



e-Revolutions

Berkeley Rotary Club

AT THE INTERSECTION OF COMMUNITY AND SERVICE SINCE 1916



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

Speakers

January 29, 2025

[Adena Ishii, Berkeley Mayor](#)

"You, Me, and 23: Meeting Berkeley's Newest Mayor"

February 05, 2025

[Julie Silber](#)

"Quilts from 1790 to Today"

February 12, 2025

[Beth Roessner, CEO, Berkeley Chamber of Commerce](#)

"The Berkeley Chamber of Commerce and Its Relationship with Rotary"

February 19, 2025

[Magician Dennis Kyriakos](#)

TBA

February 26, 2025

[TBA](#)

TBA

Events

February 5th

[Presentation by Rotary International President Stephanie Urchick](#)

February 7th

[Ladies Who Lunch Potluck](#)

February 12th

[Communications Committee Meeting via Zoom](#)

February 13th

[Thirsty Thursday](#)

Birthdays

Jeffrey L. Hunt

February 2nd

Peter D. Campbell

February 9th

Katy Marie Young

February 14th

Club Announcements

By Linda Cogozzo

Next Meeting. Wednesday, January 29, 2025 (at First Pres and via Zoom), 12:30 PM PT: Mayor Adena Ishii will present **"You, Me, and 23: Meeting Berkeley's Newest Mayor."** What does 23 mean? Come find out! The speaker is provided by the BRC Africa Team; John Caner, Captain.



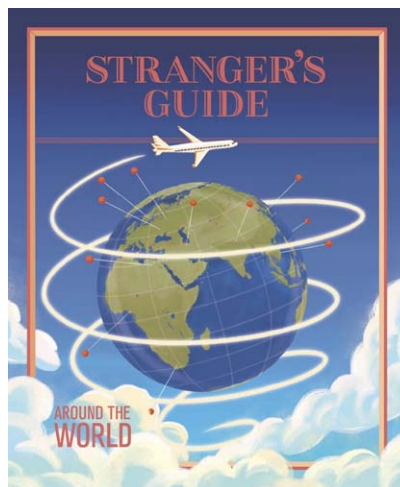
What Do You Say? On Wednesday, January 29, 2025 (via Zoom), 2:30 PM PT, the BRC Peace Committee hosts the next in a series of Civil Discourse meetings. **Topic: "Is It Time to Deport 'Illegal' Immigrants?"** The Zoom link will be emailed to you.

Rotary Responds. From RI: "Rotary notes the recent announcement that the United States intends to withdraw from the World Health Organization (WHO), a partner in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI). We remain resolute in our mission to eradicate polio." [Read more here.](#)



Stories from Around the World

By Marion Hunt



Kira Brunner Don, a native of Oakland, in partnership with Abbey Rappaport, is Co-Founder and Editor-in-Chief of *Stranger's Guide*, which publishes magazines focused on countries around the world whose stories are written by the people living there. Kira was our featured speaker on January 22.

Kira feels that it is most relevant to give voice to people from places around the world who are living the experience rather than bringing in writers from the outside who are looking in and only getting a snapshot of the realities that exist there.

As their website notes:

Before there were guidebooks, 18th- and 19th-

Sallie Weissinger
February 15th
Marion Hunt
February 15th
Grace Manning Orenstein
February 19th

century authors wrote “stranger’s guides” to cities and countries—pamphlets and books that combined helpful tips with particular and offbeat advice and context: the best boarding houses alongside bits of history, preferred brothels as well as facts about paleontology and poetry. They were personal, eccentric and intimate portrayals of place. *Stranger’s Guide* is a modern version of that idea.

Inviting writers from their country to create stories that are firsthand and lived helps to eliminate skepticism and mistrust that comes from having foreign observers come to take a snapshot of their world and then create a big picture story that could be told from a slanted point of view.

Kira’s talk was filled with valuable thoughts, insights, information, and new ideas well worth contemplating further. To learn more about *Stranger’s Guide*, [visit the website](#).

Welcome, Melissa!

Melissa Eisenberg was inducted into Berkeley Rotary on Wednesday, January 22. Her sponsors are Libby Tyler and Joan Collignon.

Originally from Dallas, Texas, Melissa moved to Berkeley in 1979. She received a master’s in City Planning in 1981 from UC Berkeley, where she studied under Berkeley Rotarian Fred Collignon and was a classmate of Libby Tyler’s husband, Rob Olshansky. Melissa also has a BA in Urban Studies (Geography), with minors in statistics and economics, from the University of Texas at Austin, 1979.

After graduation, Melissa married (she is now divorced) and raised a daughter and son in the Rockridge neighborhood of Oakland. Melissa retired in April 2024 after a 40-year career in corporate management consulting, focusing on organizational strategy, operational excellence, customer strategy, and change management. During her career, she advised over 100 major global corporations in technology, financial services, biotech, manufacturing, and other industries. Her past employers include KPMG, IBM Consulting Group, The Peppers and Rogers Group, McCann, and ServiceNow. She also led Eisenberg Management Consulting for over 20 years.

Her hobbies and interests include pickleball, hiking, yoga, working out, music and the arts, dining, wine tasting, and travel. She is looking forward to being involved in the Berkeley Rotary Club’s service projects.

Welcome to Berkeley Rotary, Melissa!



Above: Libby, Melissa, President Ken, and Joan.

BRC Celebrates MLK Day

By Elizabeth Roessner

On January 20, over 300 guests gathered to celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at the 14th Annual MLK Breakfast. It was the first live breakfast since 2020, and the energy was joyous. Attendees heard welcome remarks from our new mayor, Adena Ishii, along with a keynote address by Dr. Tanya Moore. Awards were also handed out to Beatriz Leyva-Cutler (Lifetime Achievement); Living Room Conversations, Child Care Law Center, Multicultural Institute (Community Action Awards); and 10 middle and high school students (Next Generation Award).

Berkeley Rotary is a longtime Gold Sponsor of this event, with several Rotarians serving on the Breakfast Planning Committee (Ruben, Jackie, Maxim, Beth, Fred). Our club also serves as the fiscal agent for the event.





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