



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

Vol 57 Issue 5 February 1, 2018

LAST MEETING: January 25, 2018

Club President James Schott presided over the meeting.

Thanks to members Glen Dahlgren, Randy Campbell and Felix Belmont for setting up.

Announcements:

- Felix Belmont: Scholarship applications are set up. April 23rd is the deadline. Application is on web site. Felix will be going to the Paonia and Hotchkiss High Schools.
- Karri Polson: Getting closer to the end of games. This evening is the last wrestling match. Basketball games on Saturday. Need more volunteers. Passed sign-up sheets around.
- Bob Lario: Super bowl pool. Money goes to scholarship fund. One more week after this to sign up. Will fill in numbers next week. About 20 spaces left to fill in. 4-5 more people needed at 4 spaces each.
- Susie Coombe: Blue sage reopening on Friday from 5-7. Bain's wife Nancy will be one of the artists. Newly redecorated gallery and new manager.
- Peggy Szvetecz said Jim Cunningham is home. He's doing somewhat better lately but he's still not able to get around very well.

New member induction for Ben Lehman:

Ben was introduced by Randy Campbell. Ben has a photography gallery across the street (lehmanimages.com). He has signed up to be on the program committee. President Schott performed the induction ceremony and presented Ben with the Certificate of Membership. Ben is proud to be a member and gave a short acceptance speech.

No Ms. or Mr. "X" today.

Guest: Robert Lehman, Ben's father is here from Louisiana to see Ben inducted today!

PROGRAM: Elsewhere Studios

- Ben Lehman introduced Dierdra Morris, Americorps Volunteer, and Karen Good from Elsewhere Studios.
- The Artists In Residence program started in 2011. They've had 28 artists from 28 different countries come. They have monthly opportunity for the community to visit the studio and meet with the artists.
- At the end of 2016 they did a Heart & Soul project to determine what matters most in the North Fork Valley:
 - People being able to live here with livelihoods from existing and new sectors.
 - The ability to live independently while remaining responsible to the community with agriculture being a main source and recreation still important.
- Artists reside for one to six months at Elsewhere Studios. They host writers, composers, performance artists and provide living space and studio space for artists. Since 2011 Elsewhere Studios have hosted 170 artists from 12 different countries. They have two monthly events:
 - Artists Meet & Greet
 - An event to display results the resident had while they were here.
- Karen had an idea of a new project called "Inspired: Art at Work" using art as a vehicle to invite our community to determine what we want the community to look like 20 years from now and to develop increasing prosperity in rural places. Art helps people to go deeper into conversation without the feeling of being judged; wanting sustainable agriculture to be a core value.
- The Arts in Society program began in 2016 and helps rural communities remain vital—inviting what form growth and development should take and provides funding for Inspired: Art at Work program.
- Their focus is socially engaging projects and as populations are changing, trying to figure out what can be done to bring young people to smaller communities.
- They have 5 project partners: Citizens for a Healthy Community, Western Colorado Conservation Center, the Farm & Food Alliance, SEI and the North Fork Creative Coalition.
- The projects are intended to spark community dialogue, based on traditions and heritage—finding "What Matters Most in the North Fork Valley" and how to preserve cultural, historical and economic vitality.
- Selected artists were chosen with an eye toward proposals that highlight the valley's natural assets, and generate works that benefit the public through narrative or display:
- In Film: Clara Pena of anthracite and apples. Looking to explore what a successful economy would look like and how that might be achieved. Overall theme: A vision of the future in the valley; bridging between folks with disparate views on the future of the valley;
- Dance Duo: Tanya Blacklight and Christine Palafox dancing to a reaction of oil and gas exploration;
- John Melvin: A sculptor curbing social entropy. Displaying ecological art with plastics and plastic effects water.
- Anna McCleod. Writing and drawing.
- Clara, a teacher at Montrose High School is hoping to include Paonia and Hotchkiss High Schools with a vision of future in the valley, creating a bridge toward natural resources.
- These artists will be here in July & August, 2018. There will be a symposium in August with local and national speakers and art installations in town and around the valley. This will be a prime time to see wineries and how they impact our community.
- Betsy Marsden asked: How much art has been created at Elsewhere Studios and what art has been left here by artists? Karen replied that no public art was created but there is some in the art library at Blue Sage. There was also work on art bench wall this year along with repairs and new work. Paonia clay works is helping with making some time. They are hoping to complete by the end of the summer.

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

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

- **Feb. 1 - Frank Stonacker:** Head of the CSU extension service research station outside of Hotchkiss. He'll talk about what he's up to.
- **Feb. 8 - Carol Schott:** Whose lavender farm has burgeoned into a bigger business than she and husband James anticipated. Now they produce more than a dozen lavender-inspired products, making Carol "the Estee Lauder of Lamborn Mesa."
- **Feb. 15 - Anita Evans:** Founder of the Nature Connection, a two-county, multi-partnership with a \$1.7 grant to get kids outdoors and into nature, priming them to think of jobs outdoors as well.

