

Paradise Community Guilds Business Meeting January 8, 2018

We enjoyed a riveting presentation by Maddie Wath, current canine trainer for the 4-H Club here in Paradise and former Search and Rescue canine trainer was spellbinding and very educational. We invited her back for a follow-up presentation and promised to take up the question about whether the 4-H'ers could train their dogs inside on the linoleum when it's raining out.

Monthly meeting called to order at 7:35 pm. The opening ritual was conducted, and our new chaplain, Lisa, read a prayer about the spokes of a wheel with a common center. The group sang "We Better Make Hay When the Sun Shines."

Roll Call of Officers: David Zink, President; Dan Joseph, VP; Verna Myers, Treasurer; Lisa Flore, Chaplain; Susan Dobra, Lecturer. Members present: Mike McGrath, Richard Mann, Nancy Eaton, John-Michael Sun, Bill Hartley, Ronda Hoffman. Charley Cartwright and Joel Allen came as guests.

Minutes for November 13, 2017, were accepted unanimously.

Presented for Membership: Joel Allen and Charley Cartwright presented themselves for membership and introduced themselves for those who don't already know them.

Committee Reports:

Membership: Susan reported that the Membership Committee met Thursday, December 7 to plan the upcoming December Solstice Ritual Celebration and Potluck, which was held Thursday, December 22nd and by all accounts was a rousing success. In attendance were at least 10 people who are interested in membership and who were invited to start the process. A truly moving solstice ritual started the night, which continued on with one of the best and most varied and tastiest potlucks ever. The yule log was lit outside and everyone burned what they wanted to let go of for 2018, to much smoke and laughter. Thanks to Karen, Verna, Jen, David, John-Michael, and everyone who pitched in to make this happen. Next Membership Committee meeting will be next Tuesday at 6 pm, Susan's house, to plan the Gratitude Wall and membership brochure.

Rental: David reported for Jen (who is sick with the flu along with her whole family) that the hall is being rented in February and also for a whole weekend in August for an outdoor wedding. Chairs will be ordered by April. (Nancy suggested we talk to Alan White at Ace Rentals.) Next Rental Committee meeting will be Thursday, January 25 at 10 am Verna's. If anyone wants to be paid for setting up tables and chairs for rentals, let Jen know.

Building and Grounds: Dan reported that John-Michael and he have been working on the front porch and the garden shed. Both need more work but are coming along. We need to purchase lock set for the garden shed. There are many spring projects: painting the garden shed, rebuilding the fence for the plot garden and orchard to keep the deer out and make it look nicer, and, of course, the roof. Discussion of getting a charge account from Ace for things for the hall concluded that if members were all on the account (and paid cash for their purchases) it would keep the minimum purchases up to qualify for greater discount. Also, the parking lot has been leveled and graveled, minimizing the puddling that has gone on for the last several years.

Events: Mark Davis and Karoline Hausted from SLO will perform January 27th as To Wake You and David Leon Zink will open for them. Chico Guilds will present Chuck Brodsky in coordination with Paradise Guilds on January 26th. David gave a short explanation of how Chico Guild will be moving toward putting on more performances like the ones we have been doing. Future events at the Norton Buffalo Hall will occur on March 10 (Eric Taylor), April 15 (Ian Ethan Case), April 28 (Berkley Hart), and a possible Valentine's Day event called "Duets," suggested by Peter Berkow, which could also be a dinner.

Community Action: Hibernating, to be resurrected at GuildsStorm as an activism arm of the Guilds, focusing on issues of social justice and community support, both education and action. Recruiting interested members. Brief discussion about what this might encompass will be continued as a proposal at GuildsStorm. Susan invited people

to email her ideas. Also, we will be cooking dinner on Friday, February 2nd for Safe Space homeless shelter in Chico, coordinated by Dan and Susan, so come cook starting at 2 pm and, if you can, serve dinner at Safe Space.

Community Garden: David reported that Jen reported that a group of Butte County Behavioral Health teens want to put in some community service at the garden. Jen will give us more details next month. Richard reported that he put in a cover crop and needs a contribution from the Guilds for about \$100 for a 100-ft rigid black plastic fencing. Richard has already spent \$100 in seed. John-Michael pointed out that if we have to prioritize, we should fence the orchard and grapes. It was agreed that the Garden Committee should take up the issue.

