

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

**DATE: Wednesday, 8 February 2017**

**ATTENDANCE:            27/42            64%**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Our illustrious president, Brad Benson, led the entire group reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

**ROTARY MOMENT/INSPIRATION:**

Terry Mills offered the following from the Buddha:

*Just as treasures are uncovered from the earth, so virtue appears from good deeds and wisdom appears from a pure and peaceful mind. To walk safely through the maze of human life, one needs the light of wisdom and the guidance of virtue.*

**SINGING:**

*Take Me Out To The Ballgame* was sung, splendidly, to prepare the group for our program this morning which will feature a talk on the history of the Prune Packers.

**GUESTS:**

1. Steve Rued, special guest of Andy Esquivel
2. Amy Covin, Pres., Board of Directors, Healdsburg Prune Packers
3. Mary Ritchie, outbound exchange student 2017-2018 academic year
4. Roy Ritchie, father of Mary
5. Vern Losh, Healdsburg Love Run

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

1. **Diane Bucher** reminded members of the forthcoming **Drew Esquivel Memorial Scholarship Fund polenta dinner at Relish Culinary Adventures** on Matheson Street on the evening of Wednesday, February 27 at 6 PM. This is a fundraiser for the scholarship fund
2. **Nancy Palombo** spoke about how to sell **Wine and Dine** tickets through email solicitation of her friends. This proved successful last year and is even more successful this year. Tickets must be sold and returned by Friday, February 24 to be drawn at our Club social which will be held at Cousteau bakery starting at 5:30 PM on that day.
3. **George Lawson** suggested that members investigate participating in "**Jazz on the Menu**" on February 23. Proceeds from meals purchased at several restaurants will go to the Jazz Education Foundation to help bring jazz education to the students of Healdsburg schools. Following dinner, there will be a session with the jazz musicians at Cousteau bakery. For more information you may visit the following website:  
<http://www.healdsburgjazzfestival.org/jazz-on-the-menu-2016/>

4. **Andy Esquivel** spoke highly of Skip Brand, owner of Healdsburg Running Company for all of the good work he has done for our Club, in particular the Drew Esquivel Memorial Scholarship Fund. He has provided T-shirts at cost, helped to promote our Turkey Trot (\$10,000 income), convinced moviegoers at the Sonoma County Cider Company to contribute \$500 to the fund, and is helping to sponsor the **Love Run** to be held this Saturday in conjunction with the **Healdsburg Firefighters Association pancake breakfast**. Sign up for the Love Run can be done online at the Healdsburg Running Company website. Skip is also working to get a fun run in association with our century bicycle tour in April.
5. **Nancy Palombo** encourage members to participate at a fund-raising for Emma Nissen, our exchange student, to raise funds for a Rotary exchange student group trip to Hawaii. **Dinner will be held on March 3 at 5 PM**. Contact Nancy to purchase tickets.
6. **Pam Moulton** will hold a brief organizational meeting for the **Teachers Appreciation Breakfast** following our regular meeting on February 15.
7. **Will Seppi** reminded members of ongoing committee activities and work being done for 4 July celebration. Meetings are held on the third Friday of each month at John and Zeke's starting at 3 PM.
8. **Jess Shaw and Gail Ginder** will be hosting a cocktail hour on **February 15 for Herb and Bev Liberman** who will be moving to Southern California in the next 1-2 months. An invitation is being sent by Dan Erickson to all members in the Club. Please respond on the electronic invitation whether or not you will attend.

#### **RECOGNITIONS:**

1. **Ciro Morales** contributed \$50 to celebrate the successful launch of an antiballistic missile that he and his teams have been working on for some time
2. **Andy Esquivel** gave \$10 in celebration of his daughter, Emma's, being named the Healdsburg student to attend Girls State this year.
3. **Leslie Palmieri** contributed \$5 after learning of a lost cousin on Know Your Roots television.
4. **Lee Morton** presented Manuel Ramos an umbrella from Sonoma State Bank to help keep him dry.
5. **Vince Doherty** contributed \$5 out of sadness because cookies he had purchased earlier this morning from Mary, seem to have disappeared.
6. **Roy Ritchie** gave \$10 out of appreciation for the Rotary Club's efforts in helping his daughter, Mary, become an exchange student.
7. **Will Seppi** gave his traditional \$1 contribution because he is happy that Richard Hillman is back at our meetings.
8. **Richard Hillman** gave \$5 because he is happy to be back and did not want to be underbid on his return.
9. **Dan Erickson** reminded members that **District Training** will be held in Ukiah on **Saturday, April 1**. This is a good opportunity for all members to learn about Rotary International. Cost is \$50 and is paid for by the Club. Talk to Dan about signing up. Dan also reminded members of our **Fool's Night Out celebration, also to be held on Saturday, April 1**.

