

## **Paradise Community Guilds Business Meeting February 12, 2018**

Many members of the Paradise community joined us for a stimulating presentation on Blue Zones, which are places where the quality of life is conducive to long life and health. The question is how can Paradise move toward becoming a blue zone. The presentation by Town Council member Melissa Schuster and businessperson Kelley Conner was well received by the attentive audience of about 40 people.

Monthly meeting called to order at 7:35 pm. The opening ritual was conducted, and David read a Whitman poem about a child growing up in nature. The group sang “When a Hundred Years Have Rolled.” Our chaplain, Lisa Flores, announced that she was leaving tomorrow morning for Washington to celebrate her mother’s 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Roll Call of Officers: David Zink, President; Dan Joseph, VP; Verna Myers, Treasurer; Lisa Flores, Chaplain; Susan Dobra, Lecturer. Members present: Mike McGrath, Richard Mann, Nancy Eaton, John-Michael Sun, Bill Hartley, Ronda Hoffman, Pamm Larry, Pyramid Michael Walden, Patricia Light, David Bilinski, Zeke Lipe, Johnny Baty. Lakreesh, Christy Marx, Mahara Renay, Lydia, and Jay Rose came as guests.

Minutes for January 8, 2017, were accepted unanimously.

Presented for Membership: Jay Rose presented himself for membership and introduced himself for those who don’t already know them.

Charlsey Cartwright was initiated into the mysteries of the Paradise Community Guilds by taking a not-so-solemn oath to uphold our values and help us achieve our mission.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Membership:** Susan reported that the Membership Committee met on Tuesday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, 6 pm, at Verna’s house. We deemed the Solstice Dinner/Membership Event Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, a great success but thought next time we should have more about membership as part of the presentation. Will we create another event for March 20th, which is a Tuesday or 21st—maybe blend it with Open Mike full night? Discussed Questionnaire for members on Survey Monkey—watch for it. Still planning Gratitude Wall, using the list from the Thank You letters, the membership brochure, topics from GuildsStorm (e.g., cultivating volunteers as “Friends of The Buff”). Will meet next Monday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, at Susan’s house, 6 pm, to continue work on those projects and put together a buddy system of mentors for the new members. Looking for a relatively new member to co-chair this committee, on the basis of their experience as a newbie.

**Rental:** Rental this weekend (shower) all day, so work day is proposed to be Sunday. Working on the porch area (Garden Guild). Rental Committee meeting soon; let Jen know if you’re interested and she’ll email you

**Building and Grounds:** Dan reported much has been done, but the priority now is building a 7 or 8-foot or so fence around the garden and orchard. Bruce has a friend with an auger for fence posts. Project will cost about \$700. Verna noted that we may have to wait until the roof gets done to find out if we have enough money for it. Next come painting the garden shed, and, of course, the roof. David has been in touch regularly with Dan Kennedy. **Motion to let the Executive Committee make the decision about whether to spend the money to build a fence around the garden passed unanimously. Motion to establish a charge account from Ace for the use of the organization was passed unanimously.** Richard mentioned that at GuildsStorm the idea came up that if we could afford it, we could hire someone to help Dan on projects where there aren’t enough volunteers. Next work day will be Saturday, February 24, 9 pm.

**Events:** The entire next year’s events are on the calendar. March 10 Eric Taylor will play; March 30 will be the Leonard Cohen Tribute and we will need about 9 volunteers—see Verna if you can do it. Also, March 29 there will be a recording session of the same in the hall. Mark Davis and Karoline Hausted performed as To Wake You

on January 27th with David Leon Zink. We made \$250 at door, \$135 at bar and \$294.71 total profit and gave the performers \$330. Chico Guilds presented Chuck Brodsky in coordination with Paradise Guilds on January 26<sup>th</sup>, but it was poorly attended. Possibly will do the same for Simon Lyng in March. Coming up: April 15 (Ian Ethan Case), April 28 (Berkley Hart).

