



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: **John Hazlett**

Editor/Publisher: **George Heath**

October 12, 2020

HAPPY COLUMBUS DAY

WELCOME – Dick Bertapelle

Dick acknowledged **George Heath** for the many years he has published the VOV. He has been doing this for 11 ½ years. Thank you, George,!!!



PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE LED BY: Kate Buchanan



VISITING ROTARIANS

- Cathy “Cat” King, Park City Utah? (**Jim Westfall**). Her move to Healdsburg is ongoing.

GUESTS of ROTARIANS

- Liz Loebel – Guest of **Dick Cochran**
- Gale Gorson – Guest of **Nita Parker**. He serves on the Grand Jury with **Bob Freelen**.

QUOTE of the DAY

“You can never cross the ocean unless you have the courage to lose sight of the shore.”

He also said that it takes adventure and grit to cross an ocean.

Christopher Columbus

MEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- **Grady Wann** Oct 05
- **Gary Anderson** Oct 19
- **Mel Schatz** Oct 23. Mel acknowledged his birthday with \$73 to the Education Fund



ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Mark Decker** announced that the Crab Feast committee will meet via Zoom tomorrow at 10:30. Committees need help from everyone in the Club to make this a success. We currently have 9 live auction items
- **Ric Helthal** has 23 bottles of wine that members have donated for the Collection. Drop off your two bottles either at his house or the Exchange Bank.



- **Alex Rollins** will lead a hike on Oct. 23 on Fitch Mountain to look at a possible community service project of updating signage. Meet at 9:00 at the dog park at the Villa (lower parking lot).



- **Mike McGuire's** presentation to the Club on Oct. 5 has been posted to our social media sites.
- Zoom presentation by **Dick Cochran** to Liz Loebel for her Paul Harris plus one pin which contains sapphires. This award was funded by \$450 from the Club and 550 points that the Club has accumulated. There has been an outpouring of donations from Club members in **Al's** memory. Liz was "super honored" and acknowledged **Al's** dedication to Rotary. She is going to add Rotary to a list of possible activities she looks to undertake.



HAPPY DOLLARS RECOGNITION

- **John Hazlett** - \$25 to the Club for a camping trip that he and Carol took to the gold country where they tasted and purchased some fine wine.



- In absentia, **Jerry Eddinger** donated \$114 to the scholarship fund to commemorate being married for 58 years and for living in the same home for 56 years. Congratulations to Mary Lou and **Jerry**!
- **Ric Helthall** contributed \$50 to the Club because he gets to wash his foot tomorrow. This is a big “step” as he recovers from bunion surgery. He and Georgia are going to Tu Tu Lodge in Oregon next week. We can look for a generous donation when he returns (ed.)
- **Dick Cochran** donated \$50 to his Paul Harris in recognition of having been in San Francisco with his grandkids. There was an undertone of being relieved to be back in Healdsburg!

- **Doug Garrett** donated \$24 to the Education Fund in recognition of his oldest grandson’s 12th birthday tomorrow.



- **Andy Elkind** and Kerry just returned from visiting the east coast to visit their daughter and see the Fall colors. They had to take a COVID test before leaving and did not know the results until they arrived in Boston. For that he donated \$36 to the Education Fund.

TODAY'S PROGRAM

Barbara Rosen introduced member **Bob Freelen** who spoke of his experiences serving on the Sonoma County Grand Jury. **Bob** graduated from Stanford and stayed for 32 years. He served on the Board there for 20 years and was looking for something else to do locally after he retired. When he received a flyer about the Civil Grand Jury, it looked like a good fit for him. He applied, was interviewed by the presiding judge of the Superior Court and was accepted. He gave us the



history of the Grand Jury which started in England in 1176. Each of the 58 California counties has a Grand Jury and the one in Sonoma County has 19 members. Its function is to serve as an arm of the Superior Court for civil matters only. It is a watchdog looking after city government, weighing misconduct by public officials. Each member of the Court takes an oath of confidentiality for LIFE. There can be no bias or conflict of interest by the members. It is the members who bring forward subject matter forward for the Jury to consider. Citizens can also suggest subjects using the Jury website of which there are about 20 per year. The website also shows who the members are and prior decisions. **Bob** had to review Jury decisions of the past 20 years and issue a report. Of the six reports issued last year, the subjects included homelessness, planning and coroner investigations. **Bob** gave details of the inner workings of the Jury, which are considerable. The Jury is made up of a diverse population, except for age. Because of the time needed to devote to the Jury, members are mostly retired and older in age. **Bob** had a ride along with a County sheriff which was peaceful. Most of the work is done by the foreperson and pro-tem member which is very time-consuming. The Jury has no powers of enforcement and if the County board disagrees with a decision, there is no enforcement. Members serve one year, but they can ask to stay on. There are no term limits. As for pay, **Bob** receives \$15 per meeting and \$12.50 for committee meetings, plus mileage. There are ten alternates to fill in when a member is absent. **Bob** has found that the Supervisors are politically motivated but all others are open. He has found that Jury members are thoughtful and thorough. It is clear that **Bob** has found this opportunity very rewarding.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Oct. 19th: Mike Brennan – The Mill District
Oct. 26th: Chris Vanden Heuvel – School Superintendent
Nov. 2nd: David Fichtner – Putin's Information War – Continued
Send questions in advance to Dick Bertapelle or Barbara Rosen

Dick thanked our guests Liz Loebel, Jack Neureuter and Gale Gorson for joining