



# e-Revolutions

Berkeley Rotary Club

AT THE INTERSECTION OF COMMUNITY AND SERVICE SINCE 1916



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

## Speakers

**March 05, 2025**

[Katherine Culbertson, Ph.D. Student, UC Berkeley College of Natural Resources](#)

"Tropical Rainforest Restoration"

**March 12, 2025**

[Robert Marshall, President, H2OpenDoors](#)

"The Critical Need for Investment in Clean Water and Hygiene Infrastructure Worldwide"

**March 19, 2025**

[James Hodson, CEO, AI for Good Foundation](#)

"Rebuilding Europe's Resilience"

**March 26, 2025**

[Cindy Dickeson \(CEO\) and Davana Jackson \(Deaf Coach Coordinator\)](#)

"Maximizing the Potential of Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Children at CEID"

## Events

March 6th

[Grants Committee Meeting via Zoom](#)

March 12th

[Communications Committee Meeting via Zoom](#)

March 13th

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

March 13th

[Thirsty Thursday](#)

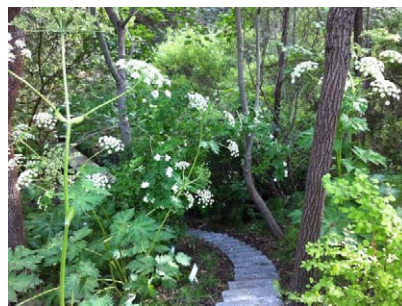
March 19th

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

## Club Announcements

By Linda Cogozzo

**Next Meeting.** Wednesday, March 5, 2025 (at First Pres and via Zoom), 12:30 PM PT: [Katherine Culbertson](#), a Ph.D. student at UC Berkeley's College of Natural Resources, will present "**Tropical Rainforest Restoration.**" The speaker is provided by the BRC Mongolia Team; Ed Church, Captain.



### Save the Date:

**Saturday, April 5, 2025, 12:30 PM.** Join us for a visit to Bob and Stephanie Sorenson's stunning garden in Orinda! Spanning ¾ of an acre, this beautiful space is designed with native plants from the local watershed. Bring a picnic lunch and enjoy the scenery. To attend, sign up at a club meeting or email O'Neil Dillon ([oneilsdillon@gmail.com](mailto:oneilsdillon@gmail.com)). Directions and parking details will be emailed to registrants.

**Shout-out.** Thank you, BRC Teams, for bringing us great speakers in February! We looked at quilts with [Julie Silber](#); CEO Beth Roessner updated us about big doings at the [Berkeley Chamber](#); we oohed and ahhed at [Magician Dennis Kyriakos](#); and we learned about [The Berkeley Baby Book Project](#) from Seena Hawley. If you missed a meeting or to watch the presentation again, [visit our video library](#).



Berkeley Rotary Club  
@Berkeley-RotaryClub



venmo

### 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.** In March 2025, the focus is on Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene, "basic necessities for a healthy environment and a productive life," says Rotary International. Read more [here](#).



March 26th  
[Civil Discourse Meeting via Zoom](#)

March 28th  
[Tour the California Maritime Academy with Berkeley Rotary!](#)

### Birthdays

- Oscar H. Luna  
March 3rd  
email BRC  
March 3rd
- Tina Etcheverry  
March 6th
- Melissa Eisenberg  
March 10th
- Terrence M. Regan  
March 11th
- Dee Hubert  
March 21st
- Helmut Wolfgang Tutass  
March 24th
- Kris Libunao  
March 24th
- Jon Allen Vicars  
March 29th

## Sip, Savor, and Support RotaCare

By Pamela M. Doolan

Berkeley Rotarians have Sip & Savor tickets to sell! Tickets are \$70 each. It is important to make out your check to Berkeley Rotary Endowment with Sip & Savor in the memo line. Please return checks with the ticket numbers to Pate Thomson at our club meetings as soon as sold. Any unsold tickets should be returned to Pate by April 9, the Wednesday before the event, which will be on **Saturday, April 12, 2025, from 11-3 PM**. All information and the address of the event can be found on the website, [sipandsavor.org](http://sipandsavor.org). (The website is on the ticket).

This is a major fundraiser for RotaCare West Contra Costa County. Bring friends and family to make this a successful event, providing the financial resources for medical care for the underserved. Thanks, everyone, for your help on this project!

**SIP & SAVOR**  
An all you can drink & eat food & wine festival

Savor the best at Sip and Savor—a festival filled with unlimited wine tastings, alcoholic beverages, gourmet bites, and music. All proceeds benefit RotaCare’s WCC healthcare services for the community.

**Buy Ticket Now**

**100% of proceeds fund RotaCare WCC**  
Providing FREE healthcare to those in need

**RotaCare West Contra Costa**  
FREE MEDICAL CLINIC

Rotary BARSHEEP Clubs | SIP & SAVOR | [www.SipAndSavor.org](http://www.SipAndSavor.org)

## The Berkeley Baby Book Project

by Luisa Buada and Veronica Sibley

Seena Hawley is the founder and Executive Director of [The Berkeley Baby Book Project](#), a nonprofit organization that provides free books to children ages 0-5, one per month.



