

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

Speakers

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"

May 19, 2021

[Director Andy Katz, East Bay MUD](#)

Events

May 8th

[Zentangle Fund Raiser](#)

May 19th

[STAY TUNED - BERKELEY ROTARY CLUB SILENT AUCTION](#)

Birthdays

[Philip R. Henry](#)

April 28th

[John Caner](#)

April 30th

[Pamela M. Doolan](#)

May 3rd

[John J. Torpey](#)

May 8th

[Jacqueline Peters Hammond](#)

May 10th

[Monica Marie Fox](#)

May 11th

[Kenneth N. Matsumura](#)

May 15th

[Anne Pardee](#)

Club Announcements

By Linda Cogozzo

Wednesday, April 28, 2021, 12:30pm (PST): Rika Niikura will present ♦A Rotary Global Grant Scholar from Japan Looks at Mid-Century Architecture in California.♦ Rika studied in Germany during her university junior year. While there, she traveled throughout Europe. Rika enjoys skiing and yoga. Her presentation to Berkeley Rotary will focus on intimate spaces in the living rooms of early 20th-century California homes. The speaker is provided by Team #5, Yangtze River (Mary Alice Rathbun and Charlene Stern, Team Captains).

If you're working on your Blue and Gold, here are two opportunities to cross tasks off your list!

♦ **The 2021 Rotary Virtual Convention,** June 12-16, will be better than ever, opening more innovative opportunities to learn and to engage with the family of Rotary, near and far. Register by May 7 (11:59:59 CT) to take advantage of the promotional rate: <https://convention.rotary.org/en>

♦ **Weeding at Skyline Gardens** to remove invasive species and allow native species to survive: <https://baynature.org/article/weeding-the-wild>. There is some physical effort involved (walking, kneeling, and weeding). To reserve a time and ask about Covid-19 restrictions, email Bob Sorenson: rsoren@mac.com



Importance of Soil Health

By Jon Allen Vicars

Our speaker for the April 22 Rotary meeting was Elizabeth Pearce, the CEO and co-founder of a soil health company, Symsoil. The company puts biology back into tired soil for agriculture and gardens. Here are the highlights from her talk:

- Healthy soil has a rich and complex biology of micro-organisms, worms, arthropods, and other creatures. One handful of soil has more organisms than the entire world population. Science has only discovered approximately 2000 creatures but there are many more. Plants use these organisms in a symbiotic relationship to grow. This is commonly referred to as the soil food web. Elizabeth refers to soil scientist Dr. Elaine Ingram who outlines this complex network in her studies. See link below.
- Our global agricultural problem is that the soil is rapidly being depleted of its



May 24th

[Rebecca Phuong](#)


May 26th

[Matthew Hermann](#)

May 26th

biology by using salty fertilizers, minerals, and pesticides. The United Nations Food & Agriculture Organization predicts that global agriculture will have depleted soil of its microbiology in fewer than 60 years.

- Until recently it has been difficult and expensive to replenish soil biology. Elizabeth and her Symsoil science team have found and patented a way to culture soil organisms on an industrial scale at an affordable cost to farmers and gardeners. The process is regionally specific as they culture local organisms with municipal compost. Their facilities have a radius of approximately 300 miles, which makes finding this in local nurseries difficult. Currently, the Oakland Plant Exchange carries it for hobbyist gardeners.
- Anecdotally, Rotary member Jon Vicars, a true sceptic, experimented with Symsoil in 6/10 of his raised beds over the winter with remarkable results. The kale, spinach, broccoli, and pea plants were distinctly greener, more productive, and with a larger root system. They tasted the same, but the plants appeared to develop to their full potential.

For more information and links, see The Plant Exchange: theplantexchange.com; Symsoil: <https://symsoil.com>; USDA  soil food web: https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detailfull/soils/health/biology/?cid=nrcs142p2_053868;
Dr Elaine Ingram: <https://www.soilfoodweb.com/>
