark star is the Queen Mary.

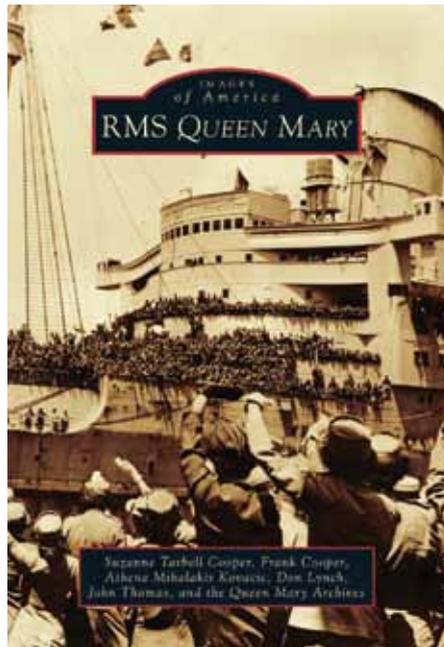
Since settling in the Port of Long Beach in 1967, the Queen Mary has become the face of Long Beach. The one-time ocean liner, cruise ship, floating hotel and even World War II troopship was built in 1930 in Clydebank, Scotland and made its maiden voyage in 1939.

The 1,019-square-foot, 81,237 gross ton ship now serves as one of the major tourists’ attractions in the city and features a hotel, restaurants and museum. It has hosted everything from national and world dignitaries to meetings, conventions and weddings. It also hosts one of the grandest Fourth of July fireworks show in the state.

The Queen Mary has a rich and fascinating history and much of it is documented extensively in photos and detailed captions in *Images of America RMS Queen Mary*, another book in the *Images of America* series by authors Suzanne Tarbell Cooper, Frank Cooper, Athene Mihalakis Kovacic, Don Lynch, John Thomas, with most of the photographs supplied by the Queen Mary Archives.

This 127-page soft-cover book features 192 photographs and captions and covers the Queen Mary from its very infant stages as a skeleton in Scotland to its final maiden voyage from the Southampton, NY Ocean Terminal to its final resting place in Long Beach. It is said that many shared a great relief that the ship would stand as a great monument to British shipbuilding rather than be sold for scrap.

The Queen Mary wore many hats with none more important than its tour of duty as a troopship during World War II. Chapter Six titled “The Grey Ghost” explains how the Queen Mary got its name – for the dull gray paint job it received during the



war. It was only one of three ships that made it through the war.

Page 82, has an amazing photo of an incredible 15,000 men and a handful of women, packed like sardines on the ship. Part of the caption reads: “Every possible space, including the swimming pool, was filled with tiers of steel and canvass bunks. Men slept in shifts, with their mealtimes designated by red, white, or blue buttons. What may have been the most astounding was how little graffiti they left, with the exception of names carved on the outer rail or penciled on the bottom of drawers. It was a tribute perhaps, to the Queen Mary’s beauty and courage.”

Most of us know the Queen Mary for its style, beauty and elegance, as well as impressive artwork — as it was truly a floating hotel for thousands, including the rich and famous.

Chapter Four titled, “Suites, Staterooms and

Cabins” shows some of the finer features of the Queen Mary. Included are photos of the cabins, and on page 52 they are described in captions such as this description: “no two rooms were alike, but all of the first class cabins featured a signature use of wood. Suites not only offered more space, but usually more elaborate artwork as well. Rooms and suites were re-decorated whenever necessary to keep up with the changing styles, please a special passenger, or merely to ensure that the furnishing never looked worn.”

And of course a ship of this stature maintained a legendary passenger list of A-list celebrities as well as the world’s most famous dignitaries.

Chapter Eight titled “Famous Passengers,” features photographs of the Duke and Duchess of Windsor, and Winston Churchill, who was said to be a “frequent guest.” Also highlighted in photographs are actors Spencer Tracy, Mary Pickford, Marlene Dietrich, David Niven, Fred Astaire, Johnny Weissmuller and Bob Hope. A photo of Hope on page 118 said that he made many crossings on the Queen Mary and it provided fodder for his syndicated column, it says: “He described his wartime crossing as so rough ‘you would think Hitler was hiding in the hold and they were trying to shake him loose.’” The same caption also described that there was a serious tone in Hope’s voice regarding the ship, after England’s declaration of war. “While passengers spontaneously sang ‘God Save the King,’ he muttered, ‘and the Queen Mary.’”

As these examples describe only a portion of the history of this great ship, *Images of America RMS Queen Mary* provides even more great tales and photographs of the history of this legendary ship and serves as an exceptional tour guide for Queen Mary visitors, new and old. ■

*Images of America RMS Queen Mary*  
128 pgs  
Arcadia Publishing  
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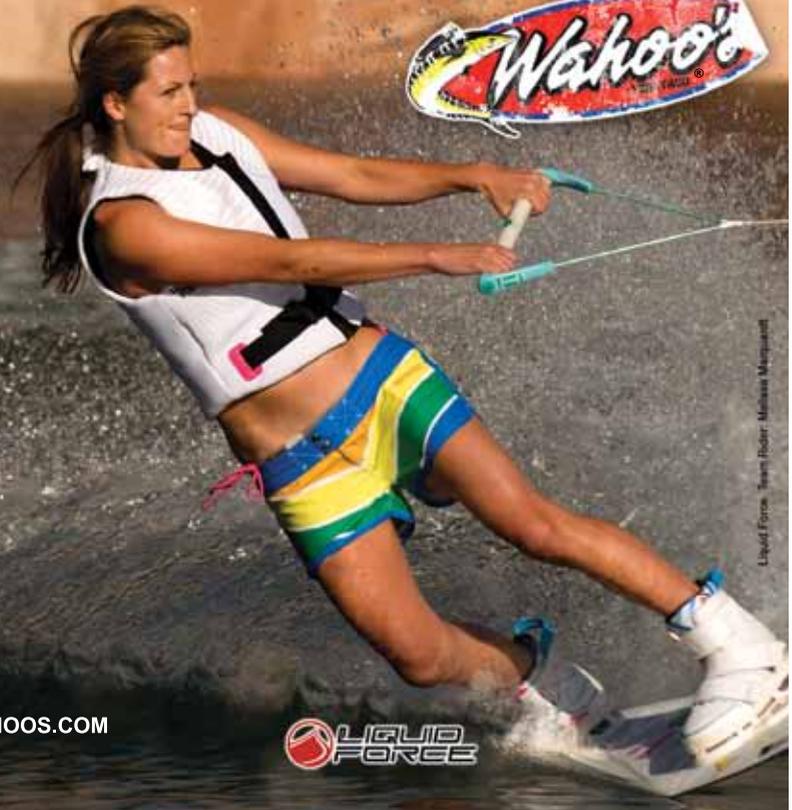
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# NIGHTOWL

ALL THINGS LONG BEACH AFTER DARK

WRITTEN BY RYAN RITCHIE

There were lots of reasons why I fell in love with Long Beach more than a decade ago, but I'd be lying if I said the No. 1 reason wasn't the fact that the city had a culture influenced yet independent from the neighboring Los Angeles and Orange counties. As a kid who grew up in Lomita, a population 20,000 L.A. suburb, I thought all the action was north until I began coming south and realizing that Long Beach had its own vibe and its own sense of community.

