



Speakers

March 27, 2019

[Adam Berman, Founder and ED, Urban Adamah](#)

"A Farm in Berkeley?"

April 03, 2019

[Bob Sorenson, George Luna, Jacob Sese and Jocelyn Cheng](#)

Sustainable Vision Care in Guatemala - An update on the Eye Clinic at Hospital de la Familia

April 07, 2019

[TBD](#)

Connecting Service to the Real World

April 10, 2019

[UCB Professor Emeritus Fred Collignon](#)

The Pros, Cons and Challenges of Introducing a Wealth Tax

April 17, 2019

[Stuart Baker, Executive Director of Telegraph Business Improvement District](#)

What the heck is happening to Telegraph Avenue?

April 24, 2019

[Professor Alonzo Addison](#)
Crowds, Clouds and Culture: The Future of the Past. A look at heritage in the digital age.

Welcome, New Member Steve Beckendorf!

By Anne Pardee



Steve was born in Oregon, raised in New Jersey, and Northern and Southern California. He graduated from UCLA and received his doctorate from Cal Tech, which is not just a top-notch engineering school but has a world class Biology Department. He spent three post docs in Geneva, Yale, and Harvard. and came to Cal in 1976. Steve is currently Professor Emeritus of the Department of Molecular and Cell Biology.

A geneticist and developmental biologist by training, Steve started growing orchids in the early 1980s and quickly became fascinated by their beauty and variety. His efforts to find unusual or lost species have led to many trips to the cloud forests of Mexico and South America. While his scientific interest in orchids has focused on molecular taxonomy and pollination strategies, his passion is much broader: working to set aside Andean cloud

forests in Ecuador and Colombia as reserves that will not only protect the orchids but also save other indigenous plants and animals.

Steve's involvement in orchid conservation includes serving as a director of the Orchid Conservation Alliance and as a member of the Conservation Committee of the American Orchid Society and an American Orchid Society judge. To help communicate with colleagues in South America and Mexico, he's been studying Spanish for the past 4 years. He's a supporter of Aurora Stage and Berkeley Rep and the Berkeley Symphony. His concern and care for our planet and our country is evident in his interest and involvement in discussion groups, Breakfast Club, the Wildlife Conservation Network, friends, dogs (especially 3 in particular), and now the opportunities that Rotary provides.

Events

March 27th

[Communications Committee](#)

March 31st

[Dollar Days at Golden Gate Fields](#)

April 3rd

[Membership Committee](#)

April 3rd

[Supportive Housing Committee](#)

Berkeley Rotarians Aid Rim Fire Recovery

By Joan H. Collignon

About a dozen Berkeley Rotarians (plus friends and family) joined Friends of the Berkeley Tuolumne Camp, Cal students, and Americorp volunteers to plant 1000 trees on a glorious, Sierra Saturday, March 16. We spent several hours on hands and knees in a muddy meadow above the Tuolumne River, plugging tiny Ponderosa Pines into carefully prepared holes, hoping they'd be among the 75% of the trees to survive and thrive.

We learned more than how to set a tree into dirt. Seth Connolly of the Tuolumne River Trust explained the

April 6th
[Rebuilding Together Prep Day](#)

April 7th
[Mt. Diablo Ramble](#)

April 10th
[Social Committee](#)

April 10th
[Peace Committee](#)

April 13th
[Rebuilding Together Prep Day](#)

April 17th
[Boards of Directors](#)

April 20th
[Rebuilding Together Prep Day](#)

Birthdays

[Jon Allen Vicars](#)

March 29th

[George Reskin](#)

April 1st

[Lynne Ellen Henderson](#)

April 4th

[Arlin R Peters Jr.](#)

April 12th

[Hyun Yung Choi](#)

April 16th

[George Luna](#)

April 20th

[Kenneth Renworth](#)

April 20th

[David Hugh Malcolm](#)

April 21st

[Morton H. Orenstein](#)

April 22nd

[Mac Lingo](#)

April 24th

history of fire suppression in the mountains. Before 1850 small natural fires cleared the undergrowth and smaller trees, as did regular burning by native people who appreciated the ease of hunting in the park-like environment of the ancient forests. Once settlers moved into the foothills and mountains in the 19th century, fire suppression became the rule, and forests filled in and became more dense. All those additional trees require more water than is available, particularly in this era of climate change. Where John Muir could walk through a wide open wood in 1870 and watch a fire crawl slowly along the ground, that fire now has so much tinder-dry fuel that it roars into a cataclysmic disaster in minutes.



Scott Gelfand of the Friends of Berkeley Tuolumne Camp was also on board to coordinate the volunteers and cheer us all on. FBTC staged a thank you reception after our day of work, with wine and conversation and a discussion about the future of the beloved family camp. All the participants were treated to special rates at Rush Creek Lodge just outside Yosemite National Park, so many of us made forays down to the Valley floor on Friday or Sunday. We found abundant parking and gushing waterfalls and a remarkable lack of

visitors in this March off-season period before the peak waterfall flows of May. The whole weekend was a remarkable Rotary experience, combining service with lots of fun and good fellowship.
