



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: **Dave Henderson**
Photographer: **Rick Tang**
Editor/Publisher: **George Heath**
October 21, 2024

Before the meeting started, all members posed on the lawn for a photograph, taken by Rick Tang, that will be included in the brochure for the 2024 Crab Feast.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was led by PDG Bob Rogers



GUESTS & VISITING ROTARIANS

Rotarians Bob and Peggy Rogers



POEM FOR THE DAY

Gary was written in 2019 for the 50th reunion of the 6th grade class of Willard Grade School in Evanston, Illinois. The author, Karen Wolters, was Gary Geiger's 4th grade classmate in 1946. Gary's brother is a long-time friend of President Jim Westfall. Gary was stricken by polio on a Thursday and died that Sunday. That sadness remains all these years later.

*Gary
and on an autumn afternoon
in 1946
november's brilliant colors died
when a little boy grew still
and as his labored breathing ceased
the fear grew wild and strong
for polio was still untamed
when we were only nine
the sorrowed tears fell on that day*

*as his soul flew toward the light
and parents watched their children sleep
to guard them from the dark
and finally the season
passed
as frost turned into snow
and fear went back to the southern climes
to await another year*

*the summer fear has not returned
i heard some years ago
and children now can play once more
for polio was tamed
and on a springtime evening in 2005
a little boy came back from time
to finally say goodbye
i saw him when you said his name
and felt his presence near
and then he went back to the light
but left
the memories*

*karen wolters dutil
april 2005*

TRIVIA QUIZ

Question: What is notable about the word “almost”?

Answer: It is the longest word in English with all its letters in alphabetical order.

Winner: **Andy Elkind**



UPCOMING SOCIAL EVENTS

Dinner for Eight - October – Nov

October – The **Halloween Party** has been cancelled, since the number of signups is not high enough to ensure a reasonable ticket price. Members are welcome to get full use out of their costumes by wearing them to next Monday’s Rotary meeting.

BOOK REVIEW – *In the Kingdom of Ice*
Recommended by **Doug Lyle**

A white-knuckle tale of polar exploration and heroism in the Gilded Age that follows the USS *Jeanette* as its crew searches for a passage through the (unfortunately non-existent) Open Polar Sea in 1879.



YOUTH EXCHANGE APPEAL

Dick Cochran reported that our Taiwan Exchange Student still needs a third host family.



ROTARIANS AT WORK

Harvesting at Farm to Fight Hunger

CRAB FEAST UPDATE



- For the Crab Feast, **John Hazlett** invited each Rotarian to bring to the next meeting two bottles of good wine (full) for the group lot of 120 bottles.

- **Paul Frechette** announced that we would be engaging a caterer to do the cooking for the Feast, thus relieving strain on the members.



- **Dave Henderson** circulated the Silent Auction solicitation list, asking members to sign up for available solicitation slots. The list will now be updated online.

MAX(IMUM) DUNN AWARDS

Dr. Dave Anderson displayed the handsome award board and provided a brief profile of **Max Dunn**—his efforts always expended “to the maximum”!-- and his services to the community health infrastructure.



He announced new award winners: **George Heath, Rick Tang, Jim Manly, Kent Mitchell (posthumously), Devin Drew, Nita Parker, Paul Jones, Don Mitchell, Bob Pedroncelli, and Richard Norgrove.**



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Arundo removal 8:30-12:00 Saturday, October 26 Arundo Donax removal at Badger Park. Sign up in advance

- **District Events**
 - **World Peace Conference** – Jan 24-26 (Rohnert Park)
 - **District Training** – April 5 (Ukiah)
 - **District Conference** – May 2-3 (Fortuna)
- **SCARC & Other Clubs' Events**
 - SCARC Dinner** – Sonoma – October 31 (flier distributed in email to members)
- **Veterans Lunch** – Nov 7 in Santa Rosa (flier distributed in email to members)
- **Veterans Breakfast** – Nov 11 at Villa Chanticleer

CELEBRATIONS

All birthday, wedding, and membership anniversaries were memorialized previously.

Happy \$\$

- ❖ **Nita Parker** gave a gift to **President Jim** from Hawaii and \$100 to Polio Plus.



- ❖ **Graham Freeman** thanked **Emily Martin** for organizing his fabulous trip to Sicily and gave \$100 to Polio Plus.



- ❖ **Phil Luks** gave \$50 to Polio Plus.

- ❖ **John Hazlett** to commemorate his trip to Colorado gave **Pres. Jim** a box of golf balls specially engineered to fly straight.

POLIO DAY

- ❖ **World Polio Day is Oct 24 this year**



PROGRAM: POLIO PLUS

Rotarian & polio victim Bob Rogers gave an extensive presentation on Polio Plus campaign. **Since that topic is of such significant importance to international and Healdsburg Rotary, these minutes devote more space than usual to the meeting presentation.** (His text has been edited for brevity.)



Bob joined the Rotary Club of Sebastopol, California in 2007 shortly after moving into town from South Lake Tahoe. It

wasn't long thereafter, as a polio survivor, that he joined the District's PolioPlus Committee and started giving polio talks to clubs throughout the district. Bob served as president of his club, as Assistant Governor, as District Governor and as the Zone 27 End Polio Now Coordinator. He is currently serving as the Districts PolioPlus Chair.