I had visited Long Beach — more specifically the Queen Mary and the forgotten-by-everyone-but-me Price Club — as a young child, but it wasn't until I became a teenager that I began crossing the Vincent Thomas Bridge to visit a recording studio above the former site of the Blue Café. As lame as it sounds, my most vivid memory of the downtown area was the fact that there were one-way streets, something we didn't have on the other side of the bridge. From downtown my friends and I discovered these unusual street lights on Pacific Coast Highway and another long-gone Long Beach institution, Zed Records. The clerks at Zed became our friends who tipped us off to lots of great things — one of them being the sorely missed Foothill Club in Signal Hill — but once we found out an Original Tommy's Hamburgers was a short drive from our favorite record store, we made a weekly trek from the South Bay to Long Beach.

You could say my heart has been here ever since.

It wasn't until I began attending Cal State Long Beach that I became an active participant in the Long Beach arts culture. Beginning with the Daily 49er and up through this magazine, I have written for nearly every publication in town. Being able to shine spotlights on residents whose work has deserved recognition has been an amazing journey for me, and even though I didn't feel this way until somewhat recently, I guess one could argue that my reporting on other artists' creativity has been my version of a brush and easel.

But my love affair with Long Beach isn't limited to me. One such person is Char Pack, and similar to me and my writing, Pack isn't content with

standing on the sidelines of Long Beach's action.

The 26-year-old fashion designer was raised in the Central California town of Dinuba, a city "no one's ever heard of," but moved to Long Beach at 17 to attend CSULB. After a short stint in San Francisco, Pack returned to Long Beach in May 2009 and says the fact that the arts community is based on nurturing — not competition — is one reason why she thinks she will call Long Beach home for a long time to come.

To date, Pack's largest creative endeavor has been her involvement with the Long Beach Roller Derby and the creation of Moxi Streetwear, a clothing line influenced by the burgeoning roller derby scene. But that's about to change as the designer and Production and PR Representative Angela Roman are teaming to host a multi-faceted event called "You Can't Handle the Youth." The gathering — taking place Nov. 11 at Shore Ultra Lounge — combines art, fashion, music and culture created by young Long Beach entrepreneurs.

The event will be spread across two rooms at Shore Ultra Lounge. One room will feature art — which will be for sale — and the other will be where the fashion show takes place and where the bands play. And for those who might not be able to get inside either the main room or the venue itself, a live feed will be projected outside the Shore and into the adjacent room.

At the center of the action will be the fashion show featuring Pack's Dirtysix clothing line and her designs for Moxi Streetwear. Pack describes Dirtysix as a women's streetwear brand that is a "collaboration of tattoo style, graffiti style, gangster style and rock 'n' roll" while her designs for Moxi will be modeled by members of the LBRD, who will be wearing roller skates down the runway.

In theory, the goal of "You Can't Handle the Youth" is to introduce fashion investors and industry associates to Pack and Dirtysix by giving them a sneak peek at garments that will soon hit the streets. But in actuality, Pack wants her event

to be not only a showcase of her talents, but also a celebration of the creative endeavors of locals she was worked with for the past year. Every participant — 14 artists, 23 models, three bands (including Pack's The City), deejays Almighty Nectar and 80 Bug and a handful of vendors — have at least some connection Pack, who says bringing in others to support her fashion show is her way of passing the baton that was recently passed to her.

"In the past year I've been working with a lot of other people in Long Beach and I figured that would be a more interesting concept to the community," Pack said. "Seeing these young people I've worked with has given me the courage to go down this avenue and I want to bring attention to those who might not be aware that there are so many people in Long Beach doing something. Others had that affect on me and I'm passing that on to my friends. It seems to be infectious."

"You Can't Handle the Youth" is also the first promotional venture for Roman's Social Pro production agency. Knowing she wanted to throw a party but unsure of what kind, in April Roman asked Pack — a personal friend — to put on a fashion show but the designer was not ready at that time. A few months later, Pack had enough garments for a show and "You Can't Handle the Youth" went from idea to full-fledged shindig.

"It all came from the fact that we both really wanted to get out there," Roman said. "The purpose of the show is to give ourselves and the participants the opportunity to showcase. We're bringing together all the artistic elements of Long Beach."

As someone who has been a fan of and in some way contributed to Long Beach's creative community, I wish them both the best of luck. ■

You Can't Handle the Youth  
November 11  
Shore Ultra Lounge (21+)  
6200 E. Second Street  
562.252.8434



# Dedicated to a Cause

## Partnerships in Excellence (PIE)

In 2002, nine local businesses came together with a common goal: provide philanthropic support to improve healthcare in the Long Beach community.

That dedicated group raised \$7,000 to purchase capital equipment for the MemorialCare Center for Women at Miller Children's Hospital Long Beach (MCHLB) and Long Beach Memorial (LBM).

By fiscal year 2009 – 2010, the Memorial Medical Center Foundation's Partnerships in Excellence program had grown to 92 members and raised over \$207,000 to purchase a C-arm x-ray machine for the Guenther Pediatric Surgery Center at MCHLB.

To date, PIE has contributed more than \$1 million to LBM and MCHLB. This year, PIE Members are dedicated to raising support for adult and pediatric cancer patients. Their support to purchase a bronchoscope (used to view airways and mark tumors in the lungs) and two handheld ultrasounds, will help physicians provide cutting edge diagnostic care.

To raise their next million, the Partners invite you to help. For more information about **Partnerships in Excellence**, contact Wanda Cockey, Director, Annual Giving – 562.933.1655, wcockey@memorialcare.org or www.lbmcf.org.

**Applaud them. Support them. Join them.**



Pictured from left to right are Peter Knudson, Long Beach Memorial and Miller Children's Hospital Long Beach Board Member, Debra Russell of Signal Hill Petroleum, James Mintie of Mintie Corporation and Co-Chair for Partnerships In Excellence and James Normandin, President of Memorial Medical Center Foundation.



Members of the Partnerships In Excellence program are shown above mixing and mingling at one of the annual gatherings which was hosted at The Main Street Wine Cellar in Seal Beach.

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Long Beach Memorial  
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# BEST PLACES TO SEE GOOD ART

Increasingly, the Long Beach art scene bubbles with a rich brew of diverse opportunities to experience art. And why shouldn't it? We are home to the largest art student population on any college or university campus west of the Mississippi at Cal State Long Beach. We possess a unique, water-front urban setting with the most amazing cultural diversity of any city this size along with a funky/formal mix found in our neighborhoods and business districts – all core attractions for the creative community.

Adding to this vibrant artistic scene, Long Beach is home to attractions such as a Symphony, an Opera, an International City Theatre, a Museum of Latin American Art, a Musical Theatre West, a Museum of Art, a Playhouse, our Ranchos and more. These local arts assets should already be on your “culture fix” itinerary, but also these other unique destinations will inspire the artist in all of us.

