

# 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”

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Editor/Publisher: **George Heath**  
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**WELCOME – Dick Bertapelle**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE LED BY: Rick Tang**



## VISITING ROTARIANS

- **Cathy King, Rotary Club of Park City Utah**
  - Cathy attended her third meeting of our club today. She provided a summary of her Rotary experience, which includes projects and trips to Guatemala, and her overall responsibility for the Park City club's Interact Club.
- **Lynda Guthrie**, past president of our club, and current member of the Rotary Club of Nevada City. Always great to see Lynda at our meetings.

## GUESTS of ROTARIANS

- Emily Martin, who recently moved to Healdsburg from SF, and spent many of her years in Illinois and NYC
  - Emily provided a summary so we could get to her know her better. She's originally from Winnetka, IL, where she lived in an active Rotary family. Emily produces an active blog, called The Jet setting Fashionista. She has been active in Meals on Wheels and has produces many events in the wine and food industry (her specialty). She provided her email, [emily@emily-e-martin.com](mailto:emily@emily-e-martin.com). Check out her blog!
- George Lawson, former member of the Healdsburg Sunrise Rotary Club, joined us from his vacation spot in Wisconsin. Always terrific to have George in our midst.



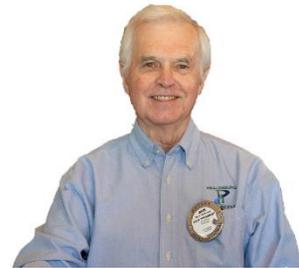
- Maureen Davidson was a guest today of **Alex Rollins**. She was a high school classmate of Alex', and theirs has been a lifetime of friendship. Maureen recently moved to Geyserville. C'mon back for another visit!
- David Fichtner, husband of our member **Tricia Fichtner**. David was our featured speaker today, so more about David a bit later in this edition of Voice of the Vineyards.

**QUOTE of the DAY**, provided by **President Dick**:

**“When everything seems to be going against you, remember that the airplane takes off against the wind, not with it.”**  
**Henry Ford**

### MEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- **Dave Anderson** Sept 06: Past president **Dr. Dave** acknowledged his birthday in a previous meeting



- **Tom Colbert** Sept 22: also acknowledged previously

### HAPPY DOLLARS

- **Jim Westfall** Sept 30: Spent a day with Julie at Lake Tahoe, where they took several day hikes. To honor their trip, **Jim** pledged \$50 to the Rotary Foundation,



### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### 🚩 Crab Feast Status



- Past president **Rich Bottarini** provided a meaningful summary of Crab Feast activities in a memo to all club members this past week.



○ Past president **John Avakian** provided an update of our activities surrounding the auctions planned for this year's event. Our so-called "Live Auction" will consist of perhaps 10 really special items. These items will be "Silent" on the event web site for at least a week prior to the "Live" virtual event to generate interest in the items. We will also have perhaps 20 or more items in the Silent virtual auction, where bids can be provided a week before the event, and for a couple of days afterwards. Details are still being worked out concerning all of this.

○ Past president **John Hazlett** discussed the large auction items we call "The Collection". Last year, the "Collection" consisted of 111 good to great bottles of wine provided/donated by our club members. This item generated \$3,400 last year, and we're hopeful of a similar amount this year. The call to action is for every member to dig deeply into their wine cellars and donate two very good bottles of wine. These bottles can be dropped off at Exchange Bank in the conference room (you will be directed), or at Ric Helthall's house on S. Fitch. Both places have a list of all our names, and you are encouraged to note that you have delivered your wine on whichever list you encounter at either the bank or at the Helthall residence. Ric offered his mobile number in case you want to deliver to house, and call/text in advance: 240-344-0053.



○ Past president and past Assistant District Governor **Henk Peeters** discussed a project being undertaken by the Healdsburg High School Interact Club. As they do each year recently, the Interact Club is collecting personal items for the homeless: socks, toothpaste and toothbrushes, other toiletries, etc. etc. Over the past weekend, President **Dick Bertapelle** sent an email to all our club members about this initiative, and that memo included a bunch of items that would be appropriate for this initiative. Andy Esquivel of the Sunrise Club is coordinating this activity with our **Henk Peeters**, and he has offered his office as a collection point: State Farm Insurance office, 637 Healdsburg Ave. Andy will also pick up the offerings at our respective homes if we wish.

## HAPPY DOLLARS RECOGNITION

- ❖ **Ric Helthall** had bunion surgery and is recovering at home. To honor his recovery, pledged \$50 to the Club.
- ❖ **Paul Jones** and his wife, Judy, meet with **Rich** and Janet **Bottarini** in Arizona, played golf, and had dinner. He was happy about that and pledged \$25 to the Club.



## TODAY'S PROGRAM

### Introduction by Alex Rollins:

#### David Fichtner - Origin of Putin's Operations against the West

- Dave Fichtner is a retired intelligence officer with more than 30 years' experience in the CIA's Directorate of Intelligence (DI), Directorate of Science and Technology (DS&T), Directorate of Operations (DO), Community Management Staff (CMS), the Congress, and industry as a leader, staff officer, manager, and analyst. Mr. Fichtner has worked directly with senior Intelligence Community, military, and Congressional leaders. He is experienced in analysis of foreign information operation programs and cyber threats. He also has extensive experience with proliferation issues involving both advanced conventional weapons and weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons security. Other work experience includes military active duty as a Naval officer and reserve duty as a Marine officer.
- Dave led us through a fascinating history of the ongoing struggle between the United States and Russia (including the former USSR). There was far more information provided today than can be adequately provided in a summary for the Voice of the Vineyards, but if anyone is interested in diving further into the subject, Dave indicated he would share the PowerPoint he shared with the club. You just need to contact Tricia (all email addresses are on ClubRunner) to request information.
- As part of Dave's summary, he provided a list of books one might peruse for more information on the history of the struggles within Putin's Russia, and how things evolved into the situation we are witnessing today.
- Dave fielded a question from a member, wondering just what the heck Putin might have on Donald Trump (if anything). Dave said there is a chapter in one of the books he's recommended that deals with that, and he recommends reading that chapter. Dave agreed to send the chapter in a pdf file so we can do so.
- This was a terrific program, and quite timely. I am sure all of us would like to learn more, and hear more, from Dave.

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

- **Oct. 5th:**       **Senator Mike McGuire** - From the State Capitol
- **Oct. 12th:**   **Bob Freelen** – The Grand Jury
- **Oct. 19th:**   **Mike Brennan** – The Mill District