



# e-Revolutions

Berkeley Rotary Club

AT THE INTERSECTION OF COMMUNITY AND SERVICE SINCE 1916



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

## Speakers

**December 11, 2024**

[DG Dan Gerald](#)

"Meet District Governor Dan Gerald"

**December 18, 2024**

[Special Event!](#)

"Holiday Lunch, White Elephant Gift Exchange."

**December 25, 2024**

[No Meeting!](#)

No Meeting!

**January 01, 2025**

[No Meeting!](#)

No Meeting!

**January 08, 2025**

[Jissel Poblete, Volunteer Programs Manager at Berkeley Public Schools Fund](#)

TBA

## Events

December 11th

[Communications Committee Meeting via Zoom](#)

December 12th

[Supportive Housing Hygiene Kit Packing in Person](#)

December 14th

[Holiday Party](#)

## Birthdays

Preston Staley  
December 15th

Larry E. Kinsey  
December 15th

Colette Ford  
December 15th

Frederick C. Collignon  
December 17th

James Ivan Masters

## Club Announcements

By Linda Cogozzo

**Next Meeting.** Wednesday, December 11, 2024 (at First Pres and via Zoom): **"Meet District Governor Dan Gerald!"** Join us for our annual visit from the governor, who will share where Rotary is headed in the district and throughout the world. (Note: Dan will meet with the club leadership at 11:30 AM.) The speaker is provided by Ken Renworth, Berkeley Rotary President 2024-25.



**Holiday Luncheon Update:** The club's Holiday Luncheon on December 18 will feature music, food, prosecco, and a white elephant gift exchange (bring a wrapped gift, something you have around your home or a purchased gadget--but not more than \$20). However, the previously announced dessert auction has been postponed to our pre-Valentine's Day meeting on February 12. If you would still like to donate a dessert, it would be very welcome at that time.

Funds raised go to Rotacare. A sign-up sheet will be passed around beginning in January at our regular meetings. Or you can contact Louise O'Dea at lfodea@gmail.com.

### Opportunities for International Service and Travel.

At our last club meeting, Grier announced three opportunities for international service, working with other Rotary clubs. See the [attached flyer](#) for more details. Reservations or expressions of interest are due Dec. 20 for the La Penita/Los Olivos trip and the Medellin, Columbia trip.



**Toys for Children.** Berkeley Rotary is collecting unused and unwrapped toys for the Berkeley Police Department to distribute. Toys may be brought to the meetings on the 11th or 18th. Toys may also be delivered to the Police Department during business hours. There will be a donation "hat" at the meeting on the 18th. Checks may be made out to Berkeley Rotary Endowment. The demographic that is usually lacking in toys is the 12-16 age range. Some popular items for that age are: drones (\$30-50 variety); Legos (race cars, historical sites, Star Wars); art supplies, journals, sketch pads; RC cars; footballs; basketballs (we have 3 already); soccer balls (we have 8 already); popular water bottles (Hydro, Stanley); skateboards; board games; card games (like Uno).

## Adapting to Climate Change

December 19th  
Beverly Crawford Ames  
December 24th  
Katherine Campbell King  
December 24th  
Frederick G. Fassett  
December 29th  
Tom Eelkema  
December 30th

By Peter D. Campbell

On December 4, Allison Brooks, Executive Director of Bay Area Regional Collaborative (BARC), presented the club with an assessment of the impacts of climate change on the Bay Area and what it will take to prepare for them. BARC is a collaboration of various Bay Area agencies with the mission to prepare for the coming effects of climate change, many of which we are already experiencing. The impact of climate change will have an effect on most of the quality of life and economic factors we enjoy in the Bay Area. Both green and gray (such as sea wall) projects will be required.



The estimated cost of sea level rise mitigation between now and 2050 is \$110 billion. The cost of doing nothing is estimated to be \$231 billion.

One of the major challenges of BARC is to get the various agencies, such as BCDC, the Coastal Commission and the Air Quality Resources Board to work together and to prioritize the functions of each. Some agencies are better suited to working on specific areas of need and not on others. Prioritizing the activities of the various agencies is a major task of the BARC. The agencies need to work together, yet allow the agencies with specific expertise to take the lead on those areas where they can be most effective.

