



e-Revolutions

Berkeley Rotary Club

AT THE INTERSECTION OF COMMUNITY AND SERVICE SINCE 1916



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

Speakers

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](#)

"Creating Moments of Wonder"

February 26, 2025

[Seena Hawley, Executive Director/Secretary, The Berkeley Baby Book Project](#)

"Dolly Parton's Imagination Library"

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

Peter D. Campbell

February 9th

Katy Marie Young

February 14th

Sallie Weissinger

February 15th

Marion Hunt

Club Announcements

By Linda Cogozzo

Next Meeting. Wednesday, February 5, 2025 (at First Pres and via Zoom), 12:30 PM PT: [Julie Silber](#), one of the world's most respected quilt experts, will present "**Quilts from 1790 to Today.**" She has sold antique quilts to museums, businesses, and individuals since 1968. Julie was the curator of the world-renowned Esprit Quilt Collection in San Francisco, and is the co-author of the critically acclaimed books, *Hearts and Hands* and *Amish: The Art of the Quilt*. She has curated two of the most respected quilt exhibitions of modern times—those at the Oakland Museum of California and the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco. The speaker is provided by the BRC Mongolia Team; Ed Church, Captain.



Don't Miss It! Rotary International President Stephanie Urchick will speak to District 5160 Rotarians on February 5, 2025, at 6:30 PM PT, on Zoom. Her presentation will focus on the action plan, membership, and peace. No registration is needed; login via the Zoom link that DG Dan Gerald emailed to you on January 5.

Calling All Bakers! A silent auction of baked goods and desserts is planned for our February 12, 2025, meeting to benefit RotaCare West Contra Costa. If you have a special item you make, please sign up with Louise O'Dea (lfodea@gmail.com). You can bring it to the meeting or pledge to make it at a later date to be mutually agreed upon with the winning bidder. Yum!

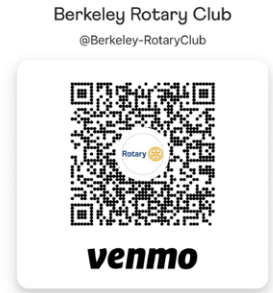


Big Thanks. Shout-out to the BRC teams for bringing us great speakers in January 2025. We were updated about volunteer opportunities at the Berkeley Public Schools Fund, considered what the new year may bring to Palestine and Israel, learned about the relationship between colonialism and journalism, and met the mayor. If you missed a meeting or to watch the presentation again, [visit our video library](#).



February 15th
 Grace Manning Orenstein
 February 19th
 Grier Graff
 February 27th
 Richard M. Betts
 March 1st
 Oscar H. Luna
 March 3rd
 email BRC
 March 3rd

Zoomers! Don't forget to send in your \$10 Participation Fee when you attend meetings via Zoom. Here's a handy QR code that you can use to pay via Venmo. We also post it on Zoom chat during our club meetings. (Or you can send a check to Berkeley Rotary Club, 2342 Shattuck Ave., #101, Berkeley, CA 94704.) The fee offsets our costs for room rental and other operating expenses.



RI Monthly Theme. February is Peace and Conflict Resolution/Prevention Month on the Rotary calendar. From RI: "As a humanitarian organization, peace is a cornerstone of our mission. We believe when people work to create peace in their communities, that change can have a global effect." [Read more.](#)

You Me and 23*: Introducing Mayor Adena Ishii

By Joan Collignon

Our club traditionally hosts the Mayor of Berkeley in January of every year for a "State of the City" address. Well, Adena Ishii has been mayor for only 7 weeks, so it didn't seem fair to ask her for that annual report. We were pleased instead to hear Mayor Ishii introduce herself at our January 29, 2025, meeting, while we shared with her some of what we do in Berkeley Rotary.



Mayor Ishii's path to Berkeley City Hall began with activism and advocacy at Berkeley City College, continued at UC Berkeley (Haas Business School) and law school (Santa Clara University), and took her to leadership in the League of Women Voters. She values the League because of its strong values and focus on nonpartisan issues and solutions. Unity is an important value to our mayor, and she pledged to represent all Berkeley residents, whether or not they were part of her campaign.

As she stressed in that campaign, Mayor Ishii's priorities are housing and homelessness, public safety, and infrastructure. She wants to rebuild trust and relationships within the City Council—where there are 5 new members among the 9 elected representatives—and in the community. She is very focused on uniting the council members and moving together with them as a group, and she welcomed the chance to speak to us and offer her ideas about how we could help with that vision.

[Read More](#)

Positive Peace: A Challenge for All

By Frederick C. Collignon

WOW. The Rotary Peace Conference, titled "Unite for a Better World," was held at

Rohnert Park, CA, on January 24-26, 2025. It was an experience that, to me, was as close to going to a Rotary International Conference as I've experienced. It had top-flight speakers, lots of practical wisdom, interaction with Rotarians of many varying political orientations, as well as with Rotaractors and Youth Exchange students, new thinking, and the chance for informal talks with current and past Rotary brass. I missed the huge presence of Rotarians from all over the world, but it was compensated by the lower costs and shorter time and travel commitment.

