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Speakers

January 03, 2024

[Sue Moxon, Resident at The Glen at Scripps Ranch](#)

"Life in a Continuing Care Retirement Community"

January 10, 2024

[Ellen Siegel, President, Woodstork Wisdom, Inc.](#)

"There's Gold in Them Thar Hills!" Federal incentives to reduce our carbon emissions.

January 17, 2024

[Tiffany Fajardo, BSO Patron Experience and Community Engagement \(PEACE\) Manager](#)

"An Orchestra for the Community of Berkeley"

January 24, 2024

[Mayor Jesse Araguin, City of Berkeley](#)

"The State of the City"

Events

No Events found

Birthdays

Shivani Grover

January 13th

Irene R. Hegarty

January 13th

Steven Beckendorf

January 17th

Austin Henderson

January 25th

Club Announcements

Next Meeting. January 3, 2024, 12:30 PM (at First Pres and on Zoom: Sue Moxon will present "**Life in a Continuing Care Retirement Community.**" She is a resident of The Glen at Scripps Ranch, a continuing care retirement community (CCRC) in San Diego, CA. It is ranked #74 in *Newsweek*'s survey of the best CCRCs in the country (out of 3,000) and #9 in California. Sue will talk to us about the pros and cons of living in a CCRC, the decision-making process that led her to make the move, and what can be expected when living in a community of active retirees. The speaker is provided by Libby Tyler, Berkeley Rotary President 2023-24.



When Santa Came to Los Ayala

By Beverly Crawford Ames

The following is an open letter to the club sent by Beverly Crawford Ames.

Lewis and I have just returned from a wonderful trip with Rotary, rehabbing the kindergarten in Los Ayala, Mexico. I am certain that you will get glowing reports from others about the trip and the work that was accomplished. I am writing about an aspect you may not have heard about and the extraordinary role that Helmut Tutass played in making the trip extra special for the teachers and children.

I brought down a suitcase full of supplies for teachers and crayons and coloring books for the children, donated by a Bay Area teachers' organization I belong to. Helmut had the contact information for the North Pole, and somehow he persuaded Santa to come to Los Ayala.* In bringing Santa, Helmut turned what was planned as a lovely event into a **magical** one for the children and also for us as we watched them run to him and receive their gifts with such pure delight. Helmut's cheerful and thoughtful presence made this week very special to us all, and his work to bring Santa to the school was a brilliant and wonderful gift to all of us.

For me, as a teacher myself, Santa's presentation of gifts from the Oakland teachers to the teachers of Los Ayala was especially meaningful. In addition to Rotary's generous gift to the community of a greatly improved educational environment, Santa gave the teachers some additional "tools of the trade" from teachers in the U.S.: pens, pencils, math games, scissors, pads of colorful paper, and crayons and coloring books that they could use in teaching and playing with the children. Hopefully, these photos will capture some of the magic.

THANK YOU, HELMUT, FROM THE BOTTOM OF OUR HEARTS!

Bev Crawford Ames, Lewis Ames, and Oakland teachers.

*See caption below





From left: Santa (actually a Canadian mail carrier who was wearing a Santa suit when Helmut met him on the beach and invited him to help distribute gifts at the school), Bev, and Helmut



One by one, the children ran to meet Santa.
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Holiday Party: A Glittering Evening



Members of the Social Committee set the standard for the glitter and glitz of the Berkeley Rotary Holiday Party on December 16. Thanks go to (above) Joan McLean, Pamela Doolan, Marcia and O'Neil Dillon, Chair Arlene Marcus, Valeria Chupina, and Anne Pardee.



Ed Church and Valeria Chupina introduced the group to the intricacies of table-hopping and Trivia. (left photo)

And the winners were . . . Table 5! The acknowledged Berkeley Rotary Trivia Champions. (right photo)

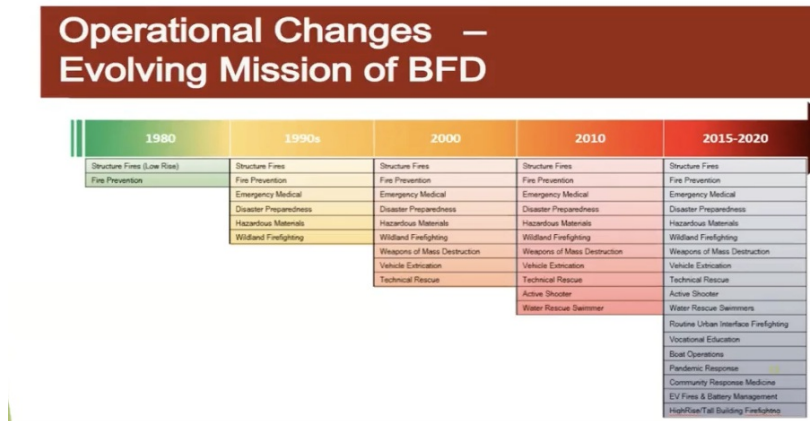
Kate Harrison Loves Infrastructure

By Helena Meyer-Knapp

Kate Harrison is a Berkeley Rotarian and also a member of the Berkeley City Council. On December 13 she combined her roles as our lunchtime speaker. As a Council Member, Kate chairs the Infrastructure Committee, so it’s lucky she loves infrastructure. And we are lucky that she is willing to take on the management of hundreds of buildings, dozens of parks and playgrounds, and miles and miles of roads. Every item in the Berkeley portfolio demands attention, care, and sometimes action. Kate’s talk gave a glimpse of the processes they use to decide what action to take, and what actions are now being taken.

Paving roads is a topic near and dear to many hearts, including mine since I live off the controversial “Hopkins corridor.” The criteria the council uses to determine where to send their paving crews has a clear logic. Prioritize streets where several blocks, say five, need work rather than doing a block at a time and coming back year after year. Prioritize streets where the repairs needed are quite minor and a brief intervention would substantially extend the lifetime of the road surface. Prioritize streets that are close to disaster and go after the section that needs work down to the roots so that that any investment made will then last a long time. By implication, there are some roads that are already pretty bad but do not qualify yet as close enough to disaster. Residents may want things done, but the city will often have to say “not quite yet.”

Fire stations are another important part of the infrastructure that need upgrading, in part because of the dramatic increase in functions fire departments are now required to take on. The changes just since 1980 are truly extraordinary.



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Rotary Leads Sessions at UN Climate Conference

By Frederick C. Collignon

Rotary experts hosted two dozen sessions at the 28th United Nations climate conference in Dubai, also known as COP28 (short for Conference of the Parties, now in its 28th year). The sessions addressed how the changing climate intersects with health, poverty, and other issues Rotary is passionate about. Rotary International President R. Gordon R. McInally discussed how climate-linked disasters affect mental health. It was the third year that Rotary has taken part in the climate conference. Read more about [Rotary at COP28](#)