



[CLICK HERE](#) for a printable **CLUB CALENDAR**

Speakers

January 10, 2024

[Ellen Siegel, President, Wood Stork 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 Aragon, 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

Jeffrey L. Hunt

February 2nd

Club Announcements

Next Meeting. January 10, 2024, 12:30 PM (at First Presbyterian Church and on Zoom): Ellen Siegel, President of Woodstork Wisdom, Inc., presents **"There's Gold in Them Thar Hills. Federal Incentives to Reduce Our Carbon Emissions."**

This is not your typical California gold rush. This program is an overview of federal incentives to dial back, even reduce, our collective carbon emissions. Siegel will explore the hills and valleys of the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act. You will leave the meeting with specific ideas about how you can take advantage of tax credits and rebates, designed to encourage renewable energy, electrification of gas and oil appliances, and weatherizing homes to reduce leakage of heat and cold, saving money and using less electricity. For the past eight years, Siegel has created and taught an ongoing course called Climate Conversations 101 for the University of Miami's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute as well as Gainesville's premier retirement community. Her firm trains presenters on climate change, developing curriculum to incorporate science, social science, communication skills, and presentation skills. Her goal is to amplify the climate conversation in the public.



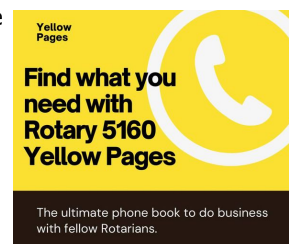
The speaker is provided by the Peregrine Falcon Team; Steve Beckendorf and John O'Dea, Captains. For information about attending in person, visit www.berkeleyrotary.org; email info@berkeleyrotary.org for the Zoom link.

thirsty THURSDAY

Join us for Thirsty Thursday! Formerly called Third Thursday, we'll meet again this month as we usually do for conversation over wine and snacks. But this year we're moving to the second Thursday of the month. So Third Thursday has become Thirsty Thursday. Come to enjoy some time catching up with Rotarians and friends and family on January 11, 5-7 PM, at Arlene and Maury Marcus's home, 560 Vincent Ave., in North Berkeley.

District 5160 Yellow Pages! January is Vocational Service Month. As part of this month's activities, you are invited to be part of the new District 5160 Yellow Pages. Members have asked for a way to do business with other Rotarians, so the District is creating this resource.

To add your business and/or professional service, respond to the email you received.



Amit Loses His Red Badge



Berkeley Rotarians cheered at the December 13 meeting as President Libby ripped the red New Member ribbon off the badge of Amit Randhawa and presented him with his Berkeley Rotary Golden Bear pin.

As his sponsor, Pate Thomson, looked on with pride, Amit thanked club members for easing his way through the Blue and Gold process and into full membership in Berkeley Rotary. Congratulations, Amit!

Los Angeles Project: A Final Report and Thank You

LOS AYALA PROJECT: A Final Report and Thank You

By Grier Graff

It is all about the children.

Building communities, bridging countries; Fortalecer comunidades, unir países

We have completed another wonderful project in coastal Nayarit, helping local schools. This is the ninth hands-on project in this area and one of 13 grants in a 20-year history of helping with education. I think all were tired upon completion of the work.

Personally, I feel renewed from all the work done. The District grant covered the work in Los Ayala for a new kindergarten and other support helped with improvements for ten CONAFE schools. CONAFE schools are all grades (K-8), one-room schools in the rural areas. The La Penita club has been working for several years on improving these small schools which don't have regular teachers. The teachers are community members who are paid minimally.

In Los Ayala, we made an impact with the new second kindergarten classroom and all the other improvements. This is the only kindergarten in Los Ayala. The local community and the La Penita Rotary Club built the shell of the classroom and we helped with completion, furniture, and equipment. We accomplished a lot, completed the classroom, built desks and bookcases, purchased chairs and white boards, and painted the school. The parents and teachers came and helped, providing lunch daily, painting, and replacing the tile floor in the existing classroom.

Thanks to the planning team of Eddie Dominguez, Marianna Day, and Vern Porter, our regular Zoom meetings got it all ready for our participation. Just so you know, this took months for all to come together, including a District 5160 grant in May. Our Global Grants in the past took over a year in planning. Marianna, who was unable to join us this year, helped with the ground transportation and other logistics; Vern ordered the wood and metal for the desks.



Louise O'Dea and Tina Etcheverry paint while Anne Pardee captures the moment.

To keep the project moving we hired a welder. Roger Murphy, a local expat, donated 10,000 pesos. and Valerie Bach, Berkeley Rotarian, made a significant contribution that covered the costs. Thanks to Vern Porter, President of the La Penita Rotary Club, for the use of his lovely house and patio to fabricate the desks. Thanks to Ken Snyder, local Rotarian, who schlepped us back and forth to Vern's house, and Israel, local Los Ayala resident, Rotarian, and the project leader. Israel arranged for access and the lunches. What was different about this project is that Israel and the community made a financial commitment as well as helping. Although we paid for the project materials, the Comex

paint store gave a generous discount and the lumber yard cut all the edging for the desks.



Doug Fielding waves with his paint brush.

On Friday, December 15, the community organized a celebration/dedication of the new school. Several dignitaries, many parents, and the kids were in attendance acknowledging the effort. It ended with lunch on the beach provided by the parents. Eddie Dominguez, our wonderful coordinator and restaurateur, made our work and play run smoothly. The dinners at Eddie's restaurants were a highlight. On Saturday, our last day, Claudia, the hotel manager, and her partner, Martin, prepared dinner in their patio as a thank you. This was totally unexpected and a generous heart-felt THANK YOU.

[Read More](#)

Zoom in to the Annual MLK Jr. Breakfast

By Maxim Schrogin

Every year the city of Berkeley celebrates Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday with a breakfast celebrating King and the spirit with which he lived his life and brought to us. Awards are given to Berkeley students and organizations that work in that spirit.



There is usually a table of Berkeley Rotarians who attend, and our club is a Gold sponsor of the event. These days, however, the meeting, which typically includes about 400 participants, takes place on Zoom. Please register to attend and, if you wish, to donate to the event. All proceeds are used for the awards. The event takes place at 9 am on Jan 15. For more information and to register, go to <https://www.berkeleymlkjrday.org/>

Life in a Continuing Care Retirement Community

By Tina Etcheverry

Our Rotary speaker last week, Sue Moxon, was very engaging, humorous, and encouraging while describing her life in a Continuing Care Retirement Community (CCRC). After her husband's death, she decided to move to The Glen at Scripps Ranch, in response to her internal concerns on managing her huge house, her finances, and her medical and dental needs, and wondering **who** would help her? So, in December 2019, she moved to The Glen, referring to Marilyn Monroe's quotation: "What the hell."

This major move in her life was just in time for her to live in a Covid "bubble" for the immediate year. She never regretted her decision and lists multiple "pros" (and minimal "cons") on the CCRC community. She is surrounded by amazing people, real friends, social activities, "laughing yoga," exercise sessions, photography and art classes, and outings.

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Moxon described the two classes of retirement living situations. The Class A model takes a chunk of money to move in, but then has a regular monthly fee that doesn't change, even as your circumstances require more skilled nursing or other services. The Class B model costs less to move in and less for the monthly fees, but these rates increase as you need higher levels of care or skilled nursing. The Glen at Scripps is the Class A model, with the advantage that management wants to keep their people as healthy as possible (and out of the more expensive skilled nursing facility).

In addition to learning a lot of useful information, we appreciated Sue Moxon's attitude: "Live is Short" "Use the Good Soap."



The Glen at Scripps Ranch