



e-Revolutions

Berkeley Rotary Club

AT THE INTERSECTION OF COMMUNITY AND SERVICE SINCE 1916



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

Speakers

April 09, 2025

[Jamie Albrecht, Coordinator of Emergency Services, City of Berkeley](#)

"Six Critical Steps to Disaster Preparedness"

April 16, 2025

[Monica Gandhi, M.D.](#)

"Update on Communicable Diseases"

April 23, 2025

[Dawn Sagorski, WDDC + Gwen Austin, BOSS](#)

"People of Action"

April 30, 2025

[Suzanne Bragdon, Past Governor, Rotary District 5160](#)

"Rotarians Are Peace Builders"

Events

April 9th

[Communications Committee Meeting via Zoom](#)

April 10th

[Supportive Housing Hygiene Kit Packing + Committee Meeting](#)

April 10th

[Thirsty Thursday](#)

April 12th

[Sip & Savor](#)

April 13th

[Peace Grove Nominees Deadline](#)

April 16th

[Meetings of the Boards \(Club and Endowment\) via Zoom](#)

April 23rd

[Civil Discourse Meeting via Zoom](#)

Club Announcements

By Linda Cogozzo

Next Meeting. Wednesday, April 9, 2025 (at First Pres and via Zoom), 12:30 PM PT: Jamie Albrecht, Coordinator of Emergency Services of the City of Berkeley, will present **"Six Critical Steps to Disaster Preparedness."** These are low-cost, low-time commitment actions, but they have a big impact. No more guessing about what should be in your go bag or what disaster preparedness tasks you should focus on. This interactive workshop is designed to move your personal preparedness forward, so you will be asked to do things and participate! The speaker is provided by the BRC Caribbean Team; Amit Randhawa, Captain.



Cooks and Drivers Needed! Thanks to our wonderful volunteers, the Berkeley Rotary Lasagna Project has 16 lasagnas prepped, frozen, and ready to cook for the Women's Daytime Drop-In Center (WDDC). Now we need volunteers to help cook and deliver them to WDDC each week during April and May. Volunteers will be provided with pickup, cooking, and delivery instructions. [Please sign up for a volunteer shift.](#)

Join Chef Traci's Catering Team for a Special Mother's

Day Event. Help Chef Traci cater lunch in support of a special Mother's Day event hosted by the Women's Daytime Drop Center (WDDC). The WDDC event is called Mothers, Sisters & Others and will be held on May 9. Chef Traci is looking for 6 volunteers to help her cater lunch for 50. We will be in the kitchen on May 8 from 9 AM-1 PM. We will be doing lots of chopping, so knife skills are a plus! Chef Traci will be providing lunch for her volunteer team after our work in the kitchen. [Please sign up here.](#)



It's Time for Thirsty Thursday! Thirsty Thursdays are fun because sometimes we're introduced to a new Rotary household. This week we'll meet at the home of Doug Fielding and Laura Tibbals—a restored Berkeley brown shingle at 2439 Russell Street between Regent and Telegraph. Come indulge your thirst for interesting beverages, tasty snacks, and good conversation on Thursday, April 10, from 5 to 7 PM. Bring a beverage or a bite if you'd like, or just come! The weather app hints at warm temps, but bring a sweater just in case. We'll be in their garden, which features rare plants and trees.

RI Monthly Theme. April is Environmental Month on the RI calendar. Rotary is "committed to supporting activities that strengthen the conservation and protection of natural resources, advance ecological sustainability, and foster harmony between communities and the environment." [Read](#)

Birthdays

Yanick Louis Lindquist

April 10th

Fred Tabsharani

April 12th

Marcia K Dillon

April 13th

Louise Franchot O'Dea

April 19th

Kenneth Renworth

April 20th

David Hugh Malcolm

April 21st

Joan Louise McLean

April 22nd

Douglas Fielding

April 23rd

Katherine Ailis Culbertson

April 24th

John Caner

April 30th

David A Wilson Jr.

May 2nd

Pamela M. Doolan

May 3rd

[more](#) about how Rotary makes it happen! (Photo: Courtesy of Debbie Vance, PP Rotary Club of Ucluelet)



On the Go? DACdb Mobile places the information you need in the palm of your hand, allowing you to quickly check our calendar (and more) when away from your computer. The app uses the same login name and password as you use on the main DACdb site. Download it now!

Sip, Savor . . . and Bring a Friend!



In an effort to share the [Sip and Savor](#) event with a larger audience, ticket holders will now be able to bring a guest at **no additional cost!** One ticket will now admit two people, so please come and help make this event a big success!!

On Saturday, April 12, you can bring an additional friend, sip and savor the delicious offerings, be entertained, get a massage, ride a hot air balloon (tethered), bid at our fantastic silent and live auctions, and learn more about RotaCare and RotaCare WCC Free Medical Clinic.

See you there!

Pate, Grier, Luisa, Marty, Tina, Ken, Tom, Amit, and all of our wonderful donors and sponsors, the BARSHEEP Rotary clubs, and District 5160, who have helped make this event possible.

Interactors on the Move

[Cal Rotaract](#) invited Interactors from NorCal high schools to experience the UC Berkeley campus for two days last weekend, and BRC Rotarians offered their living rooms, dens, and

playrooms for the students to lay out their sleeping bags. Thank you, Jack and Barbara McPhail, O'Neil and Marcia Dillon, and Joan and Fred Collignon for going back in time to when teenagers actually lived with you. (Pictured: Students at the Collignon home)



Bay Area Book Festival: Changing the Narrative

By John Caner

At the April 2 club meeting, John Caner introduced [J.K. Fowler](#), the new Executive Director of the Bay Area Book Festival, celebrating its 11th year on the weekend of May 31 and June 1 in Downtown Berkeley. J.K. also serves as a fellow at the [CA for the Arts Grassroots Arts Advocacy Program](#), as a Policy Analyst and Special Programs/Community Outreach Coordinator with [Black Arts Movement Business District, CDC](#), provides operations support for [Asian Pacific Environmental Network](#), and serves as board president of [Nomadic Press](#), which he founded in 2011.

