



e-Revolutions

Berkeley Rotary Club

AT THE INTERSECTION OF COMMUNITY AND SERVICE SINCE 1916



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

Speakers

February 12, 2025

[Beth Roessner, CEO, Berkeley Chamber of Commerce](#)

"The Berkeley Chamber of Commerce and Its Relationship with Rotary"

February 19, 2025

[Magician Dennis Kyriakos](#)

"Creating Moments of Wonder"

February 26, 2025

[Seena Hawley, Executive Director, The Berkeley Baby Book Project](#)

"Dolly Parton's Imagination Library"

Events

February 13th

[Supportive Housing Hygiene Kit Packing + Committee Meeting](#)

February 13th

[Communications Committee Meeting via Zoom](#)

February 13th

[Thirsty Thursday](#)

February 15th

[Grant Applications Deadline](#)

February 27th

[Membership Committee Meeting](#)

February 28th

[BARSHEEP TGIFF](#)

Birthdays

Katy Marie Young

February 14th

Sallie Weissinger

February 15th

Marion Hunt

Club Announcements

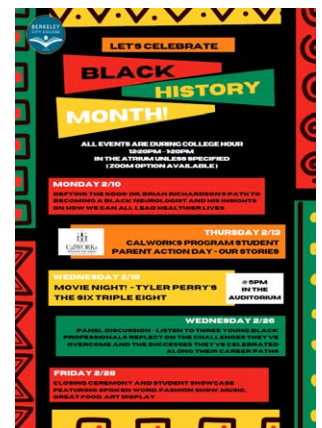
By Linda Cogozzo

Next Meeting. Wednesday, February 12, 2025 (at First Pres and via Zoom), 12:30 PM PT: Chamber CEO and fellow Rotarian Beth Roessner will present "**The Berkeley Chamber of Commerce and Its Relationship with Rotary.**" Berkeley Rotary and the [Berkeley Chamber](#) have had a long relationship. Beth will discuss our shared history and update the club on what the Chamber has been up to since she took over leadership in 2020. The speaker is provided by the BRC Past Presidents; Ed Church, Captain.



Yum! The silent dessert auction to benefit [RotaCare West Contra Costa](#) is happening at the club meeting on Wednesday, February 12, 2025, just in time for Valentine's Day. Bring your sweet tooth and checkbook! Questions? Ask Louise O'Dea (lfodea@gmail.com).

Black History Month. Celebrate Black History Month with voices from our Berkeley City College community. In addition to what Joan Collignon highlighted in her feature article (below), [see the full schedule of events.](#) Don't miss this celebration of culture, achievements, and community!



Save the Date: Friday, March 28, 2025, at 10 AM.

The BRC Social Committee invites you to visit the [California Maritime Academy](#) (200 Maritime Academy Dr., Vallejo, CA), a public university that trains young people for sea and land careers in the maritime industry. We'll tour the campus, the training ship ("Golden Bear"), and the bridge simulator (if available). We can gather for lunch at [The Dead Fish](#) after the tour. Cost of the tour: Free! Sign up with O'Neil Dillon either at a club meeting or by email (oneilsdillon@gmail.com).

Peacebuilding. From District 5160 PDG Suzanne Bragdon on Facebook: Need ideas to celebrate Rotary's focus on Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution? Opportunities to bridge personal or professional or community-driven divides? [Check out](#)



February Rotary Theme:
Peacebuilding & Conflict Resolution
A Message from Director Dan Himelspach

February 15th
Grace Manning Orenstein
February 19th
Grier Graff
February 27th
Richard M. Betts
March 1st
email BRC
March 3rd
Oscar H. Luna
March 3rd
Tina Etcheverry
March 6th
Melissa Eisenberg
March 10th
Terrence M. Regan
March 11th

the message from Dan Himelspach, Rotary
International Director 2023-25.

Meet RI President Stephanie Urchick

By Linda Cogozzo



On the evening of Wednesday, February 5, 2025, RI President Stephanie Urchick met with approximately 80 Rotarians and Rotaractors from District 5160 on Zoom. What a privilege to hear her thoughts about Rotary's action plan, membership, and peace! Even though we were in our respective Zoom squares, her warmth and passion for Rotary created intimacy, immediacy, and community. [To listen to Stephanie's talk, click here.](#)

The Berkeley Rotary Lasagna Project

By Joan Collignon

Here's an idea for a new Berkeley Rotary project that requires lots of hands-on effort but very little money! Traci Siegel, an incoming (not yet inducted) club member, has been volunteering once a week for one of our Supportive Housing partners, the [Women's Daytime Drop-in Center](#), to support their hot lunch program. She cooks one 9" x 13" turkey lasagna as a wholesome and economical meal.



Semiretired, Traci is a private chef and a cooking instructor (among her other activities), and she realized that if she got a group of 4 or 5 Rotarians into her kitchen once a month, we could cook and freeze 8 lasagnas. This would provide 2 lasagnas a week—enough to cover one day of the hot lunch program.

Traci mentioned this idea at last week's "Ladies Who Lunch" event, and a number of members jumped at the chance to provide service. The only problem we saw was choosing 4 or so lasagna-makers each month from the dozens of members—men and women—who would enjoy this project!

So stay tuned as the Berkeley Rotary Lasagna Project gets off the ground, starting, of course, with a grant proposal.

Thirsty Thursday Is This Week!



We haven't gathered with Berkeley Rotarians and friends for our Thirsty Thursday happy hour for several months. Please come to Maury and Arlene Marcus' house at 560 Vincente Avenue (off of Thousand Oaks in North Berkeley) this Thursday, February 13, from 5-7. Feel free to bring a snack, an

interesting fizzy soda, or some wine—but it's not necessary. It's the conversation that brings us together. And, my goodness, will we have a lot to talk about this month!

