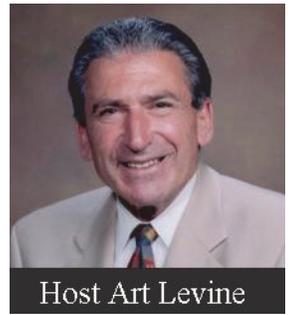


STRAIGHT TALK *MAGAZINE*

Community & Television Show News

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Host Art Levine

Volume 10 Number 2

March/April 2014

Grand Prix Coming to Town

The 40th Annual Toyota Grand Prix of Long Beach is coming to town **Friday through Sunday April 11-13**. The race is Long Beach's annual "Spring Break" party and is expected to attract more than 170,000 fans over the 3-day weekend.

The featured race is Sunday afternoon's **IndyCar Series** event, which features an international field of world class drivers expected to include defending Series champion **Scott Dixon**, defending Long Beach winner **Takuma Sato**, **Will Power**, **Ryan Hunter-Reay**, **Helio Castroneves**, **Graham Rahal**, **Marco Andretti** and **Sebastien Bourdais**. The Series will have cars with turbocharged engines supplied by Honda and Chevrolet.



Other races over the weekend include the Indy Lights Race, the Pirelli World Challenge Championships, the Super Drift Challenge, and the Tequila Patrón Sports Car Racing Showcase.

A fan favorite is always the **Toyota Pro-Celebrity Race** to be run on **Saturday, April 12**. The race pits stars from the worlds of sports and entertainment against professional drivers in identically prepared Scion FR-S vehicles.

Music is an important attraction during the weekend, beginning with the **Tecate Light Fiesta Friday Concert** and continuing with Saturday's **Rock-N-Roar Concert**.

(Continued on page 3)

Douglas Brinkley on Campus and Straight Talk



Douglas Brinkley
Historian/Author
CBS News Commentator

Douglas Brinkley, distinguished historian, award-winning author and CBS News Commentator will be the featured speaker at the **Seventh Annual CSULB Distinguished Speaker Series** on **Thursday, March 27, 2014 at 7:30pm** at the Carpenter Performing Arts Center. He will also be an upcoming guest on Straight Talk.

His topic is "**The Evolution of the American Presidency.**" Brinkley will take us on a journey through the history of the American Presidency including the current challenges facing President Obama, and how his election changed the course of American history. He takes the historical lessons of the past and applies them to the present and our future.

Reserved seat tickets are \$40, seniors/veterans are \$30. Preferred seating is \$60. A BBQ buffet dinner on the Carpenter Center patio starting at 6pm and catered by Naples Rib Co. is

available for \$15. For tickets, BBQ dinner or further information, visit www.distinguishedspeakerseries.com

Douglas Brinkley will be our guest on the Straight Talk Show airing the weeks of April 12 and April 19.

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Ethics and Politics

The dysfunctional government at the national and state level these past few years is of great concern to many citizens. Seeing our elected representatives at loggerheads and unable or unwilling to respond to the wishes of a majority of the electorate is a source of increasing frustration to the electorate.

How about applying to politics the widely accepted ethical principles which we try to follow in our daily lives? Principles such as **honesty, integrity, accountability, fairness, transparency, and promise-keeping**. Imagine how the application of these principles could transform the political arena. The current gulf between accepted principles and political behavior is certainly one of the reasons that politicians are held in such a low regard.

Many political practices offend the notion of common sense and fairness. The **“gut and amend”** practice of substituting one bill for another at the very last moment and then having a vote without any hearings and without even giving legislators a chance to read the bill defies logic. The **misuse of the filibuster** in the Senate makes it impossible for a simple majority to enact legislation on any matter of importance.

Gerrymandered districts allow the political parties in effect to pick their voters rather than having the voters elect their representatives. The **misuse of emergency relief bills**, such as for Hurricane Sandy, as convenient vehicles to load with pork and carry legislators’ pet projects

without hearings or adequate review is unsupported. And the **role of money** in political process needs re-examination.

