



The Voice of the Vineyards

The Weekly Electronic Bulletin of the Rotary Club of Healdsburg

“The mission of a bulletin is inform the membership,
comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable”

Author: **Doug Garrett**

Editor/Publisher: **George Heath**

August 3, 2020

WELCOME – President Dick Bertapelle

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE LED BY: Tricia Fichtner

GUESTS of ROTARIANS



- Heather Irwin, today’s program speaker

QUOTE of the DAY

“Would you like me to give you a formula for success? It is quite simple, really: Double your rate of failure. You are thinking of failure as the enemy of success. But it is not at all. You can be discouraged by failure or you can learn from it, so go ahead and make mistakes. Make all you can. Because remember that’s where you will find success.”

– Thomas J. Watson (Founder & former Chairman of IBM)

MEMBER BIRTHDAYS (DID THEY ACKNOWLEDGE? PLEDGE TO ANY GOOD CAUSES?)

- **Phil Luks** Aug 03-Celebrating his birthday and successful cataract surgery on both eyes! Pledged \$100 to Education Fund
- **Jerry Campbell** Aug. 08- Celebrating his 89th birthday! Pledged \$100 to Rotary Foundation
- **Mark Decker** Aug. 15-Celebrating his 70th birthday! Pledged \$70 to his Paul Harris
- **John Avakian** Aug. 16
- **Joe Sobolewski** Aug. 19
- **Harvest Echols** Aug. 23
- **Brent Stanley** Aug. 24

- **Fred Roberts** Aug. 25-Celebrating his 68th birthday! Pledged \$69 to his Paul Harris (family tradition always add “plus \$1” for the future)

SPECIAL TRIBUTE - By Immediate Past President Paul Frechette



- To **Tom Cleland**, who reached his milestone 50th year as a Rotary Club member. **Paul** presented **Tom** with personal letters from both the then President of Rotary International and our former District Governor, Kathy Flamson. The letters were nicely framed locally by the Club.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

✚ **SCARC Meeting:** The first “virtual” SCARC meeting was held last Thursday and attended by **Paul Frechette, Nita Parker, Alex Rollins,** and **Dick Bertapelle.** They enjoyed self-provided cocktails and snacks. The next SCARC meeting will be hosted by our own Club and will feature Sonoma County Supervisor James Gore as the guest speaker. The meeting will be hosted on Zoom on August 27 at 5:30 PM. Bring your wine glass or cocktail shaker and join what will surely be an interesting meeting!



✚ **Community Service Projects:** **Fred Roberts** congratulated all the participants in the refurbishment of the Enchanted Garden at Geyserville Elementary School. Special thanks to:

- ✓ **Don and Nancy Mitchell** (and their pickup truck)
- ✓ **Tricia Fichtner**
- ✓ **Rick Tang** for the great photos and everyone who made this a success! Check out the great photos on our website or our Facebook page:



https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=127205599061070&id=10449129466583

✚ **Education Fund: Ric Helthall** suggested we get a head start on our usual year-end “Paddle Raise” for the Education Fund normally held at the Crab Feast. **Rick** encouraged the membership to consider donating whatever amount they would usually give and the Club could have that available for Fall scholarships without having to sell existing investments. **Mark Decker** would welcome checks to the Club P.O. Box or you can make a donation via the link on the Club website.

✚ **Amigos de Guatemala Follow-up: Jean Herschede** congratulated the Club on our generous support for Amigos de Guatemala. She particularly noted that we are raising funds for people we do not know, cannot see but who are also some of those most in need during this perilous time. In addition to the District Grant we have applied for **Mark Decker** reported the members donated an additional \$2,472 thus far, which will provide more than 200 bags of food staples to needy families.



✚ **Crab Feast Committee: Mark Decker** will be hosting a Virtual Crab Feast planning meeting next Monday, August 10 at 10:30 AM. An email with Zoom link info will go out to the planning committee.



✚ **Club Social Media: Alex Rollins** reminded everyone to be sure and “Like” the Healdsburg Rotary Facebook page, and to “Connect” with us on LinkedIn. **Doug Garrett** also encouraged folks to “Share” our Facebook posts on their own timelines as a way to expand the number of folks who see us on social media and can better understand the important work we do. Posts on our International efforts in Guatemala will be going up soon.



HAPPY DOLLARS/RECOGNITION

❖ **Tom and Emmy Cleland** are celebrating their 55th wedding anniversary. **Tom** pledged \$55 to the Education Fund.

❖ **Kate Buchanan** acknowledged her July birthday, donating \$50 to her Paul Harris.



TODAY'S PROGRAM

Speaker Heather Irwin, Sonoma Family Meal and Writer for the Press Democrat and Sonoma Magazine was introduced **by Barbara Rosen** (with support from **Fred Roberts**)

Heather joined our meeting on Zoom and quickly gave us the history of Sonoma Family Meal, now a 501(c)(3) charitable organization and how she worked with Chefs and owners of Sonoma County restaurants to provide wholesome, delicious meals to those in need in our area. Sonoma Family Meal started after the 2017 wildfires provided more than 200 thousand meals to folks displaced by the fires and first responders and others in need during that emergency and the 2019 fires as well.

With the onset of the Covid19 pandemic, the original strategy of using a central kitchen under control of a head chef was not viable. Kyle Connaughton of Single Thread Restaurant brainstormed with Heather to come up with a win-win solution: contract with local restaurants to prepare the meals in their kitchens, thereby satisfying the need to produce a lot of pre-prepared meals and also help keep restaurants open and kitchen staff employed.

On the distribution side, Sonoma Family Meal works with existing organizations such as the Redwood Empire Food Bank, Corazon Healdsburg, and the Sonoma County Council on Aging to identify needy households and distribute meals, either by pickup at a central location or directly to the home. In Healdsburg, Sonoma Family Meal has contracted with Single Thread, Dry Creek Kitchen, Pizzardo and Mateo's to produce meals within a budget of \$8 per meal per person. While they are obviously not able to produce the food they serve in their restaurants at that cost, they provide wholesome, delicious food prepared safely for those that struggle or cannot cook for themselves. Corazon alone is distributing some 250 meals per week here in Healdsburg, largely to the local Hispanic population who work in service and in the vineyards around us. Sonoma Family Meal also works with Farm to Pantry and uses other local suppliers, including one providing compostable and recyclable containers for the food.

Heather also answered questions about the local food scene and the challenges facing restaurants when they cannot keep their regular dining rooms open. While they are continually innovating to try and keep going, she said many are struggling to make ends meet and keep their staff employed.

Fred Roberts told Heather that the Club's Board had voted at its last meeting to include Sonoma Family Meal in our Covid19 District Grant application. will keep Heather informed on the progress of that application and will also work with her to identify "hand-on" opportunities for members to volunteer (safely) on behalf of her organizations' efforts to feed those in need in these challenging times.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Aug. 10th: Craig Anderson, Landpaths Community Conservation Programs

Aug. 17th: Brad Smith, Author and CEO of ABCandME

Aug. 24th: Kathryn Hecht, Executive Director, AVFS