



# NEW MEMBERS



## Monica Fox

Videographer and Storyteller. Monica moved to the Bay Area from Chicago, where she worked in theater production, stage management, and video production for non-profit organizations. For a year before joining the club, she participated as a non-member volunteer in a number of fund-raising projects, including the annual Berkeley Kite Festival, where she helped direct parking, and Dollar Days at Golden Gate Fields, where the club sells refreshments to raise money to provide ESL training to track workers. Since joining in May 2016, she has also helped coordinate the club's annual Peace Grove ceremony at Tilden Park, mentored a Rotary university scholarship recipient, and produced videos for our organization.

*"I was new to the area and knew Berkeley Rotary was a really good way to meet smart, interesting people who are looking for ways to make the world a better place - to make a dent, however small, in it. I'm struck by the level of commitment of many of the members. If you're looking for good fellowship, good friendship, and great work projects, it's the place to be."*



## John Ross

Mechanical Engineer (retired) with experience designing buildings for the semi-conductor industry and medical centers, as well as energy conservation work and hotel engineering. John's wife Wendy is a long-time Rotarian, first in Berkeley and now in San Francisco, since her work moved across the Bay. He had accompanied her to a number of Rotary events over the years, but when his ophthalmologist Bob Sorenson invited him to a Berkeley club event, he came, liked it, and decided to become a member in July 2016.

*"I've been pleasantly surprised by the camaraderie and support you feel at the luncheons and how welcoming the atmosphere is. I didn't expect that. I thought it would be a little more serious. I've gotten involved in some of the projects, but want to do more. I've helped with parking at the Berkeley Kite Festival, handed out dictionaries to third graders in the Berkeley schools, and tutored jockeys and horse trainers at Golden Gate Fields to upgrade their computer skills. The dictionary project with the kids was lots of fun, but I think I most enjoyed the tutoring. These guys were in their 40s and realized they couldn't be jockeys and trainers forever. They were figuring out the next steps in their careers, and I could see them making progress. I've never been a teacher, and it was fun to think how I could teach them, how I could help them learn."*



## Joan Collignon

Retired Museum Administrator. Joan's husband Fred had been a Berkeley Rotarian for 25 years, was a past club President, and was District Governor of District 5160 at the time she joined in November 2016. During his governorship, Joan traveled to all 72 clubs with him and met thousands of Rotarians. Even though she'd participated in the Berkeley club's social events and hosted many of them at their home, she'd not considered joining in her own right until she had retired and traveled the District as "first spouse."

*"I really liked the Rotarians I met during Fred's governorship. And I wanted to continue hanging out with them - we share the same values and, at this point in my life, I get to choose who I want to be with! And why Berkeley? Because the weekly meetings and the speakers are fascinating. But what I didn't know was how much fun the meetings would be. I've also been surprised to meet a wide range of visitors to our meetings - people from the community, people from the university, people from other countries. I look forward to doing more service projects - I've gone to board meetings and been involved in District events, but haven't yet gotten to do enough hands-on work. That's what I'm looking forward to next."*

*(P.S. When Joan joined the club last November, it was a well-kept club secret. Her husband had committed, in his capacity as governor, to inducting an unnamed new member that day. When he saw his wife at the podium, our manly District Governor was greatly moved. He performed his official duties while on the verge of tears.)*