Is it not time for re-districting reform, as enacted in California, to spread to other states? It is not time to change the Senate rules to limit the misuse of the filibuster? Shouldn't emergency relief bills be restricted to appropriations that directly respond to the emergency? Shouldn't we at least have immediate and full disclosure of all campaign contributors by the true donor (not just some “front committee”) so that voters will know who is really behind a candidate?

These and other needed reforms would be good starting points to create a government worthy of the people it represents. Ultimately, the entire social contract is based upon an **implied agreement between the people and our leaders**. We entrust those who govern us with an immense amount of authority and power, and they need to exercise that power ethically and in public interest.

History teaches us that a society which becomes corrupt will ultimately fail. The basic values of America, as embodied in the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, are too important to us and the world to allow America to fail. We need to start righting the ship of state.

— Art Levine, Publisher

Thought of the Month

“The right to do something does not mean that doing it is right.”

— William Safire



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Performing Arts Heads on Straight Talk



The heads of two long-established Long Beach performing arts groups will be joining us on Straight Talk.

caryn desai, artistic director/producer of International City Theatre and **Andrew Vonderschmitt**,

executive director and producing artistic director of the Long Beach Playhouse, will describe their plans for their respective organizations.

caryn desai has led ICT for the past three years, following the retirement of her husband and the founder of ICT, **Shashin Desai**. She formerly was general manager and has been with ICT for 25 years.



Andrew Vonderschmitt was previously technical director of the Playhouse, and then given the added the responsibility of executive director following the departure of the former executive director. He has been with the Playhouse for six years.

The Long Beach Playhouse is celebrating its **85th Anniversary** this year. It is the oldest continually performing theater company west of the Mississippi. Several special events are planned, including the popular Political Radio Show on June 18 and a gala in the fall.

caryn desai and Andrew Vonderschmitt will be our guests on the Straight Talk Show airing the weeks of March 29 & April 5.

Grand Prix (continued from page 1)

The Montegi Racing **Super Drift Challenge** competition will take place Friday and Saturday nights--the first time any racing activity has been presented under the lights at Long Beach. Expected to feature 16 of the sport's top cars and drivers, including 2013 series Champ **Michael Essa, Vaughn Gittin, Daigo Saito, Frederic Aasbo, Chris Forsberg, and Matt Powers**. Practice and qualifying runs will take place Friday night, and the competition rounds will run Saturday night.

The **Lifestyle Expo**, free to all race attendees, features more than 130 exhibitors offering the latest products and services in automotive, travel, home improvement, fitness and recreation.

The **Green Power Prix View**, part of the popular Lifestyle Expo, will feature weekend-long displays of alternative energy vehicles and a wide variety of renewable energy sources.

In addition, special displays celebrating the race's four decades of competition will be featured in the Expo, including several of the classic winning race cars from the past 39 years.

Attending to visitors all weekend long are the "Redcoats", members of the **Committee of 300** who volunteer their time manning the grandstands and making guests feel particularly welcome. The **C300 Paddock Club** is a perfect place to watch the race and enjoy food and entertainment all weekend long. For Paddock Club reservations, call **(562) 981-9200**.

For tickets or further information, visit **www.gplb.com** or call **1 (888) 82-SPEED**.

Race CEO Jim Michaelian and Paddock Supervisor Nate Jones will be our guests on a Special Edition of Straight Talk on the Toyota Grand Prix of Long Beach airing the weeks of March 15 and March 22.



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Dr. Molina to Speak at Future Focus Forum

Dr. J. Mario Molina, President and Chief Executive Officer of Molina Healthcare, will be the guest speaker at the next *Future Focus Forum* at Temple Israel on **Thursday, April 3** at 7:30 pm.

His topic, *Healthcare: Engine of Economic Growth*, will address healthcare as one of the driving forces for economic development in Long Beach. His remarks will be followed by an audience Q&A and then a reception which will be catered by **Gelson's Supermarket**. The program is open to all at no charge.

Molina Healthcare delivers health care services and provides health information management solutions to more than five million individuals and families who receive their health care through Medicaid, Medicare and other government-funded programs in 17 states. It is the only **Fortune 500** company headquartered in Long Beach.

