



e-Revolutions

Berkeley Rotary Club

AT THE INTERSECTION OF COMMUNITY AND SERVICE SINCE 1916



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Speakers

October 16, 2024

[Rolf Bell](#)

"Influencing the Trajectory of East Africa's Future: The Essential Role of Secondary Education"

October 23, 2024

[TBA](#)

"Girls Garage"

October 30, 2024

[Veronia Sibley](#)

"Balancing Act: Navigating the Challenges of the Sandwich Generation"

November 06, 2024

[PE Jason Russell, BRC Foundation Chair](#)

The Rotary Foundation: Doing Good in the World"

November 13, 2024

[Tommy Lee Wallace](#)

"Who Makes Horror Films?"

Club Announcement

Next Meeting. Wednesday, October 16, 2024 (at First Pres and via Zoom), 12:30 PM PT: Rolf Bell will present "**Influencing the Trajectory of East Africa's Future: The Essential Role of Secondary Education.**" Here in Berkeley, a small band of visionaries dares to put in place the initial steps for transformational change by imagining what is possible, brick by brick, school by school, as communities are trained and equipped to bend the curve of who is educated. The speaker is provided by the Berkeley Rotary Africa Team; John Caner, Captain.



There's Still Time! Join us on Saturday, October 19, from 10-11:30 AM, for the 2024 Walk to End Alzheimer's, an easy, one-mile ramble down The Embarcadero in San Francisco, to raise funds that will support research to cure this disease. There is no fee to walk, but you must register. If you can't walk with Team Berkeley Rotary but want to donate, you can do that online too. [Sign up here!](#)

Events

October 19th

[Walk to End Alzheimer's with Team Berkeley Rotary](#)

October 19th

[Tour Treasure Island with Berkeley Rotary](#)

October 23rd

[Fundraising Strategy Meeting via Zoom](#)

October 23rd

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

October 26th

[Fundraiser: Pancake Breakfast for Cal Rotaract](#)

October 30th

[Civil Discourse Meeting via Zoom](#)

Thirsty Thursday: Fun, Food, and a Little Controversy

Thirsty Thursday last week was at the Collignons where it all began. About 25 Rotarians came by for wine and snacks, many bringing bottle and food contributions. Schuyler Bailey dropped off a box of older wines he found in a basement cleanup, but they were not yet dirty wines, only at most 15-17 year-old bottles of Cab and Merlot. All were tasty and got rave reviews from some. We'll bring leftover bottles to the next event.

But there was a bit of controversy: Ilya and Valeria brought the bottle of the red wine with the shocking semi-clad lady on the label that had been passed from one Thirsty Thursday to the next without being opened. Fred reported that it was not a newbie. The same wine, with the same label, although not the same bottle, had been brought to the first of Joan's fetes years back, and judged quite good by its tasters. The lesson: Don't judge a wine by its label. Another special treat was the Fred X red from Slovakia.



Join us next month!

November 6th
[Supportive Housing
Committee Meeting via
Zoom](#)

November 9th
[Dedication of the
George Luna Classrooms](#)

Birthdays

Lewis Ames
October 27th

Svitlana Khutka
October 27th

Joanne Dickerson-Harper
October 29th

Ilya Khanykov
November 1st

Joan Collignon
November 3rd

Pate D. Thomson
November 5th

Healing Our Divides

By Maxim Schrogin

The Berkeley Rotary Peace Committee, along with the Albany Rotary, hosted a workshop called *Healing Our Divides* at Northbrae Church, Berkeley, on Saturday, October 5.

The workshop was led by Courageous Leadership LLC and its CEO Brooke Deterline, daughter of Austin and Lynne Henderson of our club. Brooke has led previous trainings in our club and in our District and multi-district conferences. This small training, inspired by Anne Pardee, was a preview of one that we hope to conduct, District-wide and multi-district-wide, in February. The 35 attendees were more than we had anticipated; some were members of Northbrae Church.

Survey results of the training were quite positive. Respondents had an increase in their sense of efficacy to bridge divides, in how much they value listening with empathy to people who think differently, and in their sense of belonging.

One quote from a participant: "Initially, when I began speaking into the shared values, I thought I was doing it only for her (my sister's) benefit, but found myself reconnecting to those values too — and feeling immensely moved by that. Going into the exercise, I thought I would end up relitigating why I'd been right in my perspective, but the exercise took me in a totally different direction and opened up so much possibility for peace between my sister and me. It was a truly transformational experience."

We look forward to more.

Welcome, Dr. Denise Richardson!

By Joan Collignon



On October 9, the club was pleased and honored to induct Dr. Denise Richardson, President of Berkeley City College (BCC), as a new club member. Her career in the Peralta Community College District has spanned over two decades, marked by continuous growth and leadership. Starting as a faculty member at Laney College in Oakland in 2001, she progressed through various roles including Political Science instructor, Social Sciences Department Chair, and Dean of Math and Sciences.

Dr. Richardson earned her Doctorate in Educational Leadership at Mills College where she wrote a narrative dissertation that examined success strategies of Black American males who completed STEM degree programs at California Bay Area community colleges. She also holds an M.A. Degree in Educational Leadership from Mills, an M.A. Degree in Political Science from San Francisco State University, and a B.A. in Communication from Oakwood University [a Historically Black College] in Huntsville, AL.

