



SERVICE Above Self

Fargo West Rotary

Newsletter January 2008

Fargo West Rotary, PO Box 9237, Fargo, ND 58106

Betty Opheim, Editor

President's Message *By Jill Berg*

Jill is on vacation.....



My husband and I just returned from the Swabian region of Southwestern Germany where we visited paternal relatives. We had a marvelous time site seeing, attending October Fest, touring the Mercedes Benz museum and drinking great German beer! Throughout our stay, I couldn't help but reflect on how this legacy came to fruition.

After WWI, my father's mother, unable to speak a word of English, immigrated to America. Due to war casualties and out of control inflation in Germany, she had lost her home, her boyfriend and her life's savings. She hoped for a brighter future and a new start in America. Through mutual acquaintances, she came to America as an "arranged bride." She left behind a sister in Germany and another sister in Switzerland, who later moved to Spain with her Spanish husband. Unfortunately, my grandmother did not have an easy life with a pre-existing heart condition and farming in the heart of the depression in western North Dakota. She died at the young age of 43 leaving behind my father, age 10 and his sister, age 8.

After his mother's death, my father stayed in communication with the aunts. He studied German so he could write letters in German and he also wrote to a first cousin who had studied English in school. Following WW II, Germany was devastated and food shortages were rampant. The German relations were destitute. My Father sent care packages of corned beef and sugar and shortening so they could make bread from the grain they gleaned from the fields walking 14 miles a day to retrieve what was left after the harvest. They were very appreciative of the nephew and cousin from the United States. They still speak of it to this day.

Through the years, we had numerous opportunities to travel overseas to visit relatives in Germany and Spain. I have also had the opportunity to take both of my daughters on trips abroad to meet their European cousins. The younger German cousins have also been here to visit us in Minnesota. Had it not been for my father, the legacy would not have survived the generations. He is the reason we are bonded today as he took the time and the energy to bestow the family legacy to succeeding generations. I am deeply grateful.

Whether it is a family legacy or the legacy of Rotary, it is vitally important that we take the time, resources and energy to gift the next generation with the understanding of the foundation and principles of Rotary and our service to others. Rotary is an aging organization: and it is up to each of us to keep the spirit and the vision of Rotary alive for the next generation. Our legacy is the future. As I speak from personal experience, our successors will be grateful we did.

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Mark you calendars!

January 17th is the Foundation Banquet at the Ramada Inn

&

January 29th is a four club Wine and Beer Social at the Plains Art Museum.

Meet our newest members



Rochelle Roesler

"I joined Fargo West Rotary to be more involved with the community and networking with professionals in the FM area. My goal is to be able to be involved with Rotary activities."

I'm Rochelle Roesler, Executive Director of Jazz Arts Group of Fargo - Moorhead (JAG). I am a Moorhead native who possess a Bachelor's degree in music from Minnesota State University Moorhead.

I have a strong professional background in sales, marketing and management including real estate, software sales and business management. I currently serve on the parent board of the Red River Boy Choir and am a member of FM Area Association of Realtors.

Besides music, I enjoy theatre, sports, photography, traveling, walking, playing pinochle and Texas Hold 'em and being with friends and family.

I have two sons, Ted (16) and Sam (14), and we reside in Moorhead.

Dan Thomas' son, Craig, who is in Marines law enforcement out of Wahpeton, is being sent to Iraq for a two year tour of duty. He was one of a dozen or so outstanding Marines who are being sent there for a special duty — their mission is not known at this time. We thank him for defending our country, but he and Dan need our support. Please remember him in your prayers.



Amy Hill

"I joined Rotary because I wanted to get involved and help the community. It's also an opportunity to meet people and to make business connections while helping others. I think giving back is so important!"

I graduated from NDSU in 2006 with a B.S. in Speech Communication. I have been a contributing writer for The Business Journal since 2004 and recently started in advertising sales. I also work at Cargill Financial Service Center.

I grew up in Denver, Colorado and have lived in Fargo for ten years. My mother and younger brother still live in Fargo and my father now lives in Des Moines. I'm not married yet, though I do have a long term boyfriend. I also don't have any children, so I still have a lot of free time!

I enjoy snowboarding, horseback riding, and dancing, and riding motorcycle.

Happy Birthday!

- 11/2 Heather Johnson-Kjos
- 11/10 Reed Stigen
- 11/23 Kelly Plummer
- 11/26 Jed Krieg
- 11/28 Steve Shark

Diane Celebrates 40 Years

Fargo West Rotary member, Diane Briggs, is celebrating 40 years as a librarian. And still loving every minute of it — time flies when you are having fun!

