

Paradise Community Guilds Business Meeting August 14, 2017

A presentation on GMOs was given by Pamm Larry, which was so informative and provocative that we will have her back another time.

Monthly meeting called to order at 7:35 pm. The opening ritual was conducted, and two songs were sung, "America the Beautiful" and "Make Hay While the Sun Shines." A prayer poem by Robinson Jeffers was read.

Roll Call of Officers present: David Zink, President; Dan Joseph, VP; Verna Myers, Treasurer; Karen Quattlander, Secretary; Michael Walden, Executive Committee member. Members present: Jennifer Petersen, Mike McGrath, Susan Dobra, Elizabeth Evans, David Bilinski, Pamm Larry.

Minutes for July 10, 2017, were accepted unanimously.

Presented for Membership: John-Michael Sun introduced himself and requested to be considered for membership. Ronda Hoffman introduced herself and requested to be considered for membership. David Bilinski was initiated into full membership with our arcane and mystical initiation ritual.

Committee Reports:

Membership: The Membership Committee met on July 13th this month, but we have sent out digital membership packets to the following people in the past two months: Ronda Hoffman, Phyllis Parent, Kristeen Barclay. Bill and Donna Dolinar, Robin and Mo Huffman, Bill Hartley, Ward and Cheryl Habriel, Pamm Larry, Thomas Lee, Steve Watson, David Bilinski. All those expressing interest were invited to come to business meeting to introduce themselves. Pamm and Richard Mann were initiated at our July meeting, and David Bilinski presented himself for membership and was invited to become a member. Our Treasurer approved a prorated membership fee of \$20 for members joining at this point in the year. Ice cream social August 20 cancelled and will be rescheduled.

Rental: Jen reported there will be a rental this weekend (wedding rehearsal dinner), and Jen requested that everyone who use the building really clean up after themselves, empty full trash, make sure the faucets are turned fully off, check the toilet in the ladies room, etc. Also, she requested guidance on what to do about the refrigerators, since the one we want to offer to renters is full of beer. Solution: Put beer in the other fridge and/or in the cupboards and put big NOT FOR SALE sign on the beer in the open mic fridge. Two friends of Jen's will do the cleaning at least once a month for \$15/hr. They will submit invoices and Verna will pay them. Girl Scouts want to use the hall on Saturday, September 23rd. **Motion to sponsor the Girl Scouts in their use of the hall on September 23rd passed unanimously.** Also, Maximus Peperkamp would like us to co-sponsor his Sound Verbal Behavior workshops over three Sundays. He would charge \$25 per person, of which the Guilds would receive \$10. It was suggested that we tell Maximus that he would have to be responsible for promotion. It was also suggested that it be coordinated with the Guild for Civil Discourse and that perhaps that 4 to 6 slot on Sunday might be a good one. Finally, Jen mentioned that security is an issue that we need to pay attention to. She requested that there be a motion light for the area between the garden and the building.

Building and Grounds: Dan reported that progress is being made on the garden shed, thanks to help from John-Michael Sun, Bruce Murray, Mike McGrath, and of course, Dan. We need T-111 siding and a few other things to complete it and weatherproof it. We need two doors, roofing material (which we could repurpose from the shed). A charge account at Ace Hardware would help and will be started. Work day is August 26th at 9 a.m. Thank you to Richard for putting in our fruit trees, watering them (along with Dan), amending the soil, painting the trunks. Bees are doing well (one hive kicking butt, one catching up). We need an extractor—contact Dan if you know of one. The roof is a concern, since the rainy season is almost upon us again (estimated cost for materials \$2500.00; roof estimate from Ridge Roofing \$6300.00, no tear off included in bid). Additional proposed work: haul away debris from tree and bush trimming; install trim on back kitchen door; take a look at exterior door off handicapped ramp to facilitate repair from ant damage and trim as needed to allow for ease of use (it is sticking now); replace light switch in women's bathroom to match the simple one in the men's bathroom; repair toilet in women's bathroom; change out roof vents; talk about a row of bushes to block headlights.

Events: No meeting this month. Upcoming events: Severin Browne, August 10; Pam Mark Hall, August 26.

Community Action: Our collaboration with the Ridge Coalition for Peace and Justice on the Unity in Diversity Festival, to be held September 16th outside at the Norton Buffalo Hall has been going very well. The schedule of performers is almost complete. We have had two general meetings and are meeting again tomorrow, Tuesday, August 15 at 4 pm. Lisa and Nancy, coordinators of the silent auction, have requested that people contribute good jewelry, as well as other nice things from home or donated items from Paradise and Magalia and Chico businesses. Susan distributed a letter you can give to potential donors and mail it out to everyone. We need snacks for the Green Room and to sell, and volunteers to help out the day of. Susan also reported that our sponsorship of SHOR for their Annual Yard Sale and Pancake Breakfast resulted in a very successful event, in which they made nearly \$3000 and attracted many people from the community who got to see our building for the first time (and many from Rotary, Quota, the churches and other community organizations that are the movers and shakers of Paradise).

