



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

November 30, 2020

WELCOME: President Dick Bertapelle

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Don Mitchell

VISITING ROTARIANS: None

GUESTS OF ROTARIANS:

- ✓ **Pat Williams**, former Healdsburg Rotarian
- ✓ Norm Fujita, guest of **John Hazlett** Note: This is Norm's third visit to the meetings. He is a retired Infectious Disease Physician who moved last July to Healdsburg with his wife, a retired Rheumatologist. They moved from Denver to be near family. Norm is originally from Southern California. He retired in 2015. He is looking forward to joining the club and helping with service projects.

QUOTE OF THE DAY:

“Never believe that a few caring people can't change the world. For, indeed, that is all who ever have. -Margaret Mead

MEMBERS BIRTHDAYS

- **Rick Tang** November 30

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ✚ **Presents Project – Kellie Larson**

Our club is sponsoring a family of six for Christmas. An email has gone out to all members with the “wish list” from the family. Each gift needs to be wrapped and marked by clearly writing the family number and name of recipient on the package. Our family number is #620. Let **Kellie** know what you are purchasing. The wrapped packages can be dropped off at her office (338 Healdsburg Avenue) on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 8:30 and 5:00 or get in touch with **Kellie** to arrange a time. The gifts need to be delivered to the family by December 10.

🌟 **Senior Thanksgiving Luncheon – Doug Garrett**

The Thanksgiving Lunch was a success and **Doug** hopes this is the first and only time we have to supply the meal in a “drive-thru” type of format. Over 190 local seniors were served with the left-over meals going to St. Paul's to help with their homeless outreach. **Doug** thanked everyone who helped with contributing pies, cutting pies, calling the Seniors, directing traffic, handing out meals, and delivering meals. He is hoping next year we will be in the normal and more cozy setting at the Senior Center. Thank you, **Doug**, for organizing this successful event.

🌟 **Crab Feast Update – Mark Decker**

The Virtual Crab Feast and Auctions are getting close. An email is going out to all Rotarians on our list with the link attached to the registration page. You are able to preview the items on the website before the bidding starts on December 7th. It is very important that everyone get the word out about the Auctions. This is a great opportunity for people out of the area to participate, which they could not do in years past. The Live Auction will be on December 12th at 7:00p.m. Sponsors are currently being loaded on the website landing page. We are grateful to the sponsors for helping us make this a great success. More information about ordering a crab cake dinner will be in the emails.

🌟 **President Dick Bertapelle** announced that **John Merget** has resigned from the club. He is moving to Sebastopol and will join a Rotary Club there. He served as our Sergeant of Arms and will be missed. Please drop him a line to say goodbye if you get a chance.

🌟 **President Dick Bertapelle** also recognized **Past President Paul Frechette** with a certificate from the End Polio Now Countdown to History Campaign Together for the outstanding contribution our club made during the 2019-2020 year.

HAPPY DOLLARS RECOGNITION

- ❖ **Henk Peeters** – donated \$82.00 in honor of his upcoming birthday.
- ❖ **Dick Bertapelle** - \$30.00 to the Club for the college football games last weekend
- ❖ **John Hazlett** - \$25.00 to the Club in honor of his granddaughter's engagement
- ❖ **Jean Herschede** - \$25.00 to the Club in honor of the first woman kicker on the

Vanderbilt Football team and for completing a club hike with the 10 people she started with

- ❖ **Andy Elkind** - \$25.00 to the club for finishing the hike with **Jean**
- ❖ **Alex Rollins** - \$50.00 to the Education Fund for going the “extra miles” with **Jean** on the hike
- ❖ **Dick Cochran** - \$50.00 to the Rotary Foundation for having a socially distanced Thanksgiving
- ❖ **Cathy King** - \$25.00 to the Education Fund for sharing Thanksgiving with **Alex's** and **Tricia's** families.

TODAY'S PROGRAM

Anne Morkill, Executive Director, Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation

Anne Morkill began her position in March of 2020. She has a degree in Wildlife Biology and worked for 30 years with the Federal Government. Her jobs have taken her to Florida, Alaska, and Colorado as part of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Anne began her presentation by pointing out that the Laguna de Santa Rosa is a Wetland of International Importance. It is part of the Russian River Watershed and covers over 250 square miles. There are 22 miles of watershed from the creeks and tributaries that run into the Russian River. The area covers over 30,000 acres of wetland habitats. It is a biologically diverse area with some species returning to the habitats, including river otters, badgers, and migrating birds.

The Foundation was established in 1989 to preserve the Laguna de Santa Rosa areas. The Foundation's main goals are in Restoration, Conservation, and Inspiration. They have a center at Stone Farm, where they lease 4 acres from the county. The Laguna Uplands Preserve in Sebastopol is an 8-acre area where native vegetation is being restored. The Foundation is fueled by volunteers and funded by private donations, grants, and contracts. The goal is to reestablish native habitats in the wetland areas. The Foundation does not actually own any land, so they rely on the help and cooperation of other groups to help achieve their goals.

They often collaborate with government organizations and Native Tribes for restoration projects. They have continued their projects during COVID with small groups and individuals. They work with private and public landowners to restore after the fires we have had to help rehabilitate the areas affected. They collected seeds from Hood Mountain to help rehabilitate the areas burned and take them to the Native Plant Nursery at Stone Farm. They are working on habitats to revegetate along creeks as many areas have changed due to agriculture and the straightening of creeks. The creeks have become high in nitrogen and phosphorus because of the agricultural areas near them, so invasive species of plants, such as ludwigia, have invaded the areas. Keeping the invasive plants from the area helps with flood control during the rainy seasons. They are also working on the Laguna Mark West Master Restoration Plan along with Sonoma Water, San

Francisco Estuary Institute, and the Aquatic Science Center, to bring back a major part of the habitats along the watershed. The projects will be implemented in phases over the next 3-5 years. The restorations will help with flood resilience, improve water quality, improve marsh habitats, ponds and lakes, wet meadow areas, and the natural terrestrial.

Their conservation projects are to help endangered/periled species. By bringing back natural plants near the vernal pool habitats, they are helping the California Tiger Salamander thrive again. They also help prevent invasive plants by using grazing and hand raking so the pools can fill with water.

Their inspiration goal is achieved through education. With COVID, they have been able to continue their outreach programs to the schools through virtual presentations. Their nine on-line presentations this year have reached more participants than they normally interact with. They also hosted an online Summer Camp this year. The children were given supplies to learn about nature in their own backyards since the normal summer camp could not take place. The grant from Ag+Open Space allowed them to furnish the children with materials for the virtual camp. They also have a high school program called Laguna ACTS (Action through Conservation Training and Stewardship).

For more information about the foundation, you can visit their website at www.lagunadesantarosa.org or on Facebook and Instagram.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

- ✓ December 7th: Kathryn Hecht, Executive Director, Alexander Valley Film Society
- ✓ December 14th: Don McEnhill, Russian River
- ✓ December 21st: Cathy King and Emily Martin, Craft Talks

Thank you, guests!