



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 - Chartered 12/20/22

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LAST MEETING: May 16, 2019

President Heck Presided.

Key Guest: No key guest today.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Ulli mentioned that the dedication of the wall at the Paonia Town Park is to take place on Memorial Day, Monday, May 28th.

Peggy will host 5th Thursday on Thursday, May 30th with potluck.

Barb reminded Stefan that on June 20th SEI has the Rotary Program.

Felix thanked Susie, Betsy, Norm and Glenn who serve on the Scholarship Committee.

Program:

Program: Norm introduced Moni Slater as the program speaker. Moni is in charge of the Kids Pasta Project (KPP) dinners in June and July. Moni announced that anytime she can have the kids come to Rotary and present about KPP.

Moni was in the Peace Corps in the 1960's when she was in her 20's. While preparing for her talk today she had fun going through the old pictures and journals. Moni showed slides of Mauritania, West Africa—the Village of Peace. Unfortunately, we can't go there now due to security issues. There were many sand storms in Mauritania—4 dust storms in August. In a few days sand blew in up to 3 feet. While in Mauritania she watched camels jump 4-foot fences. There they traveled by foot, horse or motorcycles.

She also went to North Senegal. You can't travel to Senegal with the Peace Corps, however, because they don't have Peace Corps. While she was there, they planted a tree village. Tree nurseries help stop the blowing sand. August is normally rainy. The following year they had the most rain they've ever had and then had a huge locust infestation. They lost 75% of their herds due to the storms.

Villager's work together to plant trees, however, normally they don't get along. It is an agricultural area. Taxi-trucks would take them around.

There was a boy there named Hama who lived in the neighborhood. He was 8-years old and came to her home 3 times a day. He was always asked her for stuff. He never left her alone. After a while, he learned to respect Moni. He went to gardens with Moni and they thinned carrots. Moni has a rare respect toward Hama.

Milk is the main drink.

Moni read from her Journal and passed around scrapbooks.

Religion is important. Muslim. No alcohol.

When Moni got home her trick was to go back, however, when she did, she felt a vague sense of “it’s not the same people. They were only polite and not as hospitable as before”.

Moni was Volunteer of the Year when George Bush was President and she had her picture taken with Barbara Bush, the President’s wife, in Washington, DC.

The Peace Corps is great for retired people. Elders are respected.

Just before she finished Moni mentioned that there are KPP Dinners through June and July.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

- 5/30/19: Potluck (Peggy Szvetecz)**
- 6/6/19: Jon Vandenberg – West Nile Virus (Kevin Parks)**
- 6/13/19: TBD (John Coombe)**
- 6/20/19: TBD (SEI)**
- 6/27/19: Swearing in of new President and BOD**