The company made a substantial investment in Long Beach with its purchase of the former Press-Telegram building. It employs over 2,500 people in the Long Beach area and expects to expand rapidly in the next two years. In 2010, HispanicBusiness 500 named Molina Healthcare as the leading Hispanic -owned business in the country.

Future Focus is a speaker series launched last May at Temple Israel. It is designed to create a forum for community leaders to identify and address issues critical to the future development and well-being of the city. Previous *Future Focus* speakers were Mayor **Bob Foster** and former California Governor **George Deukmejian**.



Rabbi Stephen Moskowitz of Temple Israel said that his congregation's interest in hosting these semi-annual events, one in the spring and one in the fall, was inspired by the great support they received from their neighbors, local businesses and the city during the year-long major renovation of their synagogue building. The ultimate goal of *Future Focus* is to address over time a broad array of issues affecting the future of our city.

Members of the community are invited to attend the Future Focus Forum at no cost. However, seating is limited and reservations are recommended. To make your reservation, email **FutureFocus@tilb.org**. For more information, visit **www.tilb.org** or call **(562) 434-0096**.

Temple Israel is located at 269 Loma Avenue. Guests are urged to arrive early to allow time to find neighborhood on-street parking.

www.cerritosacura.com

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A black and white photograph of a dark Acura TL sedan parked in a parking garage at night. The car is viewed from the rear quarter angle. In the background, city lights and building silhouettes are visible through the garage opening. To the right of the car, the letters "TL" are printed in a large, bold, yellow font. Below "TL", the year "2014" is printed in a smaller yellow font. Further down, the text "Starting at \$36,030" is displayed in a yellow, serif font. At the bottom of the advertisement, a line of small text reads: "Shows TL, SH-AWD with Advance Package in Graphite Luster Metallic starting at \$45,510".

Cerritos Acura, 18827 Studebaker Rd, Cerritos, CA 90703

Renaissance Faire Opens April 5



“Sir Frances Drake”
Renaissance Pleasure Faire

The Original Renaissance Pleasure Faire returns to Southern California on **Saturday, April 5** and runs **seven weekends** through May 18. The Faire is located at the **Santa Fe Dam Recreation Area** in the

City of Irwindale. Hours are 10am to 7pm.

This year the Faire is celebrating its **52nd Anniversary**. You can join in the fun at the **Ultimate Party!** More than 1200 costumed performers bring Shakespeare’s England to life with parades, pageants and perfectly delightful townsfolk offering continuous entertainment of an international variety spread throughout the village.

Cirque de Soleil acrobats, juggling jokers and jesters, willful wenches and jousting knights are ready to celebrate. **Thirteen stages** of non-stop entertainment come alive, featuring such favorites as the beloved **Broon** and the **Wash Well Wenches**.

In addition, 150 craft booths, hand-powered rides and games

are waiting to delight you.

Whether you thirst for a hearty English ale or fine wine, whether you hunger for a turkey leg or a chocolate dipped cheesecake on a stick, over **100 gourmet foods** and a dozen delicious drinks are tempting your taste buds to give them a try. Twenty-three food vendors offer an array of foods from fish and chips and sausages to salads to sorbets.



Back again is the popular **Food Truck Army**, with a delightful assortment of additional foods including exquisite crepes, Asian cuisine and adult styled grilled cheese.

Tickets are \$28 for adults, \$15 for children ages 5-12 (children 4 and under are free with paid adult). Vehicle entry fee to the Recreation Area is \$10. Parking is free.

For more information or tickets go to www.renfaire.com or call (626) 969-4750.

“Sir Francis Drake” will be our guest on the *Straight Talk Show* airing the weeks of March 29 & April 5.

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12 inches

(Height of a Chihuahua)

The average annual rainfall in Long Beach



*In Long Beach

CCEJ Humanitarian Awards Dinner

The California Conference for Equality and Justice (CCEJ) will present four distinguished honorees with the 2014 Humanitarian Award at the **51st Annual Humanitarian Awards Dinner** on **Wednesday, May 21** at 5:30pm at the Hyatt Regency, Long Beach.

