



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

Speakers

December 09, 2020

[Professor Emerita Beverly Crawford](#)

"Perfect Storm in the Arctic: Climate Change, Resource Depletion, Politics and International Relations"

December 16, 2020

[Ira Glasser](#)

Why the ACLU Continues to Defend the Free Speech Rights of Racists

January 06, 2021

[TBD](#)

Events

December 8th

[Near Normal Man Film Screening](#)

December 21st

[Virtual Holiday Party-](#)

Birthdays

[Kathy Huff](#)

December 9th

[Preston Staley](#)

December 15th

[Larry E. Kinsey](#)

December 15th

[Larry Chernila](#)

December 16th

[Frederick C. Collignon](#)

December 17th

[John Denvir](#)

December 17th

[James Ivan Masters](#)

December 19th

[Katherine Campbell King](#)

December 24th

[Beverly Crawford Ames](#)

December 24th

[Frederick G. Fassett](#)

December 29th

Here Comes the Light! A Holiday Celebration



Is your calendar marked in red for **MONDAY, DECEMBER 21st, from 5:30 to 7:00 pm** for Berkeley Rotary's "*Here Comes the Light*" holiday party?

That's the date of the Winter Solstice, the shortest day of the year, symbolizing the transition point to the rebirth of the sun. It's a day of regeneration, renewal, and reflection. December 21st is the perfect occasion to reflect back on the darkness of 2020 and ahead to a sunny 2021, with COVID 19 vaccines and effective

treatment options. And let's also look forward to shaking hands, sharing hugs, and breaking bread in person, unmasked.

To make the most of your celebrating the Winter Solstice, here are some questions:

- Have you RSVP'd to Arlene Marcus (arlenebmarcus@comcast.net) that you will attend ? We need to know how many partygoers we'll have, in order to plan the breakout sessions.
- Admission is free, but have you considered going on the Berkeley Rotary Club website (berkeleyrotary.org) and clicking on the DONATE button on the left? Suggested donation is \$25 per person.
- Are you mulling over what holiday headgear to wear, so you can be as festive (or glamorous or whimsical or outrageous) as possible?
- Will you send a photo (or photos) of your house and garden lit up for the holidays? If so, send them to Joan Collignon (joancollignon@gmail.com).

We look forward to seeing you at the noctilucent event. (*Huh... noctilucent?* Yes, that's your word for the day, pronounced **NOK-TU-LOO-SUHNT**). It means "shining at night."

For questions, contact Arlene Marcus or Sallie Weissinger (sallieweissinger@gmail.com).

Supportive Housing Committee Blanket Drive

By Joanne Dickerson-Harper

Our Supportive Housing Committee has launched a blanket drive in partnership with Help for the Homeless. We need new, single- or double-size, polar fleece blankets in dark colors, or like-new ones that have been sanitized.

Donations can be delivered in person or shipped to Jackie Hammond, jphbooks74@gmail.com (see DACdb for her home address). Questions? Contact Joanne

[Tom Elkema](#)
December 30th
[Shawn Rowles](#)
January 1st

Dickerson-Harper at jdickerson91@gmail.com.



Hands-on Help Needed by Berkeley Food Network

By Frederick C. Collignon

At our last club meeting, frequent visitor Doug Fielding announced with club approval that Berkeley Food Network could use additional volunteers as they provide food to the homeless, the unemployed, and others in need. Volunteers can sign up for two-hour shifts on days of their preference, doing the work they prefer. Doug has volunteered many months and encouraged others to join him; check the BFN website or contact him:

<https://berkeleyfoodnetwork.org/>
dougfielding1949@gmail.com

In the meeting's Zoom chat Jackie Hammond noted that the Berkeley Food Pantry--a different organization--needs more paper bags and other materials. Here is the Food Pantry's website: <https://www.berkeleyfoodpantry.org>

Shaping the Future: A Perspective on BRC Grants

By John Denvir

Last Wednesday Tina and Grier gave us a clear overview of our club's finances where the money came from and where it went. I was surprised to find that we do not first raise a pile of money and then decide how to best to spend it. Instead groups within the club raise money for an activity they wish to pursue. That's how our Designated Gift programs, like the one modernizing schools in Chacala, RotaCare's programs for medical and social services for the poor in Richmond, and our scholarships for deserving students are funded. Designated Gifts like these account for the lion's share (\$163,500) of our grant expenditures.



The other source of funds is comprised of Undesignated Gifts--donations that do not direct a specific use. Undesignated Gifts totaled about \$60,000 in 2019/2020, but that total will shrink to about \$30,000 in 2020/2021 because of the loss of revenues from the Kite Festival and Golden Gate Fields. As a member of the grants committee I feel that the Undesignated Gifts program is grossly underfunded since it not only provides needed aid to nonprofits in the community, but also informs us about what nonprofits in the area are doing. We learn as we give and later sometimes work with these groups.

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