



Click [HERE](#) for a printable calendar of upcoming events!

## Speakers

**May 27, 2020**

[Joan Blades and Brooke Deterline](#)

Living Room Conversations and Berkeley Rotary Club

**June 03, 2020**

[Speaker: Lance Knobel, Co-Founder, Berkeleyside](#)

"All the News that's Fit to Post"

**June 10, 2020**

[John Swartzberg, M.D., Professor Emeritus, UC School of Public Health](#)

"The COVID-19 Crisis - Where do we go from here?"

**June 17, 2020**

[Year Wrap-Up from President Fred](#)

**June 24, 2020**

[President Fred's Demotion](#)

## Events

May 27th

[Communications Committee Meets](#)

June 1st

[Covid-19 Interest Group Meeting](#)

June 3rd

[Membership Committee Meets](#)

June 3rd

[Supportive Housing Committee Meets](#)

June 4th

[Climate Action Committee Meets](#)

June 8th

[Covid-19 Interest Group Meeting](#)

June 10th

[Fund Raising Committee Meets](#)

June 11th

## Living Room Conversations

By Maxim Schrogin



Living Room Conversations began ten years ago to address the growing political polarity that is paralyzing our democracy. Its methodology is straightforward: Gather together a small group of people who have contrasting viewpoints. Establish a set of ground rules for sharing and hearing differing realities. Ultimately, find points of commonality to work around.

Joan Blades is its founder and leader and this Wednesday will be presenting ways that LRC is coordinating with Rotary to do this work. Brooke Deterline, who trained us in Courageous Conversations, will share how the two organizations can work through Rotary and complement each other.

[Read More](#)

## Face Masks Delivered to Berkeley Public Schools

By Tina Etcheverry



Sometimes it helps to be in the right place at the right time. In early May, Berkeley Rotarian Dan Thomas mentioned he could secure 3,500 face masks through his business connections in China. Moving quickly before these precious items disappeared, the Berkeley Rotary Endowment approved the purchase and found an excellent partner in the Berkeley Public Schools Fund to handle the distribution of face masks.

The Fund was already working with Berkeley public school students and their families, handling the distribution of chrome books to needy families and providing homework packets and school supplies. The BUSD Education Hub is where the exchange of learning materials happens.

The parents, volunteers, custodians, teachers, and administrators are currently working hard to provide effective remote learning for Berkeley's public schools. We are pleased that we were able to help out. President Fred Fassett, Tina Etcheverry, and Dan Thomas delivered the face masks to the Berkeley Public Schools Fund at the BUSD Ed Hub on May 18.

## Places to Go, Things to Do While Sheltering

By Lynne Henderson

Here are some things to do and things we appreciate while sheltering at home, provided by fellow BRC members:

## [Climate Action Committee Meets](#)

June 17th

## [Board of Directors and Endowment Board Meet](#)

June 18th

## [Climate Action Committee Meets](#)

June 24th

## [Communication Committee Meets](#)

## Birthdays

[Rebecca Phuong](#)

May 26th

[Jacqueline Peters Hammond](#)

May 26th

[Matthew Hermann](#)

May 26th

[Rosemary Mann](#)

May 29th

[Christopher K. Ahoy](#)

May 29th

[Jack H. McPhail](#)

May 31st

[Bipin Singh Kathayat](#)

June 2nd

[Khawaja Mohammad Ashraf](#)

June 10th

[Gilbert Page Ferrey](#)

June 13th

[Joseph E. Pena](#)

June 16th

[Pamela V. Emerson](#)

June 19th

[Jason Upperle Russell](#)

June 20th

[Read More](#)

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## Peace Award Nominees Wanted

As most of you know, for over fifty years our club annually dedicates a tree in the Rotary Peace Grove (located above Inspiration Point in Tilden Park) to an individual or organization that has contributed to world peace, welfare, and understanding. We would hope for name recognition and awareness of their work by the general public and by some others.

We usually try to have a ceremony which acknowledges the nationality of the recipient with appropriate food and music, but this year it's uncertain whether we will be able to hold the ceremony onsite as usual. The ceremony is scheduled during Peace Week: September 23rd.

[Read More](#)

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## 2nd Global RI Beer Fellowship BEERFEST, June 6, 3 pm PST

By Frederick C. Collignon

The Beer Fellowship that extends across the Rotary world was initiated by PDG Steve Lack at our District. You may have attended one of their shindigs if you attended recent Rotary International conferences. In this new age of social distancing, they've been doing worldwide beerfests via Zoom for Fellowship members.

This time, they're open to all Rotarians (not just Fellowship members) and also any interested non-Rotarians. RI has approved that they, perhaps like other Fellowships now, can have non-Rotarians as members.

[Read More](#)

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## California's Housing Crunch and Our Options

By Frederick C. Collignon

The May 20 club meeting featured a panel discussion of how our California housing crunch emerged, its severity, and what could be done to alleviate it. The panel consisted of city planning/community development director and housing expert Libby Tyler, developer Shawn Rowles, and housing policy analyst and Planning Professor Fred Collignon. It was followed by 25 minutes of Q&A, including the time after the meeting had ended.

Fred Collignon led off, explaining the crunch: California has the highest housing costs and the highest housing cost burden at every income level of all the states. It took 40 years for the huge shortage and high costs to create the crunch, during which time the state did not build enough units each year to meet the needs of population and job growth. The two major factors identified by the panel were: (a) downzoning across the state and in most communities, reducing the amount of land for development and the number of units that could be built on any piece of land for housing; and (b) Proposition 13 and the major shift in local finance from the property tax, where the costs of services are shared by all residents, to development-focused charges (e.g. impact fees, user fees) where the costs are mainly borne by the residents in the newest development.

Libby Tyler explored the numerous approaches in zoning and housing developments to try to accommodate more density, and Shawn Rowles analyzed how the new ways of financing public services, created after Prop 13 dramatically reduced property taxes,

work to raise housing costs and create uncertainty for investors. Each used visuals and cases from their own experience to illustrate their points. ([Click here for the slides](#)).

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