



The Voice of the Vineyards

The Weekly Electronic Bulletin of the Rotary Club of Healdsburg

"The mission of a bulletin is inform the membership,
comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable"

Author: **Ric Helthall**

Photographer: **Rick Tang**

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February 9, 2026



PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led by: **Mark Decker**

GUESTS OF THE CLUB/NO VISITING ROTARIANS



✓ Noah Cohen, guest of **Don Mitchell**



✓ Mary Kelley, guest of **Devon Drew**



✓ Alan McComber quest of **David Moreland**

✓ Emily Peterson (Today's Speaker)



✓ Ali Tuttle, guest of **Graham Freeman**

✓



THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY

Chief Matt Jenkins

- Vince Lombardi – If perfection is not obtainable, but if we chase perfection, we can catch excellence!
- Maya Angelou – People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel!

GREEN HAIR DAY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Devin Drew



- ✚ GHD template letter is now complete for Club members to use to solicit funds.
- ✚ In 2025, we raised over \$41,000, the most in our District.
- ✚ The club website has been updated with an easy-to-use pledge button.

- ✚ Mel Schatz suggested GHD signs and posters to place around town to be used yearly.
- ✚ Tim Mann will work the publicity with multiple City and Sonoma county media outlets.

SPECIAL MENTION

- ✚ This past Sunday’s Press Democrat had an article on Dr. Gary Barth’s global initiatives and philanthropic activities on restoring vision in Myanmar and Nepal plus highlighted his Foundation’s recent trip to the Ukraine to deliver NATO grade ballistic googles.
- ✚ Gary did a “shout out” to Courtney Cochran (Dick’s super daughter) who has provided marketing support that resulted in the PD article.



EASTER EGG SCRAMBLE ANNOUNCEMENT

Phil Luks



- Immediately following GHD, our scramble will take place on Saturday, 04 April, the day before Easter.
- Need 15 to 20 members to help and enjoy the best 5 minutes of Rotary due to the kids rapid collection abilities.
- This year we will only be collecting plastic eggs with chocolate inside, no more boiling and painting eggs!

ROSE GARDEN BRICK PROJECT



- ✚ Thank you, **Jerry Eddinger** and **Jerry Ogden**
- ✚ More bricks are being added, and the bench is looking beautiful !

KEVIN BURKE SCHOLARSHIP **Chief Jenkins**

Kevin passed away in 2022 and in his memory, the City established at SRJC scholarship for persons to enter public safety educations. SRJC/Police Academy is a 5-month program. Tuition costs \$2,000 plus \$2,000 in equipment. This scholarship fund is now endowed. To date, 2 persons have each received scholarships of \$950.00.

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT **Norm Fujita**

- ✚ Cabbage Picking at Farm to Fight Hunger needs 15 people.
- ✚ Broomapulloozza (French Bloom) on Saturday, 14 February 2026.
- ✚ Santa Rosa Sunrise Club – Invitation to a special meeting on 19 February with the former Alaskan Lt Gov on the National Parks Conservation projects. Norm will email mor information on this event.



INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE UPDATE **Dave Henderson**

Due to technical difficulties, this update was deferred to a later date.

HAPPY \$ DONATIONS

- Devon Drew - \$42.00 to Norm’s Polio + for his environmental advocacy
- Jerry Eddinger - \$50.00 to Polio +
- Ric Helthall - \$50.00 to the Club for completing 5-year Security Clearance paperwork
- Dave Henderson - \$50.00 to Polio + due to his Knee Replacement Surgery



- Roy Reynolds - \$70.00 to the Club for his pending trip to New Zealand



- Grady Wann - \$100.00 to Polio + for his 41st Anniversary



- Mary Kelley - \$50.00 to Devin Drew's Polio + (Bill Devon's Acct)

TODAY'S PROGRAM: Emily Peterson, Healdsburg Magic Bridge Project Ambassador



Emily shared she is a disabilities Mom whose daughter is now 7 but only started walking at age 5 ½ years old. She is a teacher and now the Local Healdsburg Project Ambassador.

Introduction

The Magical Bridge Playground project at Badger Park in Healdsburg is a community-driven initiative aimed at creating an inclusive play space for individuals of all ages and abilities. The project is spearheaded by the Magical Bridge Foundation in collaboration with the Healdsburg community and the City Council, which has unanimously supported the idea. The goal is to raise \$2 million through private funding to design and build this destination playground.

To date \$500,000 has been donated by an unnamed source and multiple smaller donations, \$300, \$500 and even \$1,000 have been made by numerous people.

Vision and Purpose

The Magical Bridge Playground is more than just a play area; it is a community hub designed to foster kindness, belonging, and inclusivity. It aims to remove physical and social barriers commonly found in traditional playgrounds, ensuring that everyone—from toddlers to seniors, including individuals with disabilities—can experience the benefits of play. The playground will feature zones for spinning, swinging, sliding, musical innovation, and imaginative play, as well as gathering spaces like the Play Stage and the Kindness and Conversation Corner.

Location and Features

The playground will be located near the community gardens in Badger Park. Key features include:

- **Play Zones:** Slide, spin, swing, tot, and music and innovation zones.
- **Accessibility:** Smooth surfacing without bark, sand, gravel, or raised barriers; wide pathways; sensory-sensitive wayfinding; and communication boards.
- **Community Spaces:** Shady gathering areas, local art and murals, perimeter fencing with gates, and quiet retreats like the Hideaway Hut.
- **Programs and Activities:** Volunteer programs, community events, and year-round activities led by "Kindness Ambassadors."

Testimonials

The project has received positive feedback from various community members:

- A North Bay parent shared that they drive 2.5 hours to ensure their autistic child can be included in play.
- A parent of two wheelchair users expressed trust in the accessibility of Magical Bridge playgrounds.
- A South Bay police officer noted the transformation of a park with a Magical Bridge Playground, highlighting its popularity and ability to attract visitors from all over.
- Mayor Ellen Kamei of Mountain View, CA, described the playground as a space where everyone belongs and experiences the joy of play.

Call to Action

The Magical Bridge Foundation is seeking sponsorships and donations to fund the project. Contributions over \$300 will be recognized on a community donor wall within the playground. Interested individuals and organizations can learn more and donate by visiting magicalbridge.org/healdsburg.

Contact Information

For inquiries or sponsorship opportunities, please contact:

- Olenka Villarreal, CEO: play4all@magicalbridge.org
- Emily Peterson, Local Project Ambassador: teacher.epeterson@gmail.com

About the Magical Bridge Foundation

The Magical Bridge Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with a Charity Navigator rating of 100%. It is dedicated to creating inclusive playgrounds that welcome children, teens, adults, and seniors, including those with physical, cognitive, or sensory disabilities, autism, or the effects of aging.

RAFFLE

- Ticket Winner- Brent Stanley, who received a very nice bottle of wine but no \$\$\$.
- Marble Outcome- Black



Upcoming Programs

- ✓ February 16th: Dark
- ✓ February 23rd: Tim Weaver, Merida Project