

Goodbyes, Hellos, and a Shift to the Other Side

By Roland Peterson, Chairman of Governmental Affairs



FOR the past four years, I have endeavored to strengthen and make more relevant your Government Affairs committee. At times I felt I made strides; at other times, I had my doubts. Regardless, the time has come for me to pass the baton to

another. Starting with the June meeting, Jonathan DeYoe, a financial consultant and graduate of our Leadership program, will take over Government Affairs.

Hence I say goodbye to the Chairmanship of Government Affairs. Of course, as anyone who knows me well can attest, politics runs deep in my blood, so I have no plans to quit the committee. Besides, this city is just far too interesting! And the reference to the “shift to the other side?” Beginning in July, I will take on a different Chairmanship and write from the right-hand side of this newsletter. I won’t suggest any symbolism here. I have always prided myself in my fierce independence combined with a certain moderation. If this column were placed symbolically in this newsletter, it should run right down the middle.

One of the things I have most enjoyed about the Government Affairs committee is the clear insight into politics and policy that many bring to the meetings. I can say that I have grown in this job—and I got my degree in political science! To be sure, the Board disagreed with some of our recommendations, but as I insisted earlier, it is also a sign of the democratic nature of Chamber leadership. We disagree but move on and hopefully forward.

Usually I have tried to write about political principles. For example, in my last column, I wrote about how single interest groups often try to dominate the political landscape but then often fall. These groups also provide a window into evaluating candidates for office. For my finale for writing this column, I will be mildly crazy and try to make a few predictions. Anyone foolish enough to make political predictions gets his deserved share of jeers, and come November, I am sure I will get mine. *Just for the fun of it*, here goes:

1. Mayor Tom Bates will be reelected in a landslide.
2. The Democrats will retake control of the U.S. Senate.
3. The current public school parcel taxes will be continued with a solid majority from Berkeley voters.
4. Berkeley voters will elect at least one and probably two new members to the City Council.
5. The 2008 campaign for Mayor will effectively begin right after the November election.
6. The Chamber may endorse a candidate for City Council for the first time either in a very long time or ever.
7. Desperate to reverse the decline of sales tax revenue, the City will take its first solid steps to create a center for

(See “Goodbyes...” Bottom Page 2)

Where Does the Time Go

Carolyn Henry-Golphin, Chairman of the Board



TWO years have gone by relatively fast. Lots of meetings, lots of emails, lots of phone calls. It will be bitter sweet but the memories linger on.

Everyone has different gifts and talents. Writing articles for the chamber’s quarterly newsletter is NOT one

of my talents. However, you move on. And there were times when the words continued to flow and I did enjoy sharing my thoughts with our business community and anyone who got a chance to read our articles. Some are very gifted.

The Berkeley Chamber of Commerce offers a variety of opportunities to get your business involved and your comments heard. Let me share with you the highlights of our activities. Our monthly meetings:

Government Affairs, the first Monday of each month has offered first hand discussion with topics that effect our business community and allowed a forum for people to express their views and opinions. We did have times when opinions and views were not the consensus of the community and vice versa.

Ambassadors meeting, the first Wednesday of each month when business colleagues gather to share ideas to help shape the activities of the chamber to keep our membership involved.

Meet and Greet is the second Wednesday of each month. Eight o’clock in the early morning business

people have an exciting time networking and sharing their professions and really getting new business by just being there. There were times when “testimonies” are given to express their appreciation for successful relationships and business deals.

Our luncheons have offered invaluable information that keeps business owners and professionals up to date. Speakers and local officials are always glad to share their insight to our chamber community.

Ribbon cuttings are special. When the business community comes to share life long dreams and new beginnings of hard working people. That’s exciting. Witnessing those huge scissors cut the ribbon of success, that’s powerful!

Our mixers are fun! We enjoy seeing each other at different locations and sometime we act as though we have not seen each other in weeks. There have been times when we’ve left a meeting to head directly to a mixer or ribbon cutting. That’s what you call commitment.

I’m not saying all of this to imply that I won’t be around at these activities anymore. I’m sharing with you how proud I have felt for the last two years representing the Berkeley Chamber of Commerce at each and every one of these events as Chair “woman.” What an honor.