While DG, he and 13 other bike riders in the district, created a 6-day bike ride called "Pedal 4 Polio". Bob's project travels have taken him to Mexico, Uganda and India for a National Immunization Day in New Delhi in January 2020. Bob was recently awarded Rotary's International Service Award for a Polio Free World. He is a member of the Paul Harris Society, The PolioPlus Society and with his wife Peggy, are major donors and members of the Bequest Society. Bob retired as an airline pilot from USAirways in 2002...and now claims his second career is Rotary.

I escaped the serious ravages of polio with no more than one leg slightly shorter than the other. I was a runner, a cyclist, a skier, and worked as an airline Pilot and I never felt handicapped in any way. ... I soon found out that Rotary was the catalyst and a great power in getting individuals, organizations and even countries worldwide to work to get rid of polio. I also found out that Rotarians were, and are, the heart and soul of the fight against polio.

The last time I visited you for a polio talk was in November of 2022, when we had 30 wild polio cases in the world, and last year, 2023, we reduced the number of cases to 12. Unfortunately, this year we have had an increase to 54 wild cases, 32 in Pakistan and 22 in Afghanistan...and the year's not over yet... We've been all over the place when it comes to annual total number of wild cases, starting with 140 cases in 2020, when we had to cease immunizations for almost 5 months due to Covid-19, followed by our best year yet--only 6 cases total in the entire world in 2021. This year, though, we have lost ground. Demoralizing, to say the least, but this is not the first time we've seen this and have successfully come back from the brink--think India and Nigeria.

But the good news, if you can call it that, is that almost all the wild cases are concentrated along the border of Afghanistan and Pakistan... And that means that this concentration can potentially make it easier for polio workers to plan their strategies in immunizing the children in these areas. We have 22 wild cases in Afghanistan so far, compared to 6 last year, and they are

geographically located right across the border from the cases in Pakistan...

Initially after the US pullout, the Taliban appeared to be working with us, letting polio workers reach what we call “Zero dose” children for the first time in over 3 years... and allowing female polio workers to continue their work, going house-to-house, vaccinating the kids. However, last month they “temporarily” restricted the workers to what they call mosque-to-mosque vaccinations, which is not as efficient as house-to-house visits. Some think that this is because of local Taliban leaders opposing female workers being allowed to do this work outside. Negotiations are in progress, according to a Taliban spokesman. Stay tuned.

However, we also have another poliovirus to contend with before we can declare the job done, the Type 2 Variant, or circulating Vaccine Derived Polio Virus Type 2.

The original oral polio vaccine, the Sabin vaccine, used a live attenuated, or weakened virus in its makeup, and could, in very rare instances, (statistically speaking about 1 in every 2.7 million doses) mutate back to full strength and if it found a child who is not immunized, could infect that child and possibly cause paralysis. This usually happens if the weakened virus is allowed to circulate over a long period of time, usually 12 to 18 months in an under-immunized or non-immunized community. Let me emphasize that the child who initially received the polio drops is not affected, but instead protected. And furthermore, as the child sheds the vaccine via their stools, if other un-immunized children come in contact with it, they too become protected and this actually helps in achieving herd immunity. But in rare cases, where the virus is allowed to regain full strength, it can infect an un-immunized child and possibly cause paralysis. So far, we have 181 of these variant cases this year, which is a 42% improvement over last year’s 315 variant cases at this time, so these numbers are headed in the right direction, with this year being the best so far as to number of cases worldwide, from 1,117 in 2020 to the 181 we have today. And a large part of the reason for that improvement is we now have a new weapon in our arsenal, the “novel” oral polio vaccine, referred to by its initials as nOPV. In development for 10 years, it finally received its Emergency Use Listing from WHO in **November of 2020**, and they started using it in Nigeria in **March of 2021**. Like the original Sabin Vaccine, it also uses a live attenuated, or weakened virus, but unlike the Sabin vaccine, it has been genetically engineered to be more stable...less likely to mutate back to full strength, which means it can help knock down outbreaks more sustainably. Countries in Central Africa, where most of the vaccine derived outbreaks have been located, have administered over a billion doses of nOPV2 to date, and surveillance data shows that **the vaccine is 80 to 85% more effective** than the original Sabin vaccine.

Incidentally, the principal advocate and provider of the funds for this project was the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Thank you, Bill and Melinda.

In light of the numbers and the constant changing situation, the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, of which Rotary is a founding member, revised its Two Goal Polio Eradication Strategy 2022 – 2026 to more accurately reflect the current polio situation in the World They are:

GOAL ONE: Permanently interrupting transmission of all polioviruses in Afghanistan and Pakistan has been **extended to 2027**.

