

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

Speakers

January 06, 2021

[TBD - President's Meeting](#)

January 13, 2021

[Daniel Nevers, Executive Director, Berkeley Art Center](#)
"Reimagining the Community Art Center"

January 20, 2021

[Denaya Shorter, Community Engagement Program Officer, Ecology Center](#)
"The Berkeley Climate Action Coalition and the Zero Waste Education Project."

Events

December 21st
[Virtual Holiday Party-](#)
January 6th
[Supportive Housing Committee Meets](#)

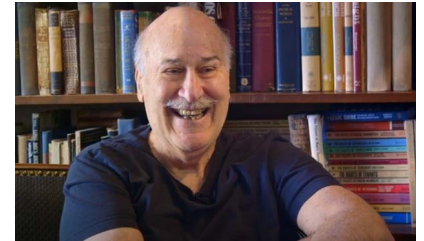
Birthdays

[Katherine Campbell King](#)
December 24th
[Beverly Crawford Ames](#)
December 24th
[Frederick G. Fassett](#)
December 29th
[Tom Elkema](#)
December 30th
[Shawn Rowles](#)
January 1st
[Khang Minh Tran](#)
January 8th
[Kenneth L. Hickey](#)
January 11th
[Irene R. Hegarty](#)
January 13th
[Steven Beckendorf](#)
January 17th

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

By Charlene Y Stern

Ira Glasser is the former Executive Director of the American Civil Liberties Union during its most perilous time in its history and it's later expansion as a nationwide defender of civil liberties. At our club meeting last Wednesday he delivered a powerful defense of the 1st Amendment. His central question to us was "Who gets the power to ban free speech?" Mr. Glasser reviewed the logic of the 1st Amendment which basically states that free speech cannot be denied by the government or any representative of the government, including the president.



History is filled with examples that Glasser retold of what banning free speech would have led to, had the government at the time been allowed to do so. Citing a wide range of examples from both the right and left, he disagreed with all efforts to ban speech we don't like. His conclusion is that freedom of speech is even more precious, despite having to listen to people and opinions we detest, than the dangers of banning speech we don't like. He asked who would we trust to ban speech we don't like - Presidents Nixon, Bush or Trump? His point is we never know who will be elected and what speech he or she might find objectionable.

Glasser pointed out that "Every social justice movement depends upon the 1st Amendment." The 1st Amendment saves us, but doesn't guarantee outcomes. In response to a question from a Rotarian about the harm of "fake news," Glasser said, "You have to protect all speech to protect true speech. If you have faith in that principle, you have the right to speak truer, organize better, and work harder for the outcome you want."

Launching the Concept of CONNECTION Grants

By Tina Etcheverry



Berkeley Rotary is considering launching a new type of grant that will draw upon 50% of the Spendable Reserve in the Endowment. We call these CONNECTION Grants to build on, and enrich, our connections to the community.

We are soliciting grant proposals from our visionary club committees and inspired members. The proposal must answer these questions:

- What is the project? What is the vision for success?
- How will this project address an unmet need in our community?
- How will this provide a connection for attracting new and younger members?
- How will this create and enrich connections to outside funders?

How will this project market our Berkeley Rotary image (branding)?

Key factors for the CONNECTION Grants:

- \$100,000 from Endowment across 2 years starting in July 2021.
- Abstracts due in mid-February for review of the initial concept, addressing the questions listed above.
- If the grants committee approves the initial concept, the full grant proposals are due in April. Several projects may be evaluated.
- Competitive, only one project will receive this level of funding although a number may be explored until one is selected.

Funds (\$100,000) will come from the Endowment Reserve Fund. We want to pull in outside funding from our community or other partners on CONNECTION projects. In early January we look forward to our membership approving this new type of grant funding.

Rotary Youth Programs: Developing the Rotarians of the Future

By Frederick C. Collignon

It's been 6-7 years now that our District has had ongoing multi-year strategic plans to strengthen the District's youth programs and the transition of youth over time from Interact to Rotaract to Rotary. Ours was the first District in the U.S. to do so. Initially there was little interest at RI levels; now it's a major priority of RI, recognizing that the youth in our programs are most likely the Rotarians of the future. Through it all, our Berkeley members and youth programs (especially Rotaract) have been at the center of the District push and indirectly the international push. Our District Rotaract program is the largest in the U.S. most years, and our Interact program is the 2nd largest of all districts. As someone once said at the annual Rotaract international convention, "Tell me where Cal Rotaract is heading, and I'll know where campus Rotaract around the world is going."

The District is in the process of developing a new 5-year strategic plan, not just for youth programs, but for all the District. Read more below about early strategies with youth programs, and about our club members who are helping to frame it.

[Read More](#)
