

## **Paradise Community Guilds Business Meeting**

**August 13, 2018**

The presentation before our meeting was a fast-paced, informative, and inspiring presentation about recycling by eco-ambassador Ward Habriel of the Garden Club and Jennifer Arbuckle of Northern Waste and Recycling

Monthly meeting called to order at 7:38 pm. The opening ritual was conducted, and Chaplain Lisa read a prayer. David Bilinski, graced us with a story and song by Woodie Guthrie about a 1935 storm called “The Great Dust Storm.” Thanks, David!

Roll Call of Officers: David Zink, President; Dan Joseph, VP; Secretary, Karen Quattlander; Lisa Flores, Chaplain; Susan Dobra, Lecturer; Pyramid Michael Walden, Executive Committee Member. Members present: Charley Cartwright, Nancy Eaton, David Bilinski, John-Michael Sun. Guest: Martha Costas (Susan’s mom), Juan Zertuche.

Juan Zertuche was presented for membership and introduced himself.

**Minutes for July 9, 2018, were distributed but no vote. Next time.**

### **Committee Reports:**

**Membership:** Susan reported that the Membership Committee did not meet this month. The ice cream social was unfortunately not able to be planned due to an overcrowded schedule. Susan suggested we instead use the Unity in Diversity Festival as an opportunity for membership activities, including handing out some swag with our website address on it, like pens or refrigerator magnets. Also, the Membership Questionnaires were completed, and Susan handed them out to new, relatively new, and potential members present, with a request to return them to her.

**Rental:** Jennifer was not present, but Susan reported that she and Verna and Jen met to draft a Co-Sponsorship Guidelines and Contract document and a new, improved Renters’ Checklist. The Committee will have to approve them, but she brought a copy of the drafts.

**Building and Grounds:** Dan reported that the Building and Grounds Committee did some more weed whacking this month. Dan could use some help in carpentry because we have jobs that are not getting done. This could be aside from work day; it could be any day—please coordinate with him if you can do this type of work. Work day would normally be this Saturday but needs to be rescheduled. August 25<sup>th</sup> was decided. Executive Committee approved \$300 for redwood to repair the front porch. Disabled ramp needs structural and aesthetic work. Karen asked about front doors. Dan suggested we put a veneer of plywood to dress it up; otherwise, it’s a big ticket item. Safety issues are a top priority (front porch, ramp). Second is things the weather will worsen. President Zink recommended that we discuss details in Building Committee meeting, which need to be revived. If you can serve on this committee, please talk to our hardworking Chair, Dan Joseph. Calendar for taking out the trash lives in the kitchen—please check the date(s) you signed up for

**Events:** Verna was not present. David reported that Bird & Wag went well; we made \$521, and the

community enjoyed it. We've discussed not having any more shows in summer since it's so hot, but an alternative will be to replace the A/C. Moody Little Sister will be here August 31; please come and invite your friends. Unity in Diversity September 15. Jon Strider October 6<sup>th</sup>. Zombie Stomp October 26<sup>th</sup>. To Wake You will be here November 11 and 12 for a concert and healing workshop.

**Community Action:** Susan reported that Unity in Diversity event is Saturday, September 15, with a lineup of diverse talent. We met our deadline of August 1, thanks to the work of Jay Rose, Lisa Flores, and the rest of the Talent Team! Current lineup: Wallace Clark, Maidu Tribe (& possibly dancers), Nelson Ave Hmong Dancers, KlezGals! Klezmer Band, Channel 66 (60s Band)

Regarding Catherine Miyamoto's proposal to have a showing of the film "Invisible Patients," the event will be held on Sunday, August 26<sup>th</sup> from 2 to 4 pm here at The Buff. Susan will send a link to the Facebook page around –please share it and please attend! David noted that California Guild has a legislative advocate in Sacramento. For years she's been working on restricting the use of glyphosates (Round-Up) in parks, schools, etc. There has recently been some activity in the California legislature. Moms Across America organized a research project on mothers' breast milk. A recent trial of a groundskeeper with lesions revealed Monsanto has known for years that Round-up causes cancer. This is a watershed moment in the fight against glyphosate. Pyramid suggested we make a donation to Diana Rude, our legislative rep in Sacramento. David will talk to Bob McFarland about how we can best facilitate her work.