Please join us at our Annual Installation of Officers, July 20, 2006 as we witness our new Chairman being sworn in to continue the work of this great chamber. I want to thank all of you in person for your support for a wonderful journey. ■

Thursday, July 20th
DoubleTree Hotel
Berkeley Marina
Reception: 6:00 P.M.
Dinner & Live Auction: 7:00 P.M.

TICKETS
\$75 • \$140/couple • \$550/table of 8

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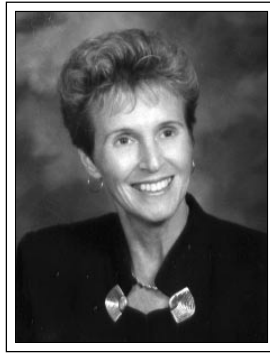
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Statement of Editorial Policy

It is the policy of *Berkeley Business Advocate* to present in a fair and objective manner information of interest to the business community in general, and to the membership of the Berkeley Chamber of Commerce specifically. Editorial opinions published are signed and reflect the opinions of the author and are not necessarily those of the Board of Directors or the members of the Berkeley Chamber of Commerce. Those of differing opinions are encouraged to offer those opinions in a Letter to the Editor. Letters must be signed to be considered for publication. Names may be withheld at the request of the writer.

Leadership Berkeley – A Learning Adventure



By Rachel A. Rupert, CEO

THIS year I was honored to be a part of the Leadership Berkeley graduating class for 2005-06. Just when you think you know all there is to know about your community, you are sometimes fortunate enough to have your eyes re-opened to all that you may have missed, simply because you were all too busy with your day-to-day routine.

Leadership Berkeley provides an opportunity to learn beyond what you think you already know. Each class venue offers participants the chance to enhance their knowledge of the community. Ask yourself just what makes Berkeley tick? Who are the town's movers and shakers? How can you really make a difference? Answers to these and other questions become available because of the interaction with your classmates and by the topics

addressed, which include: government, cultural heritage & the arts, media & communication, education, transportation, science & research, criminal justice, health & human services, and economic development. And, guess what, a few curve balls are always a plus when you're in this type of program.

When all is said and done (eight months down the road), a group of enlightened individuals enjoy celebrating their teamwork by selecting a class project, which focuses on giving back to the community. And, finally the big day arrives. Yes, it's the graduation ceremony, which is just the icing on the cake and a time to say "a job well-done."

If you are interested in being a part of this dynamic program, check our website to download an application or take the time to telephone our program director, Jack Papazian at (925) 453-4284 to find out more about the program, which includes a two-day retreat where cell phones are OFF and you're totally ON a new learning adventure. ■



Mission Statement

Leadership Berkeley is an innovative force passionate about improving livability in the community through strategic collaborations.

Goodbyes... from Front Page

- auto dealerships in West Berkeley.
- 8. With new playing fields and ferry service west of the freeway, the City will take its first steps in adding modest retail and restaurant amenities to the waterfront.
- 9. After years of financial puzzlement, the Mayoral campaign of 2008 will be about whether the Brower Center or the downtown hotel/convention center will ever be built.
- 10. The Chamber's business savvy will increasingly be sought after by city leaders.

OK, well maybe #10 is more wishful thinking than pure prediction. But that will be my broad goal on the other side of this page—that the Chamber will be the common-sense, strategic, get-it-done organization that earns and commands the respect of the leadership of the community. We have tried to do that in Government Affairs these past several years. Many thanks to Carolyn for her two years as Chairman. Many thanks to John and others who went before me in Government Affairs. May we build on the past, moving practically, strategically, financially prudent for a better tomorrow in Berkeley. ■

Graduating Class 2006

- Kevin Allen, Rose Garden Inn
- Juan Barajas, Pacific Ctr. For Human Growth
- Kathy Barnes-Jones, City of Berkeley
- Mark Dean, DoubleTree Hotel
- Kate DeYoe, Non-Profit Consultant
- Roman Fan, Korman & Ng
- Shirley Fogarino, Berkeley City College
- Shirley A. Fragiadakis, Lawrence Berkeley Lab
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- Miriam Ng, Korman & Ng
- Celia Owens, University of California
- Rachel A. Rupert, Berkeley Chamber
- Edna San Juan, P. G. & E.
- Allison Scherrer-Bannerman, Alta Bates Summit
- Malaga Smith, Malaga Corp.
- Judy E. Walters, Berkeley City College
- Raudel A. Wilson, Mechanics Bank

Thanks to PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC for being our corporate sponsor for Leadership Berkeley.