The honorees are: **Joyce & Hank Feldman, Hon. Bob & Nancy Foster, Lynne Pillsbury, and Felton Williams, Ph.D.** CCEJ will recognize these leaders for their efforts to advance the mission of the California Conference for Equality and Justice, their civic contributions, and their life-long commitment to humanity and justice. All past recipients and honorees of the *Humanitarian Award* will be recognized at the dinner.

CCEJ will also recognize **Leadership Long Beach** with the *Building Bridges Award* for its extraordinary contributions to building an inclusive community in Long Beach.

Mari Hooper and Art Levine will serve as this year's Dinner Co-Chairs, and will lead the ceremonies for the evening.

Proceeds from the Humanitarian Awards Dinner support the

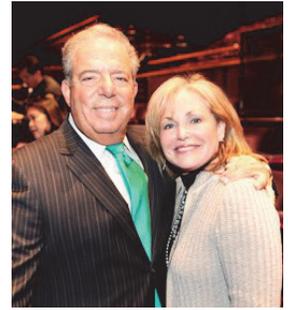
important work of CCEJ to reduce bias, bigotry and racism through education, conflict resolution training, and advocacy.

Long recognized for exceptional work in human relations, CCEJ has built a

distinguished record of service breaking down the distance between people. It provides human relations training and conflict resolution services to thousands of youth, educators, faith leaders, law enforcement personnel, and neighborhood leaders. The goal is to build safe and inclusive schools, neighborhoods and workplaces.

Tickets to the event are \$200 per person. There are also multiple sponsorship levels available.

To purchase tickets or for sponsorship information, call the CCEJ office at **(562) 435-8184** or visit **www.cacej.org**.



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Photo credit: Diana Lejins

Long Beach Mayoral Candidates **Robert Garcia**, **Gerrie Schipske**, **Bonnie Lowenthal** and **Doug Otto** at a debate sponsored by the **Los Angeles League of Conservation Voters (LALCV)** held at The Grand.



Photo credit: Diana Lejins

Candidates were questioned by Conservation League panelists **Stephanie Molen** and **Jonathan Parfrey** (l.) on environmental issues and moderator **Art Levine** (r.) on general issues.



Photo credit: Diana Lejins

A packed audience of over 400 attended the LALCV Mayoral Debate, which was also televised and webcast.



The LALCV team that put the debate together. Pictured (l. to r.) LALCV Board member and Debate Committee Chair **Moe Stavnezer**, Board member **Mel Nutter**, Board member **Mitchell Schwartz**, Board President **Tom Eisenhauer**, and Board member **Susana Reyes**.



LALCV Board member and debate panelist **Stephanie Molen** with moderator **Art Levine** at the reception following the debate.



General Manager **John Morris** with Co-owners **Eric Johnson** and **David Copley** on Opening Night of their new restaurant, **The Boathouse on the Bay**. The restaurant is located on the site of the old McKenna's on the Bay.

Around Town



The **Tate** family and the **Yearsley** family at the Marketplace participate in the City's outreach program for community input to proposed changes in the Southeast Area Development Plan (SEADIP).



International City Theatre artistic director/producer **caryn desai** (c.) with **Lindsey Alley** and **Jennifer Shelton**, two of the stars of ICT's hit show *Let's Misbehave*.



Long Beach Police Foundation President **Dan Walker**, City Prosecutor **Doug Haubert**, Chief of Police **Jim McDonnell** and Foundation Vice President **Art Levine** at the VIP Reception at Keesal, Young & Logan.



More than 130 guests gathered at the VIP Reception to get an update on the work of the Foundation, and provide support for its activities. Over \$25,000 was raised by the event, generously hosted by Keesal, Young & Logan.



Foundation President **Dan Walker** addresses the audience before introducing **Chief McDonnell**.



Allison Scott, a graduate of the Youth Leadership Academy and a recipient of support from the Foundation, expresses her appreciation.



