



# e-Revolutions

Berkeley Rotary Club  
AT THE INTERSECTION OF COMMUNITY AND SERVICE SINCE 1916



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

## Speakers

**May 21, 2025**

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

"Belonging Without Othering: How We Save Ourselves and the World"

**May 28, 2025**

[Calleene Eagan, 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"

**June 11, 2025**

[Gia White, AD at Global, International & Area Studies, UC Berkeley](#)

"We've Been Here Before: Embracing Black History at UC Berkeley in the Time of Erasure"

**June 18, 2025**

[Mary Malec and Bridget Ahern](#)

"UC Berkeley Peregrine Falcons: An Update on Recent Activity and Their Disappearance"

## Events

May 21st

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

May 28th

[Scholarship Committee Meeting in Person](#)

June 8th

[Taste of Downtown](#)

## Club Announcements

By Linda Cogozzo

**Next Meeting.** Join us on Wednesday, May 21, 2025, from 12:30-1:30 PM PT (at First Pres or via Zoom), when [Stephen Menendian](#), Assistant Director and Director of Research at the Othering & Belonging Institute, presents "**Belonging Without Othering: How We Save Ourselves and the World.**" The speaker is provided by the BRC Mongolia Team; Ed Church, Captain.



**Volunteers Needed!** [Chef Traci Siegel](#)

is looking for volunteers to support the BRC Lasagna Project this June. Your time and effort help provide warm, nourishing meals to unhoused women and children through the [Women's Daytime Drop-in Center](#). **Cooking Crew:** We need 4 volunteers on May 29, 9:00-11:30 AM, to help cook and freeze 10 lasagnas for the month. **Delivery Team:** We also need 5 volunteers to deliver 2 frozen lasagnas each week. Your support has a real impact—these lasagnas serve as a hot lunch every week for those in need. [Please sign up here!](#)

**Ladies Who Lunch.** The next gathering is on Friday, June 6, 2025, from 12 PM–2 PM, and will be hosted by Anne Pardee. Please bring a dish for 6–8 to share (except dessert, which will be provided). RSVP is not necessary, but it would be nice! Contact Anne ([pardeevt@comcast.net](mailto:pardeevt@comcast.net)) for the location.



**Taste of Downtown Berkeley.** It's all happening on Sunday, June 8, 2025, from 2–5:30 PM, starting at Downtown Berkeley Plaza. Come out for an afternoon of gourmet bites and refreshing beverages from 13 of Downtown Berkeley's top restaurants. All proceeds benefit the Berkeley Rotary Club's vital community programs. [Buy tickets here:](#) \$60 or 2 for \$100; students \$30; children under 14 free.

**No More Summer Slide.** Are you interested in preparing struggling students with reading materials for the summer? Contact Pamela Doolan ([pmdoolan@aol.com](mailto:pmdoolan@aol.com)), BRC Education Chair, to participate at one of the schools.



## Creating a Native Plant Garden and Wildlife Habitat

By Luisa Buada

## Birthdays

Anne Pardee  
May 24th  
Rebecca Phuong  
May 26th  
Christopher K. Ahoy  
May 29th  
Jack H. McPhail  
May 31st  
Rachel I Frankel Meek  
June 9th  
Khawaja Mohammad Ashraf  
June 10th  
Pamela V. Emerson  
June 19th  
Jason Aupperle Russell  
June 20th



Kathy Kramer has 40 years' experience developing programs that educate Bay Area residents about local environmental issues. She has received many local, state, and national prestigious awards for her environmental work protecting wetlands, including the Jefferson Award in 2013. In its 21st year, the [Bringing Back the Natives](#) (BBTN) Garden Tour, which Kathy founded and coordinates, is now a 4-day event with 2 online presentations about local native gardens and 2 days

with the opportunity to visit up to 30 gardens in person in San Francisco and the East Bay. The BBTN Garden Tour has had over 5,000 registrants and over 2,000 garden visits since its inception. International and national scientists participate in the tours and give lectures.

She points out that we not only have a climate crisis, we have a biodiversity crisis. In our lifetime, biodiversity has been reduced by 50%; 25% of birdlife has fallen. In the face of water shortages, one questions, why not bring drought-tolerant plants from other countries? Doug Tallamy, author of ***The Chickadee Guide to Gardening***, writes that 90% of bird chicks must eat caterpillars. A chickadee in the first 3 weeks of life eats 6,000 to 9,000 caterpillars. For 3 weeks after their chicks have fledged, bird parents continue to feed their fledglings caterpillars. Caterpillars are the larvae of moths and butterflies. The critical issue is that butterflies and moths only lay eggs on certain local native plants, not exotic plants from other places. For example, over 200 species of moths and butterflies only lay their eggs on California oak trees.

[Read More](#)

## Finding a Speaker

By Irene R. Hegarty

[Right: Magician Dennis Kyriakos shows club members how to "create wonder."]

New club teams have just been selected and will meet soon to plan future programs. So, you may ask, how do you go about finding a speaker who will be interesting and available? Here are a few tips:



1. **Team members may know someone personally who can speak knowledgeably about a particular topic.** This does not have to be consistent with the "theme" of the year or the names of the teams, currently endangered species. A club member may, in fact, be an excellent speaker on a topic in which he or she has some expertise due to their profession, hobby, or interest.
2. **We are fortunate to have a world-class university in our community.** To find a UC faculty member or researcher who might speak to the club, go to the UCB website: [berkeley.edu](http://berkeley.edu). Take a look at the items featured on the home page; many are about the latest discovery, publication, or accomplishment by a faculty member, maybe something the club would like to hear about. Then click on the "News" button at the top of the screen and scroll down to "Find an Expert." This is a resource for the media, and it is a very helpful list of faculty members who are experts in various fields. Generally, those listed are good speakers who are often interviewed on television. Another link is to a list of faculty members and their area of expertise. There is a search bar to help you find a speaker on a particular topic. Not all will necessarily be good speakers, but sometimes there

are links from their personal websites to a TED talk or an online presentation.

3. **What's in the news?** Is there a "hot topic" that would interest the club? Can you find a speaker (see #2) who can speak about it?
4. **What is happening in our community?** How might that affect our work as Rotarians? Is there an elected official or nonprofit representative who can speak on it?
5. **Don't forget Interact and Rotaract.** What's new on their agendas?
6. Each year we give out **grants to community organizations to help fund local projects**. Consider inviting someone who can give an update on the project.
7. **Check with the Program Committee Chairs** (currently Linda Cogozzo and Joan Collignon). There may be a speaker that another team had invited, but who was not available on the original date requested and might be available for your date.
8. **Try something new.** The recent Cinco de Mayo party and program was a refreshing change. Food, music, a slide show, and a trivia quiz were all Mexico-themed and tied into our ongoing projects on the west coast of Mexico. In February, we were entertained by a magician who had been recommended to us by two other Rotary clubs, providing a unique, interactive experience.

In general, you want your speaker to be engaging, informative, thought-provoking, even entertaining. Club members will appreciate it.

## Where in the World Are . . .

Mimi and George Freuhan?



In Sicily, watching Mt. Etna erupt from their hotel window.

**Editor:** Irene Hegarty

**Club Announcements:** Linda Cogozzo

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

**Copy Deadline:** Send to [hgrty@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hgrty@sbcglobal.net) by Saturday noon for next week's e-Rev.