Leadership Berkeley made a strong impact on me and will probably have a lasting effect I don't even know about yet. Over the course of nine monthly sessions we got a real education about how Berkeley (or any city) works. The combination of

site visits, speakers, and field trips made gave me a special insight into some of the complexities of how our city functions, and many of the really special things that Berkeley has to offer. ■

Malaga Smith - Malaga Corporation



Leadership Berkeley gave me a much deeper appreciation for the incredible richness of our city, insight into the "behind the scenes" aspects of everything from local government, emergency services, education systems, business and retail issues and the breadth and depth of our community service agencies, but most importantly grew my respect for the PEOPLE that make our town what it is. I have lifelong friendships as a result of my participation in this incredible program. ■

The program allows you to learn about at least one critical institution each month and establish relationships with individuals who represent a diverse array of Berkeley organizations. This was an enjoyable way to make important connections and broaden my perspective of Berkeley. ■

David W. Manson Jr. - Berkeley Boosters

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Kathy Barnes-Jones - City of Berkeley

Being a part of Leadership Berkeley changed my mind about my city. I learned things like you can not demolish a home it has to be moved, peoples voices in Berkeley are heard and actions are made from that voice. I learned that Berkeley works through its homeless programs to try and make a difference in the lives of homeless folks. I was impressed at the way we go out and try to get new business to Berkeley, I was even more impressed as to how important it is to our economy. I learned that our mayor whom I did not care for was terribly misrepresented and that he is a caring person, with a great wife! I learned about the Media, Bart, UC Berkeley, Lawrence Lab and Alta Bates (a great that hospital that gets very little credit). I learned that a village is still raising our children and that we need to come together to strengthen that village, Berkeley is that village.

My most enjoyable moment with my group was when we all learned each other names and could repeat them by looking in each others faces, you see I had no idea of what to expect but after two days together I knew that we were joint and I had a new family. This was hard for me being of large size, not able to walk a long distance, unable to do the stairs and other things. But this group of strangers took me and lifted me up, they walked slower, they took the elevator and even sometimes drove to accommodate me. That was love. And I will say that yes I would die for one of my leadership Berkeley team members....because of the love. ■

That's what leadership Berkeley bought me, new friends, new skills, new ideas!

Rose Newell - Wireless Resource Center



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Fondue Fred has been under the capable hands of Leleh since 1999. This unique restaurant has consistently been known for its variety of professionally prepared cheese fondues. Situated within the walls of a renovated 1930's car showroom, the surrounding has been turned into an indoor garden housing small retail shops and restaurants. Fondue Fred has a very cozy indoor seating area for those wanting a private corner while offering a more spacious section outside but within the covered indoor garden.

Chester Bayview Café

Freyedoon Aryan
1508 Walnut St., Suite B
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(510) 849-9995

Originally established in 1972 as the Egg Shop an Apple Press, this very unique restaurant is situated within the elegant walls of Walnut Square in The Gourmet Ghetto area, where you can enjoy a superb selection of breakfast and light lunch menu. Their arrays of egg-based dishes are known throughout the region. An exceptional, and famous, brunch corner for the whole family.

It Takes a Village

Winston Burton, Downtown Area Planning Advisory Committee Member



ABOUT 16 years ago I was working at BOSS's homeless shelter in Berkeley when I observed several young kids who were staying at the shelter engaged in play. At that time the shelter consisted of two structures and a single crooked basket ball hoop in the middle of a muddy field behind the buildings. It was called the Berkeley Emergency Shelter. It basically only provided food and shelter. As I watched it started to rain and the field of mud began to resemble a mini lake. The kids came inside to play and one said, "Let's play shelter!" Another said, "Fine, I want to be the cook", another said, "I'll be the person that checks you in and hands out the towels. The remaining kid said, "Oh no, I don't want to be the homeless person again, I played that last time." There was not a lot of enthusiasm in choosing any of their pretend characters. It seemed it was a role they would reluctantly be and then discard quickly once the game was over - not like playing teacher or superhero - and that this life they were living and currently engaged in had few if any role models they wanted to emulate. I wondered why they played the game at all! I guess because it was raining outside and there was not much else, at the shelter, for eight-and nine-year-old children to do. That day as I watched, I was reminded of a game we played when I was their age. We each selected roles and acted out our fantasies of what it must be like as a grown-up - we called the game House!