Dan announced that CHAT will be having a benefit, "Moondance," from 5 pm until 9 pm at Riparia August 26<sup>th</sup>. We can carpool from the film, which ends at 4 pm to Riparia. David also noted that Guilds is a sponsor of the California Non-Motorized Trails project. They will make a plenary presentation at the International Trails Symposium and Zink will MC the whole event.

**Community Garden:** Jen was not present, but Karen reported that Jen created a video about the Gardens that is on Facebook that everyone should watch. Go to Paradise Neighborhood Garden.

**Civil Dialogue Guild:** The Guild for Civil Dialogue is on hiatus but could morph into a Philosopher's Café, an idea from Nancy Eaton that is brewing. Stay tuned.

**Youth Guild:** On hiatus.

**Secretary's Report:** Karen reported that we received a letter from the State regarding filing for corporate compliance for the Norton Buffalo Foundation and another letter offering tax preparation services. David explained that when we changed the name from the Paradise Grange to Paradise Guilds it did not change over at the federal level. California Guild Legal Co-op is working on this. We also received our revised bylaws, signed by Bob McFarland and returned to us. We have a current membership of 34.

**Treasurer's Report:** Verna was not present Full financial report is online on our website: [www.nortonbuffalohall.com](http://www.nortonbuffalohall.com) PW: Demeter490 We are well in the black.

**Old Business:** Rotary gave us money to purchase new tables several months ago. Nancy suggested we

try to do that changeover before Unity in Diversity Festival. **Motion to purchase 10 new tables before the Unity in Diversity Festival passed unanimously.** David will put a notice out to the Friends of the Guilds that we have the old tables for sale (and wine glasses, added Susan).

Are we having fun? Yes! Susan noted that we are especially having fun on Wednesday nights at Open Mikefull and invited everyone to come this Wednesday to celebrate the 94<sup>th</sup> birthday of regular Joe Church. There will be cake!

**New Business:** Nancy talked about putting a cement slab outside the back door (next to the door and going over to the kitchen window) to put a pop-up over for outdoor events and for barbecues, etc. She said we could approve it now and put it on the to-do list for the future. Motion to build a cement slab outside the back door was tabled to the Building and Grounds Committee. Dan pointed out that it would be a low priority project, since it's relatively nonessential. He suggested we gravel up the side of the current walkway for safety reasons and revisit the idea of a concrete slab at a later date.

David reported that the Executive Committee met Friday to discuss the legal situation with the National and California Grange, which continues to aggressively pursue the assets and property of the California Guilds and local Guilds. Last Friday, California Guilds President Bob McFarland went to court for a contempt charge. The judge issued a continuance until September. There are still 60 local Guilds. Bennett Valley Guild has been sued for trademark infringement by the National Grange and is being pursued by the new California Grange for its property. The National Grange has spent 17% of its total revenue on trademark infringement cases and 60% of it on the litigation with the California Guilds. California Guilds is weakened but still plans to hold a state convention in October. Bob McFarland is doing most of the work having to do with the legal proceedings. David says what matters is we have chosen to be the community we want to live in. He believes the National Grange sees this as a fundamental fight and if they lose, they crumble. We are still in the game. Our name is on the deed, but the courts have ruled that the corporate parent (or diocese, in the case of the precedent-setting Episcopal Church case) can assert ownership of property. There is talk among some Northern California chapters about forming a new organization. Stay tuned.

David also reported that he had an accidental call with Ed Komski, president of the newly constituted California Grange (he thought it was Bob McFarland, since Komski was calling from the previous California Guilds number). Komski is pushing for us to rejoin the Grange. As a result of the call (and his intention to speak with Komski again), David was asked to leave the California Guilds Legal Co-op until his interactions with Komski are completed.

Karen reported that Ward Habriel organizes an event called Love Paradise October 27– 29 that does beautification projects around Paradise. Members are encouraged to participate: [loveparadise.net](http://loveparadise.net)

For the Good of the Guild: How can we help in emergencies when people are evacuated? David will research. David Bilinski asked about insurance. David Zink suggested that we design a release. David suggested the Community Action Committee research how we could provide space for RVs, co-sponsorship with the Red Cross, or whatever it would take to be of service.

David told us that Simon Lynge, who suffered a severe cut to his right hand, is continuing to heal.

**Motion to donate \$250 to Simon Lynge's family to help them through this difficult time passed unanimously.**

Meeting was adjourned at 9:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Dobra