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## Speakers

**January 25, 2023**

[Anthony Jackson, Director, Berkeley Rep School of Theatre](#)  
"Berkeley Rep's Educational Programs"

**February 01, 2023**

[Berkeley Rotary Past Presidents](#)  
"Secrets from the Berkeley Rotary Rotary Attic"

**February 08, 2023**

[Doug Fielding, Berkeley Rotarian](#)  
"Dreamers and Fields of Dreams"

## Events

January 24th  
[Meditation/Mindfulness Class via Zoom](#)

January 31st  
[Meditation/Mindfulness Class via Zoom](#)

February 7th  
[Meditation/Mindfulness Class via Zoom](#)

February 14th  
[Meditation/Mindfulness Class via Zoom](#)

February 16th  
[Third Thursday + Raise-the-Bar](#)

February 21st  
[Meditation/Mindfulness Class via Zoom](#)

## Birthdays

[Austin Henderson](#)  
January 25th

[Jeffrey L. Hunt](#)  
February 2nd

[Peter D. Campbell](#)  
February 9th

## Club Announcements

By Linda Cogozzo

**Next Meeting.** Wednesday, Jan. 25, 2023, 12:30 PM PT, in person at First Presbyterian and via Zoom: Anthony Jackson, Director of the Berkeley Rep School of Theatre, will present "Berkeley Rep's Educational Programs." The speaker is provided by Team #8, the Aurora Theatre Company Team; Judith Glass and Sheila Sabine, Captains.



### What Do You Say? On

Wednesday, Jan. 25, 2:15-3:30 PM PT, via Zoom, the Peace Committee hosts the next in a series of Civil Discourse meetings. **Topic: "Why the 'Smart' Party [Democratic] Never Learns."** We'll discuss Barton Swaim's *Wall Street Journal* article, a critique of the liberal elite's inability to hear those outside of its silo. Is there any truth to this? You'll receive the Zoom link via email. For more information and a copy of the article, email Dan Thomas ([dthomas@tc-associates.com](mailto:dthomas@tc-associates.com)).

**Save the Date!** Hosted by the Rotary Club of Pinole, the next gathering of the BARSHEEP TGIFF is Friday, Jan. 27, 5:30-7 PM, at The Quinan Street Project, 656 Quinan St., in Old Town Pinole (<https://quinanstreet.org>). Costa Nova Wines will be featured. For more info, contact Richie Fernandez ([rfernandez@farmersagent.com](mailto:rfernandez@farmersagent.com)).



**Birding at Arrowhead Marsh.** Join BRC on Saturday, Feb. 4, 10:30 AM-2 PM, to tour this Oakland wildlife habitat. Flyers will be distributed at Wednesday's meeting. For more info, contact Joan Collignon ([joancollignon@gmail.com](mailto:joancollignon@gmail.com)).



## Board Bullets

Here's a summary of what was accomplished at the Jan. 18, 2023, meetings of the Berkeley Rotary Boards.

### Berkeley Rotary Club Board of Directors

- Tina Etcheverry asked for a volunteer to handle the management of the Club's insurance policies; David Poock will take that on.

[Katy Marie Young](#)

February 14th

[Sallie Weissinger](#)

February 15th

[Marion Hunt](#)

February 15th

[Grace Manning Orenstein](#)

February 19th

- Joan Collignon and Libby Tyler presented their summary of the results of the Jan. 4 Club Assembly. See the separate article in this week's e-Rev.
- The Church's parking policy has changed. The Board is studying how it affects club members and will report on that as soon as possible.

### Berkeley Rotary Endowment Board of Directors

- Tina Etcheverry updated the Board on the two major upcoming fundraising activities: the Not-So-Silent Auction (online and culminating in person on Mar. 1) and the Taste of Downtown Berkeley (Jun. 11)
- Pamela Doolan is stepping down as the chair of the Dictionary Project. Thus far, we have failed to recruit a replacement. Pamela and Joan Collignon will meet with the director of the Berkeley Public Schools Fund in February to discuss Berkeley Rotary and the Berkeley schools.
- Lewis Ames, manager of the EV Charging Station Grant, requested additional funding of \$2,500 for the electric vehicle purchase, which was granted.
- The Endowment Budget of \$50,000 for the 2023-24 year was approved. This is less than in past years, when it has been \$65,000.

Members wishing to read the full minutes of the meeting should email Grier Graff (gg@graffarchitects.com) for a copy.

