



The Paddlewheel

Moorhead Rotary Club

Volume 91—No. 25

December 18, 2012

Moorhead Rotary
Chartered May 1, 1921
Club 970
District 5580

President Kay Parries
Secretary Vern Goodin
Treasurer Don Meidinger
Recording Paul Suomala

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President-Nominee Russ Hanson
Past President Jon Riewer

Director '12 Ron Kolb
Director '12 Jon Benson
Director '13 Kay Parries
Director '13 Gary Nolte
Director '14 Russ Hanson
Director '14 Warren Wenner

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Photographers
George Davis
Russ Hanson
Gary Nolte
Teresa Joppa
Mike Szymanski
Program Chair
Russ Hanson
Meeting Reporter
Teresa Joppa
Paddlewheel Editor
Nancy Edmonds Hanson

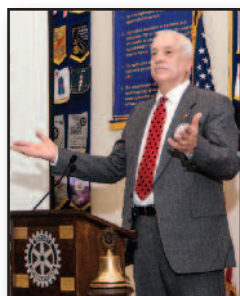
The Moorhead Rotary board of directors meets the second Wednesday of each month.

International President
Sakuji Tanaka, Japan
District Governor
Don Cavalier
District Governor-Elect
Tim Kaminski
Assistant District Governor
Herb Schmidt

Other F-M Rotary Clubs
Monday: Fargo West
Noon, Holiday Inn
1st & 3rd Tuesdays: PM/PM
5:15 p.m., Lucky 13 Pub
Wednesday: Fargo
Noon, Radisson
Thursday: AM/PM
7 a.m., Ramada Plaza

If you attend meetings of any of these clubs, just check in. We have a reciprocal agreement.

Moorhead Rotary
P.O. Box 72
Moorhead, MN 56561



Dec. 11

Paul Dovre inspires Rotarians and guests with his moving Christmas message

Credit where credit is due

President Kay Parries welcomed members and guests to Tuesday's meeting, the last in December and 2012. She thanked Ron Kolb, Eric Johnson and Alma Cater for planning the club's very successful Christmas party last week. Members had praise for the choice of setting, the Bluestem Trollwood Events Center, and for every aspect of the evening.

Rev. John Andreasen received a special round of applause for his remarkable original program — a tale of how an infant came to be born in the Bear Pit underneath Usher's House, with a little help from every Moorhead Rotarian.

Giving thanks for Rotary's gifts

According to Ron Kolb, our club's Christmas collection raised a total of \$925 for three beneficiaries, including Lakes & Prairies Community Action, Dorothy Day House and Churches United for the Homeless. Two representatives of Lakes and Prairies joined us



Coleen and Tiffany from Lakes & Prairies Community Action thanked the club for its donation.

to thank members in person for our support and the difference it will make in people's lives.



Sergeant at Arms Mike Hulett absolved everyone of all fines ... and asked for "joyful dollars." Many were contributed.

Gary Nolte announced that he and Cindy are returning to serve in Haiti in January, where they will be building a school.

Inspirational 'Winter of Discontent' offers much food for thought

Rotarian of the Day Jon Benson introduced Dr. Paul Dovre and his much-anticipated Christmas message. He gave us much to think about in his message, titled "A Winter of Discontent."

Paul counseled us to acknowledge our problems, mistakes, unhappiness and selfishness; to remember the promise and the reason for hope — and to love. "Loving our neighbor as ourselves," he said, "will allow us to reverse the ills of this world today and in the future."

The full text of Paul's presentation is included in this newsletter.

President Kay presented Paul with the book that will be donated to the Moorhead Public Library in his name, "Christmas Time."



Guests

Janie Hulett
(guest of Mike Hulett)
Colleen Murray & Tiffany
McKinnon, Lakes and
Prairies Community Action
Agency (guests of club)
Norma Mjelde
(guest of Cindy Nolte)
John Gjevne and Mardee Dovre
(guests of Paul Dovre)
Kathy Benson and Mark Krejci
(guests of Traci Moorhead)
Clark Tufte
(guest of John Andreasen)
Linda Davis
(guest of George Davis)
Katie White and Terry Storsved
(guests of Violet Deilke)