10. **Herb Liberman** reports that his home is in escrow with closing scheduled in the next 1-2 weeks, following which he will be moving to Delmar in Southern California. He also pointed out that Rawlings baseballs are made in the town in Costa Rica whose schools are supported by our Club.

11. **Matt Machi** reported that the Interact Club has provided 40 care packs for homeless people, is scheduled to go to the Healdsburg Senior Living Center on February 12th for activities with the residents, the Club will be starting a composting program at the school and 10 members have volunteered to work on our bike ride.

12. **Shaun Sheilds** reminded members to contribute to Change for Change to help eradicate polio.

13. **Mary Ritchie** spoke briefly about her exchange year coming up in Paraguay. She brought cookies to the meeting for sale as part of a fund-raising effort. She is also to be the recipient of funds raised at a Texas Hold 'Em Tournament to be held at Geyserville Mud on February 28.

14. **Brad Benson** reminded members to **keep their calendars open for the date of April 29** when everybody will be expected to participate one way or another with our inaugural Bike Tour event.

#### **Raffle:**

**Archie Julian** hit a single when he held the winning number for the raffle. Unfortunately he was not able to advance around the bases as he did not know what year the Prune Packers started to play in Healdsburg. He thought 1933, actually 1921. Back to the dugout for Archie.

#### **Program:**

Amy Covin, a local CPA, has been involved with the Prune Packer baseball team since her son was in high school. Prior to that she had little interest or knowledge about baseball but learned a great deal about the game by her son's participation. She gave a short history of the team. The Prune Packers were founded in 1921 and were a true MLB farm Club with excellent players. They were active for approximately 10-15 years before the league and the team began to dissolve. They were dormant until the 1950s when they were re-constituted with both local and college players. Again the team lasted for 15-20 years. In 2012 they were resuscitated by a private investor who wanted to make it a for-profit organization. They became part of the California Collegiate League, sponsored in part by major league baseball, which serves as a training ground for prospects for the major leagues. They were not successful as a for-profit organization and shortly after 2012 they became a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. This was the time that Amy became actively associated with the team. Interestingly, in her first year with working with the team, she hosted two players who came just at the time that her house burned in a tragic fire. It did not deter her. She persisted!

For the past several years, the team has depended upon sponsorships and donations as well as a gradually increasing stream of revenue from attendance at their numerous

games held at Recreation Park. Since 2012 they have been in the black, and have actually had extra money for donation to charitable causes. They participate with the Junior Giants Program and use funding from that to help sponsor programs for underprivileged children, including field trips to Giants baseball games. They generously "Buddy" with our Wonder League plays in the last game of the season played at Rec. Park

They play over approximately 20-22 home games during the months of June and July in Healdsburg. Admission is \$5, children under 10 are free. Food and non-alcoholic beverages are available. There is a "non-raffle" with some really nice prizes. Every attendee gets one free ticket.

Their schedule can be found at [PrunePackers.org](http://PrunePackers.org) on the Internet.

The team is always looking for sponsors, who were given great recognition during the game or games that they have agreed to sponsor. This creates tremendous goodwill within the community, and gives the college-age players a chance to see a community coming together for a good cause, a good game, and a slice of good old America. There are numerous opportunities for citizen participation in different aspects of team functions, including grounds and maintenance, field preparation, equipment repairs. There is also a need for housing for the students who are typically here for a two month period of time. Parkpoint Health Club provides free memberships for all of the athletes during their stay in Healdsburg.

The team has petitioned the city of Healdsburg to allow the sale of beer and wine at the games. So far they have received a deaf ear. It is felt that if community members write letters and show up at city Council meetings, there might be some leniency allowed in this. The Prune Packers know all of the routines for safe and accountable sales and consumption of alcoholic beverages on a city property.

Amy hopes to see some or all of us at some or all of their games this summer. Definitely a fun and memorable experience!