Civil Dialogue: The Guild for Civil Dialogue held its tenth meeting Sunday, December 17 at 4:00PM. 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 is on vacation, so Verna reported that the Paradise Chamber of Commerce is having its dinner January 24th—Verna has paperwork if you're interested in going. Berry Creek Guilds newsletter came and was passed around. Extra Self Storage gave us a donation. The Hub also sent its monthly calendar, which includes some activities members might be interested in. Thank-you letters were sent out by David and Karen to a number of donors from this past year, including Certificates of Appreciation for Roy Rogers and Carlos Reyes for their kind and generous contributions to our dedication event in 2017.

Treasurer's Report: Verna reported the month's financial statements are posted online for your inspection. We have over \$10,000 in our checking account, over \$6,000 of which is for the roofing fund. Totals for 2017 were impressive—documents are online at nortonbuffalohall.com, password Demeter490.

Old Business: David will be contacting Dan Kennedy regularly about the roof. He has accepted our proposal that his crew tear off the roof and replace it on their own timeline, hopefully before spring. 501c3 is moving forward again, with Articles of Incorporation completed and just in need of signatures of last year's Exec Committee, which is the Board of Directors. Julia Grobbel, the Paradise High School student doing her senior project, put on a poetry reading event on December 22nd, sponsored by us, which was not as well attended as it could have been but was nonetheless a lovely event. John-Michael did the sound and lots of poetry was appreciated.

Are we having fun?

New Business: At its November meeting Paradise Community Guilds elected new officers. By the terms of the California Guild bylaws and the Paradise Community Guilds, the new officers took a solemn pledge. David Zink, President; Dan Joseph, Vice President; Verna Myers, Treasurer; Lisa Flores, Chaplain; and Susan Dobra, Lecturer all repeated the pledge. Jennifer Peterson, new Executive Committee member; Karen Quattlander, Secretary; and Pyramid Michael Walden, Executive Committee member, will take the pledge when they return.

Joel Allen proposed a Sunday Breakfast be held at the Norton Buffalo Hall, which he would organize, advertise, and prepare, using his graphic design skills and promotional skills and cooking skills. He would use seasonal, locally sourced foods, getting them from Saturday Farmer's Market, and possibly things from the garden. Tickets would be sold on Eventbrite so he would know how many people to cook for. He would like to pilot it in March and has designed flyers, calling the event "Hangin' Local Farm-Fresh, Family Style Sunday Breakfast." He envisions a sponsorship where the hall is given at minimal cost and it's a win-win-win. Joel will forward a draft of a written proposal to the Executive Committee to start substantive conversation about the deets.

David reported that a rally was held in Sacramento Wednesday about the use of glyphosates (Round-Up) in playgrounds and around schools, and the California Guilds has sponsored legislation to ban them. California Guilds is also sponsoring a California Trails project, spearheaded by Ken Donnell, and it is moving forward with interest in providing funding by California legislators and will be featured at the meeting of the California Parks

in March.

Update on the Grange Wars: We have been asked to sign a letter in support of an appeal of a recent court decision that went in favor of the National Grange/California State Grange (Konski group). Based on this decision, the offices in Sacramento and all the Guild monies held in trust by UC Davis Medical Center could go to the Grange. Also, the Konski California Grange may feel empowered to take possession of the California Guilds' properties, but they would have to do each at the County level. **Motion that David write a letter for all of us stating the reasons he verbalized to us** [that we would be in favor of an appeal of the court decision, including that our hall was locally donated, locally supported and locally important] **passed unanimously.**

Motion that we allow Maddie Wath's 4-H group to use the hall when it is raining to train the dogs inside. **Tabled** until we can get more details about whether the group is requesting a rental, a co-sponsorship, or something else and what the understanding is about insurance.

For the good of the Guilds: Bill Hartley brought up the issue of the "blue zone," meaning 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. Susan will contact Melissa Schuster to see if we can get a presentation on it.

Good health to Jen and family, Lisa, John-Michael, and Dan was wished.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:38 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Dobra