



e-Revolutions

Berkeley Rotary Club

AT THE INTERSECTION OF COMMUNITY AND SERVICE SINCE 1916



[Click here for a printable club calendar](#)

Speakers

May 07, 2025

[Hosted by Berkeley Rotary](#)

"Cinco de Mayo Celebration"

May 14, 2025

[Kathy Kramer, Coordinator, Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour](#)

"How We Transformed Our Yard from an Ecological Wasteland into a Wildlife Habitat Garden"

May 21, 2025

[Stephen Menendian, AD & Director of Research, Othering & Belonging Institute](#)

TBA

May 28, 2025

[Calleene Egan, CEO, Insight Housing](#)

"Insight Housing: Growth and Challenges Ahead"

June 04, 2025

[Laura Geist, General Manager of the Oakland Ballers](#)

"The Building of the Ballers: Creating a Community-Driven Model"

Events

May 21st

[Meetings of the Boards \(Club and Endowment\) via Zoom](#)

May 28th

[Scholarship Committee Meeting in Person](#)

Birthdays

Jacqueline Peters Hammond
May 10th

Club Announcements

By Linda Cogozzo

Next Meeting. Wednesday, May 7, 2025, from 12:3-1:30 PM: Calling all Berkeley Rotarians, Cal Rotaractors, and invited guests! Join us **at First Pres (no Zoom)** for a festive **Cinco de Mayo Celebration** of delicious food, refreshing beverages, lively music, a slideshow of our Mexico projects—and best of all, fun and fellowship!



Volunteers

Wanted: Nancy Gillette, of the Berkeley FireSafe Council, addressed the club last Wednesday, describing a woodland restoration project that is underway in the Berkeley hills and needs volunteers. Nancy is hoping to form a team that can work on the project a few times during the year. For more information on the project and how to sign up, check [this link](#).

Shout-out! Thank you, BRC teams, for bringing us an outstanding lineup of speakers in April 2025. We learned about the upcoming Bay Area Book Festival, considered essential steps for disaster preparedness, received an update on communicable diseases, heard from community partners WDDC and BOSS, and were inspired by insights on how to create positive peace. Miss a meeting? [Visit](#) our video library!



Hey, Zoomers . . . Don't forget to send in your \$10 Participation Fee when you attend meetings via Zoom. Here's a handy QR code that you can use to pay via Venmo. We also post it on Zoom chat during our club meetings. (Or you can send a check to Berkeley Rotary Club, 2342 Shattuck Ave., #101, Berkeley, CA 94704.) The fee offsets our costs for room rental and other operating expenses.

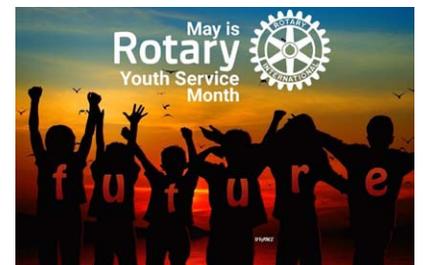
Berkeley Rotary Club
@Berkeley-RotaryClub



venmo

RI Monthly Theme.

May is Youth Service Month. Rotary International writes: "Rotary believes in developing the next generation of leaders. Our programs help younger leaders build leadership skills, expand education, and learn the value of service." [Read more here.](#)



Adrian Vancamper
May 10th
Amit S Randhawa
May 11th
Martin Kaliski
May 12th
Dylan Supencheck
May 14th
Kenneth N. Matsumura
May 15th
Olatubosun Ade Fasipe
Ph.D.
May 17th
Anne Pardee
May 24th
Rebecca Phuong
May 26th
Christopher K. Ahoy
May 29th
Jack H. McPhail
May 31st

Creating Positive Peace

By Irene R. Hegarty



Past District Governor Suzanne Bragdon is a Rotary Peace Activator and a skilled peacemaker. At our last meeting, she discussed the importance of positive peace in Rotary, emphasizing its role in bridging differences and fostering a stable environment for human thriving. She introduced us to the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP), a think tank that quantifies positive peace through 8 pillars, including minority rights, support from international organizations, and education. Rotary International has partnered with IEP to apply these

pillars of peace to local and international Rotary projects.