**Community Action:** Would like to steer towards being an activism arm of the Guilds, focusing on issues of social justice and community support, both education and action. Recruiting interested members. We cooked and served dinner on Friday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> for Safe Space homeless shelter in Chico, thanks to Dan, Susan, Jen, Verna, Karen, Lisa, Mike, David, Ronda, and Dina—thanks for everyone for being good and doing good—and having fun at it!

**Community Garden:** Jen reported that the gardens are starting to plant. This Wednesday from 10 to noon, they will be starting seeds. All are welcome. Every Wednesday will be a garden day from here out. May 5 is our annual plant sale—the Garden Committee needs help! Please let Jen know if you can, either the day of or in the days leading up to it. That will be a fundraiser for the neighborhood garden. The Garden Committee is in favor of a fence, and is collecting estimates. A plot gardener has donated \$50 toward fixing the gate. Plot garden work day coming up, with help from the 4-H kids. At GuildsStorm, we decided we will have a canning workshop when we have enough of a harvest to can. Clearing blackberries in the back is an ongoing process. Dan mentioned that the blackberries are good bee food, so he requested that we not clear them all. Richard has been working on it consciously.

**Civil Dialogue:** The Guild for Civil Dialogue will be meeting Sunday, February 18 at 3:45 pm for hors d'oeuvres and 4:00PM for meeting. Four attended. Good review of the year and discussion about our future, in which we hope to take the skills we have been learning more out into the community.

**Youth:** On hiatus until the spring.

**Secretary's Report:** Karen reported that we made the quarterly membership report with 30 members. She requested that anyone who has not paid their dues do so. We also received a thank you note from Roy Rogers, saying that he knows Norton “would have been deeply honored to having the hall named after him.” We received correspondence from Friends Benefiting the Ridge telling us what their current projects are and requesting we support them this year. **Motion to spend \$25 to take out a business card-sized ad in their program passed unanimously.**

**Treasurer's Report:** Verna reported that as of February 6, we have \$11,512 in our checking account, including the roof fund, chair fund, and garden fund (from Community House). The month's financial statements are posted online for your inspection.

**Old Business:** David has been contacting Dan Kennedy regularly about the roof. Rotary Club granted us \$500 for new chairs, which we will purchase as soon as the roof is done. They will be black plastic chairs. Norton Buffalo Hall Foundation Board of Directors will meet to approve bylaws and move forward with the process. GuildsStorm was held at the home of Karen and Pyramid this past weekend, where we reviewed the accomplishments of the past year and then reviewed everything through the lens of our mission, vision, and values statements, finding everything cohesive. Strategic plans for the coming year were discussed, including revenue generation by Guild and by committee and the development of policies and procedures for each committee, to enable the committees to work with, e.g., we only use environmentally appropriate cleaning products when we clean the hall. We also talked about defining roles, esp. with the transition from Grange to Guilds, and we need to create job descriptions for officers. Each current officer was requested to draft these job descriptions.

Are we having fun? No answer was proffered.

Moved to closed session.

**New Business: Motion that the first policy of our Guilds should be that in all that we do, let us strive to have fun passed unanimously.** Discussion included our resident clown, Zeke, emphasizing the need for including children in our activities. Second policy: Even an organization with as trustworthy a Treasurer should be audited. **Motion to conduct an annual audit by the end of January by a volunteer member working with the Treasurer to report at the February meeting passed unanimously.**

One of our members has offered us the opportunity to rent a new sound system to the Paradise Community Guilds, with a contract option to buy. **Motion to enter into the contract with Partner Zink Consulting to rent us a sound system for \$130/month passed unanimously.**

**Motion to co-sponsor Paradise Curves Relay for Life**

For the good of the order: Johnny Baty has been having health issues with gall stones and we offer him and Lakreesh our best wishes for health and healing.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Dobra