



The Paddlewheel

Moorhead Rotary Club

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Moorhead Rotary Club 970 District 5580

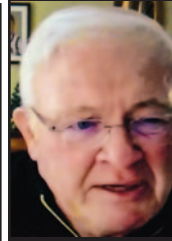
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Pianist Sharon Fangsrud
Song Leader Bob Hanna
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2020 Committees

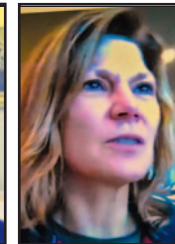
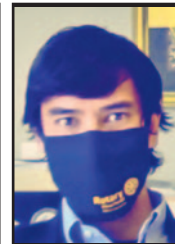
Other F-M Rotary Meetings

Monday: FM/PM Rotary
5:30 p.m., Lucky 13 Pub
Monday: Fargo West Rotary
Noon, Holiday Inn
Wednesday: Fargo Rotary
Noon, Radisson
Thursday: FM/AM Rotary
7 a.m., Ramada Plaza



Coming Up Tuesday ... via Zoom

Paul Dovre shares his annual Christmas message at our final virtual meeting of 2020. Gary Nolte is sergeant at arms, and Rotarian of the Day Ernie Simmons introduces Paul. No meetings are planned on December 22 and 29 due to the holidays.



Rotary Peace Scholar Christian Harris joins Zoom meeting from Liberia

Moorhead Rotary President Jerry Rogers welcomed members and two guests to the club's Dec. 8 meeting — former member Deneen Axtman and our speaker, Christian Harris, formerly of Fargo and a Rotary International Peace Scholar in 2018, now lives in Liberia, where he works with the Liberia Partnership for Peace and Community Change.

After Brent Brandt's trivia challenge on Christmas songs and movies, Sergeant at Arms Jean Hannig shared an overview of the Rotary International Peace Fellows program. Each year the organization awards up to 130 fully funded scholarships for community leaders around the world to study at one of its peace centers. Through academic training, practice, and global networking opportunities, the Rotary Peace Centers program develops the capacity of peace and development professionals or practitioners to become experienced and effective catalysts for peace.

Since the program began in 2002, the Rotary

Peace Centers have trained more than 1,300 fellows who now work in more than 115 countries. Many serve as leaders in governments, NGOs, the military, education, law enforcement, and international organizations like the United Nations and the World Bank.

When she opened the floor for the weekly collection of Happy Dollars, Dave Sederquist spoke up first, donating \$10 in honor of his 36th wedding anniversary. Rob Remark's happy dollar saluted successful professionals around the world. Violet Deilke's dollar celebrated our second guest, Deneen Axtman, a former member of the club who was visiting.

Brent shared a dollar to celebrate his sister's winning the club's December travel giveaway. Jerry welcomed guest Christian — the club's first-ever remote speaker from overseas. Dale Hetland shared his glee that the Vikings have not lost yet, and Gary Nolte reported that the previous day, Dec. 7, marked the 52nd anniversary of his and Cindy's first date/ They were married nine month later.

Jean wrapped up her comments with a word of advice: "Be the change you want to see today."

Guests 12/08

Deneen Axtman, former member
Christian Harris, speaker

December Birthdays

Lunak, Brandon	Dec 04
Andreasen, John	Dec 05
Deilke, Violet	Dec 20
Hanson, Nancy	Dec 24
Monson, Gina	Dec 30

Wedding Anniversary

Sederquist, David & Jane	
Dec 08 1984	36 years

Rotary Anniversaries

Finney, Tammy	5 years
Dec 08 2015	
Baldwin, Jill	20 years
Dec 12 2000	
Nolte, Gary	32 years
Dec 13 1988	
Parries, Kay	32 years
Dec 13 1988	

Christian Harris works on building peace in Liberia after 14 years of civil conflict

Rotarian of the Day Bob Hanna introduced our distant guest. Harris spent 6 years in Fargo as a founder and director of the New American Consortium for Wellness and Empowerment. He received his bachelor's degree in sociology from Zion University College in Monrovia, Liberia, and master's and doctorate in public administration and nonprofit management from Hamline University.

In 2018, he was named a Rotary International Peace Fellow. The award included three months of study in one of Rotary's designed peace centers — in his case, Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand.

Christian spoke on his work in peace-making and conflict prevention, the areas he studied in Thailand and neighboring Indonesia. His decision to relocate to Liberia, he said, was inspired by the nation's continuing efforts to recover from 14 years of civil conflict between nine warring factions. Reconciliation efforts begun at war's end in 2004, he said, have stalled because of the largely cosmetic approach up to this point.

His goal, he said, is to help communities move to peace building — slowly. "We must be patient and be persistent," he reported.

The work has had to start at the bottom, since there had been no recognition of the concept. "We start at the bottom," he said, citing creation of a two-year peace platform plan among young people. "People are our best resource at the local level," he noted. The goal is to develop trust and

social communication to lay the groundwork of trust to resolve conflict.

The process relies on restorative justice — "a difficult process, with the Fargo-Moorhead community no exception," he said, referring to his work with the New American Consortium. It requires changing traditional community institutions to create inclusive partnerships into all aspects of government, along with improving the justice system in school and in the community.

He advocated the concept of "positive peace" — moving away from punishment to restorative justice and healing trauma. He supports a public health approach combining mental health services as part of police relationships with the community. Schools may offer peace-building programs for students and parents with a conflict-resolution curriculum and restorative processed, stressing mindfulness and transitioning away from violence. Commenting on the Black Lives Matter movement in the U.S., he said "Many young people are misguided. Education can reduce the tension."

His primary goals, he said, are to build relationships and increase society's acceptance. "We need people at the bottom and people at the top," he stressed. "We must start from the bottom up."

He defined "positive peace" as based on opportunities for all at the grassroots level, moving upward. Its opposite, "negative peace," fails to treat people of different backgrounds equally — seeing people as insignificant and weak.

Asked by a Rotarian how his peace-making experience and education have changed him, Christian replied that he is grateful to Rotary to have chosen him for advanced study. "It changed my perspective," he said. "I realized a new way of life is possible.

Another member asked him what stands in the way of peace building. Christian cited people's tendency to confuse complacency and peacefulness. "We must recognize the shortcomings of the present system and mend our differences," he replied.

Looking Ahead

December 15 ... Zoom

Sergeant at ArmsGary Nolte
Rotarian of the Day.....Ernie Simmons
ProgramPaul Dovre's annual
Christmas message

December 22 — No meeting

December 29 — No meeting