Make-Ups

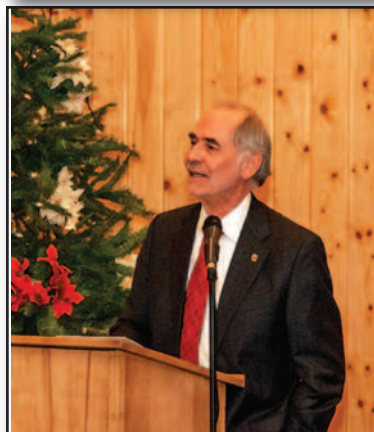
Gary Nolte (bell ringing and 5-
Presidents meeting)
Noah Fischer (Fargo West)
Eric Wilkie (Fargo Rotary and
Fargo West)
John Andreasen (Fargo West)
Bill Woods (FM/AM club)
Gina Monson (Fargo Rotary)



Raffle Kitty is still growing

One of our guests from Lakes and Prairies drew the week's winning ticket, but her luck didn't hold; she failed to pick the eight of diamonds. This week's pot (\$466) will be even bigger when we next meet Jan. 8.

Correction: The last Paddle-wheel reported that our membership brainstorming session generated 16 potential Rotarians. The actual total was 60.



Looking Forward ... to Moorhead Rotary Meetings

Dec. 25

No meeting

Jan. 1

No meeting

January 8

Program

Greeters

* Travel drawing for trip for San Francisco trip

January 15

Program

Greeters

January 22

Program

Greeters

Rotarian of the Day, Dave Ebinger
Cass County Sheriff Paul Laney
Cater & Schmidt

Rotarian of the Day, Sam Wai
Linda Boyd and director candidate David
Itkin, F-M Symphony
Craft & Schwandt

Rotarian of the Day, Corey Elmer
Brenda Elmer — Chinese Cultural Exchange
Deilke & Sederquist

Prospective Member

The board approved the application for offrom Josh Frost, a personal banker at Bell State Bank in Moorhead. His sponsor is Rotarian Greg Johnson, also from Bell State Bank. If no objection to his membership is received by club secretary Vern Goodin within the next two weeks, he will be invited to join our club.

An album with all photos from our Christmas party is available on Moorhead Rotary's Facebook page.



The Winter of Our Discontent

"The Winter of our Discontent:" these words were penned by William Shakespeare and laid the groundwork for his portrait of Richard the III as a disenchanted man. In many ways, America is experiencing a winter of discontent. Consider the continuing polarization of the body politic.

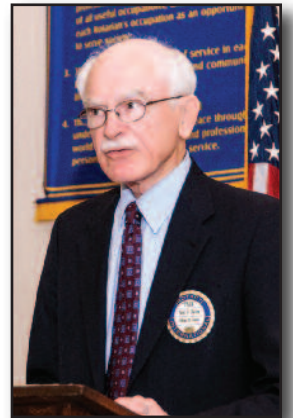
We are a self-indulgent people who believe we can have what we cannot afford. We are a self delusional people who believe that there is no hell to pay for our self absorption. We are an idolatrous people caught up in the worship of the false gods of materialism, individualism and pleasure

In our world the hopes of the Arab Spring have been dashed by the death of an ambassador and his aides, by the emergence of a new form of oppression in Egypt, by the resurgence of the Taliban in Afghanistan and other nations, by the continuing crisis in Syria which may yield an outcome we despair, and by a global economy so precarious that if one domino falls—whether Greece, Spain or France—the consequence may be a global financial collapse

And that was before last Friday when 27 people died in Connecticut, most of them children; which was after the Aurora, CO shootings where 12 were killed; which was after the Oak Creek, WI shooting where 7 were killed.

And none of this has to do with guns and ammunition of course—whose sales have skyrocketed following the election of Barak Obama 4 years ago and again this past Saturday at our own Mills Fleet Farm store. We seem to gravitate toward, and even subsidize, a culture of death with our passion for violence in movies, in music, in video games; with our toxic politics: with the death spiral of our public spending and debt; and with our continuing withdrawal from the commons and toward the self. One

hundred and fifty years ago Abraham Lincoln said of this nation: "If destruction be our fate, we ourselves shall be its authors and its finishers."



We have local versions of our winter of discontent as well. Homeless numbers continue to mount and to exceed the capacities of this affluent community so we have gone to overflow housing in area churches. We served over 62,000 meals to the homeless in 2011 and that number grew to over 102,000 in 2012. There continue to be more people than there should be who are entering our health care system through the emergency room rather than through some seamless care program. And funding for mental health needs continues to be compressed

For many there are also very personal agendas of discontent as when a mother exhibits the first symptoms of Alzheimer's; when a friend—my friend—receives word that he has been dismissed from his job one day and that his mother is terminally ill the next; and when another friend—my friend—struggles to recover his health after a month of hospitalization.

