



Nuda Veritas

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District 11-C-1 --- Vol. 2013-14, No. 17, March 29, 2014

UPCOMING EVENTS

**University Club
Downtown Grand Rapids
Meetings begin at 12:15 p.m.
unless otherwise noted.**

----- **We Serve** -----

Monday, March 31, Bowling League,
Northfield Lanes, 4:45 pm

**Tuesday, April 1, Opportunities
Unlimited for the Blind, Gwen
Botting**

Monday, April 7, Bowling League,
Northfield Lanes, 4:45 pm

**Tuesday, April 8, State of the City,
Mayor George Heartwell**

Monday, April 14, Bowling League,
Northfield Lanes, 4:45 pm

**Tuesday, April 15, Senior Millage –
Know the Facts, Speaker TBD**

**Friday & Saturday, April 18 & 19,
White Cane Drive**

**April 20, Have a Happy & Blessed
Easter!**

**Tuesday, April 22, 2014 Senior
PGA Gold Event Benton Harbor,
Brent Curtis**

**Tuesday, April 29, 25, 6:00 pm,
Jamark Labs, Eyeglass Recycling
Work Session & Dinner**

Tuesday, April 1

Opportunities for the Blind, Gwen Botting

Opportunities Unlimited for the Blind's (OUB) mission is to enrich the quality of life of people who are blind and visually impaired through lifelong education and recreation. OUB is a charitable nonprofit organization under IRS Section 501c3.

OUB collaborates with the Michigan Department of Education – Low Incidence Outreach (Bureau of Services to Blind Persons) so that educators and consumer groups can create facilities and programs for children and adults who are blind or visually impaired. OUB programs help people with visual impairments develop skills of blindness, helping them become competent, confident, self-reliant, contributing adults.

It provides weekend family events, summer camps and extra-curricular and work experiences that focus on the educational goals expressed in the Expanded Core Curriculum. Its teaching methods and strategies encourage campers to be as confident and independent as possible, safely, while keeping learning fun!

OUB recently entered into a partnership with Indian Trails Camp, a camp designed for persons with physical and mental disabilities. Indian Trails Camp is 15 acres within Aman Park, a Grand Rapids City Park, with cabins, indoor swimming, a small lake, and lots of opportunity to explore nature, learn skills, and develop relationships with their peers, with our mentors and staff, and with others in the disability community. Indian Trails Camp also manages the 120-acre Camp Optimist, a day camp facility with an outdoor swimming pool, day lodge, sports fields and teaching kitchen. Another program, Camp-in-a-Box, takes campers who are blind or visually impaired campers to places in Michigan and the world that they may not be able to ever visit on their own.

OUB's Executive Director, Gwen Botting will tell about the organization. She was the President of Michigan Parents of

Children with Visual Impairments for 12 years and is the parent of a blind college student. The Board of Directors which oversees the operation of the organization is comprised primarily of persons who are blind or visually impaired and parents of children who are blind or have a visual impairment.

Tuesday, April 8 State of the City, Mayor George Heartwell

Today, the Honorable Mayor George Heartwell joins us again to share an update with his 8h State of the City address. Mayor Heartwell took office on January 1, 2004 and was reelected to his third term that lasts through December 31, 2015.

During his tenure, City government has begun transforming City government operations and managing its assets which are more nimble, leaner, entrepreneurial and sustainable over the long haul. The city has become a more resilient community with better transit, more efficient building, more bicycle-friendly and a greener infrastructure.

Grand Rapids is a Champion of Diversity, welcoming immigrants who have made their mark on the local community since Grand Rapids was founded and beyond its borders. Many call Bing Goei (Eastern Floral), who emigrated from Indonesia in 1960, the champion of diversity, and who established the Goei Center as a place to promote entrepreneurship among minorities. Mr. Goei was recently appointed by the Governor to apply his philosophy statewide.

Although the W.E. Upjohn Institute compares Grand Rapids to 11 other benchmark cities and ranks it first in job creation, Grand Rapids is ranked 9th in talent, as measured in post-secondary degree attainment. This starts when our children are very young in preparing them for later schooling. The community has introduced several initiatives to address this issue.

