



January 2025

Volume 101 No. 4

The Fourth annual Merry Healdsburg Tree Lighting in the Plaza



Darlene finished stomping the grapes and dusted off her famous recipe! The wine was mulled, and 15 gallons were ready for the Merry Healdsburg Tree Lighting. Our beloved Anna the Piranha provided the Senior Center kitchen and equipment to ferry over the piping hot swill to the sales booth without spilling a drop!

The event was hosted by the City of Healdsburg Community Services in partnership with the Healdsburg Chamber of Commerce with thanks to the Healdsburg Tourist Improvement District for generous sponsorship. The main attraction of the evening was the Tree Lighting Ceremony at 6:00 pm, followed by live musical performances by the Healdsburg Chorus, followed by The Sugarplums!, a trio of young women dressed in red Santa suits, with their charming choreography, and sweet harmonies.



Other happenings included complimentary photos with Santa, complimentary Carriage Rides provided by Kiwanis, and food and dessert vendors including our Kiwanis Mulled Wine sales pop ups. There was also a Holiday Market lining several streets.

The weather was cool, but the Merry Healdsburg event was something to warm everyone's heart. Our Club's participation, including our mulled wine sales and free Kiwanis sponsored horse drawn carriage rides that were lauded by many local community members. But sadly, one of the horses developed lameness and the rides ended early, disappointing many in the waiting crowd.

Gross receipts from mulled wine, beer, hot dogs, and soda totaled \$5,033. Estimated expenses were about \$1,136 leaving net proceeds of about \$3,397. We also received \$211 in Vocational Scholarship Tips. Special thanks to Ted Draper for furnishing the horses and carriage for the deeply discounted price of \$800. The City has promised a \$200 reimbursement toward the carriage rides.

Regular Tuesday meetings at the Villa Chanticleer Annex.

Meeting Dates:

Jan 7: Regular Meeting at 12 noon, We look back at our lives and our Club 50 years ago.

Jan 14: Regular Meeting at 12 noon, AI today (Artificial Intelligence) and what it's like to take a ride in a driverless Waymo taxi.

Jan 16: Board Meeting, Round Table Pizza 5:30pm gather, 6:pm Meeting.

Jan 21: Regular Meeting at 12 noon, Staff Sgt. Joseph Ladd, US Army Recruiter. His life and today's US Army.

Jan 28: Evening Meeting - Lucy Lewand has a fun evening planned.

Other January Dates

Jan 18, 2025: Div 32 DCM, Salvation Army, Santa Rosa, 9:00am-2:00pm.

Save the Date

Jun 1, 2025: Second annual Texas Hold'em Tournament.

The Healdsburg Kiwanis Club meets Tuesday noon except the fourth Tuesday of the month is an evening meeting, 6:30PM Social, 7:00 PM Meeting.

For information about the Healdsburg Kiwanis Club Contact President Eric Frost 559-802-6297 or Secretary Liz Bippart 707-227-4314.

Kiwanis ---- Serving the Children of the world®

Merry Healdsburg photos by Susan



**Healdsburg Kiwanis
Club Officers 2024-2025**

President Elect – Eric Frost
President Elect (TBD)
Secretary – Liz Bippart
Admin. Treasurer- Richard Bugarske
Project Treasurer - Ron Doble
Past Co-Presidents – Loretta Strong,
Richard Bugarske, Susan Sheehy,
Jan Gianni

Board of Directors

Debby Dormire Barbara Erickson
Susan Sheehy Jan Gianni

**Memorial Scholarship
Board of Directors**

Dan Maraviglia, Chair
John (Jack) Brandt Dennis Stead
Ron Doble Guy French
Dan Gianni Richard Yates

The Builder

Harry Jackson, Editor

Happy Birthday

Rich Norgrove – Jan. 8
Andrew Smith – Jan. 12
Darlene Prigmore – Jan. 28
Rick Wood, Jan. 26
Melanie Taylor – Jan. 29

Kiwanis Anniversaries

Congratulations to the following
members who joined the Kiwanis Club
during the month January:

Andrew Smith - 1-4-05
James Silveira -1-30-68

The President’s Message

Dear Kiwanis Club Members,

As we welcome the New Year, I want to take this opportunity to reflect on this last year and the journey that we’ve shared. Mahatma Gandhi once said, "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." This powerful sentiment captures the essence of our mission as a Kiwanis Club. Each time we dedicate ourselves to serving our community, we not only uplift those in need but also discover our true selves and purpose.



Looking back at our accomplishments, I am inspired by the lives we’ve touched through our projects and initiatives. From supporting local families to enhancing educational opportunities, our efforts have made a difference. Each act of service is a testament to our commitment to building a better world.

Winston S. Churchill reminds us, "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." As we enter 2024, let’s embrace this philosophy wholeheartedly. It is through our giving that we cultivate meaningful relationships and foster a sense of community. Let’s challenge ourselves this year to engage in new projects, reach out to those who may need our help, and inspire others to join our mission.

