



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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December 20, 2021

WELCOME: President Barbara Rosen



PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Bob Freelen led the Club in the Pledge of Allegiance.

GUESTS

- ✓ **President Barbara** introduced former member **George Lawson**. George has attended multiple previous meetings and we hope to be able to welcome him soon as a member again.



- ✓ **President Barbara** also introduced **Jack Neureuter**, another former member who is interested in returning.



- ✓ The Club welcomed Janice Torres, wife of **John Torres**.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- ✚ **President Barbara** noted that this is the meeting when it is customary to “pass the hat” for Patty and her team and that **President-To-Be Richard Norgrove** had thoughtfully brought along a suitable hat. **Dr. Dave Anderson** mentioned that Patty’s husband is going to have heart surgery tomorrow. The hat was passed to collect cash contributions.

- ✚ **President Barbara** congratulated eight members of the Club for perfect attendance during the first half of this Club year:

- **Tom Cleland**
- **Mark Decker**
- **Patricia Fichtner**
- **Paul Frechette**
- **Doug Garrett**
- **Don Mitchell**
- **Jerry Ogden**
- **Bob Pedroncelli**

- ✚ Club Service Director **Doug Garrett** reminded the Club that we will be dark next week, December 27. The following Monday, January 3, there will be another theme menu. Keep your eyes out for an email from Doug with the menu selections.



- ✚ Treasurer **Mark Decker** noted that the next billing from the Club will be unusually high. In addition to the usual charges for room rental, food, and Paul Harris contributions, members who attended the Holiday Dinner will be charged \$95 per person. It would help Mark if you could pay for your Holiday Dinner before he sends the invoices on January 4.

NEW MEMBER INDUCTION



Membership Chair **Tricia Fichtner** formally welcomed **Olivia Foppiano** as a new member of the Club. **Olivia** introduced herself as a fifth-generation native of Healdsburg. **Don Mitchell** will serve as her mentor. **Tricia** was particularly pleased that Olivia is a woman and noted that she has just lowered the average age of our members by half a year!

PAUL HARRIS AWARDS

Rotary Foundation Director **Dick Cochran** presented two Paul Harris Plus awards:

- ❖ **Paul Sullivan** earned his Paul Harris Plus 2 award.
- ❖ **Don Mitchell** earned his Paul Harris Plus 1 award.
- ❖ **John Hazlett** also earned a Paul Harris Plus award but was not present to receive it.



MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- **Lucia Varela** and her husband Paul Bulger celebrated their 41st anniversary on December 16. Lucia thanked her husband for “doing all the work” and for “enduring her for all those years.” She made a donation of \$41 to the Community Fund.

- **Jerry Campbell** shared that the past year has been a year of celebration. In August he turned 90, and he now gives his age as “90 plus four months.” Recently, his son turned 50 and Jerry’s wife Mary Jane celebrated her 85th birthday. And on December 19, Jerry and Mary Jane marked 62 years of marriage. Jerry donated \$100 to the Scholarship Fund.



- **President Barbara** noted that today, December 20, is **Dick Cochran's** anniversary. Dick thanked her for the reminder. He and Dena have been married for 51 years. Dick donated \$51 to the Rotary Foundation.



HAPPY DOLLARS RECOGNITION

- **George Lawson** thanked **Kevin Burke** for his great leadership of the Healdsburg Police Department and surprised many members of the Club by disclosing that Kevin has decided to run for Sonoma County Sheriff. George donated \$50 to our Club.
- **Jerry Eddinger** told the Club that he is “happy all the time.” But he is especially happy today because this Fall his firm completed the Matheson project, and the project was recently announced as a Tri-County Award Winner (Marin, Sonoma, Napa). Jerry asked President Barbara where he should direct his gift and then followed her guidance and donated \$100 to the Club.



- **Dick Bertapelle** thanked **President Barbara** for her service and donated \$100 toward her Paul Harris Fellow. Dick asked the Club to join him for a rousing cheer, and the members and guests gave President Barbara an enthusiastic standing ovation.

