



Speakers

January 09, 2019

[Anne Pardee and Joanne Dickerson-Harper](#)

BRC Supportive Housing Committee: Where we've been and where we're going

January 16, 2019

[Rita Lucarelli, Professor of Egyptology, UC Berkeley](#)

"Ancient Egypt: Magic and Demons"

January 17, 2019

[Bruce Riordan, Director of the Climate Readiness Institute](#)

January 23, 2019

[H.E. REV. PATRICK McCOLLUM, Interfaith chaplain, spiritual mentor, and](#)

"THE WORLD PEACE VIOLIN: A METAPHOR FOR PEACE AND HEALING IN THE WORLD"

Events

January 9th

[Membership Committee](#)

January 9th

[Supportive Housing Committee Meeting](#)

January 16th

[Social Committee](#)

January 16th

[Peace Committee](#)

January 21st

[MLK Breakfast](#)

January 23rd

[Board of Directors Meeting](#)

Birthdays

[Frederick G. Fassett](#)

December 29th

[Tom Elkema](#)

December 30th

[Shawn Rowles](#)

How To Help Students Succeed in College: Lessons Learned

By Irene R. Hegarty



The December 19 speaker, presented by the Dian Fossey team, was Skyler Barton, a counselor and faculty member at Berkeley City College. He gave an entertaining, moving, and informative talk, sprinkled with stories from his life, about helping community college students succeed.

Skyler was born and raised in Berkeley and attended Washington Elementary, Longfellow, Willard, and Berkeley High School, graduating in 1999. He describes himself as having been an unmotivated student for most of his school years; his only passion was baseball. But when his older sister, to whom he was very close, died in a tragic car accident, Skyler's life changed. Having been admitted "surprisingly" to San Francisco State University, Skyler took courses in Ethnic Studies and, for the first time, liked being a student. He also decided that it

was his duty to honor his sister by fulfilling his own dreams and taking advantage of the opportunities he was given. His parents always advised their children to "do something that you are passionate about." For Skyler that was baseball and helping others to achieve their dreams.

[Read More](#)

Club Members Honored Last Week

By Jason Draut

At last week's meeting, several club members rung the bell to honor other members for what they do for our club and for each other. **Pate Thomson** started it off with a big thank you to **John Ferguson** for all John has done for Rotacare as well as his bringing the club to our new venue.

John has tirelessly fundraised and personally donated to keep Rotacare's revenue where it needs to be in recent years. He was also instrumental this summer in our smooth transition to meeting at First Presbyterian. Pate struggled a bit to get his hard-to-find Scottish wallet open, but in the end did hand the check over to Beth. Thank you, John, for doing so much to keep Rotacare running and for all you do for the club!



With much pride **Austin Henderson** rang the bell to honor his wife **Lynne** for her work with her shyness clinic. She regularly

January 1st

[Senobia Ellis](#)

January 1st

[Alexander Glass](#)

January 4th

[Eva Rigney](#)

January 7th

[Kenneth L. Hickey](#)

January 11th

[Irene R. Hegarty](#)

January 13th

[Austin Henderson](#)

January 25th



takes a group of people through an eight-week program to help them overcome some of the hurdles associated with being introverted and shy.

Each time she worries in advance that it won't work and she won't get them to talk and open up to each other. Then, as the eight weeks end, she realizes that the group has bonded and grown and that she is going to miss them dearly! Thank you, Lynne, for this amazing work that so few see but that is so impactful!

Jason Draut got up to ring the bell for our resident theater director and producer **Sallie Weissinger**. But his ringing the bell wasn't for her work on the social committee or for all the other great things she does for the club. He rang the bell for the wonderful relationship she has built with his family and in particular his two children Nora and Tim.

Sallie become their local grandparent and takes Nora and Tim for sleepovers and out to breakfast and gives them Christmas presents and just generally loves on them. This has been an especially valuable gift this year for Jason and his family. Thank you, Sallie, for the love and joy you bring to so many!



The club also thanked the **church staff** who provide our tasty meals each week. The four men all came to the front of the room and President Beth presented them with the tips collected from club members this month. The staff also received a standing ovation. We are blessed as a club with the amazing location and help that First Pres provides!