## UNIVERSITY ART MUSEUM (ON CSULB CAMPUS)

Don't be intimidated by the campus location of this small, but mighty cultural institution. Your trip will be rewarded by a highly professional and always provocative exhibition experience. The current exhibit is “Perpetual Motion: Michael Goldberg”, running until December 12.

UAM is open Tuesday – Sunday 12 to 5 p.m., Thursday to 8 p.m.  
To learn more about the Museum go to [csulb.edu/org/uam/](http://csulb.edu/org/uam/)

## 2ND CITY COUNCIL ART GALLERY AND PERFORMANCE SPACE (2CC)

Located just down the street from the Museum of

Latin American Art at 435 Alamitos Avenue, 2CC is a non-profit art gallery plus performance space, dedicated to supporting and promoting artists, their work and art education with a mission to exposing the public to the wealth of creativity that exists in Long Beach and nearby. Gallery hours are Wednesday to Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. From October 17 to November 14th, the gallery hosts its annual “Dia de los Muertos” exhibit and celebration. The gallery and courtyard becomes a magical place where altars, candlelight, marigolds, dancing and live music fill the air. Not to be missed!

## LONG BEACH PLAYHOUSE

Established in 1929, the Long Beach Playhouse is a landmark in the City of Long Beach. Located at 5021 East Anaheim Street (across from Recreation Park), the Playhouse produces 16 shows annually with a new play or musical every three weeks on the The Mainstage, or upstairs in the Studio Theater. You might also call this a “twofer”, as the Playhouse has a new gallery curator, Michael Stearns, who is aggressively developing the visual arts at the theater. The current exhibition of photographer D.W. Gastelum, also known as El Imagenero, is in the updated Mainstage Gallery. The exhibition “Entropic Convergence” runs through November 28. So...go with both theater and the visual arts in mind!

[lbplayhouse.org](http://lbplayhouse.org)

## THE COLLABORATIVE

This little “jewel-box” of a gallery is brand new. Located at 421 Broadway in downtown, The

Collaborative is managed by the Arts Council for Long Beach in collaboration with the Museum of Latin American Art. Hosting quarterly exhibits, the gallery was created through the City's Redevelopment Agency “Percent for Art” policy and funded by Lyon Properties, the owners of the city-block sized mixed use, apartment complex. The current exhibit, “Descartes”, runs until December and features the work of Tijuana-based artists, each of whom uses some type of discarded materials to realize their artistic creations. Visually stunning and making use of the windows, the walls and volume of the gallery, the show is an exemplar of great things to come. Check the Arts Council website for updates on this exhibit and those coming up.

[artslb.org](http://artslb.org)

## PACIFIC ISLAND ETHNIC ART MUSEUM

The newest museum to appear has actually been “teasing” us for a while now with its outside completely wrapped in murals and sitting on its own “island”. Located at 7th Street and Alamitos Avenue in the East Village Arts District, almost directly across from the Museum of Latin American Art, now we get to see what's inside! The museum showcases the diverse cultures from the Pacific who call this area home, including the Marshallese, Samoans, Chamorro, Fijian, Carolinian, Tongan, Micronesian, Hawaiian, the Ni-Vanuatu, Niuean, Tuvauluan, Maori, Polynesian, Papuan, Austronesian, Nauruan, Melanesian, Palauan, the I-Kiribati and many more distinct nationalities. Museum hours are Wednesday – Sunday, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Go soon and be among the first to experience this celebration of Pacific Island art and culture. ■

# THE SOUNDS OF THE CITY

WRITTEN BY RYAN RITCHIE

Snoop Dogg and Sublime put our city on the musical map, but Long Beach's ability to harvest talent doesn't end there. On any given night, local and national acts are banging away at intimate clubs such as Alex's Bar, Que Sera, the Prospector, the Rhythm Lounge, the Blue Cafe, DiPiazza's and the Pike with hopes of becoming household names. Here are a few local acts to catch before they make the leap to the Long Beach Arena.

## AVI BUFFALO

Pop trio Avi Buffalo began as a solo project for singer/guitarist Avi Zahner when he was attending Millikan High School, but soon morphed into a full-fledged band that includes drummer Sheridan Riley and bassist Andrew Celik. Earlier this year, the group released its self-titled debut on Sub Pop Records (home to Nirvana, Soundgarden, Mudhoney and the Shins) and spent October touring the country. The band plays Nov. 19 at the Echoplex in Los Angeles.

INTERVIEW WITH AVI ZAHNER

### What's the best part about being a Long Beach band?

Zahner: "This is a very arts supporting community and a very individual supporting community. We're able to do what we want in a very relaxed, not too bustling environment."

### What's the worst part about being a Long Beach band?

It's a small world. Sometimes it's good to find other people in other places.

### Is this city missing something that could improve the music community?

We need at least one legit, solid all ages venue. Somewhere where kids can put on shows whenever they want. There are places like Pehrspace in Los Angeles, volunteer-run music spaces, and I don't see why we can't get something like that going.

What are your thoughts on living in Long Beach?  
"I like it. I don't live here much now because I'm



touring, but in November I'll be back for a long time and that'll be nice."

### Does the city — and more specifically, being outside of LA and OC — influence your music?

"Yes, Orange County is rich and conservative, which no offense to them, totally sucks for art and music. Los Angeles is too much, glossed out and Hollywood-ized and can just be overwhelming.

Long Beach is that great balance of neither here nor there."

### What's coming up? New album? Tour? Local shows?

"We're taking a break to write, record and just take some time to unwind and live a normal life. Being in a van for seven months is draining, so I'm also going to city college while I'm home."

## ARMCHAIR GENERALS

Armchair Generals formed in 2006 after members Pernicia Jaye, Ray Comer and Aaron Elimelech came together to create a new sound that would

challenge people's ears and their minds. The result is a blend of electronic/down tempo/ambient/house, found on the group's self-titled EP. The trio is slated to follow-up that release with a full-length LP next year.

INTERVIEW WITH PERNICIA JAYE, RAY COMER

What is your connection to Long Beach?

Jaye: "All of us transferred to go to college here and we are still here."



**What's the best part about being a Long Beach band?**

“Comer: The best part about being a Long Beach band is our interactions with the people. Long Beach is a bellwether city, a culturally and musically diverse place that has a little something for everyone. Our city provides a cozy den for us to cultivate our sound and connect with an accepting audience that is open to what we do.”

**What's the worst part about being a Long Beach band?**

Comer: “We love hip-hop, reggae/dancehall and DJ shows, however these types of shows, at times, have had a strangle-hold on performance bookings. Long Beach is a college town and the aforementioned genres are very popular with local club audiences. As somewhat of a musical hybrid, it can be a challenge to get our band booked on a Friday or Saturday night.”

**ON BLAST**

There's no easy way to describe Long Beach trio On Blast – and that's a good thing. Singer Josh Brown, bassist/keyboardist Tone Blair and guitarist/bassist/keyboardist Andy Kiddoo layer blues, funk, folk and rock riffs over hip-hop beats for a sound that combines elements of the Doors, Dr. Dre and Portishead.