And we may experience our winter of discontent when you—your very own self, and me—my very own self, acknowledge a fundamental disconnect between our values and our conduct.

My first word today is acknowledgement, that is, the acknowledgement of our winters of discontent for, as the novelist John Steinbeck said long ago "to be alive at all is to have scars." John Bachman, editor of the Christian Century writes that most of the revelations of God

came to people in situations that were bleak. Consider the experiences of the Israelites to whom the prophets spoke. They were surely experiencing long winters of discontent. In the centuries of their millennium they had been promised and then received a rich land and subsequently they mismanaged their largess and were imprisoned, enslaved and dispersed all across Africa and Asia. While they experienced brief periods of reform and restoration—they often slipped into agnosticism and the idolatry of the gods of their conquerors or their new homes. King Herod built temples to Caesar Augustus and if the priests displeased him they were summarily executed. In addition to idolatry, there was political isolation and subjugation. Those who remained in Palestine had to bow to the suppression of Rome.

Zephaniah was among the prophets who spoke the truth to both his fellow Israelites and to their oppressors. He spoke of human and animal sacrifice, of false gods and their priests, and of leaders who misused their power.

Here is what he said about Jerusalem: “Ah soiled, defiled, oppressive city. It has listened to no voice; it has accepted no correction. It has not trusted in the Lord; it has not drawn near to God.” If the oppressors and idolaters were comfortable before Zephaniah, by the time he uttered his prophetic words of judgment—they too experienced a winter of discontent.

All of which takes me to my second word for today—the word is promise.

Isaiah was a predecessor of Zephaniah and he prophesied a very similar judgment. But then he gave the people a reason for hope. He wrote these words to people in the winter of their discontent: “There will be no gloom for those in anguish.” “For a child has been born for us, a son given to us: authority rests upon his shoulders’ and he is named wonderful counselor, mighty God, everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and of his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.”

And the key to such hope? One more word: Love. “My Kingdom is not of this world” is what Jesus said. He was right about that for what he brought was a kingdom of love. Love is of God and God is love. Again he said: “As the father has loved me, so I have loved you, abide in my love. This probably is neither what every prophet expected nor what many first century people who were experiencing oppression hoped for. They looked for a new King David—a warrior to avenge the Romans. Instead, they got the King of Love. And God in Christ

turned out to be a game changer—initiating a whole new dynamic of forgiveness and renewal and justice and righteousness.

One of the placards in Newtown, CT reads: “Love will see us Through.” “Love will see us through.” The love that changes hearts and lives, love that is inexhaustible in supply. I submit that if we are to address the profligacy of this nation it will be because we love our neighbor and our children enough to pay more taxes and give up some benefits we want but may not need. If we are to effectively address the culture of violence through some combination of self control and common action—it will be because we love our neighbors. Think about the results if we were to approach the matter of gun violence in the context of love instead of the context of fear. Don’t think it’s possible? Think about the sheer power of love in the actions of the teachers at Sandy Hook last Friday.

I am not suggesting a love that is necessarily soft and gentle in expression. Remember Jesus anger at the Pharisees, his rebuke of Peter, his muscular intervention at the temple. Love for neighbor can lead us to some bruising encounters. But I am saying most emphatically that the gift of this season is the love of God—and God urges us to give it away and when we do so—things change. Even things we thought impossible like violence against children, homelessness, political gridlock, self-centeredness, and idolatrous self-deception

Here it is succinctly: “As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you: abide in my love.” And again, “love one another, even as I have loved you.” This is the love that will see us through the winters of our discontent. This is the love that is foretold again this season. This is the love of which fellow Rotarian William Craft wrote in a verse from his “Carol of the Word:”

*In this cold and angry season/
This winter of our Sin,
From the rude, unlovely manger/
Love calls to us again
Speaking justice over empire/
Lifting hatred’s mortal curse.
Making whole our broken spirits/
With news of peace on earth
So with stabled beasts and angels/
With stars and moon and sun,
We declare Love’s new creation
God’s life in us begun.*

And so may it be this Christmas season.

— **Paul J. Dovre**