I am excited about what lies ahead and the potential we have to create lasting change. Together, let’s make this year one of growth, compassion, and service. Thank you for your dedication and passion. Here’s to a New Year filled with opportunities to give back and make a difference in the lives of others.

Happy New Year!

Warm regards,

Eric Frost

Toys for Tots

Denny Stead announced that our local "Toys for Tots" folks have gathered close to 1500 toys for local children. Additionally, our Key Club bought \$600 worth of toys from the Toy Chest for the drive. Generosity all around this year.



Board of Director's Meeting – December 19

The Board moved to ask attendees at the Jan. 7 meeting to consider raising our quarterly dues from \$45 to \$55. Our By-laws require a vote at a lunch meeting with at least 2/3 approval of attending members. Kiwanis International has raised our dues 25% so we need to look at our Club needs.

Meeting Summaries

Dec 3: Marcy Flores, Executive Director, Corazón Healdsburg.



Corazón's mission is: To build a compassionate and just community by empowering and dignifying individuals and families, advocating against injustices and uniting people to celebrate diversity.



In a very interesting and informative presentation, Marcy described the various Corazón programs supporting the community, summarized below:

Family Resource Center

The Family Resource Center is dedicated to nurturing dreams, overcoming obstacles, and championing the empowerment and transformation of those we work with. Going beyond quick fixes, our commitment is to empower individuals as architects of their destinies.

- Individual and family holistic case management
- Financial coaching and financial literacy
- Wraparound services
- Computer skills
- Direct financial assistance

- Referrals to partner agencies

Academic Development

We are devoted to supporting individuals and families at every stage of their educational journey – from prenatal care into adulthood. Our comprehensive range of programs reflects our commitment to nurturing a culture of lifelong learning. Through purposeful workshops, community collaborations, and partnerships with local institutions, we provide holistic support for academic success, bridging gaps and empowering our community members to realize their educational and career aspirations.

Academic Programs include:

- Mi Bebe y Yo
- Childcare
- Pasitos playgroup
- Libros Y Raices
- Abriendo Puertas
- FirstGen College Counseling
- Adult Education

Community Engagement -Stronger Together

Our commitment goes beyond acts of giving – we're dedicated to strengthening the social fabric of our community, through strategic neighborhood outreach, vibrant cultural events, a robust volunteer program and transformative leadership initiatives, we actively invest in community networks and nurture emerging leaders.

Our comprehensive approach is geared towards breaking cycles of poverty for local individuals and families and empowering them to create new relationships with each other, with the community at large and with local systems and services that are meant to exist for everyone.

Dec 10: Jamie Fox - Sonoma County Chapter of the Disabled American Veterans

"DAV is a nonprofit charity that provides lifetime support for veterans of all generations and their families. DAV empowers veterans and their families by helping to provide the resources they need and ensuring our nation keeps its promises to them."



DAV operates a fleet of vehicles around the country to provide free transportation to VA medical facilities for injured and ill veterans. Unfortunately, this service has not been available in Northern California.

Jamie has been working for the last three years to make the service available locally. She described her sometimes challenging activities to move things along:

raising funds, hiring a manager, purchasing vehicles, soliciting and training volunteer drivers, and dealing with slow moving bureaucracies. But success is at hand and the service is soon to be launched.

Since the program's inception in 1987, DAV departments and chapters have donated 3,763 vehicles and Ford Motor Co. has donated 264 vehicles at a cost of more than \$96 million.

Dec 17: Annual Christmas celebration. White elephant gift exchange.

Our Club enjoyed a wonderful gathering with Christmas carols and a fun White Elephant gift exchange. We also welcomed visiting members of the Santa Rosa Kiwanis Club.



The Santa Rosa visitors

Birthdays



Happy Birthda Rowdy 12/24

The Builder - - KIWANIS CLUB OF HEALDSBURG

Healdsburg members at the Cloverdale Crab Feed



Denny doing his thing



Larry wins \$990



Susan Sheehy selfie with family: Sidney, Lily, & Sarah Sheehy, Kelly Keller, Jamie Trinidad

Healdsburg Kiwanis Club 2024-2025 Events Schedule

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Merry Healdsburg on the Plaza | Dec. 6, 2024 |
| Steelhead Festival at Lake Sonoma | Feb. 8, 2025 |
| HHS Hall of Fame at Villa Annex | Feb 23, 2025 |
| St. Patrick's Day on the Plaza | Mar. 17, 2025 |
| Pancake Breakfast – Villa Chanticleer | Apr 13, 2025 |
| Twilight Parade | May 22, 2025 |
| FFA Fair Booth at Rec Park | May 22-24, 2025 |
| Texas Hold'em at Longboard | Jun. 1, 2025 |
| Brandt's Beach BBQ | Aug. 23, 2025 |
| Other events to be determined | |