*INTERVIEW WITH TONE BLAIR*

**What's the best part about being a Long Beach band?**

Blair: “Long Beach has a tight-knit scene. Everyone is supportive of each other, regardless of what type of music it is.”

**Is this city missing something that could improve the music community?**

“The city is definitely missing a bigger but not huge live performance venue. The Vault 350 was great and it's sad that it didn't re-open. It would be great to have a House of Blues or something comparable.”

**What are your thoughts on living in Long Beach?**

“Long Beach is a great place to live. It's super close to the beach, not too congested, there's a pretty active social life and the people and community are very diverse and open.”

**Does the city — and more specifically, being outside of LA and OC — influence your music?**

“Sub-consciously, living in Long Beach probably does have an effect on our music, but we don't



actively try to sound different or try not to sound like L.A. or Orange County. But being so close to the ocean breeze and just the overall laid back feeling of Long Beach can be heard in our music.”

**When you perform outside of Long Beach, what do people think of our city? Is it all Snoop and Sublime?**

“We're well received when we play different cities. It's not so much a Snoop and Sublime thing anymore because people are ready for something new, just in music in general, not just for Long Beach. It doesn't matter where you're from. If you got good music, people will dig it no matter what.” ■



day in the life of...

# TIM GROBATY

WRITTEN BY CHERYL SCOTT

PHOTOGRAPHED BY HARTONO TAI

This is an old-fashioned story with a happy ending, right off the celluloid of the Silver Screen. And it even has a modern twist that could have been lifted from a groundbreaking sitcom.

Tim Grobaty writes one of the city's most popular columns for the Long Beach Press-Telegram. But, as Jerry Seinfeld would say, "it's a column about nothing."

Nothing indeed. But like Seinfeld's show, Grobaty's column manages to be on point with the little concerns we all have to face in our

day-to-day existence. One day he might write about belligerent squirrels that are out to get him. The next he might tempt you to lay off your diet and indulge in a malt at a local diner.

His seemingly bottomless wealth of ideas comes to him, he says, just through everyday life. "If it happens in my life, chances are excellent it will end up in my column."

Grobaty has what most regard as one of the most enviable of jobs. He comes into the office. He writes his column. He leaves – whether for

home or parts unknown where he spends time with friends, readers and potential subject matter.

"It wasn't always like this," he said. "I started out as a copyboy. Really."

In the age of computers and email, copyboys only exist in reruns of *The Front Page* or the fantasy world of Superman, Lois Lane and Jimmy Olsen. But back in the day, the copyboy was a jack-of-all-trades.

"The job had nothing to do with writing," Grobaty

“My assignment was to go to Hawaii and live on \$5 a day and write about it. I parked myself under a palm tree with a notepad and I was in business.”  
— *Tim Grobaty*

said. “It was all errand-boy stuff. Pick up dry cleaning, go get food...go to the store. One of the most important things I did was go to the liquor store to buy bottles for the bottom drawers of reporters and editors. There were times I’d come back with a big box of various types of spirits.”

The job paid off in many ways.

“It was neat. I got to know everyone who worked here,” he recalled. “The Press-Telegram was an amazing place to work. There were 700 employees. You could hear the sound of the presses running. It was so exciting I never thought about doing anything else.”

Grobaty has been writing the column he has now since 1998, 22 years from his first day as a copyboy in 1976.

He eventually got a break and landed some writing assignments, leading to a position as a feature writer. He was sent out of town to report on big stories. “One of my first assignments was going to Hawaii when a new airline was offering \$90 flights to Honolulu,” he said. “My assignment was to go to Hawaii and live on \$5 a day and write about it. I parked myself under a palm tree with a notepad and I was in business.”

Another assignment had him traveling to Iowa when the state competed in the Rose Bowl for the first time. “There’s always been a strong Iowa connection with Long Beach,” he said. “I’ve been there a few times on stories.”

His work continued and led him down a path of citywide recognition, which continues today.

On October 29, he was inducted into the Long Beach City College Hall of Fame. To qualify as a member of the Hall of Fame, recipients have to have stopped attending the college for at least 10 years. (“That part was no problem,” he said.) They also must demonstrate career or service achievements and have attained local, state or national reputation.

After attending Long Beach City College, Grobaty went on to Long Beach State, but dropped out after a week. “I’d had enough of college,” he said. “Plus, I already had my job at the Press-Telegram.”

He knew he was on a path he loved — being a columnist.

Grobaty’s eponymous column originally started as a consumer advice feature. Nowadays it is about whatever he wants to write about. He often goes into work with no idea what the day’s topic will be.

“On those occasions I just sit around and bother people until I come up with something,” he said. “I make phone calls, get on the Internet, answer my emails – and something always comes to me.”

Living near El Dorado Park with wife Jane, a daughter who is a junior at Milliken High School, and a son who works for Jet Blue at Long Beach Airport, Grobaty finds himself staying at home more since the demise of watering holes that were the chosen spots for the newspaper trade. “I built my own bar in my backyard,” he said. “I’m not the most mobile of people. I like to hang out in the yard with friends and my family.”

But he enjoys occasional dinners at Club 555 or Kelly’s in Naples, a favorite of Jane’s. He also spends time in El Dorado Regional Park. “I like to see what people are doing there,” he said. “And I like to ride the bike paths.”

As to his local fame, Grobaty remains humble. “I try to stay blissfully unaware of that. I don’t want to think about it too much,” he said.

Armed with nothing more than wonder for the newspaper business and a curious and eclectic mind, everyday Tim Grobaty enriches the lives of readers who turn first to his column for no other reason than to see what’s on his mind.

But he won’t tell you that. What he will say is this: “I’m not a very interesting person.”

Many would disagree. ■

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# A MAN WITH A MISSION

WRITTEN BY LILY SALTER    PHOTOGRAPHED BY HARTONO TAI

Actively involved in projects to improve the lives of at-risk youth for over 16 years, Dave San Jose is a much loved figure in Long Beach.

However, after suffering a heart attack this past summer, San Jose unwittingly gained the attention of local news. Still, San Jose does not see his near-death experience as worthy of all the fuss. "Really, the community is the hero," said San Jose, reflecting on the individuals, services and medical staff that saved his life.

After enduring open-heart surgery and a lengthy rehabilitation, San Jose is now home and forever grateful for the outpouring of support he's received. And despite having, momentarily, to pace his activities, his passion for his

community service projects is unstoppable.

Bikes 90800, which began in 1995 in response to increasing gang violence in North Long Beach, was San Jose's brainchild. Its mission is to provide an opportunity for juvenile offenders to log restitutive community service hours. In addition, it also provides a positive and safe place for neighborhood kids to socialize.

Bike repair, safety, and maintenance training are the focus.

Local residents are encouraged to bring broken bikes in for service. Proceeds go towards helping to keep Bikes 90800, which subsists solely

on donations, up and running.

