



# e-Revolutions

Berkeley Rotary Club

AT THE INTERSECTION OF COMMUNITY AND SERVICE SINCE 1916



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

## Speakers

**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"

**April 09, 2025**

[Jamie Albrecht, Coordinator of Emergency Services, City of Berkeley](#)

TBA

**April 16, 2025**

[Monica Gandhi, M.D.](#)

"Update on Communicable Diseases"

**April 23, 2025**

[Dawn Sagorski, WDDC + Gwen Austin, BOSS](#)

"People of Action"

## Events

March 26th

[Civil Discourse Meeting via Zoom](#)

March 27th

[BRC Lasagna Project](#)

March 28th

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

April 4th

[Ladies Who Lunch](#)

April 5th

[Native Plant Tour](#)

April 10th

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

## Club Announcements

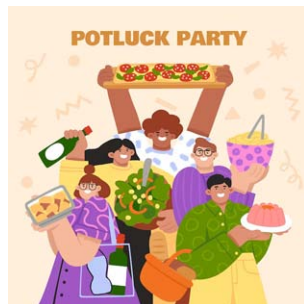
By Linda Cogozzo

**Next Meeting.** Wednesday, March 26, 2025 (at First Pres and via Zoom), 12:30 PM PT: Cindy Dickeson (CEO) and Davana Jackson (Deaf Coach Coordinator) will present "**Maximizing the Potential of Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Children at CEID.**" The speaker is provided by the BRC South Asia Team; Libby Tyler and Pamela Doolan, Captains.



**What Do You Say?** Wednesday, March 26, 2025 (via Zoom), from 2:30-3:30 PM PT: BRC Peace Committee hosts the next in a series of Civil Discourse meetings. **Topic: "Politics and Rotary: Keeping Rotary Nonpartisan While Staying True to Your Convictions."** You'll receive the Zoom link via email.

**Cheers!** The Rotary Club of Albany will host the next BARSHEEP TGIFF on Friday, March 28, from 5:30-7 PM, at the [Club Mallard](#), 752 San Pablo Ave., Albany, CA 94706. See you there!



**Ladies Who Lunch.** Hosted by Louise O'Dea, the next gathering is on Friday, April 4, 2025, from 12-2 PM. Please bring a dish for 6-8 to share (except dessert, which will be provided). RSVP is not necessary, but it would be nice. Contact Louise for the location.

## Letter to RI from the BRC Board of Directors

*On March 19, 2025, the Berkeley Rotary Board of Directors voted to send the following letter, drafted by Ed Church, to Rotary Magazine, as well as to the Rotary International Board of Directors, the Rotary Foundation Directors, and the District 5160 District Governor.*

### POLIO AND USAID

We, as U.S. Rotarians, are alarmed by the devastating cuts made to funding for USAID, a crucial partner with Rotary International in the eradication of polio. The cuts may be

April 10th  
[Thirsty Thursday](#)

April 12th  
[Sip & Savor](#)

## Birthdays

Helmut Wolfgang Tutass  
March 24th

Kris Libunao  
March 24th

Jon Allen Vicars  
March 29th

Lynne Henderson  
April 4th

Yanick Louis Lindquist  
April 10th

Fred Tabsharani  
April 12th

Marcia K Dillon  
April 13th

Louise Franchot O'Dea  
April 19th

Kenneth Renworth  
April 20th

David Hugh Malcolm  
April 21st

Joan Louise McLean  
April 22nd

Douglas Fielding  
April 23rd

in the hundreds of millions of dollars, threatening to undo decades of progress against the disease.

On the RI website's page on [eradicating polio](#), it says, "In 1988, Rotary formed the Global Polio Eradication Initiative [GPEI] with the World Health Organization, UNICEF, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention." President Trump has withdrawn the U.S. from the WHO, and the CDC may be defunded.

The Gates Foundation, another partner with Rotary in the GPEI, warns that foundations cannot make up such a large funding gap. As Rotarians know, polio can spread quickly if unchecked, and can jump international borders. All the work of Rotarians to battle this disease can be undone. More importantly, the crippling scourge of polio could re-emerge.

We strongly encourage the Boards of both RI and the Rotary Foundation to urge the U.S. government to rejoin the WHO and restore cuts to USAID.

The Board of Directors of the Rotary Club of Berkeley, CA, USA

## Cal Rotaract Spring Stayover Needs You!

By Joan Collignon

Twice a year, Cal Rotaract hosts Interact high school students from throughout Northern California for a jam-packed two days on the Berkeley campus. They get tours of the campus, learn about college life, and participate in local service projects. Last year they cleaned up the Alzheimer's Center grounds in Oakland, for instance.