- **Bob Freelen** noted that he had experienced some trouble accessing the Live Auction and donated \$50 to the Community Fund.



- **Alex Rollins** created a new category of “Apology Dollars.” She explained that the Live Auction Committee had needed help in reducing the 7-second delay in recognizing bids and she had devoted herself to researching appropriate solutions. **Alex** found a suitable fix and rehearsed it successfully three times with the team . . . right up to the night of the auction when they discovered it

suddenly did not work. **Alex** and her husband Paul helped the team with last-minute emergency troubleshooting and did ultimately succeed. By way of apology, **Alex** donated \$10 toward the Paul Harris Fellow of:

- **Paul Frechette**
- **Doug Garrett**
- **Dick Bertapelle**
- **Ric Helthall**
- **Mark Decker**

Alex also contributed \$50 to the Community Fund.

In recognition of **Alex Rollins'** generous contribution, **President Barbara** donated \$25 to Alex's Paul Harris Fellow.



- **Eric Drew** donated \$100 to the Scholarship Fund in honor of John Holt. **Eric** explained that John was a long-time Rotarian and member of our Club who founded the Sunrise Rotary Club. For 30 years, John was the steward and manager of the property at 106 Matheson, maintaining its quality and building its value right up to the time that Eric did the deal that brought the property to Dustin Valette and Craig Ramsey.

- **Mel Schatz** reminded members to thank those local merchants who donated to our auctions or otherwise supported the Crab Feast. When we shop at local merchants, identify ourselves as Rotary members, and thank them for their contributions, we build support for our Club and make it easier to solicit for future fundraising efforts.



- **President Barbara** asked Patty and her Staff to come out of the kitchen, and she presented them with \$408 in cash as a special holiday thank you.

RAFFLE:

Don Mitchell won the raffle and then picked the white marble! Don kept the wine and donated \$22 to the Club.



TODAY'S PROGRAM: Craft Talks from Mekey Lupulu and Kevin Burke

MEKEY LEPULU

Mekey is the Principal at Rio Lindo Adventist Academy. He and his family have lived in Sonoma for almost six months.

Rio Lindo is a high school (grades 9-12). Mekey first became acquainted with the school when his daughter came there. Now she is a Junior and her younger brother is a Freshman there. **Mekey's** youngest child is a son who is in the Fourth Grade at Redwood Academy in Santa Rosa.



Mekey has worked in the education field since 2000, starting as a teacher in San Jose. He moved into administration when he became the principal of a day school in Contra Costa. Over the years, he has always had the opportunity to teach his own children. His favorite year was when he taught Math to his daughter (she got a B in the class). Currently, his daughter loves the fact that “My Dad is the Principal,” while his son just “goes with flow.” But it’s clear that neither of them is getting any preferential treatment because Dad is the boss!

Rio Lindo Academy is a day and boarding school that opened in 1962. The campus encompasses 364 acres and is wrapped by the Russian River. It is a completely self-contained facility with its own water and power sources, an array of classrooms and dormitories, and 38 single-family homes for faculty and staff members.

In addition to its stunning campus, the school is also noted as a stopping point for migrating swifts on their way from Portland and the north to Mexico and Venezuela. The swifts arrive each year in late August, peaking in mid-September. **Mekey** shared a short and amazing YouTube video of the swifts flying to rest in a chimney on the Rio Lindo campus.

Rio Lindo Academy is part of the Adventist school system, which includes elementary and middle schools, high schools, colleges, universities, and hospitals. In addition to the usual high school subjects, Rio Lindo has an outstanding industrial arts program where students can work in the metal shop, auto mechanics shop, wood shop, and pottery studio. The school is currently building a new science lab. It also has a year-round sports program which includes kayaking and canoeing on the Russian River – when there’s water!

Rio Lindo was recently cited by Niche as the number two private school in Sonoma and as the most diverse private school in Sonoma (seventh most diverse in the entire United States). About 20% of the students are from outside the United States, and it’s common to hear a variety of

languages spoken on campus. About 95% of Rio Lindo graduates go on to pursue higher academic studies at a college or university.

