



Nuda Veritas

Published for Members by the Grand Rapids Lions Club
District 11-C-1 --- Vol. 2017-18, No. 5, October 14, 2017

UPCOMING EVENTS

University Club

Downtown Grand Rapids

Luncheon Meetings begin at 12:10 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

----- We Serve -----

Monday, October 16, 4:45 pm,
Lions Bowling League, Northfield
Lanes

Tuesday, October 17, Water – Cost and Availability, Phil Bednarek

October 19, 6:00 pm until . . . ,
ABVI "Crafting Vision, Grand
Rapids Brewing Company

October 19, 6:00 – 9:00 pm, West
MI Lions Projects Night, (New
Location) Rockford American
Legion

Monday, October 23, 4:45 pm,
Lions Bowling League, Northfield
Lanes

Tuesday, October 24, International Needs Turkey, Dr. Behnan Konutgan

Monday, October 9, 4:45 pm, Lions
Bowling League, Northfield Lanes

Tuesday, October 17 Water – Cost & Availability, Phil Bednarek

You have read stories about the effects that humans have had on both surface and ground water. In Michigan, we are fortunate that there is an abundance of good water. However, that can be affected by humans in many ways, such as wasteful usage, deforestation, storm runoff & soil erosion, destruction of wetlands and pollution (in many forms). Many places in Michigan are not connected to municipal water systems, but instead draw their water from wells.

Fuller Supply Company, started in 1933, is a wholesaler of hardware, plumbing, welding, industrial and water well pumps (their specialty). Tom Bednarek bought the company from one of the original partners in the 1960's. His son, Phil Bednarek, will talk to us at today's meeting.

Today, the Fuller Supply Company specializes in the pump market of water systems. Its emphasis is on the Water Well, Environmental, Commercial, Sewage and Sprinkling markets. The company also supplies all the controls and associated supplies to make a complete package system.

After graduating from Michigan State University, Mr. Bednarek worked for Blackmer Pump (Dover Corp.) in their engineering department. In 1983, Phil joined the family management team and began to purchase control of the company. He is now President and majority stockholder.

Tuesday, October 24 International Needs – Turkey, Dr. Behnan Konutgan

In 1974, International Needs was founded with the vision to transform lives and change communities by helping Christians serve both God and neighbor within their own countries.

Worldwide, services include gospel outreach, education, health, economic development and food & water. International Needs Turkey was established in 2001 and is led by Dr. Behnan Konutgan, Executive Director and our speaker today. He will talk about the activities of International Needs Turkey's area, which include the areas of service include: evangelism and spiritual development, relief for refugees, education curriculum development, and youth programs.

Dr. Konutgan wears many "hats" in the country of Turkey. He is a senior member of the Turkish Protestant Church Leadership Council and a teaching elder in the Bible House Church. In 2007, he left his position to become the full-time Executive Director for International Needs Turkey. He worked on the translation of the Turkish Bible as one of the main translators and worked with three other people to write the Turkish Bible Dictionary.

As a boy, Dr. Knutgan was recognized by church elders as being worthy of special training in one of the monasteries in the district. He later was appointed to serve as an apprentice in the Deyrülzafaran Monastery. During his apprenticeship, he began to read the Bible in Turkish and experienced inner conflict: what he was reading seemed different than the church liturgy. He felt that the Word was speaking to him personally. He shared his new belief with fellow students.

He left the monastery in 1973 for university studies in Ankara. He developed a vibrant faith and began his involvement in what has become his life's work proclaiming values of Jesus Christ to the people of Turkey. Dr. Knutgan faces persecution and has been beaten and imprisoned for his faith more than 20 times.

Dr. Knutgan and his wife, Natalie, live in Istanbul and have three grown sons.

ABVI's *Crafting the Vision* October 19 at Grand Rapids Brewing Company

You still have time to make plans to drop into the Grand Rapids Brewing Company on this Thursday evening to support ABVI's fund raising event. You'll be in for an evening of good food, beer, raffle prizes and interactive exhibits to support the Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired. Grand Rapids Brewing Company is at 1 Ionia Ave NW (the old Rowe Hotel, across the street from the new MSU Medical Research facility). The event is presented by Meijer. Individual tickets are \$50. Please contact Larry Dodge at 616-458-1187 or ldodge@abvimichigan.org. You can also visit www.abvimichigan.org for more information.

Looking Back – Grand Rapids Lions Club – Spring 1946

As we approach our 100th anniversary in 2019, and as the club looks forward, this series of articles looks back on the activities of the club, this time drawing upon some of the earliest Nuda Veritas editions that we have in our archives in the spring 1946.