[Read More](#)

Wish You Had Been There: District 5160 Annual Conference

By Joan Collignon

Rotary is a remarkably progressive organization that works on the ground to help people in need, and raises funds to accomplish the work. Rotarians across the country are very, very worried about recent cuts to US funding for global aid and vaccines, and they are beginning to raise their voices in concern. Rotarians honor family values, including diverse families of every color and sexual orientation and income level and ability. Rotarians are inclusive.

This was the powerful message we heard at the District 5160 Conference ***Re-Connect 2025***, held in San Ramon last weekend. I've been to every Rotary District 5160 Conference since 2011, and this was the first to hit me with a strong emotional impact. Among the many notable speakers, these stood out:

- **Dr. Sylvia Whitlock** blazed the trail in 1987 for women to join Rotary—and rise to the top of the organization.
- **William Wesley** enlarged on the Positive Peace message that Suzanne Bragdon brought to our Berkeley Rotary meeting last week, urging us to act in our own lives in ways that will ultimately influence our community and the world.
- **Robbie Messer** described his life with autism—how his family had helped him learn to thrive with this neurodisability and ultimately connect to the world and help other families.
- **Brian Rusch**—who has worked with Pope Francis, the Dalai Lama, and Archbishop Tutu to bring justice to all people—spoke of embracing our authentic selves; it isn't necessary to present a false image to the world of the person they want us to be.
- Vietnam veteran **Robert Brewer** poignantly described his coming home in 1971 to the tumult of the anti-Vietnam protests, when the returning vets were the unwitting targets of the public's wrath. He traced the source of that public anger to the lies and manipulations of those in Washington who repeatedly covered up the truth about the conflict. We were reminded about the power of public protest; those marches did bring an end to U.S. involvement in the war.

Our own club members were there to soak up the inspiration and spread the word about Berkeley Rotary activities. **Austin and Lynne Henderson** cheered on their daughter, Brooke Deterline, as she helped us build connections across our differences. **Tina Etcheverry, Luisa Buada, and Amit Randhawa** took shifts in the House of Friendship discussing our international programs in Mexico and Guatemala, African

soccer ball delivery, and Rotacare. **Grier Graff and Pate Thomson** pointed the way to the huge Rotacare Mobile Clinic, parked for the day outside the doors. **Dan Thomas** taught a workshop on Civil Discourse. **Helena Meyer Knapp** (the District's Youth Exchange Chair) shepherded the students at a breakout session, where we heard lively talks about their experiences here and abroad. We were happy to see **Marty Kaliski** stand up when Governor Dan Gerardi asked for applause for all the Presidents-elect who will take office on July 1. I got to co-lead a group of about 20 conference-goers on a mellow hike at the top of Mt. Diablo. And **Libby Tyler** was invited to provide props onstage for Dennis Kyriakos, the magician who entertained our club last February.

I'm sorry I didn't work harder to encourage more members to join us. Next year we'll meet in Santa Rosa. There's no guarantee that the program will be as inspiring, but the sheer number of local folks gathered together with the same ultimate goal in mind—service above self—is always an inspiration.



Above: Tina and Luisa in the House of Friendship; Helena with Rotary Youth Exchange students.

BORP Wins!

By Frederick C. Collignon



While our co-sponsorship of the wheelchair basketball game fundraiser for the Wheelchair Foundation was a last-minute request the club funded, it was a most entertaining event for those who attended. The game was sponsored by the Dougherty Valley Interact Club, its sponsoring Rotary club, our club, and the Wheelchair Foundation.

At least five of our club members and spouses attended, led by President Ken and his wife Catherine. All ticket and food proceeds went to the Wheelchair Foundation, which had been a co-sponsor of the District 5160 service project, delivering 500+ chairs to those needing them across Mexico. All District Rotarians had been invited to join that

service club project, and many clubs' members took advantage and went to Mexico. Our club also donated directly to that project, so we all had a part too.

