

HEALDSBURG ROTARY SUNRISE CLUB

MEETING SUMMARY

DATE: Wednesday, 22 July 2015

ATTENDANCE: 31/47 65.95%

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Philippe Hobson led the Pledge of Allegiance

ROTARY MOMENT/INSPIRATION: Diane Bucher offered these thoughts from *Danielle Greene* on receiving the *Pat Tillman Award* at the recent ESPY award ceremony:

If my story leaves you with one thing tonight, I hope that it leaves you with a challenge. Ask yourself: What is my purpose? What is my passion? What do I want my legacy to be? How can I live as a whole human being? Not all of us are Pat Tillman, but we can all find ways to serve our community. We can all find ways to support the people around us. We can all find a purpose on this earth that is larger than ourselves.

SINGING: All members participated in singing *In The Good Old Summertime*, stirring them from the lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer.

GUESTS:

1. Kate MacMurray, guest speaker, MacMurray Family Ranch
2. Jake McKee, Special Guest of James Gore
3. Christine Webster, guest of Jay Beckwith

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Service dates for **Club meeting assignments** have been advanced one week. Members are encouraged to check their calendars. Upcoming meetings in August have been changed. Since there is no meeting on 12 August,
2. **Membership Committee** will hold a meeting following this morning's meeting.
3. **Giants game on 12 August** still has approximately 20 seats remaining. Cost is \$76. Participation will be opened to the Noon Club after today's meeting. This is a fun trip. Last year the Club witnessed a no-hitter thrown by Tim Lincecum.
4. Nancy Palumbo invited members to participate in the **Kiwanis Club's Interservice Club Golf Tournament** be held on **12 August 2015**, the same day as our giants game. Members should contact Nancy if they're interested in participating.
5. Fred Walters announced that there will be a meeting of the **Foundation Advisory Committee to discuss development of an endowment program**. Members are encouraged to attend. The meeting will probably be held sometime next week and they will be informed at the next weekly meeting of the exact date and time.

6. Lance Cottrell still has 4 tickets available for the **Transcendence Theater outing on 21 August 2015**. Please contact Lance if you are interested in going.
7. Jess Shaw reminded members to contribute to the **Change for Change** boxes on our tables to help end polio.
8. Members were reminded of the forthcoming **SCARC meeting** to be held on **Thursday, 30 July 2015** at the **Balletto Vineyards** at 5700 Occidental Rd. in Sebastopol starting at 6 PM. Members wishing to preregister should contact Doug Pile prior to Friday of this week.
9. Members who sold **winning tickets for the Duck Dash** are encouraged to contact the winner from the ticket they sold and make arrangements for the price to be picked up.

RECOGNITIONS:

Jay Beckwith was noted for his future-looking article in the Healdsburg Tribune last week speaking to the issue of what Healdsburg may look like in the next 20 years.

Past Pres. Pam donated happy dollars as a thank you for the highly successful and enjoyable debunking party held last week. Pictures may be viewed at <https://flic.kr/s/aHskg3HyDg>

Colleen Householder is happy to report that the city is allocating approximately \$50,000 to NSCS to help with the recently displaced renters from the apartments on March Avenue.

Brad Benson reports that a nephew suffered a severe skateboard head injury as a result of not wearing a helmet. He encouraged all members to be very emphatic with the need for this simple piece of safety equipment for any loved ones they have who skateboard. **WEAR YOUR HELMET!**

Andy Esquivel celebrated his birthday by hiking 50 miles on the John Muir Trail. Fred Walter presented Pres. Lee with beads and a strainer from a recent meeting he attended and New Orleans in which the virtues of gin were explored.

RAFFLE:

Jack Vallerga was the holder of the winning ticket. He correctly recognized Doug Pile as a person who presented the songs to be sung at the meetings. Congratulations, Jack!

SUMMARY OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

President Lee on actions of the recent Board of Directors. Budget was presented as a roadmap and subject to change. The importance of developing funding sources was emphasized. The Board has authorized the development of a fund raiser committee which will explore different possibilities for a flagship event. Subsidized membership fees are no longer supported by the Club. Prospective members who were offered the reduced fees will be honored. The Club has decided against further participation with the Noon Club in their annual crab feast. Individual members are encouraged to participate as they see fit.

PROGRAM:

Kate MacMurray, daughter of Fred McMurray presented a program featuring some of the highlights of family life on the MacMurray Ranch from the 1940's along with insights into the character of Fred McMurray, both as an actor as well as a father, husband and farmer.

Fred was an accomplished performer, starting as a saxophone player in the 20's and 30's. He belonged to a group called the California Collegians. One of his friends in theater, Bob Hope, convinced him to do a screen test for Paramount pictures, and he was signed to a contract. During his career he made over 100 pictures, had a 12 year run on TV with *My Three Sons* and then did several pictures with Walt Disney, including the *Absent-Minded Professor*.

Fred fell in love with the Russian River area in the 30's as he was a great fly fisherman and loved the atmosphere of fog filtering through the redwoods, which reminded him of rural Scotland which was the birthplace of his family. He also loved Healdsburg, which at the time was rural, rustic and congenial. He bought property, the Tri-Valley Ranch, west of Healdsburg in the early 1940's and established a home there.

During the war years of the 40's he practiced "diversified farming" which included dairy production, sheep, pigs, and vegetable gardening. After the war he wanted to establish a herd of Angus cattle and travelled to Scotland to buy a bull, Troilus, for breeding purposes. After the long voyage from Scotland to San Francisco, Troilus was introduced into a pasture with 5 beautiful heifers and promptly fainted. Not a great way to start what ultimately became a very renowned herd of cattle.

Growing up on the ranch was a wonderful opportunity to enjoy nature, experience the work involved with operating a functioning ranch, and to meet very interesting people that did very interesting things. Kate recalls going into town for church at St. John's Catholic Church. Her father would drop them off and he would go enjoy the newspaper and browsing through Garrett's Hardware, which at the time was an old-fashioned hardware store on the Plaza with functioning hitching racks for horses at its facade.

Her family's life was filled with acquaintances from Hollywood including John Wayne, Bob Hope, Walt Disney and Robert Young. John Wayne was instrumental in arranging the marriage between Fred and June Haver. Kate recalls several incidents in the family's relationship with Walt Disney. Once, while in Paris while Fred was working on a movie, *Bon Voyage*, the families were going to the water show at Versailles Palace. Walt asked Kate where her sweater was. (it was a blistering hot day). She told him that it was a hot day, to which he replied, "Bring a sweater. You can always take it off, but you can't put it on if you don't have it." To this day, she always brings a sweater with her.

Although he enjoyed making his movies, in which for the most part he played relatively affable and good-natured characters, his true love was doing *My Three*

Sons, a series that almost didn't get started. He was unwilling to spend the 9 or 10 months a year working on the show, and agreed to do it only with a revolutionary filming schedule in which the show was not recorded sequentially, but rather shots for many episodes were taken during an intense period of filming lasting about 3 months and then ultimately put together by editors later on. This allowed him to have a 12 year run of the show, while at the same time maintaining his ties to family and community in the Tri-Valley Ranch.

Kate absolutely loves Healdsburg and Sonoma County. This is her home. She is currently working for Gallo family Vineyards and represents the MacMurray wine label for them. She would not trade her experiences of living on the ranch for anything.

Next week's program will feature **Kathryn Hecht from the Alexander Valley Film Society**. Meeting will be held on Wednesday, 29 July 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas D. Pile, M.D., Club Secretary