



Click [HERE](#) for a printable calendar of upcoming events!

Speakers

April 21, 2021

[Elizabeth Pearce, CEO of SymSoil](#)
Soil Health and Carbon Sequestration

April 28, 2021

[Rika Niikura, Rotary Global Scholar from Japan](#)
"A Rotary Scholar from Japan Looks at Mid-Century Architecture in California"

May 05, 2021

[Cal Mann](#)
"The Rotary-Peace Corps Partnership"

May 12, 2021

[Tess Mayer, Berkeley Public Library Director](#)
"The Library's Role in Community Recovery"

Events

May 8th
[Zentangle Fund Raiser](#)

Birthdays

[Kenneth Renworth](#)

April 20th

[George Luna](#)

April 20th

[David Hugh Malcolm](#)

April 21st

[Morton H. Orenstein](#)

April 22nd

[Douglas Fielding](#)

April 23rd

[Mac Lingo](#)

April 24th

[Philip R. Henry](#)

April 28th

[John Caner](#)

April 30th

[Pamela M. Doolan](#)

Club Announcements

By Linda Cogozzo

Wednesday, April 21, 2021, 12:30pm (PST): Elizabeth Pearce, CEO of SymSoil, will speak on ♦Soil Health and Carbon Sequestration. ♦SymSoil (<https://symsoil.com>) is a soil health company, whose products and services use soil science to add biology back to the soil to complete its microbe biome. Elizabeth will talk about the soil food web, and how SymSoil's services contribute to plant health for farmers and gardeners, while restoring the environment and improving carbon sequestration to slow global warming. The speaker provided by Team #4, Rogue River (Tina Etcheverry and Sallie Weissinger, Team Leaders).

All Aboard! The District 5160 Spring 2021 Virtual Conference will take place from Friday, April 30, to Sunday, May 2. If you're working on your Berkeley Rotary Blue & Gold, here's a chance to cross a task off your list! Register at <https://rotary5160.org>



20 Great Years: BRC Celebrates its Scholarship Program

By Sallie Weissinger

Twenty years, 54 students, 30 mentors, 83% college graduation rate, \$3,000 - 5,000 per student, and \$656,283 in total scholarships are key numbers to cite in summarizing the club's April 14th presentation. The numbers are impressive on their own, even though Rotary is about service, not numbers. But in celebrating two decades of our scholarship program, the numbers DO count because they reflect the depth of our club's commitment to service and the history that underpins it.

In 2000, during a Club meeting, Jim Reynolds, a much-loved Berkeley Rotarian, turned to Don Alter to suggest the club provide scholarships to help low-income high school students with their college living expenses. The two swung into action and created a program from scratch. Since then, 54 young people have participated, including 15 current scholars. Their graduation rate is an impressive 83%, compared to a 15% rate for other students in the lowest-income quartile. Most are the first in their families to attend college and are first or second-generation immigrants.

To date, we have granted over \$656,000 to our scholars and hold an additional \$105,000 to support our current scholars to their finish line. A total of 30 Club members have served as mentors, many of whom have worked with multiple scholars over the years. [Read More](#)

May 3rd

[John J. Torpey](#)

May 8th

[Jacqueline Peters Hammond](#)

May 10th

[Monica Marie Fox](#)

May 11th

[Kenneth N. Matsumura](#)

May 15th

Words of Wisdom from Jim Reynolds

The following is a letter sent to one of the Club's first Rotary Scholars, Niles Lichtenstein, from his Mentor, Jim Reynolds, in 2005.

Dear Niles:

Here is the expurgated copy of my notes for the little talk that you asked for: "And now I have a little grandfatherly advice for you all!

First, I'm glad I was born when I was and not when you were, because I ♦♦ have lived in a better world. The older I get and the more I learn, the more I find out I don♦♦ know!

The more I see of human venality, depravity, bestiality, mendacity and just plain meanness the more I respect the animals - they♦♦ are not civilized! There♦♦s so much knowledge, but so little wisdom.

In a fairly long and reasonably checkered career I ♦♦ve found it easier to explain the things I have done than the things I have not done. You have been learning the rules, which is important. But it♦♦s also important to develop the judgment to break those rules when necessary. Be tolerant about things that are different - they♦♦ are not necessarily wrong and there♦♦s usually a reason. Intolerance is one of today♦♦s worst problems.

Try not to do anything while you♦♦ are young that will embarrass you when you♦♦ are running for office and an opponent springs it on you. A worldwide problem now is that there are so few people, especially elected politicians, who are willing to sacrifice anything for the common good. It seems to me that most of the progress we brag about is technological, and not what I like to call "humanics." Human nature hasn♦♦t improved noticeably since man came out of the trees.

As men and women you are going out into a very competitive world where nothing worthwhile comes easy. The going will get tough and you will get frustrated and discouraged. But remember that we had faith in you and just try to justify that faith. If you can do even a little to make your spheres better than you found them you will have been the best investment this club ever made.

And so - all the best."

August 17 was a highlight in my career, and I am gratified that anything I have done has been helpful to yours.



Jim Reynolds with Rotary's first three scholars: Kiran Sahdev, Emil Reyes, and Niles

How to Fix Our Broken Democracy

Our club speaker on April 7 was Daniel Newman, president and co-founder of Maplight, a Berkeley nonprofit and officially nonpartisan group dedicated to achieving a government and democracy in the U.S. that works "for the people." Maplight provides voter guides on candidates, fights online political deception, and encourages writing to legislators on key legislation protecting democracy. It has also created software for e-filing and disclosure on campaign finance, securing ballot measures and petitions, and providing voter information.

Daniel Newman's talk was based on his graphic novel called *Unrig: How to Fix Our Broken Democracy*, from which he showed several illustrated pages.

Newman believes that the big threat to our democracy is the heavily organized and well-funded efforts of what have been called "The Wealth Hoarders," extremely wealthy individuals who finance and promote positions against taxation, public schools, and support programs (e.g., SSI, Medicare, food stamps), and fight government regulation of the environment and business. The Koch brothers were cited as the leaders helping to found this group of a few hundred radical right Libertarian families.

[Read More](#)
