

# Rotary



## Club of Chico Sunrise

### Literacy Keeps Students from Falling into the River

By Debra Larson on Thursday, September 17, 2020

**President Geralyn** opened the meeting of September 17, 2020 on Zoom at 7:03 am and called on **Carl Oshsner** for the invocation and pledge. Carl spoke of Albert Huber's missive on conduct and culture. Carl added three thoughts about the upcoming season of voting: think logically, speak freely, and act responsibly.

Our guest today was our speaker Michelle Curran of Reading Pals.

Today's meeting was followed by a board meeting.

### Announcements and updates

- President Geralyn welcomed Susie to the call, wished her well on her recovery, and expressed our excitement that she could join us this morning. Rotarians completely filled out the meal schedule to bring Susie home meals.
- **John Touchette** will look into the PText feature for Dan.
- **Carl Oshner** reported that the celebration for 100 years of Rotary in Chico at the Elks Lodge still on the calendar for 2021. There will be an update at CARD on the Centennial park project on Friday at 4:00. There will be a lot of additional needs for the park such as trees. If you wish to participate on a work crew you need to sign the waiver that was sent to your email earlier. The Chico noon club omelet lunch will continue this fall, albeit virtually.
- **John Carlon** will bring a proposal to the board for a \$20,000 project at Forest Ranch Charter School for an outdoor literacy classroom that includes removing the grass, installing rubber tiles, tables, and umbrellas.
- **Nick Mariottini** provided us an update on the Chico Velo bicycle tire pump projects with plans to install six more pumps at six elementary schools.
- **Howard Slater** will install and hopes to complete by the middle of October. This will bring the club up to twelve pump installation with the hope for six more in the future.
- **Nancy Haas-Depa** provided an update on the free little libraries. Our contact will be available in about a month to help the project along.
- **Howard Slater** provided an update on the Chico Air Museum. A door was successfully installed yesterday, Wednesday. Howard also spoke about some hopeful about ideas that may bring the building project back into budget.
- **Sean Isom** provided an update on the need for an IRS exemption for the club to enable the establishment of a foundation. We currently have funds, located in an investment account and in a checking account. The NVCF funds will be moved to the foundation upon approval of the exemption.

### Recognitions

- President Geralyn received two bells for not introducing our guest at the beginning of the meeting.
- Nancy spoke about her step-daughter's success in introducing a 360 camera. She also celebrated the engagement of her step son. Two bells for Nancy.

### Program

Nancy introduced today's speaker, Michelle Curran. She was born and raised in Chico, and graduated from Chico State. Prior to starting Reading Pals, Michelle worked abroad to combat human trafficking. She is the co-director for Reading Pal.

Michelle thanked the group and introduced her colleague Katie Abarra-Good. Michelle provided us a history of Reading Pals: started 10 years ago with about 13 children at Rosedale. She noted how they loved the READ wall that was a previous Rotary project. Since 2013, Reading Pals has had 1100 volunteers (many who are 65 and older) who have tutored nearly 1500 students.

### Events/Speakers

September 17th  
[Chico Sunrise Weekly Club Meeting](#)

September 24th  
[Chico Sunrise Weekly Club Meeting](#)

### Birthdays



[Nancy Haas-Depa](#)  
October 11th



[Patrick Pillsbury](#)  
October 14th



[Mark Stuenkel](#)  
October 15th



[Heidi E. Houlihan](#)  
October 17th

### Club Anniversaries



[Carol Linscheid](#)  
08-19-2004  
16 Years



[Tanya E. Layne](#)  
09-01-2006  
14 Years



[Jose Bravo](#)  
07-31-2014  
6 Years



[Greg Melton](#)  
07-31-2014  
6 Years



[Kaytlynne Michelle Deardorf](#)  
08-01-2019  
1 Year

Reading Pals has established a take-home library with support from Slater and Sons. Each Reading Pal student will get a bag of books to take home. Michelle spoke about the potential learning loss problem due to COVID. Students who don't have support may lose 12 to 14 months of learning. High dosage tutoring can counterbalance this slide. It is 15 times more effective than any other intervention. Reading Pals provides tutoring for students at a frequency of two to three times a week, 30-minutes a session, and 35 hours over a trimester. Michelle provided us with data on Reading Pals successes in increasing students' reading skills. 86% of the 1500 students have reached their reading level or exceeded. In addition, they continue on their positive trajectory post Reading Pals.

Reading Pals are fielding lots of questions from across the country about the program. Michelle described the logistics of offering the Reading Pals through Zoom. She showed us the Reading A-Z website platform that provides student tracking, access to books, a projection tool for sharing and reading the books, and worksheets. The volunteers are being trained on how to use the website. This curriculum is well adapted to online learning and consistent with the Chico Unified's reading curriculum. Reading Pals is starting with 3 schools next week for a total of 9 sites this year.

Reading Pals are also prepared to get back into the classroom as soon as possible with a goal of being at 11 sites.

Reading Pals are getting request for volunteering from across the country; facilitated by the virtual environment.

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## Thanks

- Greeter: Kevin Baker
- Invocation: Carl Oschner
- Check in: Lary Guanzon
- Bulletin: Deb Larson
- Zoom Facilitator: John Touchette

## Next Week

- Greeters: Dan Bay & Teresa Frediani
- Invocation: Leo Weiss
- Check In: Nancy Depa
- Bulletin: Carol Linscheid

## Club Meeting

Chico Sunrise  
Meets at Canyon Oaks Country Club  
999 Yosemite Drive  
Chico, CA 95928  
Time: Thursday at 06:45 AM