Last week I was at the same site, and it has since been transformed and renamed The Ursula Sherman Village. Where there were once eight to ten children there are now 25 to 30 who are benefiting from the many programs that are now provided on-site. This growth is due in part to the fact that the fastest growing homeless population is that of women with children. The once muddy field has been carefully landscaped by a graduate of BOSS's Urban Gardening Institute, in accord with our motto, Each One Teach One. There are flowers, vegetable gardens, succulents, trees and shrubs everywhere. There are cement walkways that connect the six structures that surround the gardens and grass covered common area, and when it rains there are no more lakes. One of the new structures is called Sankofa House.

This two story building houses 10 families in modern studio type apartments. Where the crooked basket ball hoop once stood is a wooden fence, surrounding a yard with a large play structure and a playhouse for the kids.

As important as the structural changes are, the people, activities, programs, energy and sense of community are even more impressive. There are planned activities scheduled almost every day for both young and old. There's an on-site computer lab; weekly employment and housing workshops; tenant meetings; peer support groups; shared childcare; weekly visits by nursing interns; homework clubs and mentoring provided by Cal students and other volunteers.

Today as you walk through the grounds of Ursula Sherman Village, you might see Rafael playing a game of "duck, duck, goose" with a group of children. Another day you will see him playing music and teaching yoga, or he might be showing kids how to grow plants. Walking into an old double trailer, named the Children's Learning Center (CLC) you see young boys and girls engaged in painting or sculpting or drawing Spanish castles with Jill, and others doing their academic work.

Jill, the CLC's art teacher speaks to her role: "We create a safe space for the children to open up and discuss problems they may be having at school or at home." Rafael also teaches some of the older children the game of chess. "It emphasizes thinking ahead, thinking in steps, cause and effect relationships and having a plan. The same set of skills is required to attend school, get a job and is critical to a person's long term survival."

As I think back on the kids I observed playing the game Shelter and struggling with their sense of identity so many years ago I'm sure they could find plenty to stimulate them and to provide role models even if did rain today. It's not easy turning a shelter into a village, a village into a family, a family into a community.

If you would like to make a donation, volunteer or just visit, come on down. We'll leave a light on for you. ■

Winston Burton is a staff member of BOSS (Building Opportunities for Self-Sufficiency).

- **July 20th – Annual Dinner**
DoubleTree Hotel
200 Marina Blvd.
6:00 P.M. – 9:30 P.M.
- **Aug. 9th – Meet & Greet**
Rose Garden Inn
2740 Telegraph Ave.
8:00 A.M. – 9:00 A.M.
- **Aug. 17th – Fire Fighters BBQ Mixer**
Berkeley Yacht Club
1 Seawall Drive
5:30 P.M. – 7:00 P.M.
- **Aug. 22nd – Ribbon Cutting**
Berkeley City College
2050 Center Street
10:00 A.M.
- **Aug. 31st – Meet The Candidates I**
Skates On The Bay
100 Seawall Drive
8:00 A.M. – 9:00 A.M.
- **Sept. 7th – Ribbon Cutting**
Library Gardens
2020 Kittredge St.
4:00 P.M. – 5:30 P.M.
- **Sept. 13th – Meet & Greet**
Rose Garden Inn
2740 Telegraph Ave.
8:00 A.M. – 9:00 A.M.
- **Sept. 19th – B2B Crime Stopper**
Spenger's
1919 Fourth St.
11:30 P.M. – 1:30 P.M.
- **Sept. 28th – Meet The Candidates II**
Skates On The Bay
100 Seawall Drive
8:00 A.M. – 9:00 A.M.
- **Oct. 11th – Meet & Greet**
Rose Garden Inn
2740 Telegraph Ave.
8:00 A.M. – 9:00 A.M.
- **Nov 5th – Crush Festival**
DoubleTree Hotel
200 Marina Blvd.
2:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.
- **Nov. 8th – Meet & Greet**
Rose Garden Inn
2740 Telegraph Ave.
8:00 A.M. – 9:00 A.M.
- **Dec. 13th – Meet & Greet**
Rose Garden Inn
2740 Telegraph Ave.
8:00 A.M. – 9:00 A.M.

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