



e-Revolutions

Berkeley Rotary Club

AT THE INTERSECTION OF COMMUNITY AND SERVICE SINCE 1916



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

Speakers

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"

April 02, 2025

[J. K. Fowler, Executive Director, Bay Area Book Festival](#)

"Bay Area Book Festival: Changing the Narrative"

Events

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](#)

March 26th

[Civil Discourse Meeting via Zoom](#)

March 28th

Club Announcements

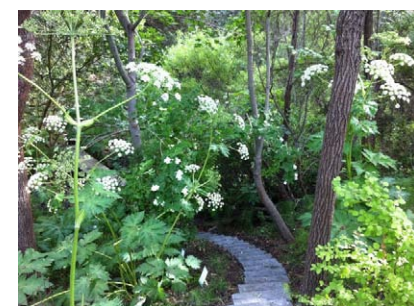
By Linda Cogozzo

Next Meeting. Wednesday, March 12, 2025 (at First Pres and via Zoom), 12:30 PM PT: Fellow Rotarian Robert Marshall, President of [H2OpenDoors](#), will present "**The Critical Need for Investment in Clean Water and Hygiene Infrastructure Worldwide.**" In partnership with Rotary clubs, H2OpenDoors has installed and implemented sustainable filtration and distribution systems to mitigate waterborne illnesses and improve overall community well-being in Ecuador, Guatemala, Peru, the Philippines, and more. The speaker is provided by BRC East Asia Team; Jocelyn Pittel and Kris Libunao, Captains.



Thirsty Thursday. Join fellow Rotarians and guests on March 13, 2025, from 5-7 PM, for conversation, wine, and snacks! This month's get-together will be at the home of Joan and Fred Collignon. Contact Joan (joancollignon@gmail.com) for the address.

Let's Get Cookin'! Join us for the next BRC Lasagna Project gathering on Thursday, March 27, 2025, from 9:30 AM-12 PM. [Click here to sign up!](#)



Native Plant Garden

Tour. Visit Bob and Stephanie Sorenson's stunning garden in Orinda on Saturday, April 5, 2025, at 12:30 PM. 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). Directions and parking details will be emailed to registrants.

Stay tuned! The Social Committee met last week and has some tasty plans for the coming months. Check back here for upcoming event announcements.



A Newbie No More

At the March 5 meeting, Veronica Sibley received the much-coveted golden bear pin and removed the red "New Member" ribbon from her name badge after completing the required Blue and Gold orientation steps. She commented that she enjoyed attending

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

April 5th
[Native Plant Tour](#)

Birthdays

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
Lynne Henderson
April 4th

the meetings of other Rotary clubs and getting a fuller picture of what Rotary does. Club members clapped and waved their blue and gold pom-poms in celebration. Below: Veronica at the podium, backed by President Ken, Membership Chair Libby, and sponsor Grier.



Forest Restoration in Madagascar

By John Pardee



Katherine "Kat" Culbertson, Ph.D. candidate at the UC Berkeley College of Natural Resources, was the speaker at our March 5 meeting. Kat is a restoration ecologist who helps to conserve and restore ecosystems with a particular interest in the intersection of conservation and sustainable development and the benefits accrued to human communities from restored ecosystems.

Kat served in the Peace Corps in Madagascar, working on local agriculture projects. After giving a presentation to the Rotary Club of Manhattan, Kansas, she was invited and joined that Rotary Club. Rotary supported her agroforestry projects in Madagascar.

Madagascar is a biodiversity hotspot with 80% of its plants and animals found nowhere else. It is divided into several distinct ecoregions. It is also home to 31 million people, divided into 18+ ethnic groups. The per capita GDP is only \$575/year.

[Read More](#)

Come Explore with Oakland Rotary

By Joan Collignon

Oakland Rotary welcomes us to two outings this spring:

Rotary Bird Walk at Lake Merritt

- Saturday, March 22, from 10 AM-1:30 PM or so. Note that rain cancels.
- Meet at the Boating Center, 568 Bellevue Avenue, Oakland.
- Parking is on Bellevue Avenue.
- No RSVP required; just come! For information, contact Oakland Rotarian Randy Leland (randy.leland.arnold@gmail.com).

A Rotary Weekend at Mono Lake

This is a weekend trip with Oakland Rotarians and friends, organized by Rotarians who have a home in Mono City, at the north end of Mono Lake. They have planned history and birding excursions and social gatherings for June 13-15. Participants would be responsible for their own transportation and lodging. Please contact Joan Collignon (joancollignon@gmail.com) for all the information.



International Service: Hidden Challenges

By Ray Sanford, San Juan Capistrano Rotary

When I think about international service projects, I often picture the heartwarming moments of helping others. But the real story is more complex – and more meaningful – than most people realize.

Take, for example, a medical mission to Guatemala – my sister Nancy's first encounter with an international project. There, medical professionals faced challenges that no medical textbook would have foreseen. Many patients arrive carrying not just their physical ailments, but also deep fears about modern medicine. For them, hospitals aren't places of healing – they are places where people go to die. This belief came from sad experience: most families only seek medical care when home remedies have failed and their loved ones are critically ill.



Breaking through these fears takes more than medical knowledge. It requires patience, understanding, and the ability to build trust. We learn to listen not just to symptoms, but to stories. Each patient teaches us something new about their culture and their courage in seeking help.

[Read More](#)

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.