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## New Members Add to the Buzz

By Joan Collignon

Fred Collignon lighted a warming blaze in our backyard firepit before the Third Thursday gathering last week. Several Rotarians huddled there before drifting in to the house, where the temperature was higher and the wine and cheese were close at hand.

Half a dozen of our newer members arrived early and assembled in the living room at the behest of Tina Etcheverry who, with Mary Alice Rathbun and Grier Graff, led a lively **Raise-the-Bar** conversation and introduced them to the more arcane features of Berkeley Rotary life. Among the questions they asked: **What is a team and how are the members chosen? How do you choose a good speaker? Where can I sit at lunch when everyone else seems to know one another?** Then they joined the larger group to expand the discussions.

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## Bridging the Gap: A Not-So-Silent Auction Coming Soon!

By Tina Etcheverry



We are actively working to bridge the gap between what we have and what we need for our grant funding by hosting Bridging the Gap: A Not-So-Silent Auction. We will showcase items online the last week in February, culminating with a live auction at our Mar. 1 club meeting. Please make an effort to come in person, so you can participate!

We already have some exciting items: a two-night vacation rental in Inverness, restaurant gift certificates, a case of wine, and fun day trips with friends! If you have special artwork, a wine tasting voucher, or other unique experiences to donate, contact Tina Etcheverry ([etcheverrytina@yahoo.com](mailto:etcheverrytina@yahoo.com)) with your suggestions.

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## Designated Gifts Continue to Outpace Unrestricted Giving

By Tina Etcheverry

In the first six months of this fiscal year, we have raised \$20,000 in unrestricted giving. This is wonderful and will go to support our grants for 2023-24. However, we received more than twice as much in restricted giving at \$47,000. Some of the programs receiving large donations are RotaCare, scholarships, the George Luna Dental Clinic, and the Supportive Housing Committee. We also received



designated donations to the Cal Big Game, our corpus, the Peace Grove Fund, Maxime Vigoureux (our French scholar), the Dictionary Project, etc. These are extremely worthy efforts and the funds are needed to continue Berkeley Rotary's good work.

Why does this matter? When the Endowment Board of Trustees set the grant budget for next year, we needed to reduce our grants for 2023-24 to \$50,000 and not the usual \$65,000. The grants are paid out of our unrestricted giving. By continuing our acceptance of designated giving, we allow donors to support projects that are meaningful to them. But it also means we need to reduce our funding of discretionary grants (those that come in during the course of the year) by 23%. We are sharing this information, so you realize the balancing act that the Endowment Board and the Grants Committee perform with our money.

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## Where Do We Go Next? Board Response to the Assembly

By Joan Collignon

The Berkeley Rotary Board of Directors approved the following actions to respond to needs outlined during the Club Assembly.

**Concerns about Board Transparency:** A monthly article will be posted in e-Rev that offers a list of bullet points detailing significant discussions or actions taken at the last Board meeting.

### Membership Concerns:

- The need for new, younger members was acknowledged. The upcoming gathering of the Young Professionals Group will help to build fellowship in this group and, hopefully, attract additional younger members.
- Discussions continue with the Membership Committee about the need for new members to be sponsored and also have a mentor, who may or may not be the sponsor, as the requirements are different.

### Concerns that we should advertise. This subject is referred to the Communications Committee:

- Members of the Communications Committee are doing an excellent job with

social media.

- The Board asks that the Communications Committee remind club members and other committees about the importance of having the Rotary logo on all public-facing documents.
- Joan will discuss with Beth ways the club can use its Chamber of Commerce membership to gain more attention and to provide more information about the club to the broader community.

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## The State of the City Is Strong But Not Without Challenges

By Anne Pardee



There was much to applaud at Berkeley Mayor Jesse Arreguin's presentation to our club on Jan. 18, 2023. Here are some highlights.

- Citing the history of the city through earthquakes, fire, protests, civil unrest, and now a global pandemic, Mayor Arreguin said, "We have seen Berkeley rising to the challenges and learning to adapt and evolve."
- Following the State of California guidelines, the City of Berkeley will end its state of emergency in February 2023. We have a 98% vaccination rate, one of the highest in the country, which shows that "we have a collective responsibility to keep each other safe," he noted.
- Although the homeless rate in Berkeley has dropped 5% over the last year, there remains a chronic need for affordable housing. For example, there are 5,000 units in the pipeline but only 800 have been funded. In contrast, the state requires 9,000 units to be built by 2031. The challenge of creating affordable housing on two BART station parking lots is monumental.

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