J.K.'s talk focused on the ways in which we see ourselves, our relationships with others, and the collective, particularly during these challenging times. Shifting that narrative opens up new possibilities, new ways of imagining. This year the Bay Area Book Festival is leaning into this particular moment, helping change the narrative via important and necessary conversations about how we all move forward together.



Specifically, the [Bay Area Book Festival program](#) on May 31 and June 1 will feature 271 speakers, on 8 stages, with 81 panel discussions in Downtown Berkeley. All events are free to the public and on a first-come, first-served basis, except for Writers Workshops, which recommend prior registration, and tickets are required for an impressive list of headliners at The Freight & Salvage from 5:30-7:30 PM on both Saturday and Sunday. The festival also includes a Family Day at the Downtown Berkeley Public Library from 10:30 AM-5 PM on Saturday, and an outdoor Bookworm Block Party from 11 AM to 5 PM on Sunday, focused on Allston Way with three outdoor stages, a Family Zone, delicious food, and 150 booths of booksellers and authors.

Please attend the Bay Area Book Festival on May 31 and June 1 in the heart of

Downtown Berkeley, and also consider supporting the festival and other programming with a [donation](#).

Big Changes to Foundation Awards

By Frederick C. Collignon



At the District Assembly on March 22, some major changes in Foundation awards were brought to Rotarians' attention at the breakout on The Rotary Foundation. They should make it easier for members to achieve Paul Harris awards and for clubs to achieve the Every Rotarian Every Year (EREY) award, but they take away at death all the points

you get along with your donations, if still unused. The real reward for giving, of course, is knowing your donations have saved and improved the lives of people around the world and locally.

Here is a summary of the changes:

1. The points you earn for your donations are no longer transferable to the club, only to other people. For the generous donors in our club who often have assembled thousands of unused points, those points will vanish into the ether when they die. In prior years, you could grant them to your Rotary club for use with new members or donors after your death. Given the age of many of our generous donors, the points are at risk of being lost forever. So, we'll make a push in 2025-26 to urge current point holders to consider granting their Foundation points to family members, people they want to honor, and those members who have yet to achieve their first Paul Harris Award. The district is trying to get the Foundation to reverse this change. The club has been matching new members' donations for many years now, so they can get their first Harris award much faster than before.

2. Donations made to PolioPlus, Emergency Relief funds of the Foundation, and other Foundation special funds will now be counted toward the Paul Harris Awards. In the past, the only donations counted were those made to the General Shares Fund, i.e., the fund which returns the money in three years to the district and to clubs for service projects. The change will allow more donors' generosity to be recognized. It's unclear whether such credit will be given retroactively for past donations to these other funds.

This change should also make it easier for the club to achieve EREY, something achieved only once in our club's 100+ year history. Winning that award requires money to have been donated in the name of every club Rotarian to the Share Fund each year. The donation amount initially was \$10, but that was increased to \$25 in the last decade. It was \$25 the year our club achieved it. There have been proposals to increase it to \$100, however.

The club's annual "3-2-1" ask, of course, has been \$200 a year to the Foundation, but the club has long accepted any donation to the Foundation as counting toward that "ask," not just donations to the Shares Fund.

Update on RAGs

What is a RAG? Hint: It's not something you use to wash the car or dust the furniture.

Did you know that Rotary Action Groups (RAGs) supported over 1000 projects in 2024? Rotary Action Groups are independent entities affiliated with Rotary that focus on specific humanitarian issues, such as water and sanitation, peacebuilding, addiction prevention, basic education, or disaster preparedness and assistance. Members of Rotary's 25 Action Groups participate in meaningful service activities and share their expertise with clubs and districts to facilitate sustainable change.

Last year, Rotary Action Groups engaged more than 31,500 people across 150

countries to support clubs and districts in project planning and implementation. Of the 31,500 reported participants, 85 % were Rotarians, 2% were Rotaractors, and 13% were non-Rotary members. Rotary Action Groups engaged 279 individuals from 41 countries in leadership roles. Last year, Rotary Action Groups leaders included 267 Rotarians, six Rotaractors, one Peace Fellow, and five Rotary associates. Among those, 109 were women.

Rotary Action Groups offer their technical expertise to assist clubs to increase our impact.

Here are some example activities from our groups this past year:

- **The Rotary Action Group for Family Health and AIDS Prevention (RFHA)** expanded their Family Health Days program to the country of Eswatini, Africa, in 2023-24. Since its creation in 2011, the program has provided over 13 million free health services to over 3.5 million people. RFHA provides technical, medical expertise to execute the program by working with ministries of Health, nonprofit organizations, and other implementing partners in participant countries.
- **The Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group (ESRAG)** hosts weekly seminars to showcase projects and build connections between clubs that want to collaborate on environmental projects. ESRAG coaches clubs on developing The Rotary Foundation global grant applications by providing technical expertise, securing funding, and connecting them with resources and partners.



Members of the Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group collaborate with the World Wildlife Fund India to test the Bhavani River's water quality as part of a long-term clean-up and sustainability project led by Rotary District 3203. The project involves over 80 Rotary clubs and partnerships with the Ministry of Water and the Government of India to promote environmental awareness and climate action. Sirumugai, India. 29 June 2024.

[Read More](#)

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Club Calendars: Linda Cogozzo (online); Anne Pardee (printed)

Copy Deadline: Send to hgrty@sbcglobal.net by Saturday noon for next week's e-Rev.