



# 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**

**January 25, 2021**

**WELCOME – Dick Bertapelle**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Don Mitchell**

## QUOTES OF THE DAY

- ✓ "If you bungle raising your children, I don't think whatever else you do well matters very much."  
- Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis
- ✓ "Youth fades; love droops; the leaves of friendship fall; A mother's secret hope outlives them all."  
- Oliver Wendell Holmes

**PAUL HARRIS AWARD – Dick Cochran** awarding to **Fred Roberts**, his first Paul Harris award

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ✚ Golf Tournament – May 20 at Windsor Golf Club. There is still room for eight additional players and there are also sponsor opportunities available.
- ✚ Work Project – Landpaths Riddell Preserve – **Fred Roberts** gave an update on the work to refurbish the decks, repair existing picnic tables and construct a new picnic table for use at the events/education building. **Fred, Dick Bertapelle, Doug Garrett, Lucia Varela, Paul Jones, Don Mitchell** and **Graham Freeman** participated. Because of the size and condition of the decks, there will be an additional work party on both May 25th (sanding) and May 27th (finishing). Both work parties need volunteers and will carpool up to the Preserve from the City Corporation Yard on Westside Road. Meet at the corporation yard at 9:00 AM if you are able to help out!
- ✚ Board Meeting – May 17

🚩 SCARC Meeting – May 27, 5:15 PM on Zoom.

## MEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- **Bob Freelen**            May 01
- **Tom Billeter**           May 05
- **Kevin Burke**            May 06
- **Paul Frechette**         May 07
- **Jerry Ogden**            May 20
- **Norm Fujita**             May 26

## HAPPY DOLLARS RECOGNITION

- ❖ Paul Jones pledged \$25 to the Healdsburg Educ. Fund in honor of his wife's new car.
- ❖ Rick Helthal pledged \$50 to the Club in honor of his and Doug Garrett's successful assembly of a very heavy picnic table at Riddell Preserve.
- ❖ President Dick pledged \$25 to the Club in honor of his and Pat's Mother's Day visit with their son's family in San Jose and getting to see their granddaughter play soccer.

**TODAY'S PROGRAM:**    Nikki Sharp, Executive Director, Wildlife SOS

Nikki informed the Club with a moving presentation and discussion about Wildlife SOS's efforts to rescue, rehabilitate and provide sanctuary for abused wild animals in India. Founded by two concerned Indian citizens, Wildlife SOS began its mission by developing a plan to end the practice by a nomadic Indian tribe of capturing Sloth Bears and cruelly harnessing them to get them to "dance" for donations. This cruel practice was often the cause of the death of a mother bear, and the cruel treatment of the bears in captivity. The organization was successful in ending this practice by 2009 through systematically contracting to train the bear handlers in vocations that allowed them to earn a decent living after agreeing to surrender the bears.



Photo(C): Claire Rosen

2009 – The last 'dancing bear' was rescued

Wildlife SOS now focuses its efforts primarily on rescuing Indian Elephants that are held captive for religious offerings, tourism (e.g. elephant rides, painting demonstrations), and export to other countries in Asia. The practice of capturing and confining the elephants is inherently cruel and illegal in India, but enforcement is difficult. Wildlife SOS has developed a highly refined process to identify elephants in the most inhumane conditions, then with the cooperation of Indian wildlife authorities, rescuing them and relocating them to their elephant sanctuary. This is a difficult and dangerous process, both for the animals and the handlers, who sometimes come under attack from those seeking to keep the animals in captivity. To date, Wildlife SOS has rescued 40 elephants and is embarking on a campaign to raise the funds to expand their sanctuary to accommodate an additional 50 elephants. Learn more about the organization, their rescue efforts for elephants, leopards and other Indian wildlife and support their work by visiting their website: <https://wildlifesos.org/>



## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

- May 17<sup>th</sup>: Dr. Seth Ammerman, To Vape Or Not To Vape
- May 24<sup>th</sup>: Michael Brown, CIRQ Estate Winery
- May 30<sup>th</sup>: Dark – Memorial Day

## CLOSING

**President Dick** thanked all who attended and declared the meeting closed