"For the kids, I try to keep everything free," said San Jose. Youths are provided with lunch on Saturday and, as a special reward, are sometimes treated to a movie, game of laser tag, or participation in civic events.

"Every year we ride in the Veteran's Day Parade," said San Jose. Time and again, he's witnessed the value of enriching the lives of at-risk and impoverished youth. "We live six and a half miles from the ocean and some of these kids have never even been to the beach," said San Jose. "When you expose kids to things, magic happens."

San Jose's foray into service began in 1994 when a close friend was paralyzed in a car accident. With a desire to help, he set out to build a ramp around his friend's house.

"I started investigating the process and realized it was more complicated than putting up some pallets and plywood," said San Jose. So, he started calling people. He solicited a contractor to donate labor and materials.

"The more I got involved, the more I realized how much needed to be done," said San Jose. Home Base and Home Depot assisted with kitchen and bathroom renovations. "We put in a new roof, replaced windows, the City donated a dumpster and volunteers cleaned up debris in the yard," he added. For his efforts he was awarded "Citizen of the Week." The first of many awards and accolades.

Currently, San Jose is president of the Coolidge Triangle Neighborhood Association and is also involved with "Erase the Past," a program that offers free tattoo removal in exchange for community service.

San Jose was born in 1940 at Community Hospital and raised in Long Beach. He ran his own business for 36 years, selling industrial engine parts.

"When I retired, I started helping troubled kids in my neighborhood. I figured out how to befriend them instead of chasing them," said San Jose. Recognizing a need, he came up with some ideas and appealed to City Council to start a youth center. "One thing led to another, and I put this bike concept together. They gave me an itty bitty room in the bleachers and we started there," said San Jose.

North Long Beach Future Generation Youth Center now has two divisions — Bikes 90800 and a computer lab, in conjunction with LB Parks and Recreation, that provides afterschool activities. Among its supporters are the LBPD, Long Beach Council Members, and Mayor Bob Foster.

Bikes 90800 functions in the backside of the baseball bleachers in Houghton Park in North Long Beach, Thursdays and Fridays 2-5 p.m., and Saturdays from 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Saturday's program's structure consists of park clean-up, laps around the track; kids then read the newspaper and discuss current events; finally, roll call, flag salute, and then they get to work on the bikes.

From humble beginnings, the program has evolved into a thriving entity that's served hundreds of kids and touched countless lives. Said San Jose, "I keep running across people whose lives have been transformed. That's what keeps me going." ■

For more information on Bikes 90800, contact 562.570-1640, or call Dave San Jose directly at 562.423.8938. For more information on "Erase the Past," visit [erasethepast.com](http://erasethepast.com).

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# SPLENDOR ON THE BEACH

WRITTEN BY CHERYL SCOTT



and gathering spot for the Hollywood elite. The 15-story, 320-room hotel was built by Long Beach banker and financier Fred B. Dunn at a cost of \$3 million, somewhat more than the projected budget of \$100,000.

But the money was well spent. The hotel was touted by Mayor Fillmore Condit, who spoke at the grand opening banquet, as a harbinger of an era of success for the city. The evening's entertainment included a roster of stars from Vaudeville.

Built three years before the completion of the Villa Riviera, the Breakers was the tallest structure in Long Beach.

The 15-story hotel was promoted as one of Southern California's finest luxury resorts. Elite travelers passed under bas relief mermaid busts and sculptured heads of Neptune as they entered the resplendent lobby where it would not be surprising to glimpse F. Scott Fitzgerald and Zelda in a palm-sheltered niche sipping bootleg hooch from gilded flasks.

Among other amenities, it housed a 500-seat dining room aptly called "The Hall of the Galleons." Flirty flappers visited a bank of "smart shops" while their well-heeled escorts indulged in a Turkish bath.

But most newsworthy of all, each room could receive radio broadcasts, made possible by state-of-the-art technology allowing guests to plug in

The Breakers Hotel has been a dominant feature of the Long Beach skyline since 1926. Its Spanish Baroque style stands as an icon of a bygone era, and it seems built for gentlemen with pencil-thin

moustaches and ladies smothered in fur.

The hotel has had more ups and downs than an Otis elevator during its reign as a waterfront resort

“Flirty flappers visited a bank of ‘smart shops’ while their well-heeled escorts indulged in a Turkish bath.”

something called radio jets hooked up directly to the “radio receiving room” in the hotel’s tower.

But that was back in 1926, and by 1929 something called the Depression had slapped an iron muzzle on the roaring ‘20s. Much like the Vaudevillians who headed the bill at the opening banquet, the days of hopped-up prosperity were living on borrowed time.

In 1927 Dunn managed to sell the hotel at a considerable loss. His \$300 million investment could only bring \$1,750,000 on the real estate market. The new owners planned to remodel the hotel, restoring it to its past glory.

But that was in 1929, and in 1933 something happened that would devastate the city’s cachet as a recreational destination and demolish many of its homes and commercial buildings. The 1933 earthquake left Long Beach in rubble and pushed the Breakers into bankruptcy.

Because the hotel sustained only minor damage, it was used as headquarters for the Red Cross rescue efforts, but its operating losses put it three years in default on its property taxes.

In 1938, the world’s most famous hotelier, Conrad Hilton, bought it and made it the eighth hotel in his international chain. He spent a reported \$200,000 on renovations, turning the penthouse into the Sky Room, which soon became a Mecca for the likes of Clark Gable, Errol Flynn, Rita Hayworth, Cary Grant and John Wayne. The glitterati flocked to the nightspot, which was compared to the Coconut Grove and the Brown Derby as a place to see and be seen.

But that was 1938, and in 1944 World War II intervened in everyone’s lives, as the gaiety of nightlife was replaced by fears over the fate of “the boys” overseas and the effort to equip the largest invasion force ever mounted with the necessities of combat.

Even such luxury icons as the Queen Mary traded in their elegant trappings for drab-gray paint jobs,

filling the staterooms of the rich and famous with bunks for the common grunt.

The red tile roof of The Breakers became a key location in harbor defense when two pillboxes with gun-mountings were installed.

The Sky Room became the official Airwatch headquarters for Long Beach Harbor. Bobby soxers with knee-length skirts and pageboys replaced the flappers in their fur wraps and swinging pearls, and jitterbugging sailors nudged the tuxedo-clad dandies off the dance floor.

In 1947, the Breakers became the Wilton, and nothing good came after that. It was bought, sold and renamed several times, but no one could turn it around. Even the company that owned the Queen Mary couldn’t — ahem — keep it afloat.

Some said it was the location, miles from the convention centers in Los Angeles, that prevented the hotel from reclaiming its former grandeur. Others said it was haunted. A ghost could reportedly be heard splashing in the elegant swimming pool — which would not have been noteworthy at all, had the pool been filled at the time.

One longtime employee probably posed the best reason — “It was those danged motels.”

No matter. Today, the Sky Room has again become one of the city’s most elegant restaurants. In 1997 the hotel opened as a residence for senior citizens.

