

**ROTARY CLUB of HEALDSBURG SUNRISE  
TAYMAN PARK  
MEETING SUMMARY**

**DATE:           Wednesday, April 12, 2017**

**ATTENDANCE:       28/45           62%**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

The group recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag under the leadership of Manuel Ramos.

**ROTARY MOMENT/INSPIRATION:**

Brad Benson presented the following:

*Many of the important things in the world have been accomplished by people  
who have kept on trying when there seemed to be no hope at all.*

*Dale Carnegie*

**SINGING:**

Despite it being a rainy day, the group sang "You Are My Sunshine" in hopes of bringing about a change in the weather. Sometimes things work, sometimes they don't.

**GUESTS:**

1. Mary Ritchie, outgoing exchange student (Paraguay)
2. Roy Ritchie, father of Mary
3. Nathalie Abramo, featured speaker
4. Steve Rued, to be inducted today as a new member
5. Ricco Vasquez, special guest, recent high school graduate and member of inteRact at Healdsburg High School

**RECOGNITIONS:**

In light of a very busy meeting, there were no recognitions today, although several spouses of members had birthdays. Just you wait!

**INDUCTION OF NEW MEMBER:**

**Steve Rued**, a guest for the past six weeks, was inducted into membership today. Membership chairman, Manuel Ramos, presented his membership pen and certificates. Steve is the newest member of our club. He is part of the family that owns Rued Vineyards in Dry Creek Valley. Welcome to membership, Steve! Andy Esquivel was a sponsor for membership. He will be assigned a mentor to help guide him through the requisite steps to go from red badge to blue badge over the next one or two months.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

1. **Mary Ritchie** brought several items to auction as a fundraiser for her expenses associated with travel to Paraguay. Easter baskets were present on each table for purchase at \$10 apiece, many members paid \$20 for their basket. Three larger baskets, for adults, were auctioned for a grand total of \$600 plus the money raised from the Easter baskets themselves. Congratulations, Mary, you raised over \$700 today. Keep up the good work!
2. **Wonder League** had a good turnout last Saturday. Buddies were members of the high school varsity baseball team. **Ciro Morales** will be the announcer for the coming year. So far 13 players have registered, of whom nine were in attendance last week. Members are encouraged to come out on Saturday morning at 1015 at the Foss Creek Community baseball field for our first game.
3. **Archie Julian** has returned from a week-long trip in Florida visiting family. He brought with him a pair of Easter bunny sunglasses that were dutifully given to Pres. Brad. Unfortunately, they did not fit so they may be offered to his grandchildren. Archie also donated \$50 for his safe return.
4. **Larry Mills** announced that the **Healdsburg Chorus** is presenting a program on Sunday, April 23 at 4 PM at the Glaser center in Santa Rosa and on **Saturday, April 29 and Sunday, April 30 at the Raven theater**. Tickets are available at \$15 each. They may be purchased at Copperfield's in Healdsburg and Santa Rosa from the website [www.healdsburgchorus.com](http://www.healdsburgchorus.com)
5. **Andy Esquivel** reports that his daughter, **Emma**, has been selected for an 8 week summer science camp for elite students from around the country and world. From over 1000 applicants, 80 are selected. She has also been selected as a Girl's State representative but will be unable to attend because of the science camp. Great accomplishments for Emma. Andy expressed his happiness by contributing \$50 to polio eradication.
6. **Andy Esquivel** also informed the group that our incoming exchange student for next year, from Sweden, will be arriving in the late summer. Her name is Betty Otteson (spelling?). The committee is looking for three host families to help during the academic year. She is a musician and a vegetarian.
7. **Andy Esquivel** also mentioned that there will be a family program for runners at Sonoma Cider on Thursday evening 4/13 for which you may register online. There will also be a family run on April 29 starting at 8 AM. Sign up is available at the Healdsburg Running Company website.
8. **Lance Cottrell** announced that plans are being made for the **Transcendence Theater at Jack London State Park** to be held on **June 24**. He asked for a show of hands from members who might be interested so preliminary arrangements may be made for ticketing. Spread the word with your friends so we can have a large group going. In the past this has been a very entertaining evening.
9. **Larry Orr** announced that there will be a brief scholarship committee meeting held following this meeting. Interviews for student applicants for our scholarships are on Thursday, April 20 at 11 AM at the high school.

**RAFFLE:**

**Diane Bucher** held the winning ticket. Her entire table assisted with answering the question "What was the Supreme Court decision in 1986 regarding Rotary?" Answer, Women were allowed to join Rotary.

**PROGRAM:**

Nathalie Abramo presented a program on "Humanitarian Aid, Changing Times and Changing Operations."

Natalie has been involved with working with refugees and displaced persons for most of her life. Today she presented a picture of the impact of refugees on the world economy, as well as new approaches to helping with their lives.

It is estimated that there are 64 million refugees in the world, of which 16 million are living in their non-native land. Internally displaced people, also refugees who have been driven from their home, but residing in their native country, number about 47.5 million. 12 million of these people currently are in Syria with large numbers also in Columbia, Iraq, Afghanistan and Sudan.

A basic tenant of humanitarian aid is to:

1. Save lives
2. Alleviate suffering
3. Maintain basic human dignity.

It is estimated that the financial requirement to satisfy these refugees with their basic humanitarian needs is approximately \$19.7 billion per year, of which less than 50% is funded. The expense is rising yearly, although financial aid is also rising.

The traditional means of providing this aid, particularly in non-urban areas is to bring in supplies and have a central distribution area where large quantities of several different food items are distributed periodically to each recipient, usually a family. There is little choice, there is potential for misappropriation, and some of the items for consumption degrade before they can be used. Other more durable goods, such as bedding, and shelter work well in this model for "camps".

Most of her talk focused on programs for for refugees residing in non-native countries and living in urban areas. She described the working of the **World Food Program** which is a cash-based distribution system that allows the refugees to purchase goods from local businesses that are more appropriate for their tastes and needs. These programs involve cash donations which are then transferred to credit or debit cards with a fixed dollar value (renewable). The refugees are then able to purchase foods that are appropriate to their tastes and their cultural beliefs. It allows greater diversity in their diet, and provides more safety and security by allowing food to be purchased when

needed and consumed before it deteriorates. One outcome from transacting business this way is that it allows the refugees to be integrated more thoroughly into their local community.

The cash infusion from these programs helps build markets in the community where the refugees reside. There is an economic multiplier of each dollar spent, as in most other economies, and it also builds local capacity for service within the existing businesses and may even allow new businesses to arise.

Cash donations are now the most sought after form of refugee aid for humanitarian organizations. The movement of money through these organizations needs to have strict accountability and the outcome of its disbursement needs to be analyzed closely to see that it is having its intended effect. For the most part, programs associated with the **World Food Program** are doing very well.

**PAUL HARRIS AUCTION:**

At the end of the meeting, there was a special auction by Shaun Sheilds and Will Seppi and a raffle to assist members in augmenting their Paul Harris Fund. The club is offering a 50/50 credit for all donations to Paul Harris today. Several members contributed \$50, several contributed \$100, and one person contributed \$200. All of the participants received raffle tickets and, once again, Diane Bucher was the winner of a Easter breakfast including honey cured ham, Bucher wine, and goodies from Costeaux bakery. Dennis O'Neel was a runner-up and got a single bottle of wine (high quality)!

**NEXT MEETING:**

Wednesday, April 19, 2017

Mary Ritchie, outgoing exchange student will make a presentation

There will be a monthly meeting of the Joint Board of Directors following the regular meeting on April 19.

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