## The BBBP

Last Wednesday, Seena shared the organization's history, starting with her experience as a school teacher who, upon retirement, drove school buses in Berkeley where she provided free books to children. This led to her realization that many children did not have access to books, which sparked

the idea to provide books to children from birth to age 5.

The organization now has over 2,000 children enrolled in its monthly book program from the East Bay, with about 1,150 living in Berkeley. The BBBP aims to increase kindergarten readiness and lifelong literacy. Regardless of the parent's literacy, when children are exposed to books starting from 6 months of age, their brains capture the fundamentals of literacy, turning pages from right to left, reading from left to right, and recognizing symbols that represent letters, words, numbers, objects, people, and animals. This creates neurological connections in the brain's formation that prepare them for learning to read and comprehension of what they are reading. Studies have shown that children who have a minimum of 20 books at home during their preschool years are more likely to be prepared to be readers in kindergarten.

She noted that there is a significant increase in book usage among children as a result of the project, with over 90% of children spending more time with books. Seena also emphasized the importance of literacy as a civil rights issue, as it enables individuals to access information and shape their world.

The Berkeley Baby Book Project is a small nonprofit organization funded by donations and grants. It partners with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, which provides the infrastructure and technology for the program. Seena highlighted the organization's direct outreach to low-income families and their partnership with the Berkeley Head Start sites. She also discussed the program's funding, which includes a grant from the Witkin Foundation. The program is funded in part by the State of California and Dolly Parton's foundation, with the State covering half of the program's costs. For more information, go to <https://www.thebbbp.org/>

## Eight Lasagnas Heading to WDDC This Month

By Joan Collignon

Four Rotarians (plus our fearless leader, [Chef Traci Siegel](#), who will be inducted into Berkeley Rotary next week) got the Lasagna Project off to a flying start last Thursday, February 27, in a morning session in Traci's kitchen. We assembled eight big lasagnas, which were then stacked in Traci's freezer. Over the next four weeks, they will be cooked by BRC volunteers and delivered to the [Women's Daytime Drop-in Center](#), where the women and children who are their clients will enjoy a nutritious and comforting hot lunch on Wednesdays.

Traci taught us any cooking skills we lacked, and we had a blast. Four more volunteers will do it again on the last Thursday in March, and others will bake and deliver the lasagnas in April. Sign-ups for the March lasagna assembly (March 27 from 9:30 to noon) and April deliveries (Wednesdays between 9 and 10) will begin March 10. You'll receive a letter in your email box that day with all the information and a link to the Sign-up Genius website. Contact Joan Collignon ([joancollignon@gmail.com](mailto:joancollignon@gmail.com)) with any questions.

Below: Helena Meyer-Knapp and Mimi Fruehan were in charge of the bolognese for the lasagna; Traci Siegel stacked the last of the assembled lasagnas in her freezer.



## Monthly Rotaract Meeting Features Berkeley Rotary's Kate Harrison

By Frederick C. Collignon

On Tuesday, February 25, Berkeley Rotarian Kate Harrison spoke to [Cal Rotaract](#) as part of their new format featuring Rotarians twice a semester for 20–30 minutes. Kate shared her journey through government consulting, social justice activism, and service on city commissions, which eventually led her to political office as a Berkeley City Councilmember. She highlighted the joy and sense of achievement from serving on the City Council, using examples from her work in housing and environmental sustainability. Kate encouraged students to seize service opportunities, emphasizing personal growth and satisfaction beyond monetary gain.

Kate follows previous BRC speakers Tina Etcheverry and Doug Fielding. Coming up next month: Maxim Shrogin. Contact Fred Collignon ([fcollig@berkeley.edu](mailto:fcollig@berkeley.edu)) if you'd like to share your professional and Rotary journey with the Cal Rotaractors in future months.



## Cal Rotaract Seeks Help Fighting Ebola Epidemics in Uganda and Zimbabwe

By Frederick C. Collignon

President Ken allowed [Cal Rotaract](#) to present an international project in Uganda and

nearby African countries at our March 26 meeting. Amin Balakhmet, a Cell and Molecular Biology major at Cal, reviewed the deadly ebola epidemic that hit Africa prior to COVID and appears to be returning. He introduced the [Alliance for Global Health and Science](#), formed by Cal students and faculty, which trains African researchers on infectious diseases through Makerere University in Uganda and the University of Zimbabwe. These trainees continue research, have tested a million samples to monitor ebola's spread, and provide a key line of continental defense. However, recent U.S. funding cuts for foreign aid, WHO, and CDC have significantly reduced public health monitoring budgets.

The [attached flyer](#) was available on all the tables with a QR code for donating, and a number of members asked how they could support the Alliance for Global Health and Science. Amir suggests that Rotarians consider sending the flyer to friends and family. You can help save hundreds, maybe thousands, of lives.

**Publisher:** Jason Draut

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**Club Announcements:** Linda Cogozzo

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

**Copy Deadline:** Send to [hgrty@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hgrty@sbcglobal.net) by Saturday noon for next week's e-Rev.