Funding of the needed programs will require an area wide commitment. It would be difficult for the Bay Area and the State of California to finance the needed mitigations without help. BARC has just received notification of substantial support from the US Army Corps of Engineers and the current administration. It is anticipated this will be confirmed within the next week or two.

Bottom line: The effects of climate change on the Bay and the surrounding areas cannot be ignored. Sea level rise will have a dramatic effect on the Bay shoreline and inland areas. BARC is working hard to ensure the Bay Area is ready for the changes that are already beginning to impact the Bay Area.

## From the Club Archives: International Service Heart to Heart

By Pate D. Thomson



Heart to Heart  
INTERNATIONAL

In 1992, I received an unexpected call from Dr. Nilas Young, Chief Cardiac Surgeon at Children's Hospital in Oakland. He invited me to participate in the Heart-to-Heart program in St. Petersburg, Russia. Heart-to-Heart, a cardiac surgery-focused nonprofit based in Oakland, had been invited by the Russian government to establish a program that would enable their cardiac surgical teams to perform life-saving procedures for children with complex congenital heart conditions. While these techniques had advanced significantly in the West, they were still largely inaccessible in Russia.

The program in St. Petersburg was a resounding success, so much so that Heart-to-Heart was soon invited to expand into adult cardiac care, where surgical outcomes were also falling short. In 1993, my wife Judy and I joined a Bay Area medical team that traveled to St. Petersburg, and this experience became a masterclass in how international humanitarian projects should be executed.

### **Shoulder to Shoulder with Russian Colleagues**

Our Russian counterparts welcomed us with open arms from the moment we arrived. We wasted no time and dove into collaborative work at Adult Hospital #1 in St. Petersburg, united by a shared commitment to improving patient care and outcomes. This was the post-Perestroika era, and building rapport came easily thanks to our mutual focus on the patient care and a hope that the Cold War had ended.

Together, we evaluated medical equipment, surgical techniques, and approaches to diagnostics like echocardiography and cardiac catheterization. We worked side by side—from initial patient consultations in the clinic to the echo lab, the operating room, and the intensive post-operative care unit. Each step of the patient journey provided opportunities for teaching and learning. We quickly recognized the dedication and capability of our Russian colleagues, and we felt confident in their ability to deliver excellent long-term outcomes.

However, a glaring issue stood out: Their heart-lung machine, essential for almost all open-heart surgeries, was outdated and marginally reliable. I began to wonder if Berkeley Rotary could help.

### **Berkeley Rotary Steps Up**

Upon my return, I shared the challenge with Berkeley Rotary President Steve Holland. He immediately supported the idea, and together we launched a Berkeley Rotary campaign to raise the money needed to purchase a new heart-lung machine. Through numerous club meetings and gatherings at members' homes, we successfully raised close to \$47,000.

After negotiating with the German company that manufactured the equipment, we secured a new, state-of-the-art heart-lung machine at a steep discount. Originally priced at \$120,000, the company agreed to sell it to us for just \$42,000. The machine arrived in June 1995, greeted with much fanfare by local officials, hospital staff, and our team. It was put to work immediately. This machine went on to successfully serve hundreds if not thousands of patients.

### **Building Friendships and Improving Standards**

Our partnership with the Russian medical teams grew stronger with each visit. We developed enduring friendships based on mutual respect and shared accomplishments. Over time, the hospital was able to upgrade its cardiac catheterization lab with the help of a substantial German grant, and imaging dramatically improved. This was an important contributor to the improvement in the overall quality of care and upward trending outcomes.

In the later years, we worked closely with the Institute of Postgraduate Studies in St. Petersburg, which trains physicians and medical staff to maintain and enhance their skills. This collaboration ensured the sustainability of our efforts, allowing the benefits to ripple across Russia's medical community. Between 1992 and 2010, I co-led eight trips to Russia. The last one, in 2010, was a quieter visit with just Judy and me, where I gave invited lectures and was honored to receive a medal in appreciation of our work.

### **Reflections**

Looking back, I am immensely proud of what we accomplished. The partnerships we forged, the competence of our team, the friends we made, the lives we helped save, and the skills we shared all have had a lasting impact. Though the world has changed, those years remain a testament to the power of collaboration and common cause in international humanitarian efforts. Berkeley Rotary played a key role in this project, and it remains one of the most inspiring experiences of my life.

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