

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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WELCOME: President Doug Garrett



PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Pat Williams led the club in reciting the Pledge.

VISITING ROTARIANS: None

GUESTS of ROTARIANS

- ✓ Guests today were our speakers, Barbara Walsh and Naomi Ramsden, here to enlighten the club about the Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

“It is certain, in any case, that ignorance, allied with power, is the most ferocious enemy justice can have.” James Baldwin

TRIVIA

What is the origin of the term “Grand Jury” The *word “Grand” tells the story: a Grand Jury is a large jury with 19 members (in Sonoma Cty, anyway), whereas other juries have 12 members.*

Bonus question: What countries still use Grand Juries? **Only the United States.**

- Winners--

John Hazlett won a Rotary People of Action neoprene wine carrier for correctly identifying the origin of the term “Grand Jury” while..

George Heath was the Bonus winner and he won an insulated Rotary mug

TV RECOMMENDATION: (President Doug) “Shrinking” Apple TV+. A smart comedy about a grieving therapist who starts to break all the rules. Stars Jason Siegal, Harrison Ford, Jessica Williams. This scribe is also a fan of Shrinking.

RECENT ACTIVITY BY OUR CLUB

- Earth Day Climate Fest: Healdsburg Plaza, our Club distributed Milkweed seeds to support Monarch butterflies. This was a very successful event conceived and led by Climate Action of Healdsburg. It was duly noted that **Norm Fujita** and his wife, Judy, worked tirelessly with all concerned to ensure the event would be meaningful, and ultimately successful. They succeeded! Norm thanked our club members who participated in either the setting up process, working the event itself at our Rotary booth, and/or taking down the event accoutrements at the end of the day.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ✚ **President Doug** showed the club a cute thank you note from two young children, with drawings, thanking us for the Easter Egg Roll event.
- ✚ Healdsburg Sunrise Club SCARC dinner, Thursday, April 27, Villa Chanticleer Annex. A salute to teachers. All are welcome to attend, although you needed to confirm your attendance by the close of the day on Monday, 4/24. This scribe will be attending.
- ✚ April 29 Arundo Removal project with Russian Riverkeeper and Interact club members. Meet at Badger Park parking lot at 8:30 AM. **Norm Fujita** will lead this charge, as usual.
- ✚ We will have a member travel meeting on Monday, May 8 from 5:00-7:00 PM. This takes the place of the regular meeting on that day. Potluck food and wine will be served. Plus: HHS Interact Club will do a new “Are you smarter than a high school student?” contest! The club member travels, each a short segment, will take us to Uruguay, Morocco, Ireland, Dubai, Egypt, and Jordan. Should be fun!

✚ District 5130 District Conference 5/4-5/7
 Konocti Resort, Clearlake: all are welcomed to attend this fun and educational event. The District Conferences this scribe has attended have all been quite memorable and educational in a positive sense.


✚ May 30 Healdsburg High Senior Seminar. Contact **Kellie Larson** if interested in volunteering. This event used to be called Freedom Day, because we provided education as to what seniors can expect in the world following their “Freedom” from high school. Now, it is sometimes referred to as “Adulthood 101”.

✚ The Highway 101 Clean Up day has been moved to Saturday, May 20th. More on that as the date draws near. Will be led by **Graham Freeman**.



MEMBER BIRTHDAYS or ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

 ✓ Pat Williams: Pat traveled to Annapolis, MD, visited the Naval Academy, a trip to honor her father, a decorated Naval veteran, who passed recently. Pat donated \$100 to her Paul Harris Foundation account.	✓	✓ April 16
✓ Rosemary Jordan —not present today	✓	✓ April 17
<u>Anniversaries</u>		
✓ Jaime Campoverde: Jamie and Donna are celebrating their 36 th	✓	✓ April 25

wedding anniversary.
They will spend time
traveling to Seattle and
Maui.
Jamie donated \$50 to his
Paul Harris account.



PAUL HARRIS RECOGNITION AWARDS

- ❖ **Dick Cochran** called **Jean Herschede** and **Dick Bertapelle** to the front of the club and presented both with a Paul Harris +4 award. Nice work! Before **Dick** could sit down, **President Doug** asked **Dick** to stay put, and awarded him with a Paul Harris + 7 award. Good stuff!



HAPPY DOLLARS RECOGNITION

- ❖ **Barbara Rosen** regaled the club with a couple of stories (tales of woe!) from her recent trip to Italy and France. Unfortunately, she was there during the recent (and ongoing) protests against French President Macron's plans to revise upward the age at which the French can retire. Her trip was adversely affected in trains, and in a ship which was trying to pass through the Rhone on locks, which were closed because of the protests. **Barbara** pledged \$20 to the club.
- ❖ **Norm Fujitsu** continued his praise of the club for its efforts in supporting the Earth Day festivities. He donated \$100 to the club as a heartfelt thank you.



TODAY'S PROGRAM

Speakers: Naomi Ramsden & Barbara Walsh: The Sonoma County Grand Jury

The aforementioned Barbara Walsh and Naomi Ramsden were introduced by Dr. **Dave Anderson**. Both Barbara and Naomi are attorneys, both retired, but both reiterated one does not need to be a lawyer to be on the Grand Jury. To start this meaningful information can be found online at



<https://sonoma.courts.ca.gov/general-information/grand-jury>

The purpose of the tag-team discussion led by Barbara and Naomi was to educate us on the goings on of a Civil (not Criminal) Grand Jury in Sonoma County. There are 19 members, who are chosen by interview and then by a sort of lottery. A member serves one year, and there are opportunities to extend that term. There is one meeting of all participants each week, some in person, and some via Zoom. Each Grand Jury member is also a member of a committee or two (or three), and there are periodic meetings of those Committees as well.

From their discussion, it would appear that most of the work taken on by this Grand Jury has to do with being a watchdog over Governance practices throughout the county. It was noted that no state or Federal work is ever contemplated by this Grand Jury. Just matters pertaining to Sonoma County. The GJ participants decide which cases to further investigate, complete the investigations, submit written reports, and move on to more cases. In answering a query from one of our club members, our guests said there is a Continuity Committee charged with determining that GJ recommendations are being followed, or not. How does the GJ choose which cases to examine? As a general rule, cases are given greater importance based on their value to the general public.

One case which was prominent in the news last year had to do with the Rohnert Park policemen who were indicted, tried, and jailed for confiscating drugs and selling them. Other cases have had to do with the SmartTrain, Affordable Housing, an issue with a Public Pool, and more.

Barbara and Naomi recommended those interested should look into participating in the Sonoma County Grand Jury.

RAFFLE WINNER

- ✓ **John Hazlett** had the winning ticket but did not pick the winning marble. Alas, he did receive a nice bottle of wine.



CLOSING

President Doug thanked members and guests, then gave the meeting closed.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS: May 1, **Jean Herschede**, Update on International projects