Community Garden: Jen and Richard reported that the gardens are going very well. Volunteers are needed for regular maintenance, like trimming the suckers off the tomatoes. Wednesdays at 10 or so, Saturdays at 9 or so, some Sundays. Jen is also happy to schedule personal time with anyone. There are plenty of tomato plants, if anyone wants them.

Civil Dialogue: David reported that the Civil Dialogue Guild met for the seventh time this past Sunday with just five people in attendance but a good session, focused on skill-building for civil discourse, especially Marshall Rosenberg's Non-Violent Communication, which will be continued at the next meeting (September 24 from 4 to 6 pm). We will be planning an Ethics Slam soon, that will showcase members of the community in the act of forming ethical positions.

Youth: Elizabeth reported that about 13 young people were recently in attendance, many of whom heard about it at school on the website or bulletin or from being in band with Ian. Some were interested in gardening, others are interested in other things. They seem open to whatever people want to teach them. They do a cooking theme each week, and last time all the food came from the garden. Some want to be in culinary school, so they did great dishes. Some have to do senior projects, so we could facilitate some of those. Clean-up is being emphasized more.

Secretary's Report: Karen read a very nice handwritten thank-you letter from SHOR.

Treasurer's Report: Verna reported the month's financial statements are posted on the web. We have \$5,192.61 in our checking account. We paid off our septic loan to the California Guilds!! A total of \$4,566.73 has been put aside for the roofing fund, which has been quite successful, with over \$1250 coming from the crowdfunding campaign as well, totaling nearly \$6000, which is more than we may need for roofing materials and tear-off.

Old Business: David will research wifi/email. Elizabeth Evans has a new email address: elizabeth2012evans@gmail.com We have received a check from Rotary Club for our chairs and Karen sent a thank-you note. Extra Self-Storage will continue to send us contributions through Charity Storage organization. Susan reported that she and David are moving forward with the 501c3 application for the Norton Buffalo Hall Foundation. **Motion to name our current Executive Committee as the Board of Directors of the proposed 501c3 for the purposes of the application, passed unanimously.** Discussion included David's explanation of what happened at the Marshall Guild recommended that we proceed with caution.

New Business: If you go to the NortonBuffaloHall.com Members page and put in Demeter490 password and read the Leadership blog, you will find the Executive Committee's proposed resolutions for the state Guild convention. Please consider whether you would want to propose any resolutions (e.g., ideas for legislative advocacy, modifying the pledge, etc.). We will choose delegates at our next meeting, so consider whether you would like to go.

Heirloom Expo in Santa Rosa on September 5, 6, 7. Pamm says it's an amazing experience for anyone interested in food, seeds, gardening, and such. Cost is \$10/day or \$25/three days. Lots of good, clean food. Soil Not Oil International Environmental Conference happens right afterward September 6th to 9th at the Richmond Convention Center. California Guild has a presence at both events.

Report about the California Guild: Some of you are still on the California Grange email list and may have received an email from Ed Komski about Guilds finances. Many untruths are in this email. Truth is we have spent \$240K on the legal issues surrounding the secession from the National Grange. Some was in the form of a fine for not moving fast enough in taking the name Grange off of things. Also, \$80K lump sum was paid to Bob McFarland was the amount that had been held back during this transitional time, a time during which he has been paying out of his own pocket for certain Guilds services. We have been told that Komski's group (aka new California Grange) is going to go after the Bennett Valley Grange because it is the oldest continuously active Grange in the country, so it is a symbolic conquest. California Guild and its Guild Legal Fund is supporting it.

Nancy Alvarez is leading our regional Guild (formerly the Pomona) and wants to see representatives from PCG at the meetings. Next meeting is August 27 at Yankee Hill Guild. Women's Guild meets first 2 pm, then Regional Butte County Guild. Our turn to host the Regional is September 24th. She also reminded us we need to make baskets to be auctioned off at the convention and that we should buy tickets to their raffle.

Bob McFarland says that we should have Directors' Insurance. We will look into it.

Executive Committee took action in the beginning of the month to ban someone from the property. This person was banned due to her threatening actions toward one of our members. We went through a thorough process with the Executive Committee and acted under the advisement of the Paradise Police. Discretion and the protection of privacy require that no details be made public. Ask David if you need to know more.

For the good of the order: Tom Gagne had a ruptured spleen and was in the hospital. Also, we had a tricky situation with some individuals who are experiencing homelessness and made a camp for themselves on our property, starting with one woman and increasing to several. The director of SHOR was invited to an Executive Committee meeting to advise, and the situation was resolved. It raised some questions about restricting the use of our property, which will be taken up at a later date.

Meeting adjourned at 10:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Dobra