We look forward to scheduling these informal drop-in gatherings (no RSVP necessary) every month throughout the year. To host, you do not have to do much more than provide a bowl of chips and some guacamole, a couple of bottles of wine, and some sparkling water, nor do you need a vast living room. Even a tiny house works for this sort of party. For some, it is easier once the rains have stopped, so tell me if you'd prefer April through October, when we can meet outdoors. If you'd like to host a Thirsty Thursday, please let me know at joancollignon@gmail.com. *It's fun!*

Black History Month Tour of UC Berkeley

By Joan Collignon

There are many opportunities to support and observe Black History Month in Berkeley. Here's a message from UC Berkeley:

You're invited to participate in a Black History Walking Tour about the Black community at UC Berkeley. This tour was written and designed by long-time staff member and alumna [Gia White](#) ('86). The tour draws from her extensive research about the earliest Black students at UC Berkeley (see "[As I Walk These Paths](#)"), a few of our many notable Black faculty members, and the special spaces that Black people have fought to create for Black people on the campus.

The tour will begin at the Koret Visitor Center/Cal Athletic Hall of Fame, Memorial Stadium at 12:00 PM on Tuesday, February 11, and last for approximately 90 minutes.

To register, follow the link below. There are more dates available (which you'll see when you enter your email into their Google form), but I registered for this one because I was free. I hope someone else can join me, but you can also go later.

- [Guided Black History Tour of UC Berkeley](#)

Please contact me (joancollignon@gmail.com) if you would like to come along. Car pools may be arranged.

The Art and History of Quilting

By Douglas Fielding

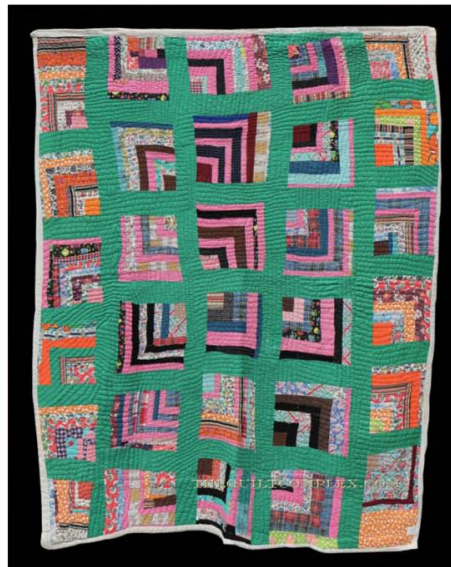
Julie Silber spoke to the club last Wednesday about antique quilts. Her interest in quilting started in the late 1960s and she has become a recognized expert in the history of quilts. She managed the quilt collection of Peter Tompkins, who founded the clothing brand Esprit and had a collection of almost 300 Amish quilts. She has curated exhibits at the Renwick Museum in Washington, DC, as well as many others, including our own Berkeley Art Museum, which was recently bequeathed a 3000-quilt collection, pieces of which will be on display starting June 7 through November 30 of this year. This exhibit is of 20th century African American quilts.

Julie pointed out that there is no "correct" way to make a quilt. Some quilts are made from a hodge-podge of larger pieces of fabric and are called "crazy quilts." Others are geometric patterns made from little strips of fabric and can have literally thousands of pieces. Some quilters sew 16 stitches to the inch while others sew 3. Quilts are known by different categories, such as those made with appliques, quilts with diamond patterns, and quilts with a central medallion, among many others.

She explained that in the late 1800s to the early 20th century, quilting was a very common household activity. While most of the quilting was done by women, it was also a pastime pursued by men. A few of the quilts she showed us had the name of the quilter sewn onto the quilt. When she gets one of these, she basically does an Ancestry.com search for the name of the quilter to better understand where and when

the quilt was made. Quilts she handles generally sell from around \$1,000 to \$20,000, although she has acquired and sold some that cost as much as \$110,000. If you have an interest, her store, [Julie Silber Quilts](#), is located on the north side of Hopkins in the Monterey Market area and is open on Saturdays and by appointment.

Below: African-American Quilts



Below: Hearts and Hands Quilt, 1987



From the Club Archives: Cal Rotaract Outreach to Japanese Students

By Frederick C. Collignon

A past international project undertaken by Cal Rotaract was in response to the Great Sendai (or Great Tohoku) earthquake and tsunami that hit the northeast coast of the main island of Japan on March 11, 2011, killing 19,300 people, leveling towns, and leaving 300,000 still in shelters two years later with limited food and water. It shut down three nuclear reactors on the island, resulting in contamination comparable to the Chernobyl meltdown in Russia (although there were no deaths with the reactor shutdown). At 9.0 magnitude, it was the worst quake in the recorded history of Japan up to that point with hundreds of aftershocks in the months to come, some of 7.0 magnitude. As a result, most of the public schools were shut and limited in their activities that year.

Japanese corporations joined American investors and corporations in approaching UC Berkeley to mount a summer experience for the Japanese seniors in the quake-hit area. The corporations flew the students to the Bay Area and provided food and lodging on the Cal campus where they took courses mounted especially for them. UC Berkeley asked Cal Rotaract to provide some social experiences and a service project in which the visiting Japanese students would work and play side by side with the Rotaracters. Cal Rotaract staged a BBQ at the Clark Kerr campus, preceded by a service project where the Rotaracters taught the Japanese students how to make water purification indicators for measuring whether water was hot enough to make it safe for drinking.

[Read More](#)

Publisher: Jason Draut

Editor: Irene Hegarty

Club Announcements: Linda Cogozzo

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

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