



## **THE SPOKES SPEAK - GEARED TO SERVICE**

### **Rotary Club of the North Fork Valley**

POB 1543, Paonia, CO 81428

WEB SITES: [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org) [www.rotary5470.org](http://www.rotary5470.org) [www.paoniarotary.org](http://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. Jackie is collecting auction and raffle items. Help her put together the silent auction and raffle baskets at her home after the 1/28 meeting. Extension cords will be available for hot appetizers. Volunteers are needed and tickets need to be sold. Bring money for tickets to the next club meeting. Advertize the event. Let's all pitch in.

Ulli announced that the NF Recreation District needs a new Board member. The Board meets once a month.

Pam announced that the club distributed 89 dictionaries to third graders. This is a very fun event. Be sure you are involved next year!

James led us in singing "Old McDonald". He decided we should sing about chickens - "with a chick chick here and a chick chick there" - and goats - what sound do goats make?? Next time we need a little rehearsal. :)

**PROGRAM:** Felix introduced Jon Howard, the new General Manager at KVNF. He holds a BS in journalism from the University of Kansas, which had 4 radio stations, and a Master's degree in radio and TV from Kansas State. He started as a studio technician in 1984 and has been involved with communications, electronics and teaching ever since. He has worked in a number of locations including Kansas, Texas, West Virginia, Indiana, and southeast Colorado - loved the sand dunes. In 2006 he moved to the Isle of Wight off the south coast of England. He stepped away from public radio for a while to use his electronics background to help visually impaired students succeed in school. The island is 16 by 26 miles with a population of 140,000.

When he decided to go back into radio, he did not want to work at a big station. He came to Paonia and fell in love. He was told we don't get much snow here - his wife had never experienced snow and was a bit apprehensive - then came our Christmas blizzard. She is coping.

Here at KVNF it is his sixth position in public radio, and his fourth in management. He said he enjoys working with talented and quirky people. He thinks it is an incredible station. His job is to empower the people who work with him. He intends to help the station enjoys success in its next 36 years. He is focusing on stabilizing the finances, making the fund raising infrastructure functional, putting some new systems in place, and

emphasizing all things local. Classical music has recently been reduced from 5 to 3 hours. He would like to expand that to 10 hours. The station is in the process of converting to digital radio, which will allow for 3 program streams off of one signal.

He invited questions: "Why is Amy Goodman off the air?" It was a program committee decision based on station policy, and will not be coming back on the air. "What is the future of public radio?" The big stations with their homogenized programming will be in the most trouble. People turn to public radio for local news and programming, the heart blood of KVNF. "Why are there lapses in the programs?" The equipment is 10 to 15 years old. They borrowed some equipment while the station's was being repaired, but obviously there is more to be done. He and Jeff understand the problem and are working together to solve it. Thanks, Jon and welcome to the valley.



Felix, Jon and Ed converse

**A ROTARY HONOR, PART 3 - [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. ]**

Davis also is co-author, with journalist David Bornstein, of the book "Social Entrepreneurship: What Everyone Needs to Know." And she is involved with Ashoka, a nonprofit organization that supports social entrepreneurship; as a director, she oversaw its expansion to the Middle East, North Africa, and Central Asia.

A resident of New York City, Davis is widely recognized for her work in the field of international development. She was appointed to the board of the United Nations Fund for International Partnership in 2012, is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, and has served on the boards of the Grameen Foundation, the Sirleaf Market Women's Fund, and the African Women's Development Fund USA.

Davis has come a long way from the small town in southwest Louisiana, USA, where she grew up. The Rotary scholarship provided her first opportunity to live abroad. She believes that her Oxford experience allowed her to be taken seriously, and credits it with helping her land a job with the Ford Foundation.

Perhaps most importantly, says Davis, that Rotary-sponsored year gave her an entirely new perspective on power and privilege.

"Oxford was larger than life in my imagination," she recalls. "But when I became a part of Oxford and got to know the dons and the students, I realized that, whether rich or poor, we were all just human beings and all of us were vulnerable and full of imperfections."

Davis will be honored at the Rotary International Convention in Korea in June.

#### **UPCOMING MEETINGS:**

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

**February 4 - Mark Eckhart, Delta bypass and econ dev.**

**February 11 - Sharon Fipps, All Points Transit**

**February 18 - Jack Ferrell and Cassandra Shenk, Teens on Farms**

**March 10 - Burnie Zercher of Pueblo speaking about The Rotary Foundation**

**April 14 - Dr. Jerry Nelson, topic "Climate Change and food security"**

