



THE SPOKES SPEAK - GEARED TO SERVICE

Rotary Club of the North Fork Valley

POB 1543, Paonia, CO 81428

WEB SITES: www.rotary.org www.rotary5470.org www.paoniarotary.org

Meeting Thursdays at Noon in the Paonia Town Hall

District 5470

Club 1180

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LAST MEETING: January 14, 2016

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The second annual Casino Night will be held Jan. 30 at the Glennie Coombe Gallery. Needed are auction and raffle items. Bring them to the next club meeting. Volunteers are needed and tickets need to be sold. Bring money for tickets to the next club meeting. Let's all pitch in.

Bill Bishop admitted to arriving at his trombone birthday - thanks, Norm for bringing this to his attention. He donated a check to the club's foundation to equal his age.

PROGRAM - Randy introduced Elaine Brett and Julia Bowman, who talked about the TEDx Paonia event coming to the Paradise Theatre on Feb. 6. Julia is the Americorps volunteer at the Western Slope Conservation Center. Her connections to Rotary are that she received a Rotary scholarship to attend college, and she participated in a project to bring sewing machines to women in Indonesia, which was partially funded by Rotary.

The first week in February will be full of interesting events. Following our Casino night on 1/30, the Delta County Historical Society, headed by Jim Wetzels, will hold an event on 2/1 in Delta celebrating the theaters in the county. On 2/4 the Colorado Office of Film and Theatre and Rocky Mountain PBS will offer a free showing of two films, "Cinema of the Plains" and "Ladies of the Mines". On Saturday, 2/6 from 9 - 5 the Paradise will host TEDx Paonia. (x = independently organized TED event) The night before there will be a VIP reception at the Cirque Cielery, a new business in town. The finale of this event-packed week will be a free showing of the Superbowl on 2/7, featuring fancy eats and drinks at the Paradise.

The mission of TEDx Paonia is to celebrate Paonia as a thought hub that ignites creativity, curiosity and connection. The TEDx event, "Pushing Through the Pavement", is a day of hearing and reflecting on ideas that will be shared in brief presentations from 15 to 17 local (or once local) people. The presenters are currently being coached on how to make their presentations vibrant. Their live performance will be videotaped and available on U-tube for all to see. Some 45 people were interviewed as potential presenters. Among the selected speakers are David Alderdice, Gabrielle Louise, Dev Carey, Brent McRea, Calvin Evans, Hal Brill, Alex Johnson, and Craig Childs (look them up!).

A seven woman volunteer organizing team has secured a license from TED Talks to do this TEDx event, selected the presenters, solicited sponsorships, and are selling tickets to

the event. Apparently there are very few tickets left. About a third of them were sold to people out of the area. TEDx Paonia could become an annual event, which could have a positive impact on economic development.

A ROTARY HONOR, PART 2 - [For her work to mitigate extreme poverty around the world, Susan Davis will receive the 2015-16 Rotary Foundation Global Alumni Service to Humanity Award. She established BRAC -- Bangladesh Rehabilitation Assistance Committee -- dedicated to fighting poverty and to creating opportunities for the poor in Africa and elsewhere.]

Fulfilling BRAC's mission hasn't been easy. Davis' work has been disrupted by floods, cyclones, earthquakes, and war. Even worse was the sudden and deadly Ebola epidemic in 2014 in West Africa.

"I wasn't sure how to protect our staff and clients and accompany these vulnerable communities out of this tragic situation," says Davis, who served as BRAC USA's president and chief executive officer until her departure this month. She quickly contacted Ebola experts and connected them with BRAC USA's representatives in affected countries. "I lost sleep and cried with each death," she says. "The urgency of the need and the tangible opportunities to make a difference keep me going," she says. "And I have been blessed by seeing two big ideas — microfinance and social entrepreneurship — take root globally."

From 1987 to 1991, Davis championed microfinance while working as a program officer with the Ford Foundation in Bangladesh. She developed a consortium that raised \$175 million, increasing the availability of microloans in Bangladeshi villages to 44 percent from 5 percent,. Though debates endure over how much credit microfinance should receive for the country's progress, conditions in Bangladesh have improved significantly: According to The Economist, life expectancy in the country rose from 59 to 69 during a 20-year span ending in 2010. (Part 3 next week)

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

January 21- New KVNF manager, Jon Howard, about himself and what's happening at the station

January 28 - Brian Calvert, the managing editor of High Country News

