

## Redding Newcomers and Friends General Membership Meeting

October 24, 2024

The members saluted the flag at 10:00 am.

Second Vice-President Elizabeth Sherman introduced the speaker (and club member) Kathy Snyder who volunteers at the Nature Park in northern Thailand that rehabilitates elephants who have been abused. The motto of the park is No chains, no riding, no torture. They buy elephants from abusive owners and let them have an open existence on their preserve. Previous owners have sometimes kept the elephants from having food or water for three weeks to break and crush their spirits. Slides were shown of abusive situations and contrasted to the environment at the preserve. Unfortunately, the park had a tidal wave flood recently and the village was wiped out. Two elephants were lost but 126 remain. Donations are needed to rebuild the preserve. They can be sent to [www.elephantnaturepark.org](http://www.elephantnaturepark.org) The preserve operates solely on donations since they do not receive any government funding. Questions were welcomed and answered. Kathy stayed for the meeting and continued to share her experiences during the break and after the meeting.

President Ruth Plato called the meeting to order at 10:30 am. The Creative You greeters were thanked.

Treasurer Mickey Martin reported a balance of \$21,177 in the checking account and \$6,289 in savings.

Membership chair Karen Coupe-Bonnet reminded new members that they could get their badges from her. She introduced Lynda, Laura, Jeannie, Martha, and Heidi who are joining the club. First Vice President Trish Sakata reminded the new members of the coffee at Freddie Martin's house on November 6.

Parliamentarian/Summer Celebration chair Tammy Douse said plans are already being made for the Summer Celebration on Thursday, June 27.

Community Activities Chair Louise Wilson presented information about events taking place during November in Redding. Highlights were the light show at Turtle Bay starting on November 22 and continuing until January 25. This will be the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary for the quilt display on the Sundial Bridge. The Riverfront Theater will be the venue for our buyout. She reminded everyone that they can join the theater for \$25 and receive a free ticket for future plays. This year there will be four Nutcracker performances in Redding which she had information about. As usual, there were handouts about local events either to be taken or photos made of on phones.

Christmas Charities Chair Pat Deem reminded the membership that the event will take place at the Elks Club on December 9. There will be a soup/salad luncheon. Tickets were being sold before/after the meeting as well as at the break. The cost is \$17 with the club paying the rest. Adda Gripp asked for members to donate two dozen baked goods (cookies, muffins, cupcakes) on non-returnable platters if possible. Hats, gloves, scarves, and socks will be collected for donations to various organizations. Members were also reminded to bring an unwrapped item with their name on it that will be part of the raffle activity.

We CAN Make a Difference chairs Joyce Menta and Joann Roskoski shared that donations for Good News totaled \$499 (checks) and \$239 (cash) in addition to the many items that were brought.

Activities Coordinator Vicki Burroughs reminded the members of the Thursday, November 22 Movie activity being planned by Becky Childs.

Members were reminded that the Welcome Mat needs articles well in advance of publication usually at least by the beginning of the previous month.

Luncheon Party co-chair Patti Sauret expressed a need for a hostess for the luncheon in February and cooks for February, March, and May. Cooks are reimbursed for items they purchase.

Sunshine Ladies co-chair Sharon Chestnut reminded members that they can let her know of anyone needing a phone call or card.

There were six tickets still available for the Riverfront Theater buy-out.

Mystery Prize Shopper Sharon Sparks presented Heidi Nietschmann, Nancy Wright, Judy Bohm, Louise Wilson, and new member Martha Hamon with \$15 gift certificates after their winning tickets were drawn.

Judy Bohm was also the winner of the birthday drawing,

President Ruth Plato adjourned the meeting at 11:40.