



## **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 - Chartered 12/20/22

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LAST MEETING: June 1, 2017

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** June 17 is the pancake breakfast. Sell tickets! We need lots of attendees.

ReMax is holding its yard sale on 6/17 to benefit the North Fork Children's Christmas party. Bring things to be sold to the Paonia office or call Bob Lario for pickup.

Our wonderful fill-in pianist, Stephanie Helleckson, was elected an honorary member. Congratulations, Stephanie. We hope you will be able to find a way to be active in Rotary in northern Florida.

Randy Campbell is looking for a replacement as program committee chair.

Our two RYLA students have been selected. We look forward to hearing from them after the event.

Thanks to Doris Danielson for preparing our new tri-fold brochure.

Felix Belmont wants to step down as club secretary. Somebody else needs to step up.

Give speaker ideas to Randy Campbell.

The club's facebook page is up. Put some posts on it.

Remember to feed the polio jar. Also, pay your dues.

**PROGRAM:** Randy Campbell introduced Sam Brown and Tara Miller. They have traveled to Taquile Island on Lake Titicaca in Peru for the past 31 years. This is not a vacation for them, but an opportunity to participate in the activities of the community there. The lake is 40 by 80 miles. The island lies 2 ½ hours by boat from Puna, with a view scape of 20,000 foot mountains across the lake. It is an international tourist destination where there are no dogs, guns, cars, or police. It is 1.5 miles by 3.5 miles in area. The 2000 residents rely on agriculture, fishing and tourism. Weaving is a major industry, which has been recognized by UNESCO for its excellence.

Brown and Miller helped bring electricity to the community through solar panels. The first panel played a radio, much to the delight of the islanders. Our two speakers trade solar panels, lights and related equipment for weavings, which they sell at local craft fairs. There is now a big solar array at a water pumping station.

Brown and Miller are particularly enamored of the children. They buy school supplies for them, have taught them to swim at a hot springs on the main land (the lake is too cold for comfortable swimming), and taken them to archeological sites. They are also most interested in some local customs. Coca leaf is considered a sacred ceremonial object that helps with altitude sickness (the lake is located at 12,500 feet). An exchange of leaves is the equivalent of a hand shake. Another custom is the first hair cutting for a child. There is a big ceremony and god parents are selected. (Brown and Miller are god

parents.) Another ceremony is carnival or Mardi Gras. The women grow their hair, braid it, cut it, and make a wig for their husband. Everyone is heavily costumed during carnival.

Brown and Miller brought a number of Taquile residents to Paonia in 2010. They put on a show at the Blue Sage. In 2013, then Paonia mayor, Neil Schwieterman and his family visited the island and he was given a number of gifts, many of which are now on public display here in town.

It is clear that Brown and Miller will continue their long and loving relationship with the island residents for as long as they can.

**ROTARY INTERNATIONAL: June is Rotary Fellowships month. [Your editor thinks there was great fellowship at our membership recruitment party last week. With that in mind, here is what she said about being a Rotarian.]**

### **WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A ROTARIAN**

The road to becoming a Rotarian starts by accepting the invitation to join a Rotary Club that is part of an international organization guided by a code of ethics. [See “The Four-Way Test” at the end of the membership list.] It continues as you become acquainted with club members, club meeting practices, club history, and club projects. You learn what is expected of you as a club member.

Because your local club is part of a larger organization - Rotary International - you are exposed to the world of Rotary through The Rotarian magazine, club presentations, workshops and conferences. As you become familiar with and participate in club activities, as well as activities and events involving other clubs and their members, you will begin to see a larger picture.

You are well on the way to becoming a “Rotarian” when you want to help assist or guide your club, and when you feel inspired to engage the larger world of Rotary through any means available to you. Rotarians support this 100+ year organization with their time, talents and resources.

Being a Rotarian means that you desire to be of assistance, and that you have a willingness to work for the good of others. We Rotarians enjoy fun, fellowship, but most of all, being of service to others. Service above self; one profits most who serves best; doing good in the world; these are our mottos.

### **UPCOMING MEETINGS:**

**June 15 - TBA**