Here are a selection of thoughts and activities from this time. The Tuesday weekly luncheons continued at the Pantlind Hotel. Here are a few programs:

Facts about Turkey

Population 79,510,000 (2016)

Life expectancy at birth: 75.43 years

Religions: Muslim 99.8% (mostly Sunni), other 0.2% (mostly Christians and Jews)

Remembrances of Downtown

Carl Voigt was asked to write stories of old Grand Rapids. Here is a portion of the second article (4-2-1946).

Wishing that the Lions "could take a birdseye view of Monroe & Canal Streets," Carl wrote that, "Many of the old buildings have been replaced by modern up to date structures . . . On the three corners of Pearl and Ottawa streets were hills, that had to be removed to make room for the Michigan Trust Building, the Houseman Building and the Waters Building. [The first two were leading office building in the city for several years]"

"Where the Waters Building now stands, John Ball at one time had his residence . . . later occupied by the Peninsular Club, which may have been the Clubs first quarters."

"On the corner of Pearl and Ottawa, there was back in the early nineties [1890's] a one story building called Berkey Row. I don't know why it was called that name, but I remember Morton the Hatter had his hat shop in that building and made his living by blocking and keeping the many silk hats, then prevalent in the city."

"There is one building that I must mention and that is the old Saengerfest Hall . . . built by a group of German music lovers, across the street from Keith's Theatre. They used to have wonderful concerts in this old hall. Singers used to come from around the country, especially from Milwaukee for these concerts. While I was a youngster at the time, I used to greatly enjoy the wonderful singing . . . The building was also used for roller skating.

Going back to Pearl street . . . the Federal Square Building was original the Y.M.C.A. until the new Y.M.C.A. building was built."

from the war.

- At one luncheon, a trip through the Exhibitors Building, housing "a remarkable display of furniture made in Grand Rapids . . . except for restricted spots."
- A Tuesday program talking about "Fishing – Fighting – Laughing" was put on by "a local boy who spent 2½ years in the Army, the greatest part of the time with the 255th Infantry, 63rd division of the 7th Army."
- A local resident, but one with an International reputation, Mrs. Robert Clayton, discussed racial problems that confronted society at the time.

The Nuda Veritas also had numerous interesting comments, observations, and facts on Lion issues, including:

- A letter from Simon Kistemaker from Oost, Netherland, Europa, thanked the Lions for parcels sent to them. "The winter of 1944-1945 was very bad . . . the people from town [Germans] came out to ask the villagers for potatoes, beans, wheat, peas and so on . . . May 4, four boys of our village are shot The German soldiers stole the bicycles, radios, auto cars, horses and so on . . . I work in the fields . . . I learn in the evening English. I would like to come to America, also my father . . . There are many wrong sentences. Now farewell."
- Excerpt from an article [Remember, this is 1946]: "As we stated last week, it begins to look as if this flying business is here to stay – that's true in many parts of the country. The interest of the whole public is essential to the program – the whole public has a stake in the County airport." [This was when the airport was just south of Madison & 32nd Street.]
- A series of articles talked about an "most ambitious bit . . . rebuilding and expanding of Camp Lion [Boy Scout Camp] . . . raising \$10,000 this year to build the main Lodge and the improvements . . ."
- We need to appreciate the 'old' Civic Auditorium as a happening place with a schedule one week of the Boy Scout Appreciation Dinner [sponsored by the Lions], the Shrine in the big hall & the State Nurses in the small hall, Victor Borge, the Bible Hour program, St. Olaf's Choir, and a big dance. Conventions were also a big part this activity downtown. [Giving that this was 1946, it compares favorably to the current downtown activities.]
- Eddie Burnette [many current Lions members knew him] was reinstated in the club after returning

- “The Lions District Convention [The district was larger back then.] was the first one ever held in this town when there wasn’t a single slip – it never happened before and probably won’t happen again. It was our first experience having everything work out perfectly . . .”
- Quips & Cranks:
 - Visitor: “How’s your son Bill getting along at school?”
 - Parent: “Not so well, They’re learnin’ how to spell ‘taters with a P.”



Other Lions News

You are invited to join the **Grand Rapids Lions Club 100th Anniversary Planning Committee** at its 2nd meeting on October 31: This committee is planning the celebration for our 100th anniversary as a club, which will likely be a series of activities or events in 2019. Any of our 103 Lion members who is interested in serving on the committee should contact Ed Thauer at ed.thauer@designunderwriting.com or 616- 957-3380.

RECYCLING CENTER CLOSED on Tuesday, October 31, due to Halloween.

Food for Thought: Take a chance. Even the turtle gets nowhere ‘till he sticks his neck out.

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