Now Rosie the Riveter and G.I. Joe populate a building that stands — like they do — in testament to a gloried past where greatness was more than just an aspiration, and splendor was as close to home as downtown. ■

The Breakers Hotel  
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Photo courtesy of the Long Beach Convention and Visitors Bureau.



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HOSTS NAUTICA DE LA CRUZ AND FARUQ TAUHEED

# THE REDEVELOPMENT WILL BE TELEVISED

WRITTEN BY EDGARD ZUNIGA

Truth be told, the residents of this city are well-regarded in Southern California and have made Long Beach a pleasant surprise for visitors looking for something a little different than what Los Angeles has to offer. The city is constantly working on ways to raise its profile and is doing what it can to include its residents as the city plans for the future.

"Inside Long Beach," which is a collaboration between the Redevelopment Agency (RDA), the Long Beach Housing Development Company (LBHDC) and Long Beach TV, takes viewers on a journey through the streets of the city, bringing awareness to the community about the many programs, projects and activities benefiting residents across the city.

Some viewers might find it similar to Huell Howser's "California's Gold," since the show also sheds a light on many aspects of life in Long Beach that may not stand out right away and other stuff just waiting to be discovered.

Leading this exploration of Long Beach as the show enters its third season are hosts Nautica de la Cruz and Faruq Tauheed, who approach each assignment with genuine enthusiasm and have developed a deep admiration for the city and its residents.

"Long Beach is clean, the weather is beautiful. Every time I'm outside, you can feel at home, you feel safe," said Tauheed, who joined the show late last season. "Yeah, there are parts and areas like everywhere else, but, for the most part, Long Beach is a great city. The people are so nice."

De la Cruz, who has been a DJ with several L.A.-area radio stations and

currently does mid-days at KJLH (102.3 FM), has been privy to the many great programs and developments that Long Beach has made available to residents during her time hosting "Inside Long Beach" and it has all made quite an impression on her.

"If I lived in Long Beach I would take advantage of [the opportunities]," she said. "I live out in the Valley and sometimes I just wanna move to Long Beach because Long Beach has so much to offer if you're a first-time buyer, if your credit's not great they can help you, if you need to pay a certain amount of rent or mortgage, they help you."

De la Cruz noted she has made it point to shed light on numerous resources for local residents via the show.

"Faruq and I go interview these big honchos from these companies that help other people and I've gotten emails and letters saying, 'Hey, Nautica, because of you I got my house and I didn't know that I could qualify for this program.' I love that because it makes me feel good. I like the fact that Long Beach does whatever they can to help their residents," she said.

In a career which has taken him through commercials voiceovers, movies and TV shows, Tauheed now finds himself doing something completely different and some of the experiences have been thoroughly rewarding.

"One of my favorite features has been the new playground community center that's opening up in one of the inner city neighborhoods," Tauheed said. "They have a skate park coming in, they're getting newer facilities

where kids can go after school and a lot of new technology, as far as computers for tutoring, as well. Anything that involves the kids and keeping them safe and off the streets is stuff I like to focus on, in addition to the affordable housing."

While getting the information out to residents is the primary mission, when everything falls into place and words and promises are put into action it's a testament to the good will of those involved and that's what De la Cruz enjoys the most.

"For the RDA, I love the demolition—the before and after—kind of like that show 'Extreme Makeover.' I love it because I remember how ugly it was and look at how it is now and the fact that most of the stuff used in the city of Long Beach is 60 percent recyclable," she said. "I get to interview the person who is redoing a building, whether it's gonna be an art gallery or new book store or new coffee shop, or whatever it's going to be, I get to see what the building will look like, when it got knocked down and when it's revamped again. I love it. It's so cool. It's like a girl having a tool belt and enjoying it."

While they've been out doing their best to boost civic pride, Long Beach residents have noticed and some of them haven't been shy about their appreciation for the Tauheed and De la Cruz.

Whether it's people who have been following De la Cruz on the radio and now on TV or a particular fellow that always happens to be there when Tauheed and the crew film a segment at the It's A Grind on Pine and 3rd, Long Beach has been expressing its gratitude for the show and its show of good will.

"We just recently had our third season premiere and a lot of residents came out that love the show," Tauheed said. "Some of the local businesses came out. Nautica and I were there and they gave us gifts and asked for pictures. The residents really love it and it really helps to definitely get the word out more and have even more people watch because it's a great show and has great information."

Since its inception, the show has engaged and informed the community by showcasing more than 50 celebrations including groundbreakings, demolitions, community previews, bus tours, grand openings and more. Plans are to feature more.

"I see more corporations coming in. I see more jobs. I see some of the not so okay neighborhoods getting revamped," De la Cruz said. "That's one thing: the city of Long Beach has a lot of pride in their city. As soon as you drive on the 710 and hit Shoreline, and you see how pretty it is...they want what you see at the beginning to go all the way to the end."

Tauheed shares her sentiments but admits that all the planning and projects alone won't be enough and that residents need to get involved.

"The city is transforming into a wonderful place to be and work. I would like to see it as one of the premier cities to live in, in the next five years," he said. "There many projects with the help of RDA and LBHDC that are going up and making the neighborhoods and the city even better, but it's up to us, the residents of Long Beach, to maintain it and take pride in our city and help it grow." ■

"Inside Long Beach" airs on LBTv Channel 8 and Verizon FIOS Channel 21.

Photo courtesy of the Redevelopment Agency.



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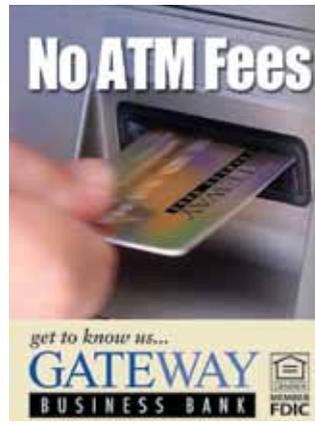
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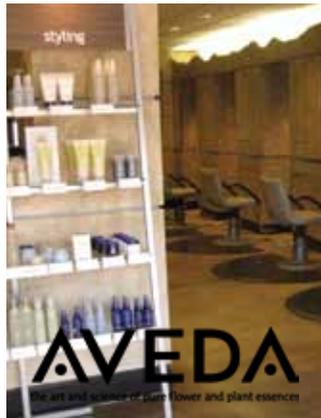


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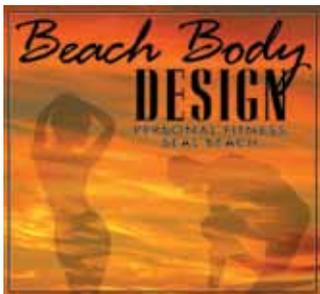