[Read More](#)

Welcome, Kat Culbertson!

On Wednesday, April 30, Kat Culbertson was inducted as a Berkeley Rotarian. Below, Liz accepts her Rotary membership certificate and pin from Membership Chair Libby Tyler, while President Ken Renworth and Kat's sponsor Bob Sorensen look on.



Kat is a restoration ecologist who is passionate about conserving and restoring ecosystems and biodiversity, and is interested in the intersection of conservation and sustainable development. She grew up in Manhattan, Kansas, graduating from Manhattan High School and completing her Bachelor's degree in Environmental Science and Public Policy at Harvard University. Before starting her PhD at Berkeley, she worked for several conservation nonprofits and served in the Peace Corps in Madagascar, which inspired her to research tropical forest restoration. Her current research aims to understand natural forest regeneration to better target restoration interventions and improve restoration maintenance and monitoring, thus benefiting both people and biodiversity.

Kat developed her passion for community service and mentorship starting with the 4H Club, and has been especially involved in environmental conservation, civic education, and science education through various programs. In her free time, she likes to hike, run, climb, and spend as much time outdoors as possible.

Welcome to Berkeley Rotary, Kat!

Recent Key Actions by RI's Legislative Assembly and the RI Board

By Frederick C. Collignon

Our region's RI Board member Dan Himmelfarb did his quarterly briefings on RI Board actions recently, open to all current and past Governors. He and Kathy Suvia, Past District 5160 Governor and our District's elected representative to the Legislative Assembly, reported on RI Board and Legislative Assembly actions. Actions affecting us included:



1. Dues will increase \$3.50 per member for this coming year and \$3.00 per year for the following three years. Our RI dues increases have been below the rate of inflation for 10 years now. Anyone wanting to see a short version of the financial report covering recent past years and the next few years should contact Fred Collignon, and he'll send you one.
2. The Assembly voted to make annual District conferences optional rather than required in each Rotary District.
3. There was a majority, but not 2/3rds, vote to reduce the maximum age for someone to be a Rotaracter from age 40 to age 30. So, age 40 remains the maximum age.
4. A large study of Rotaract clubs that succeed and grow rather than fail concluded that the biggest predictor was whether there was an active Rotary club sponsoring and mentoring the Rotaract club.
5. The minimum size for a new Rotary club was reduced from 20 to 15 members.
6. The RI Board can now terminate an individual member for cause, rather than having to terminate a whole club that refuses to terminate a member for cause. A lengthy due process is required.
7. The location of the 2027 RI conference will no longer be Honolulu, Hawaii, because the rebuilding of the conference complex there will not be completed. The new location has yet to be decided, but will not likely be in the U.S.
8. Political involvement is not permitted "unless relevant to the mission or programs of RI or TRF." This passed with a 57% vote. Our District representative reported that the discussion centered on two points: 1) definition of a political statement—what is that?; and 2) where there is a political effort that is contradictory to RI and/or TRF missions, such as polio eradication, Rotary must have the authority to take a stand. Otherwise, political position statements by Rotary clubs are not allowable. This is not a change from our club's recent understandings of Rotary policy about when and where club members can get engaged in issues speaking as Rotarians. Some of our club's earliest advocacy, according to Berkeley city history books, was for road paving and street lighting to enhance transportation and public safety in the face of those opposed to the extra taxpayer burden.

A more detailed District report of the Assembly's actions should be available in the next two weeks. Let Fred Collignon know if you want a copy.

Where in the World Are You?

With the summer months coming up, don't forget to send in your photos to Irene at hgrty@sbcglobal.net so we know where you are (or were) traveling. Past photos have been scenic, cultural, or even silly. We like them all!

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Club Calendars: Linda Cogozzo (online); Anne Pardee (printed)

Copy Deadline: Send to hgrty@sbcglobal.net by Saturday noon for next week's e-Rev.