

# Rotary



# Club of Chico Sunrise

## Dawit speaks at Mom's Restaurant

By Heidi E. Houlihan on Thursday, September 9, 2021

**President Paul** opened the meeting at Mom's Restaurant and **Kevin B.** led us singing, "God Bless America" followed by the pledge of allegiance. Perhaps like many of you, I don't think I have sung that song since childhood, but somehow all of the words came back to me. The enthusiasm of our members singing in that small room was inspiring. Thank you, Kevin!

Unfortunately, there were no guests.

## Announcements & Comments

- Paul P. on 10/6 there will be a social at the Elks Lodge parking lot for the Noon, Durham, Willows, and our club with food trucks. It is BYOB. The food cost is being funded by the clubs. This is a fundraiser for the Dixie Fire.
- **Mark S.** Last year's Fantasy Football donation of \$500 was given to **Geralyn S.** and Paul P. to figure out where to use it. This year's \$500 donation was given to Paul P. for local projects. Mark also volunteered a Big Benjamin for the FF draft last Thursday at his house where they had dinner. The first game is tonight.
- **Pat P.** gave an update on **Rich Powell** who was in the hospital with COVID pneumonia. Although he is home now, he is quarantined, and he and his wife, Tonya, are both very tired. If you would like to bring dinner for them, his number is on the website. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.
  - Update from email from John T.:
  - Food drops would be very much appreciated. Pat explained that talking on the phone is difficult and texting is preferred. Rich mentioned that Tonya and himself have light appetites and Zoey's appetite is good. Door drops work well. His home address is 4306 Kathy Lane off Garner. His cell phone is 530-519-9360.
- **Aaron S.** gave a brief update on **Mike Birch**. Unfortunately he is not doing well and needs long term care.
- **Larry G.** reported on the PV Football game last Friday. There was a good showing of Rotarians. PV lost to Yuba City 38-21.
- Social Committee and Relocation Committee Meetings: 5:05 pm tonight at the Handle Bar
- **John T.**'s wife is now an art teacher for Paradise Elementary and Junior High. At her first class her students used our STEAM tables!
- Rotarian Lunches: **Geralyn S., Dan B. and Jill C.** went to Sin of Cortez where Dan learned of Geralyn's and Jill's attempting a coup to take over the presidency (just kidding). Jill is enjoying working on the insurance side of things. This week is **Mark S., Nancy H. and Kevin B.**
- **Aaron S.** as we look for a new venue for our meetings, please critique the food, layout, location, and most importantly, the coffee of the places we try, such as Mom's Restaurant, and let him know

## Recognitions

**Pat P.** reports his son finally got married in Idaho after being postponed from COVID. His son and his wife carried their twin daughters down the aisle and handed them off to the grandmothers. Congratulations! 1 Big Benjamin

**Randy L.** went on a River Cruise with a Bourbon theme through Louisville and Memphis. Although he visited many distilleries, he managed to only give Paul an empty gift bag from the bourbon at Green River Distillery and a shot glass. His excuse: you can only buy one bottle of bourbon every three months from this particular distillery! 2 bells

**Susie S.** volunteered a Big Benjamin celebrating a year since her fall and craniotomy and look at her now!

**Teresa F.** missed a few meetings because she was travelling in her 5th wheel to places such as Fort Bragg. She enjoyed just walking on the beach and drinking their Margarita machine made

## Events/Speakers

September 16th  
**Chico Sunrise Meeting:**  
**Norm Rosene, Chico Air Museum**

September 16th  
**Chico Sunrise Board of Directors Meeting**

September 23rd  
**Chico Sunrise Meeting:**

September 30th  
**Chico Sunrise Meeting:**

October 7th  
**Chico Sunrise Meeting:**

## Birthdays



**Bob Linscheid**  
September 13th



**Nancy Haas-Depa**  
October 11th

## Club Anniversaries



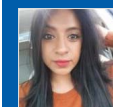
**James Seegert**  
11-21-2002  
19 Years



**Carl R. Ochsner**  
11-05-2009  
12 Years



**Nick Mariottini**  
10-27-2011  
10 Years



**Suzie Bravo**  
11-19-2015  
6 Years



**Debra Larson**  
11-02-2017  
4 Years

**Dawit Zeleke**  
11-30-2017  
4 Years

their campsite a popular one. She gave Paul P. some beach trinkets including a sand dollar. 2 bells

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## Program

Paul P. introduced our own, awesome **Dawit Zeleke**, who spoke about Staten Island, part of the Nature Conservancy. Dawit told the story of how he ended up in California and found his career of managing a farm in the Delta, combining growing food and conserving habitat. He has been with the Nature Conservancy for 28 years. He began working for them planting trees (There is less than 10% of the original forests left in California and the NC is trying to replant some of this). The Nature Conservancy is the biggest conservation organization in the world with all of their work being based on science. He talked about how the central valley in California used to flood every spring, so significantly, that a governor had to canoe to his inauguration in the early 1900s. Staten Island is a 200 acre farm which serves as part of a major bird migration stop on the Pacific Flyway. Multiple bird species, including Sandhill Cranes, can be seen here and along the 99 corridor closer to Chico. However, the farms are losing peat soil each year due to oxidation and the presence of the levees, which prevent flooding. The conservancy is trying to figure out ways to restore this soil. We can't create the Yosemite of the past, but we can try to conserve the habitats we have in a sustainable manner that also allows for food production and economic growth.

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## In Closing

Paul thanked everyone for their participation today.

Thanks to:

Greeters: Howard S and Carol L

Invocation: Kevin B

Check in: Kevin B

Bulletin: Heidi H

Next meeting is back to Canyon Oaks

Greeters: Carl O & Jason S

Invocation: Peter B

Check in: Leo W and Larry C

Bulletin: Sean I



Neil Yelland  
10-31-2019  
2 Years

## Club Meeting

Chico Sunrise

Meets at Canyon Oaks Country Club

999 Yosemite Drive

Chico, CA 95928

Time: Thursday at 06:45 AM