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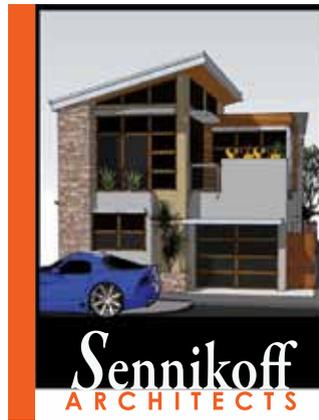
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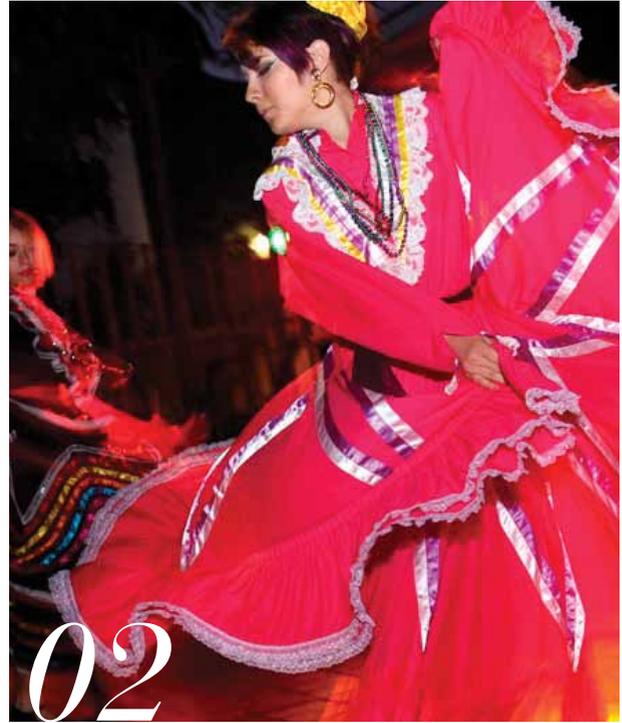
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# VIVA GLOBAL ARTS!

The Arts Council for Long Beach produced GLOBAL during the month of October as part of National Arts and Humanities Month, a coast-to-coast collective celebration of culture in America. A variety of art events took place across the city as part of the initiative. ■



01



02



03



04



05

- 01. Tightrope walker thrills audiences under the big top at Zoppe's Family Circus during GLOBAL
- 02. Ballet Folkorico
- 03. SoundWalk artist sound-art installation on display
- 04. Children art project at the Green Port Fest
- 05. Xiao Bai Fan Dance Troupe

Photos courtesy of The Arts Council for Long Beach

# A GRAND OPENING



Live Long Beach Magazine hosted the Grand Opening of Hotel Current. The event featured music, food, synchronized swimmers and an art auction with proceeds going to the Aquarium of the Pacific. ■



- 01. Mime artists having a blast
- 02. Mayor Bob Foster with Hotel Current Owners at Ribbon Cutting
- 03. Synchronized swimmers performing
- 04. Mingling over drinks and appetizers
- 05. Synchronized swimmers posed together
- 06. Live Long Beach Magazine publishers Damion Stein and Susan Magnall with Art Levine

Photographed by Lily Stein

# ON THE STREET

## LOCALS WEIGH IN: WHAT IS THE BEST PART ABOUT LONG BEACH?

WRITTEN BY PETER SUROWSKI PHOTOGRAPHED BY CHRIS ROBERTSON



"I like the fact that it has **freeway access**, so you can get in and out."

Jeremiah Powell,  
Downtown resident



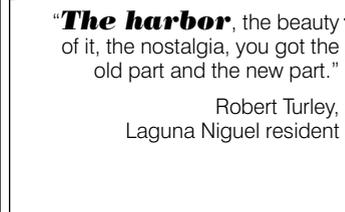
"**The wharf** is better, the **restaurant chain**, it's more for bringing kids than it was last time I was here."

Mike Gallegos,  
San Bernardino resident



"The **beach**, the **weather**, the **docks**, just getting away from where I live"

Austin Mundy,  
Bakersfield resident



"**The harbor**, the beauty of it, the nostalgia, you got the old part and the new part."

Robert Turley,  
Laguna Niguel resident



"I like the **aquarium**, all the seagulls, all the animals. I'm an animal person."

Stephanie Barrios,  
student from Huntington Park



"**There's so much to do in Long Beach.** It's huge. I race doublets here, I work here, for people who like water, this is the place to be."

Chuck Lane,  
Irvine resident



"I like coming here for **bike rides**. They have really nice sightseeing."

Alejandra Sanchez,  
high school student from  
Huntington Park



"**It's very beautiful.**"