In March 2020, Dr. Richardson became Vice President of Instruction at Merritt College. Her expertise and dedication led to her appointment as Interim President of Berkeley City College (BCC) on July 1, 2023. In October 2023, she was named the permanent President of BCC. This appointment recognizes her long-standing commitment to education and her effective leadership within the Peralta Community College District.

You may have heard Denise speak for a few moments at the August Berkeley Rotary

Meeting where we celebrated our Community Scholars. She revealed a few interesting facts about her life and her motivations. She moved to the Bay Area from Connecticut about 40 years ago, and after a career in advertising decided she wanted to do something that really had an impact. She found that with the community colleges-- where, as noted, she made quite an impact. She loves the way the community colleges are not just a first option, but a place for people to find a 2nd or 3rd option for success. (And at just \$46 a credit!) Her three children groaned when she urged them to start at the community college level, saying "No Mom, that's your thing," but her third child did start there, and made a very successful transfer to UC Berkeley.

Dr. Denise Richardson is bringing a lot to Berkeley Rotary, and we hope we can support her and involve her successfully in this community.

Welcome to Berkeley Rotary, Denise!

Above: Joan Collignon (sponsor), Libby Tyler (Membership Chair), Denise Richardson, and President-Elect Jason Russell.

What's Happening at Cal Rotaract

By Frederick C. Collignon

We had our first club Rotarian speak at the Cal Rotaract General Assembly on Oct 7. Their desired new format is a 20-minute speech with Q&A. Doug Fielding was their chosen speaker, and he gave an excellent talk on his experiences organizing in

Berkeley to expand youth playing fields to provide more sports opportunities, especially for girls. He also described his new soccer ball project to build community and peace in Africa, supported by a club grant. He emphasized the huge advantages he has found in Rotary for making contacts around the world and gaining support to change the world for the better, his hope since he was their age. He also gave the Rotaracters tips for successful community organizing. A good exchange of questions and answers followed.



In addition to Doug's talk, the Rotarians who attended learned of the many service and social events recently held or upcoming for Rotaracters. We learned of the current teams in Rotaract named "the Pardees" and the "Oscar Lunas." Current membership is up from last year and still growing, from 25-35 last year to 50-60 applications submitted so far this year.

[Read More](#)

George Luna Preschool Classrooms: History of a Project

By O'Neil Dillon



The George Luna Preschool Classroom project evolved through a somewhat circuitous process. The club's Health and Wellbeing Committee was working on building a children's dental clinic with the YMCA of the East Bay at the EM Downer Early Learning Center in Richmond. We received a district grant on this proposal.

In the meantime, our cherished member, George Luna, had a tragic and untimely death. Donations in his honor were solicited to commemorate his memory in some way. These two events came together and the Y was approached for naming rights of the evolving project. This was granted, so we could name the project in honor of George. Other clubs were approached to support this project.

The finances looked like this:

1. 25 individual donors = \$7950
2. Richmond, Pinole, Albany, and Hercules Rotary Clubs = \$2,000
3. Berkeley Rotary club grant = \$500
4. District grant = \$14,500

Total = \$24,950, which was close to half of the total project cost of \$60,000.

So far, so good. But then life intervened. The pediatric dental clinic project had to be shelved. Here we were with all this money. Somewhat painful discussions occurred and disappointments worked through. But, like the phoenix rising from the ashes, a new and equally fitting project to honor George's commitment to youth emerged: the construction of two preschool classrooms.

With Grier's legerdemain in managing grants, the District was sold on switching the already awarded grant to this new project, not an easy thing to do.

We held a day of hands-on work helping to finish the project. A commemorative plaque was ordered in George's honor.

A dedication ceremony will be held on Nov 9, 10-12 noon at the EM Downer Early Learning Center, 263 S 20th Street, Richmond, CA. Please sign up at a club meeting or let O'Neil know @ oneilsdillion@gmail.com.

Our thanks to the following individual donors: Jack McPhail, Thomas Olson, John O'Dea, Sandy Bredt, Alan Cohen, Fred Collignon, Lynne Henderson, Lawrence Polon, Grier and Linnea Graff, Ken Renworth, O'Neil and Marcia Dillion, Tom Elkema, Jason Draut, Richard Betts, Julia, Hugh, and Norma Luna McKechnie, Chris Ahoy, Jacqueline Hammond, Pamela Doolan, Peter Campbell, Pate Thomson, Alan Fraser, Don Alter, Eric Drake, and M Drake.

Europe's Green Deal: Maintaining Sustainability and Competitiveness

By Valeria Chupina

Our guest speaker on October 9 was Agata Kotkowska, a Deputy Head of the Circular Economy, Sustainable Production and Consumption at the European Commission's Directorate-General for Environment, Member of Polish Professional Women Silicon Valley and Polish Club of Berkeley. Ms. Kotkowska is a distinguished expert on European Union policies, with a focus on sustainable finance, circular economy, sustainable production, and consumption. Her expertise extends to the programming and implementation of major EU funding programs such as Structural Funds, LIFE, and Horizon Europe.

[Read More](#)



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