Here is her story in her own words:

"I started working at the Fargo Public Library in August 1967 in the old Carnegie Building (15,000 sq feet) on the corner of 2nd Ave and Roberts. In April of 1968 we moved into a new building (30,000 Sq foot building) on the corner of 4th St and 1st Ave. Now we moved to two temporary locations with much of the collection in storage at secure PSB building on 45th St and 15th Ave North where fire station, Number 6, Police Swat team, and Cass & Fargo emergency services are also located. Two thirds of the collection is at the other temporary location, 408 Roberts Street. The new Carlson branch of the Fargo Public Library opens November 16 and is 15,000 square feet — replacing a 3,300 foot store front building.

It was sad to leave the old world charm of the Carnegie building but it did get very hot the summer I worked there. When we turned the fan on to get a breeze, the paper check-out slips would fly around like several paper airplanes. Noise in the Carnegie building would carry so librarians were also "Shooing" people if they were too loud. I recall getting the giggles and being told we would have to be quiet or we would get kicked out when my girl friend and I were researching materials for our research papers while in junior high.

The Carnegie had a beautiful marble entrance, floors that squeaked and gorgeous woodwork everywhere in the 1901 building. We had only eight public service staff members; Bookmobile librarian and driver, a secretary, cataloguer, and a janitor. There was almost no technology — even photocopying was primitive with staff doing it all. There were only two telephone lines for the whole library.

The 1967 building had high ceiling so the public could talk in a normal voice; the building was air conditioned; and all the floors were carpeted on concrete. There was lots of room for the books, LP records, framed prints magazines, newspapers and reference materials with more tables and chairs for the public to read at and study.

In 1967 I began working at the circulation (check-out) desk where I worked for four years, and then I worked reference and interlibrary loan on a teletype machine for five years. In 1975 I became a children's librarian; a story teller and puppeteer specializing in grade school children's literature. I enjoyed helping children of all ages become excited about books. I still meet adults who visited the library as children and remember me as the librarian and puppeteer. In 1986 the library started to automate the library card catalog and I was asked to start a new program for homebound residents in Fargo. In the beginning I started with five nursing homes and the program grew to thirteen nursing and assistive living homes. I had one part-time staff and five volunteers in the Outreach department when I left the department in 2005. I had also started the library volunteer department, which had grown to over 50 volunteers.

I've had so many opportunities for personal growth at the library. With my naturally curiosity I've discovered and investigated many subjects and topics. I've had the pleasure of supervising three unaccompanied minors from Vietnam, one Lost Boy and other youth that were new to our country. It was great to watch them grow and discover more about our culture and world. I remember the Lost Boy telling me that his father had fifty wives and was chief of the village. He said with every wife his father gained more cattle and wealth. I said, "So I should go to Africa and get me 50 husbands and I'll be very rich?" "NO NO" he said. "As a woman in my country you could never do that." He and I learned from each other.

In 2005 I returned to the reference desk as a reference librarian. The way of handling reference has changed from all paper resources to today's many electronic resources and materials. Since my background is education I am once again training individuals to use computers and databases.

I could tell many stories and maybe I will later."



January is Rotary Awareness Month

January is Rotary Awareness Month. During this month, step back and assess the level of Rotary awareness in your life. What is the best way to let others know about Rotary? How do you let others know that you are proud to be a Rotarian? If you see an interesting upcoming program, invite a guest to attend. Many of these people like what they see and join Rotary.

As an international organization with more than a million members, there are hundreds of programs and projects including youth and vocational exchange trips, international projects, community projects, Ambassadorial Scholarships and the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards. Rotary has accomplished much in its 100+ years of existence. Are you reading your copy of The Rotarian magazine and learning what Rotary is and does? Do you log onto www.rotary.org and search for Rotary information?

For all of us, there will always be something new to learn about Rotary. Rotary education and awareness is a journey that is never completed. Learn something new about Rotary this month and pass it onto others!

Individual Rotary clubs belong to Rotary International. Individual members, or Rotarians, belong to a club. The club is where most of Rotarians' meaningful service work is carried out. Clubs can be engaged not only in their communities, but also internationally. What Rotarians get out of Rotary depends largely on what they put into it.

Important Rotary Info

November Meetings - The Rotary Foundation Month:

1/7 Dianne Mondry presents program about her trip to China

1/14 Mark Phiel, Clay Co Historical Society — Streetcars in F/M

1/21 Offsite meeting at the new Fargo Public Library on 32nd Ave So across from Innovis Hospital

1/28 Kelly Plummer presents program on her Oklahoma experience

Make up meetings at any of these local clubs:

Fargo West Rotary meets Monday noon at the Holiday Inn

Moorhead Rotary meets Tuesday noon at the Moorhead Country Club.

Fargo Rotary meets Wednesday noon at the Radisson Hotel.

FM/AM Rotary meets Thursday at 7:00a.m. at Seasons at Rose Creek Golf Club

The mission of The Rotary Foundation is to enable Rotarians to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through the improvement of health, the support of education, and the alleviation of poverty.

The Foundation is a not-for-profit corporation supported solely by voluntary contributions from Rotarians and friends of the Foundation who share its vision of a better world.