Debbie Arnold,  
full-time mom from  
Louisville, Kentucky



#	Day	Date	Time	Event	Buyin	Fee
1	Mon	11/8	12pm	SUPER SATELLITE <i>For Main Event Multi re-buy, double add ons</i>	1 MAIN EVENT SEAT GUARANTEED	\$50 + \$10
2	Mon	11/8	4pm	SUPER SATELLITE <i>For Main Event Multi re-buy, double add ons</i>	2 MAIN EVENT SEAT GUARANTEED	\$100 + \$15
3	Mon	11/8	8pm	SUPER SATELLITE <i>For Main Event with one re-buy</i>	2 MAIN EVENT SEAT GUARANTEED	\$500 + \$35
4	Tue	11/9	12pm	SUPER SATELLITE <i>For Main Event Multi re-buy, double add ons</i>	1 MAIN EVENT SEAT GUARANTEED	\$50 + \$10
5	Tue	11/9	4pm	SUPER SATELLITE <i>For Main Event Multi re-buy, double add ons</i>	2 MAIN EVENT SEAT GUARANTEED	\$100 + \$15
6	Tue	11/9	8pm	SUPER SATELLITE <i>For Main Event with one re-buy</i>	2 MAIN EVENT SEAT GUARANTEED	\$500 + \$35
7	Wed	11/10	5pm	NO LIMIT HOLD'EM BOUNTY	PLUS \$100 FOR BOUNTY	\$500 + \$45
8	Wed	11/10	8pm	SUPER SATELLITE FOR MAIN EVENT <i>with re-buys</i>		\$200 + \$20
9	Thu	11/11	1pm	NL-HEADS UP - 64 Players Cap		\$4,750 + \$250
10	Thu	11/11	1pm	MEGA SATELLITE TO MAIN EVENT <i>Day 1A</i>		\$1,000 + \$50
11	Thu	11/11	5pm	8 GAME		\$500 + \$45
12	Thu	11/11	8pm	SUPER SATELLITE FOR MAIN EVENT <i>with one re-buy</i>		\$300 + \$35
13A	Fri	11/12	1pm	MAIN EVENT - Day 1A		\$4,750 + \$250
	Fri	11/12	1pm	NL-HEADS UP - 64 Players Cap <i>Day 2</i>		
14	Fri	11/12	2pm	MEGA SATELLITE TO MAIN EVENT <i>Day 1B</i>		\$1,000 + \$50
15	Fri	11/12	8pm	SUPER SATELLITE FOR MAIN EVENT <i>with one re-buy</i>		\$500 + \$35
13B	Sat	11/13	1pm	MAIN EVENT - Day 1B		\$4,750 + \$250
16	Sat	11/13	4pm	NL - TURBO - Randomized Bounties	PLUS \$200 FOR BOUNTY	\$800 + \$70
17	Sat	11/13	8pm	MEGA SATELLITE FOR \$3000 NLHE <i>with one re-buy</i>		\$300 + \$35
18	Sun	11/14	1pm	LIPS TOUR NO LIMIT HOLD'EM	LIPSTOUR	\$300 + \$35
	Sun	11/14	1pm	MAIN EVENT - Day 2		
19	Sun	11/14	5pm	NO LIMIT HOLD'EM		\$3,000 + \$100
20	Sun	11/14	8pm	NL - TURBO BOUNTY	PLUS \$100 FOR BOUNTY	\$500 + \$45
	Mon	11/15	1pm	MAIN EVENT - Day 3		
21	Mon	11/15	2pm	NO LIMIT HOLD'EM 6 MAX		\$2,000 + \$100
22	Mon	11/15	8pm	MEGA SATELLITE FOR \$5000 H.O.R.S.E.		\$500 + \$35
	Tue	11/16	1pm	MAIN EVENT - Day 4		
23	Tue	11/16	1pm	H.O.R.S.E. - Day 1		\$4,750 + \$250
24	Tue	11/16	2pm	NO LIMIT HOLD'EM		\$1,000 + \$70
25	Tue	11/16	6pm	P.L.O. <i>With One Optional re-buy</i>		\$1,000 + \$70
	Wed	11/17	1pm	MAIN EVENT - Final Day		
	Wed	11/17	1pm	H.O.R.S.E. - Day 2		
26	Wed	11/17	2pm	NL - TURBO - Randomized Bounties	PLUS \$200 FOR BOUNTY	\$800 + \$70
27	Wed	11/17	5pm	NL - ONE RE-BUY SUPER SATELLITE	PCA - ONE PACKAGE GUARANTEED	\$500 + \$35
28	Wed	11/17	8pm	NO LIMIT TURBO		\$500 + \$45
29	Thu	11/18	1pm	NO LIMIT HOLD'EM		\$1,000 + \$70
	Thu	11/18	1pm	H.O.R.S.E. <i>Final Day</i>		
30A	Thu	11/18	6pm	NO LIMIT HOLD'EM - <i>Re-Entry Day 1A</i>	\$200,000 GUARANTEED	\$500 + \$45
31	Thu	11/18	8pm	LIMIT OMAHA 8 OR BETTER		\$500 + \$45
32	Fri	11/19	1pm	NL - HEADS UP - 128 Player Cap - Day 1		\$1,000 + \$70
30B	Fri	11/19	6pm	NO LIMIT HOLD'EM - <i>Re-Entry Day 1B</i>	\$200,000 GUARANTEED	\$500 + \$45
	Sat	11/20	1pm	NL - HEADS UP - 128 Player Cap - Day 2		
30C	Sat	11/20	6pm	NO LIMIT HOLD'EM - <i>Re-Entry Day 1C</i>	\$200,000 GUARANTEED	\$500 + \$45
33	Sat	11/20	8pm	TURBO BOUNTY MEGA SATELLITE TO \$1,000	PLUS \$100 FOR BOUNTY	\$200 + \$25
	Sun	11/21	1pm	NL - HEADS UP - 128 Player Cap - Final Day		
34	Sun	11/21	1pm	NL - TURBO - Randomized Bounties	PLUS \$200 FOR BOUNTY	\$800 + \$70
35	Sun	11/21	6pm	NL - ONE RE-BUY SUPER SATELLITE	PCA - ONE PACKAGE GUARANTEED	\$500 + \$35
	Sun	11/21	6pm	NO LIMIT HOLD'EM - \$200,000 Final Day		



All players must have a Bicycle Casino Rewards Card to participate.



7301 Eastern Ave., Bell Gardens, CA 90201 ♦ (562) 806-4646 ♦ [www.thebike.com](http://www.thebike.com)

All one day events will play down to final table or max. 12 hours which ever comes first and the play will resume the next day at the same starting time. THE BIKE.COM MAY INCLUDE LINKS TO WEB SITES OPERATED BY INDEPENDENT THIRD PARTIES. THE BICYCLE CASINO DOES NOT SPONSOR, ENDORSE AND IS NOT ASSOCIATED OR AFFILIATED WITH THESE SITES OR THEIR AFFILIATES, NOR THEIR PRODUCTS, PROMOTIONS, TOURNAMENTS AND/OR SERVICES. The Bicycle Casino reserves the right to revise, cancel, suspend or modify tournament events at its sole discretion and without prior notice. See Official Rules at the Welcome Center. PLEASE GAMBLE RESPONSIBLY. 1-800-GAMBLER. GEGA-000451

Turkey • Instant Mashed Potatoes  
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 Canned Cranberry Sauce • Pumpkin Pie • Sausage  
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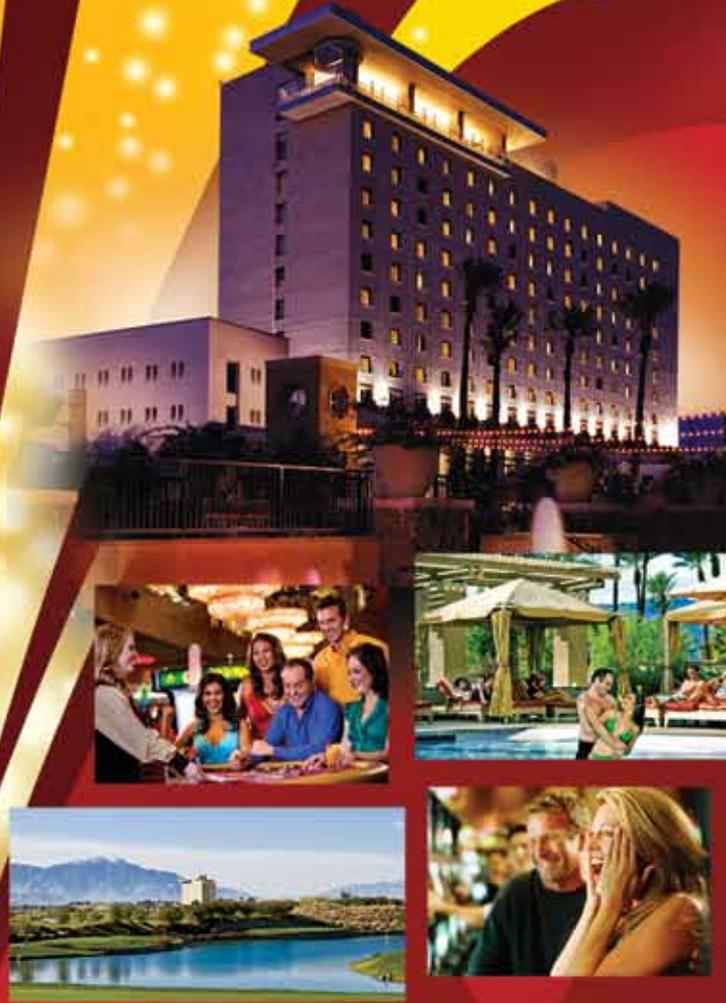
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\*THE PROMENADE IS JUST OUTSIDE OF EDWARDS LONG  
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# 1

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# 2

# 3



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# 4

# 5



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