Tuition is high – about \$25,000 a year. But most students help to defray their costs by working on campus in one of the school’s 28 departments. **Mekey’s** daughter (currently a Junior) works in the Marketing Department.

Mekey was born and raised in San Jose. He first became interested in Rotary because the pastor of his church in Mountain View was a Rotarian, and **Mekey** appreciated the involvement in supporting the local community. Besides spending time with his family, **Mekey** enjoys golf, boating, fishing, and sailing. He and his family are looking forward to a trip to Lake Tahoe next week.

KEVIN BURKE



Kevin joined our Rotary Club eight years ago, after he had been Healdsburg’s Chief of Police for about two years. But his connection to Rotary goes farther back.

Kevin grew up in St. Helena, where his dad was a Fifth-Grade teacher. When **Kevin** graduated from High School in 1984 and went to Whittier College, he received a \$200 scholarship from the local Rotary Club. At that time, \$200 made a real difference!

In Los Angeles, **Kevin** joined the police as Reserve officer. After graduating from college, he went to law school at the University of California’s Boalt Hall Law School in Berkeley. **Kevin** found Berkeley to be a “crazy place to live” and commuted to Los Angeles so he could continue his Reserve work.

Armed with a law degree, **Kevin** passed the bar on his first attempt and went into private practice for a few years. Then he joined the Orange County District Attorney as a prosecutor. But as he was prosecuting cases, he found himself drawn more and more to the experiences of the police officers who were testifying. After considerable introspection and meaningful conversations with his dad, **Kevin** decided to put the practice of law aside to join the Los Angeles Police Department.

Kevin’s favorite experience with the Police Department was the two years when he worked undercover in the Vice Squad. In addition to sporting long hair and a beard, he had a real California Driver’s License identifying him as “Jimmy O’Brian.” **Kevin** noted that he had the only position in the LAPD where you can actually drink alcohol on the job!

After several years with the Police Department, **Kevin** was drawn to the idea of being a Police Chief in a small town. He applied to be the Chief of Police in Lakeport (Lake County) – and promptly received a rejection letter. But then they called and invited him to interview for the job. He did – and promptly received ANOTHER rejection letter. But when the top candidate turned down the job, Lakeport offered it to **Kevin** and he accepted it. He particularly enjoyed serving in a job for which he also had two rejection letters.

Kevin worked in Lakeport as the Chief of Police and then as the City Manager. Then, about ten and a half years ago, he was able to become Chief of Police here in Healdsburg. **Kevin** found Healdsburg to be a great place to work, and also appreciated the opportunity to be closer to his dad during his last years of life.

As Chief, **Kevin** presided over the police department during wildfires, floods, and the aftermath of the death of George Floyd. He is proud that during his tenure, Healdsburg's Police Department had a very happy staff that provided a high level of customer service and enjoyed a great relationship with the community. Earlier this year, **Kevin** retired from the Healdsburg Police Department and since then he has been able to spend more time turkey hunting, kayaking, cycling, and backpacking with his dogs and friends. He has also continued to develop his appreciation of Sonoma County wines.

Kevin explained that after recent discussions with State Senator **Mike McGuire** and Assemblymember Jim Wood, "I lost my mind" and decided to run for Sonoma County Sheriff. His goal is to help the Sheriff's Office achieve the same outcomes he was able to realize in Healdsburg: to become a great place to work, with high morale, outstanding customer service, and a close relationship with the community.

Our Rotary Club is not political. But we do tell members that "the Craft Talk is the one opportunity for a Rotary member to promote his/her current business (if applicable)." Although **Kevin** will not officially launch his campaign until after the new year, he can definitely benefit from some early fundraising. If you are so inclined, please send a check payable to "Kevin Burke for Sonoma County Sheriff" to **Kevin's** address in Club Runner.

CLOSING:

President Barbara thanked members and guests, then rang the bell to close the meeting.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS:

- December 27, 2021: DARK (no program)
- January 3, 2022: Club Assembly (**Doug Garrett** scribe)