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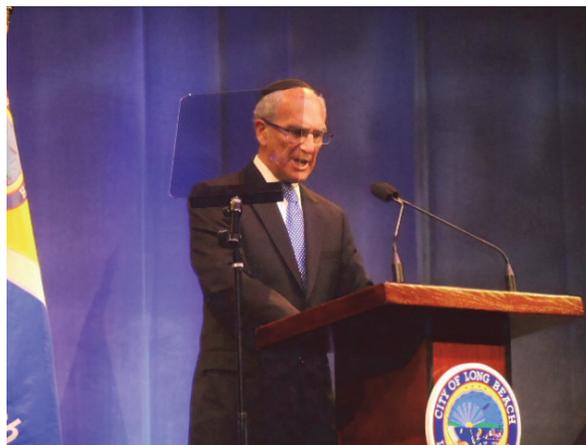
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Photo Focus: State of the City



The **Long Beach Poly High School Choir** entertains the crowd with their beautiful singing as guests enter the Ballroom for the Mayor's State of the City Address.



Rabbi **Steven Moskowitz** delivered the invocation prior to the State of the City address.



Photo credit: Diana Lejins

Mayor **Bob Foster** delivering his last State of the City Address in front of a record crowd at the new Pacific Ballroom at the Long Beach Convention & Entertainment Center.



The singing cowboy **Jeff Severson** and community leader **Ken Miller** with SCAN Health Plan's **Diane Levine** at the State of the City Address.



Photo credit: Diana Lejins

Mayor **Bob Foster** and wife **Nancy** following the address.



Gloria Cordero with daughter **Celine** at the State of the City event.

Sponsor & Community News

Boathouse on the Bay

Boathouse on the Bay General Manager **John Morris** looks out at the view from his new restaurant, perhaps also contemplating the future. On the site of the old McKenna's on the Bay, the Boathouse has a fresh new look while retaining the charm of its predecessor. With a new chef and some new menu items, the Boathouse promises to retain a loyal following. There is a separate patio menu, and an expansion of the patio is planned in the near future.



Cerritos Acura

Cerritos Acura was selected by the City of Cerritos as the **Business Spotlight** February 2014 recipient. They received a Certificate of Recognition from the Mayor and City Council at an Award Ceremony at the Cerritos City Council meeting on February 27, 2014.

Congressional Cup

The longest running match sailboat race in North America celebrates its Golden Anniversary this year. The 50th Annual event is set to take place **April 7 - 13** in the waters off Long Beach, California. The Congressional Cup is one of the most prestigious events in all of sailing. Several of the world's top skippers are invited to test their skills in identical Catalina 37 boats in a week-long series of elimination races. Preliminary races, called the *Ficker Cup*, will be held on **April 7 - 8** and will narrow the race fleet down to 10 boats.



The venue is the **Long Beach Harbor**, and skippers are looking for the best way to navigate a course going from the Belmont Pier, out to the Queen Mary, and then back to the Pier. The course has been designated on the Federal Registry as *Congressional Cup Stadium* by the United States Coast Guard. Spectators get outstanding up-close views of both the start and the finish from the Belmont Pier. The Congressional Cup is hosted annually by the **Long Beach Yacht Club**. For further information, visit www.thecongressionalcup.com.

Long Beach Airport

The Long Beach Airport has been recognized with **three new awards**: a national food and beverage award and a regional transportation award for its new concourse; and a local preservation award for restoration of its historic terminal building.

"The new passenger concourse is a stunning success, and it captures the spirit of the Long Beach lifestyle with its palm tree court and open-air fire pit," said Mayor **Bob Foster**. "The terminal restoration improved our customer experience while remaining true to the building's Streamline Moderne architecture. Both projects are extremely deserving of the recognition they are receiving."

"These awards attest to the dedication of staff at the airport," said Airport Director **Mario Rodriguez**. "We are all committed to sustaining an award-winning airport that the City of Long Beach deserves and can be proud of."

Long Beach Water

The Long Beach Board of Water Commissioners voted unanimously to declare an Imminent Water Supply Shortage for the City of Long Beach. The declaration is a preemptive action taken to strengthen the reliability of the city's water supply in the midst of a looming statewide water shortage. In making the declaration, the Board is alerting Long Beach residents and businesses about the need to take additional steps to conserve water, including the elimination of activities that unnecessarily waste the city's water supplies. To see details about the restrictions, visit www.lbwater.org.

Port of Long Beach

The City of Long Beach Harbor Department is moving to a new address. The Department that oversees the Port of Long Beach will soon be based at Interim Administrative Offices at **4801 Airport Plaza Drive** near the Long Beach Airport.

