

Speakers

June 05, 2019

[Sara Webber, Exec. Director,](#)

[Berkeley Food Network](#)

"What Would it Take to Create a Hunger-Free Berkeley?"

June 12, 2019

[Warner Chabot, Exec Dir.,](#)

[San Francisco Estuary Institute](#)

"Bay Area Strategies for Adapting to Sea Level Rise"

June 19, 2019

[Beth Roessner, President, 2018-2019](#)

Year End Wrap-Up: What a Ride!

Events

June 5th

[Membership Committee](#)

June 5th

[Supportive Housing Committee](#)

June 12th

[Social Committee](#)

June 12th

[Peace Committee](#)

June 19th

[Boards of Directors](#)

June 20th

[Pt. Reyes Cheese Factory Tour](#)

June 26th

[Communications Committee](#)

Birthdays

[Khawaja Mohammad Ashraf](#)

June 10th

[Gilbert Page Ferrey](#)

June 13th

[Joseph E. Pena](#)

June 16th

[Pamela V. Emerson](#)

Congratulations to 2019 Rotary Scholars

By Tina Etcheverry

We are highlighting two of our four Rotary Scholars this week.

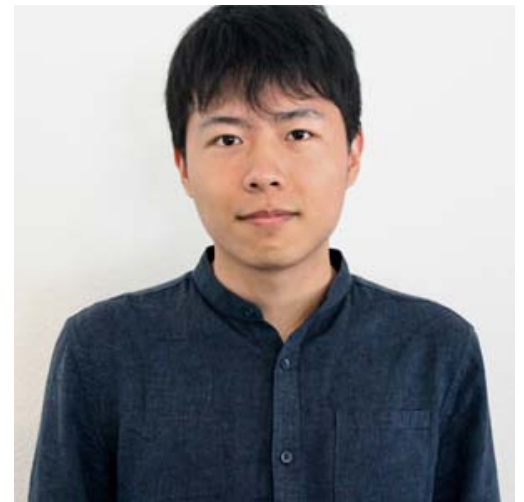
Blessing Ntekume (UC Riverside)

Blessing hopes to be a nurse. This fits her personality as a compassionate individual who abounds with energy. She is a strong writer who posts to her own blog called [A Blessing to You](#). She comes from a low-income immigrant family from Nigeria.



Ruofeng Wang (UC Berkeley)

Ruofeng feels honored to be an immigrant. He has been here for 4 years, and is determined to learn English well and become a computer scientist. He has been an avid volunteer and generous with his time tutoring other students in math.



Rotary Scholar Finishes at Cal

Looking at the other end of our scholarship process, Ed Church mentored Rotary Scholarship recipient Ignacio Franco while he was at Cal. Ignacio graduated last month with his BA in City and Regional Planning. Ed's comment: "Among the obstacles he overcame: drawing the short straw and getting me as his mentor."

June 19th

[Maxim Schrogin](#)

June 28th



The rest of the mentors out there are welcome to send in photos or stories about their scholars. We'd all love to hear how our scholars are doing!

Flight of the Refugees

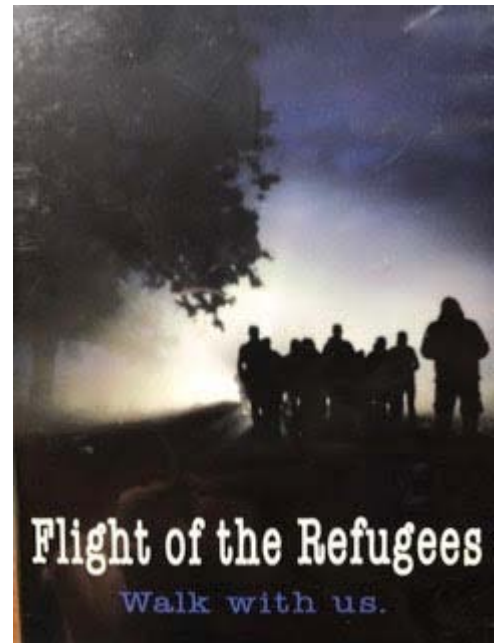
By Tina Etcheverry

Our Wednesday presentation was unique: We showed a documentary that provides the heart-rending portrayal of refugees fleeing Syria. This documentary video called "Flight of the Refugees - Walk with Us" was created by Elias Matar, a filmmaker and Syrian-American. Matar lived 15 years in Syria as a young child, but was born in America, attended Purdue University, and currently lives in LA. He spent much of his life rebelling against his Syrian culture, trying hard to be All-American, and abandoning a part of himself. In 2015, he felt the need to document the journey of Syrian refugees and to put a human face on an international crisis, at a time when a little bit of humanity can mean the difference between life and death.

As the documentary ended, there was complete silence in the room as our members tried to control their feelings of shock, dismay, concern, and empathy. The first hands raised asked: How can we help? The answers may be found on the Web, and here is a start:

[The Syrian Crisis - What is Rotary doing? - Rotary in Great Britain...](#)

This website describes what Rotary is doing through efforts of ShelterBox and AquaBox. Thank you everyone for your concern.



Update from the Ecology Center

By Anne Pardee

In recognition that climate change is

the single most important issue on the planet, the Save the Bay Ladies Team invited Martin Bourque, Executive Director of the Ecology Center, to speak to the Club on Wednesday, May 22. Since 2000, Bourque has led the Ecology Center, a community-based, non-profit organization founded in 1969. Under his leadership, the Ecology Center operates Berkeley's curbside recycling program, has piloted bans on plastic bags and styrofoam



and continues to push toward Zero Waste by offering classes and demonstrations at its facility at 2530 San Pablo Ave. It also provides a retail outlet with eco-friendly items, as well as serving as a resource hotline and community resource center.

Bourque was also instrumental in spearheading innovative efforts such as creating a Farmers Market industry group, pioneering electronic food stamp access (use of EBT cards) and incentives at Farmers markets statewide. He spoke of the new location of the Downtown Farmers Market at the Bart Plaza corner of Center and Shattuck, where, through the Ecology's mission of youth development, summer interns are hired and trained in environmental literacy and civic engagement. [Read More](#)