GOAL TWO: Stopping transmission of variant poliovirus type 2 and preventing outbreaks in polio-free regions has been **extended to 2029**

And that brings us to the next part of the polio story. You have no doubt heard about the 10-month-old child living in the Gaza Strip who contracted variant polio Type2 this last July, and of the 6 positive environmental samples collected also in July, and more recently, 5 more positive environmental samples which were collected. An historic humanitarian pause in hostilities allowed polio workers to conduct phase one of a two phase nOPV2 vaccination program which was conducted from September 1st thru the 12th, where an estimated 559,000 children were inoculated.

Since a minimum of two doses of nOPV2 are needed to interrupt poliovirus transmission, a second pause in hostilities was negotiated and the second phase of vaccinations started on October 14th and will continue till the 24th. In this round, vitamin A will also be co-administered alongside polio vaccine, to help boost overall immunity among children between the ages of two and nine years. 591,700 children are targeted in this phase. A tremendous amount of planning and organizing has taken place in putting this program together under less-than-ideal conditions. These polio workers should all be proud of what they are accomplishing.

And as a side note, speaking of the vitamin A supplements, that's one of the reasons why we call it PolioPlus...As a matter of fact, since 1988 we have given an average of 82 million doses of vitamin A to children per year, saving the lives of 1.25 million...we're funding the infrastructure that delivers the vaccines all over Africa. We gave 34 million deworming tablets, 7 million doses of yellow fever vaccine, 5 million doses of tetanus vaccine, 4 million insecticide bed nets for malaria, and this was all alongside giving the polio vaccine at the same time. Even the global grants we offer for water filtration plants in developing nations are critical, since contaminated water is one of the main ways the virus is spread.

Let's look at what else PolioPlus has done. We've created a worldwide cold chain Distribution system for temperature-sensitive vaccines, not only for polio, but for other diseases as well, such as Ebola and Covid. We've also provided surveillance for whatever other diseases that may come along.

And let's not forget the 146 laboratories we've established worldwide to analyze those surveillance samples.

So, you can see that fighting polio is not cheap.

Every year Rotary attempts to raise \$50 million dollars for our fight against polio.

And the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has pledged to match our donations, up to \$50 million dollars, 2 to 1, literally turning our \$50 million into \$150 million. This represents about 16% of the almost \$ billion annual budget we and our partners use to fight polio. The rest of the money comes from governments, organizations, churches and individuals, the Latter-Day Saints, the Mormon church, being one great example. Last year they donated \$5 million to Rotary for PolioPlus.

Another example comes from Mike McGovern, Chair of Rotary International's PolioPlus Committee. And I quote him here. "Every year we approach the US Congress for money for polio eradication and I'd like to make a political statement here. People think Congress is completely dysfunctional and I won't say it is or it isn't. but the good news is that last March both the House and the Senate passed a bill giving \$180 million to the CDC (Center for Disease Control and one of our partners) for polio eradication. This was a result of strong Rotary

advocacy. It's something to celebrate, because when we see Republicans and Democrats alike coming together, that's something. A reception on May 1 honored both parties, (with an equal number in attendance from each party) for their efforts in eradicating polio.

And part of the way Healdsburg Rotarians raise money for polio is marching around Healdsburg square with our green hair, making as much noise as we can on every St. Pattie's Day. Last year you were the top club in the District with your donations of \$21,201...my club, Sebastopol, ran a distant second with \$17,384...And as a matter of fact, the first half of this Rotary year hasn't even happened yet and you guys have already raised \$7,229...and that's BEFORE Green Hair Day...and oh yeah, my club is again a distant 2nd with only \$2,080 donated so far. Like I said, Healdsburg rocks!!!

Another way Healdsburg raises money for PolioPlus is by joining the District's **PolioPlus Society**. So far 10 of you have become members. To join, you commit to donating a minimum of \$100 per year till WHO declares the world polio free. When you join you get a PolioPlus Society pin, a nifty polypropylene *End Polio Now* bracelet, and a Certificate. And as a matter of fact, there are 5 members of this club who joined the PolioPlus Society since my last visit, but have not yet received their pins, wristbands and certificates. Let's correct that right now. Would the following Rotarians please come forward to receive your pins, Certificates and End Polio Now wristbands: **David Anderson, Devin Lee Drew, Jim Westfall, Paul Frechette, and Doug Garrett**.

Thank you all for your dedication to the cause of wiping out polio and your demonstrating that dedication by joining the Society. We hope these Rotarians will perhaps inspire others to do the same...as a matter of fact, some of you already qualify for the Society, but have not filled out the paperwork. We can correct that...see me or **Dick Cochran** after the meeting and help us grow the District's Society membership. Currently we have 249 members who have collectively pledged to donate over \$33,000 per year, every year, until polio is gone.

And finally, let's not forget **World Polio Day coming up on October 24th this coming Thursday**. There are 3 events you can attend on Webinar or Zoom.

RAFFLE

Bob Rogers picked out **Jaime Campoverde's** lucky ticket, and Jaime pulled out the elusive white marble, winning the princely sum of \$174, which he generously donated to Polio Plus.



CLOSING

Overall, it was a good Rotary Club meeting on behalf of its mission to further Polio Plus

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

October 28
November 4

Sommelier, training and daily life - Alex Saravich
Rotary Youth Exchange to Thailand – Arlo Herrod