



e-Revolutions

Berkeley Rotary Club

AT THE INTERSECTION OF COMMUNITY AND SERVICE SINCE 1916



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Speakers

June 26, 2024

[Not the Berkeley City Council](#)

"End-of-Year Celebration"

July 03, 2024

[Ken Renworth, Berkeley Rotary President 2024-25](#)

"The Year Ahead:

Celebrating Rotary's Connections to the World"

July 10, 2024

[Jim Carriere, Former Board Chair of ShelterBox USA](#)

"Emergency Shelters to Families Around the World"

July 17, 2024

[Mike Crosby, Rotary District 5160 PolioPlus Chair](#)

"The Unintended Consequences of Polio Eradication"

Events

June 26th

[Civil Discourse Meeting via Zoom](#) ~~"Canceled"~~

June 28th

[BARSHEEP TGIFF](#)

July 3rd

[Supportive Housing Committee Meeting via Zoom](#)

July 10th

[Communications Committee Meeting via Zoom](#)

July 11th

[Thirsty Thursday](#)

Birthdays

Volodymyr Goshylyk

June 26th

Maxim Schrogin

June 28th

Valerie E. Bach

July 5th

Mary Alice Rathbun

July 7th

Thomas Franklin Olson

July 8th

David W Poock

July 9th

Michele Lawrence

July 11th

O'Neil Dillon

July 12th

Club Announcements

Next Meeting. Wednesday, June 26, 2024, 12:30 PM: At our annual "**End-of-Year Celebration,**" we'll honor Libby Tyler, our 2023-24 president, and look back on her time in office with a little Berkeley Rotary humor provided by *Not* the Berkeley City Council. Join us for some laughs, music, and special refreshments! This is an in-person meeting (**no Zoom**).



BARSHEEP TGIFF. We're hosting the next gathering on Friday, June 28, 5-7 PM, at Gilman Brewing Co., 912 Gilman Street, Berkeley. A neighborhood tasting room for house-brewed pints, flights and growlers to go, plus views of the tanks. See you there! [See poster attached.](#)

A Farewell Message From Libby

By Elizabeth Holl Tyler

June 30 marks the close of my year as the 2023-24 President of the Berkeley Rotary Club! It has been a fantastic year for the club and I had tremendous fun running our weekly meetings and getting involved in all the amazing things our club does--from hosting fantastic speakers, to providing grants to a host of worthy causes, to participating in hands-on projects both at home and abroad, to working with youth in the Interact and Rotaract clubs, and so much more. None of this would have been possible without the help of the 110 wonderful club members and our greater community of followers. Thank you everyone for a terrific year!



Gilbert Page Ferrey
July 13th

Bruce Hays Willock
July 17th

Edward F. Church
July 21st

State of the Berkeley Economy and Downtown

By Frederick C. Collignon



Our speakers' talk Wednesday was another occasion when I felt proud of the usefulness of being a Rotarian. It was a more fact-filled yet succinct overview of the economy of the city and of the Downtown than I ever heard in my several terms on the City Council. If you missed the meeting and want to know how the city is faring, the video on our website is one not to miss.

The speakers were the local experts—John Caner, Executive Director of the Downtown Business Association (DBA) and a Berkeley Rotarian, and

Elizabeth Redman Cleveland ("Liz") of the city's Office of Economic Development and Chief Strategist for Sustainable Growth. Both have backgrounds in advising and working with downtowns, business networks, local governments, private firms, and nonprofits across the U.S. and the world. The club was particularly proud to hear that Liz was a past Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar in Argentina.

The city's unemployment rate is currently 3.8%, slightly less than the national and state rates, and city revenues have rebounded from the pandemic, though retail sales are still below pre-pandemic levels. The ground floor commercial vacancy rate is 8.1%, higher than we want but better than many areas. The hospitality and the arts/cultural sectors are still well under pre-Covid pandemic levels and hurting. The office sector is slowly coming back, but still at 13.4% vacancy. Sales tax revenues have rebounded, but retail is not yet back to pre-pandemic levels. All could use more improvement, and the city budget needs that improvement for its tax base to deliver critical city services.

The really good news is the amount of new office, housing, and R&D/lab space under construction and in the pipeline. Current construction is providing new residences for 12,000, and that will grow to 20,000. Cost of housing will remain high because of the high demand in Berkeley and the sustained rise in construction costs. But the new university student and private market construction should ease costs in older housing for renters. The number of homeless has fallen to pre-Covid levels.

[Read More](#)

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