

HEALDSBURG ROTARY SUNRISE CLUB

MEETING SUMMARY - KRUG EVENT CENTER

DATE: Wednesday, 29 July 2015

ATTENDANCE: 30/47 63.83%

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Ann Marie Montecucollo led the group in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag

ROTARY MOMENT/INSPIRATION: Colleen Householder

Only kinship, inching ourselves closer to creating a community of kinship such that God might recognize it. Soon we imagine, with God, this circle of compassion. Then we imagine no one standing outside of that circle, moving ourselves closer to the margins so that the margins themselves will be erased. We stand there with those whose dignity has been denied. We locate ourselves with the poor and the powerless and voiceless. At the edges, we join the easily despised and the readily left out. We stand with the demonized so that the demonizing will stop. We situate ourselves right next to the disposable so that the day will come when we stop throwing people away. The prophet Habakkuk writes, "the vision still has its time, presses on to fulfillment and it will not disappoint... and if it delays, wait for it."

SINGING: In anticipation of the Club outing on 12 August to see the Giants and Houston Astros play, the group sang 2 courses of *Bye-Bye Baby*.

GUESTS:

Our guests were introduced by Herb Lieberman, Sgt. at arms

1. Bob Pedroncelli, currently a member of the Noon Club
2. Kathryn Hecht, Alexander Valley Film Society Executive Director, guest speaker, presented by Larry Mills
3. Patrick Llerena, Alexander Valley Film Society, guest of Larry Mills
4. Mary Catherine Cutcliffe, Alexander Valley Film Society, guest of Larry Mills
5. Greg Wilcox, guest of Bonnie Headley, representative of Little League in Healdsburg
6. Christine Webster, guest of Jay Beckwith
7. Nathalie Abramo, Special Guest of Ann Marie Montecucollo

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. **Transcendence Theater event**, 21 August 2015. 2 tickets remained when Lance Cottrell began his presentation. Before he could finish his 1st sentence, both tickets were sold. The event is now sold out. Members are to be treated to an outstanding night of Broadway quality performances.

2. Greg Wilcox presented an overview of the current financial situation of the **Little League program** in Healdsburg and its relationship to the city as well as to

the schools. There is limited access to playing fields in Healdsburg. The City of Healdsburg has no funding to help maintain or develop playing fields. Children are charged \$25 each to help maintain the playing fields at the Healdsburg Elementary School as well as at Recreation Park. Little League would like to resurface all of the playing fields that are available and has raised nearly \$70,000 for this project. They are still short several thousand dollars for replacement of the current blue fescue grass, not drought-tolerant, with Bermuda grass similar to that used at AT&T Park as well as at other major league and professional sports venues throughout the North Bay Area. They are also in need of approximately \$25,000 for purchase of a specialty lawnmower to maintain this type of playing field grass in its optimal condition. Members are encouraged to increase their awareness of this project and to consider either individually, or recommending that as a Club, that donations be made to help complete this project.

.3 Colleen Householder would like to draw attention to a project at North Sonoma County Services is developing to **help provide school supplies for children of the working poor** who are currently housed in their facility. Members wishing to donate to this project should contact Colleen individually.

4. Doug Pile drew attention to an extensive thank you note to our Club from **Sonoma Canopy Tours**. We helped to sponsor a summer camp for foster children.

5. Fred Walters announced that there will be a meeting of the **Foundation Advisory Committee** immediately following this morning's meeting.

6. Colleen Householder announced that there will be a meeting of the **Community Services committee** immediately following this morning's meeting.

HAPPY DOLLARS:

Brad Benson reports that his nephew, seriously injured in a skateboarding accident 2 weeks ago is beginning to show some signs of significant neurologic improvement. **Pam Moulton** is happy to report that she received a first-place award for her photography at the Sonoma County fair.

RAFFLE:

Pam Everson was the lucky holder of the winning ticket. She was able to recite the theme for Rotary year 2015-16, *Be A Gift To The World*, and as such received the value of the cumulative funds in the pot which was not very much. Don't grind your teeth too much about that, Pam!

PROGRAM:

Kathryn Hecht, the Executive Director/Founder of the ALEXANDER VALLEY FILM SOCIETY (AVFS) gave a brief history of its development and an overview of its objectives.

Kathryn and her husband, Ryan, moved to Sonoma County in late 2013 to help revive the Clover Theatre in Cloverdale. Kathryn previously had a long career as an actress and had recently been doing administrative work for nonprofits along with working in public education. They realized that it would be difficult for the Clover Theater to survive as a commercial enterprise showing non-independent films due primarily to the small size of the audience and the large high costs of renting the films. A little over a year ago they attended a regional conference on theaters at the Rafael Theater in Mill Valley and were introduced to the Mill Valley Film Society . They thought that this model would work in Sonoma County and that there was a need for such an institution here. This started them on a program of enlisting involvement from community members in Cloverdale, educators at the 3 school districts in northern Sonoma County (Healdsburg, Geyserville and Cloverdale) and enlisting the help of talents with whom Catherine was familiar from her career in Los Angeles. The Alexander Valley Film Society is a result of those meetings.

The Mission of the Film Society is to “enrich our community by captivating and engaging audiences, cultivating new fans of film, and celebrating our collective humanity using cinema through an annually produced Film Festival and year-round film programming.”

In February of this year they held an Oscar Gala at the Clover Theater, raising over \$12,000 and creating much local “buzz” about the Film Society. In March, they began bimonthly screenings in the public schools and in May began monthly screenings of legacy and independent films at both the Raven Film Center and Clover Theaters.

As currently structured, there are 3 arms of the program.

The FILM SOCIETY aims to provide cultural enrichment programs for the community. To those ends they have a membership program with benefits, monthly screenings of legacy and independent films, first-run preview screenings as they become available, film pairings with local chefs, artists and experts to create multidimensional experiences beyond the screen, a film Club with a 6 week series in the spring and fall and a program of summer drive-in movies.

The ALEXANDER VALLEY FILM LAB is working with school districts and youth leaders to provide programs that create access and opportunities for students in public schools. These include animation workshops with Pixar animator, Adam Burke, an annual student film competition in conjunction with the AV Film Festival, quarterly screenings followed by questions and answers with filmmakers or subject area experts, student internships on film sets, and production skills training for students and teachers. Already, students are beginning to benefit from these projects. The school districts, with the help of outside individuals, are participating in screenings of films by transporting students to and from the Clover and Raven theater complexes.

The FILM FESTIVAL, the 3rd arm of the program, will have its inaugural event on October 22 and 23rd with screenings in Cloverdale and Healdsburg, panel discussions and workshops, on October 23-25th. This will include 2 full days of independent films, student films and local artists to make visible to the community those who work here in producing films. The Festival is meant to be an inclusive, community-building program that through arts helps us to recognize and develop the diversity that exists within our community.

Members wishing to find out more about the organization should visit the website, www.avfilmsociety.org. The AVFS is a 501(c)(3) entity and contributions are fully tax-deductible.

Thank you, Kathryn, for a highly informative and educational presentation.