

BEN YERAKA

Ben is a native of Istanbul, Turkey but he is not ethnically Turkish. He notes that "I have a lot of Greek in me, left over from a long past". Ben spent his working life as a civil/structural engineer, specializing in heavy construction, such as tunnels, bridges, and mining structures. During the last twenty years of his career he was an independent consultant, working in both Melbourne, Australia and San Francisco. Ben is a linguist. He speaks Greek, Turkish, and French and can even engage in short conversations in Spanish, Russian, and Arabic. He has two children, both of whom are UC Berkeley graduates. His son is the general manager of the Diablo Water District and his daughter is in real estate. Ben and his wife, Helen, enjoy traveling, playing cards (particularly bridge), dining out, and each other. Ben also likes to tell jokes, play bocce ball, table pool, and bowling.