The Interactors bring their sleeping bags and crash on the floors of Rotaract apartments and Berkeley Rotary homes. It's fun for the hosts—who don't even need to provide food for these grateful teenagers. And this year we've been invited to join them at Sproul Plaza on Sunday morning for breakfast!

**We need Rotary hosts!** The date is Saturday night, April 5 (guests arriving at your house around 9 PM) through Sunday morning, April 6 (departing around 8:30 AM.) Please contact Joan Collignon ([joancollignon@gmail.com](mailto:joancollignon@gmail.com)) or Cal Rotaract ([executive@calrotaract.org](mailto:executive@calrotaract.org)) to volunteer. Really, you'll get a kick out of meeting these Rotary stars (Above: Interactors at the Fruehans' house last fall.)

## Back to High School

By Joan Collignon



Can you tell we're in a high school history classroom? They look pretty much the same these days. We three Berkeley Rotarians, plus several other club members, spent Saturday morning in Fairfield learning (or re-learning) the nuts and bolts of Rotary with a high school full of District 5160 learners and trainers at the Spring Assembly. Luisa Buada, Anne Pardee, and I took a class on how to use District resources to publicize our club. We learned that one of these resources is Berkeley Rotary's own Linda Cogozzo, our social media maven and one of the three members of the District 5160 Public Image Support Squad, helping other clubs develop Berkeley Rotary's social media impact. The only thing we didn't learn—how to take a great selfie!

## International Friendship

Helena Meyer-Knapp participated in a venerable Rotary International tradition last month, exchanging club banners with the Bilingual Rotary Club of Tokyo, Japan. She was chided gently, though, for a breach of etiquette: all banners in Japan must be encased in protective plastic as they are exchanged!

(Right: Helena with acting President Marty Kalinski.)



## AI for Good

By Helena Meyer-Knapp

I arrived at last Wednesday's meeting with doubts in my mind. My small encounters with today's AI software thinking it knows what I want to do and being wrong, intermingled with years of thus-far fictional stories about computers "escaping" human control, made me wonder what "AI for good" could possibly mean.



James Hodson is the CEO of [AI For Good Foundation](#), an organization dedicated to building a world where we can harness the full potential of emerging technologies towards creating positive social change. His talk settled my questions with several persuasive answers. Broadly speaking, "AI for good" means strengthening communities by having institutions supported by well-designed digital networks. He started by describing the ways Ukrainians, pre-war, could access government services and support via an integrated e-network, and he made us all regretfully aware of how inadequate e-access is in the U.S., whether at city, state, or federal levels.

The very transparency of Ukraine's e-networks proved dangerous once the war broke out, however, with the Russian military using the same e-resources to target their weapons. AI, put to work at once, has been able to maintain pre-existing networks while at the same time guarding access against outsiders. Ukrainians still use their e-networks, and these days there's an additional resource in the form of education centers supported by the AI for Good Foundation, which enables kids to keep learning on days when their schools are closed. Bombed-out facilities have limited official school days to two to three days a week.

[Read More](#)

## Celebrate Women's History Month with Rotary

*A message from RI President Stephanie Urchick:*

March is Women's History Month, a time to celebrate and reflect on the vital roles that women play in our communities. I want to use this occasion to recognize women in Rotary—like you—for their tremendous contributions to our organization. Rotary and Rotaract clubs thrive when they create a welcoming and inclusive environment and enable women to foster meaningful connections, serve our communities, and lead.



I said yes to joining a Rotary club in 1991 because I wanted to meet new people. Many years later, I can attribute the amazing experiences I've had, people I've met, and places I've visited because I continued to say yes. I tell people, "Life is always more interesting on the other side of yes." That has certainly been true in Rotary.

Over the past three decades, the number of women joining Rotary has grown significantly. Women are responsible for some of Rotary's most innovative and impactful service activities. We also hold leadership positions at all levels, from club president to Rotary International president.

Rotary provides women with opportunities to do extraordinary things. We are immunizing children against polio on the front lines in Pakistan, working to eliminate cervical cancer in Africa and Latin America, stopping sex trafficking, and empowering girls and women through education programs in the communities where we live. We are helping to reshape our organization, bringing new perspectives and ideas to Rotary's service projects and global initiatives.

March is not only a month to celebrate women. It is also a time for us to welcome more women into Rotary. Will you join me and share the gift of Rotary with other people of action who are yet to be a part of us? Say yes, and let's share the Magic of Rotary!

Sincerely,

**STEPHANIE A. URCHICK**

*President, Rotary International*

P.S. Celebrate Women's History Month with Rotary by learning about this year's [Sylvia Whitlock Leadership Award recipient](#) and viewing the [Advancing Women, Building Peace webinar](#).

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