The Rotary theme over the last 5–6 years has been “positive peace” rather than “negative peace” (i.e., the absence of war and violence). We worry and argue so much about Gaza and Ukraine and other world conflagrations over which we have no control. But the positive peace theme emphasizes what an individual can do with others to further peace. It builds on the research findings on what correlates with low levels of violence and war in a country. The correlates dovetail closely with the “pillars” of Rotary’s strategic plan and actions—fostering mass education, health, economic development, improving the condition of women, and combating social discrimination.

Two very effective exercises were done to engage all in the room in examining how and why such familiar Rotary projects as giving dictionaries to 3rd grade students and providing food and toiletries to the homeless were in fact “peace projects.” I admit I was a skeptic at the outset, but became convinced by the end.

Participants (over 300 people from 8 Rotary districts) were impressed with Berkeley Rotary’s direct peace projects:

- our work on mediation in Africa with Mediators Beyond Borders (praised by a Peace Fellow now working there)
- our finding backdoor enticement to get combatants to learn cooperation (e.g., increasing production of cattle through artificial insemination to generate more income)
- expanding soccer play to reduce youth violence and tribal rivalries
- organizing intentionally to make changes in national policy (e.g., the Agent Orange Symposium)
- our club’s long Civil Discourse work.

We heard raves when we described our Interactors’ mental health guide for Berkeley youth, our Supportive Housing collaboration with local providers, and other projects. We also got ideas for new projects, but it was clear our club was continuing to keep up its reputation within the international Rotary world for being innovative and active.

While the wars abroad and the fears of strife here in the U.S. were topics of discussion in the hallways and at the bar, civil discourse received major emphasis because the conference recognized the current severe divisiveness here in the US. In Maxim’s Civil Discourse breakouts on deportations (which featured Trump as well as Harris supporters), initially about half wanted all illegal immigrants deported. But the discussion changed the opinions of all by the end. The common agreement was that only those with serious criminal and violent histories should be deported, which has been the U.S. policy for many decades. What we learned was that there was a difference in our understanding of facts, not of values.

Berkeley Rotarians and colleagues were stars of the conference. Maxim Schrogin and Brooke Deterline (Lynne and Austin Henderson’s daughter) and her husband Ken White, who have long worked with our club on Courageous Conversations, led standing-room-only training breakouts. Dan Thomas and David Campbell staffed the tables in the Hall of Friendship, engaging one-on-one with Rotarians wanting to engage in similar civil discourse work.



From the Club Archives: Furthering Understanding Between China and America

By Frederick C. Collignon



Above: The Chinese symbol for understanding.

In a previous e-Rev article, we discussed how our club worked with China in response to the catastrophic Sichuan earthquake of 2008, with Mary Alice Rathbun leading the fundraising efforts in our club and District to provide Shelter Boxes for the thousands of survivors in need of housing. The Shelter Box project, in turn, led to a long-standing partnership between our club and the San Francisco Chinese Consulate to promote Chinese and American understanding and friendship.

Following a request from the SF Chinese Consul General, Mary Alice created an annual tour in the western part of our district where buses would deliver consulate staff and their families to a working farm and ranch. This was a day of fun, an opportunity to interact with a diverse set of Americans, and gain knowledge of how the agriculture and ranching sectors operate in the US. Ute Jensen of Woodland Rotary was Mary Alice's partner in staging this. Dan Thomas and his wife were also active participants in working with the consulate. Activities included a lunchtime outdoor barbecue and hayrides for kids, and the day would end with a visit to the Jellybean factory off I-880 between Davis and Sacramento.

There were also events at the consulate to which club members, other Rotarians, and Bay Area business and governmental leadership were invited—big affairs with long, well-meaning speeches, a huge buffet, wine, and entertainment. The farm tours lasted a decade or more, through the terms of several Consul Generals, but eventually the consulate made the decision not to continue.

In a related effort, club members helped with an annual overnight visit by Cal Chinese students to the clubs in the eastern part of the district, where they would be housed, taken on a tour of that region, and provided with a barbecue. Whether this effort has been revived since the pandemic, we're not sure. Our own Cal Rotaract club threw a

large barbecue for Cal Chinese students and Rotary and Rotaract club members at the North Berkeley Art Center a few years back—offering good fellowship and showing off the center that our club funded, and members designed and built for the city.

Mary Alice went on as club president to help catalyze many club projects in Mexico, New Orleans, and elsewhere, while also bringing in so many new members each year through her work as Membership Chair. But her work with China is something treasured as part of the club's service history.

Where in the World Is . . .

Louise and John O'Dea?



Panajachel, Guatemala.

Helena Meyers-Knapp?



Tokyo, Japan (that's Mt. Fuji in the background).

Publisher: Jason Draut

Editor: Irene Hegarty

Club Announcements: Linda Cogozzo

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

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