Literacy is also a key to learning, academic achievement and talent development. The Mayor has had a focus on literacy throughout his tenure and has promoted reading by grade three and an indicator of future success in school, work and life. Many programs in the City have grown to focus on our youth and their development into successful people.

The Mayor's address in January also highlighted other initiative gearing to developing talent through education, including returning to school after it has been interrupted for some reason. He also presented efforts aimed at environmental sustainability and the accelerating municipal transformation to make operations efficient and more sustainable.

Mayor Heartwell is married to Susan who directs the Student Advancement Foundation. George and Susan are proud parents of three adult children and six extraordinary grandchildren.

White Cane Drive 2013

Volunteers are still needed for the White Cane Drive that is set for **Friday & Saturday, April 18 and 19**. If you have not signed up, contact Bill Fleetham at 616-940-3104 (H), 616-957-4102 (W) or fleetham1@comcast.net, or sign-up at a luncheon meeting.

The funds raised through this fund raising event will help to pay for lenses for the glasses for visually impaired children in special programs at Ken-O-Sha. All frames are donated by sales representatives. As a result, there is no cost to the families



who are eligible and may have many financial and other challenges in developing these students' full potential.

The White Cane Drive will take place at these locations:

Location	Day	Times
Downtown	Friday (only)	11:00 am – 1:30 pm
Walmart – Alpine NW	Friday	3:30 – 7:30 pm
	Saturday	9:00 am – 1:00 pm
Walmart –28 th St. SE	Friday	3:30 – 7:30 pm
	Saturday	9:00 am – 1:00 pm
Walgreens – Forest Hills	Friday	3:00 – 6:00 pm
& Cascade Road	Saturday	9:00 am – 1:00 pm

For those who have signed up, you should be getting reminders of your assignment prior to the White Cane Drive. If you need to sign up, please contact Bill Fleetham. Whether or not you are able to volunteer, you can also make a donation as part of the White Cane Drive. (Send donations to Treasurer Jeff Kraai, Grand Rapids Lions Club, 2276 Old Domain Ct. SE, Kentwood, MI 49333)

Coast to Coast Raffle

It is spring and your opportunity to purchase a raffle ticket for the Choose Your Coast Raffle is upon again this year. Tickets are \$20 each or 6 for \$100. The proceeds of the raffle benefit ABVI. You can purchase a chance, you choice, for travel for two to New York, San Francisco, Orlando or Seattle. The drawing will be held on June 6, 2014. (See accompanying flyer)

Other Lions News

Reserve the Dates:

- **White Cane Drive: Friday and Saturday, April 18th & 19th 2014.** More information will be forthcoming and a sign-up sheet will be passed around at the meetings.
- **VI Sports Day: Saturday, May 31**
- **Lions Club Annual Meeting: Tuesday, June 10, 6:00 pm, Location TBD**
- **Drive for Vision, Monday, June 16**

Grand Rapids Lions Club, Website: www.grlions.org
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ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
& VISUALLY IMPAIRED



Choose Your Coast Raffle

Trip for Two

New York, San Francisco, Orlando or Seattle

Airfare, Four Days, Three Nights at the
Hyatt Hotel in New York, San Francisco, Orlando or Seattle



DRAWING JUNE 6, 2014

\$20 per ticket **OR** 6 for \$100

Ticket holders need not be present to win

Only 600 tickets will be sold



YES, I would like to help those who live with vision loss.

- Please mail me _____ tickets at \$20 each or 6 for \$100.
- I want to support the work of ABVI by making a \$_____ donation instead of buying raffle tickets.

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____

Please make checks payable to: Association for the Blind & Visually Impaired,
456 Cherry St. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503-4626

Please charge \$ _____ to my credit card:
MasterCard, VISA, Discovery Card, American Express (Please circle one.)

Card number: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Name on card: _____ Sec. Code: _____

Signature: _____

Mailing Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Raffle License: R25242

(You may fax your credit card order to ABVI at 616 458-7113)