The Department's old Administration Building, which was opened in 1960, was found to be seismically unsafe and inadequate for the Department's current needs. The move to Airport Plaza, next to the Marriott Hotel, started on Valentine's Day and will be occurring in stages over four weekends through March. The Harbor Department will eventually return to a permanent headquarters in the downtown area.

Russo's Ristorante

Russo's Ristorante is celebrating its **25th Anniversary** during the month of March. All pasta dishes will be **25% off** during the month. Stop by and offer congratulations to Jack and Vicki on creating a wonderful neighborhood restaurant with delicious Italian dishes in a relaxed, authentic environment.



Why ObamaCare Cannot Work

by

Dr. Marcy Zwelling

It is agreed by most that ObamaCare is not turning out the way anyone hoped. But before we try to write new reforms, let's analyze the problem Congress was trying to solve with this legislation.

Was it, "How do we lower the cost of health insurance?" Or was it, "How do we make healthcare more affordable?" Was the issue insurance or care? If we don't ask the right question, the solution will remain elusive.

Let's agree that the question should have been, "How can we provide more affordable and accessible healthcare for more Americans?" Care is in the law's title but lost in the conversation. The law does not address the right question.

The question(s) we ask are important and must be specific if we will ever find a just resolution. But instead, President Obama continues to nullify bits of the law, rather than working with Congress to find a better solution. Asking the correct direct question is central to building a complex strategy for success.

Insurance is an actuarial bet. It is something we all buy, almost under duress. Who wants to spend their money on insurance betting that a bad event may happen? That's just downright depressing.

But insurance is NOT care. That is becoming more and more clear as we hear stories about those who have purchased insurance and then are denied care, medications, and/or procedures that had been "authorized" by their previous "inadequate plan."

What is healthcare anyway? Why should Americans want to buy healthcare AND AT WHAT PRICE? What is the value of a mammogram? An antibiotic? Americans have been unable to find the market price on almost anything related to healthcare. In the end, if you want to buy care in the form of a mammogram, know why and what you expect to procure. The buyer must understand value and that value is established by a price and personal utility.

We must first define care and place a cash value with every opportunity. Once we have defined the product, it is up to the consumer (patients) to make a purchase based on the value (cost and utility) to them (not the government). Not everyone needs every test every time it is offered. Clearly for that woman with breast cancer in her family, the reassurance alone has value but not-so-much for an 85-year-old woman who spends her life alone in a nursing home. The cost (determined by the seller) will be confirmed when the market place finds that mammogram machine used to its maximum capacity.

The solution to our question is found in basic economics: **Let the market dictate the solution.** Without allowing for the human dynamics found in every economic principle, ObamaCare and every new reform will only continue to fail.

Dr. Zwelling is the former President of the Los Angeles County Medical Association. She has a fee for service practice in Los Alamitos.

Straight Talk Magazine

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Publisher/Editor-in-Chief
Art Levine

Assistant Editors
Melissa Navarro
Thad Hegeness

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Sponsor Spotlight: Phil Trani's — A Long Beach Institution



Phil Trani's has been a favorite Long Beach gathering place for the past **25 years**. Serving the **best in California cuisine**, specializing in fresh fish, prime steaks and a variety of classic Italian pastas. Rack of lamb has been added to the menu. Phil's personal touch is evident in each delicious dish.

But Trani's is much more than a restaurant. It is also a **favorite gathering spot** for sports celebrities from Southern California and beyond. The walls of the restaurant are adorned with priceless memorabilia, from **Reggie Bush** to **Mark Sanchez** to the late **John Wooden**.

On weekends Trani's heats up with **live music** every Friday and Saturday night from 8pm to midnight.

When you visit Trani's, come into the

kitchen and watch Phil work his magic. You'll also see walls filled with signatures and notes from Hall of Famers and celebrities.



Trani's is open for dinner nightly except Mondays at 5:30pm, and for lunch weekdays at 11:30am. Open for dinner Sundays at 4:30pm. Free on-site parking.

Combining the best in food, music and camaraderie, see why Phil Trani's has been a **Long Beach Institution** for 25 years.

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