



Nuda Veritas

Published for Members by the Grand Rapids Lions Club
District 11-C-1 --- Vol. 2014-15, No. 11, January 31, 2015

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

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

Monday, February 2, Bowling,
Northfield Lanes, 4:45 pm

**Tuesday, February 3, Mind
Meets Music, Dr. Monique
Salinas**

February 8 – 13, Mission Trip to
la Playa del Carmen in Quinta
Roo Mexico

Monday, February 9, Bowling,
Northfield Lanes, 4:45 pm

**Tuesday, February 10,
Neighborhood Ventures, Mark
Lewis**

*Saturday, February 14, Happy
Valentine's Day!*

Monday, February 16,
Presidents' Day Holiday

Monday, February 16, Bowling,
Northfield Lanes, 4:45 pm

*Every Tuesday, Eyeglasses
Recycling Work Session, 6:00-
8:00 pm (Every Tuesday!)*

In Memory of Rev. Charles E. Fry July 13, 1929 – January 23, 2015

Lion Charles (Chuck) E. Fry died on Friday, January 23, 2015 at his home surrounded by his family. He was 85 years old. He was born on July 13, 1929 on a farm near White Cloud, Michigan, just north of Grand Rapids in Newaygo County.

He became a member of the Grand Rapids Lions Club on October 11, 1984, sponsored by Lion Lynn Francis. He served as our Chaplain until his death, saying a prayer before our meetings and memorials for Lions members who had died. He was a 30-year Lions Monarch and served on the Lions Board of Directors (1993-96). Chuck was awarded the Lions Club's Lion of the Year (2001-02) and was the recipient of the Henry Voet Lifetime Achievement Award (2014).

Lion Chuck spent his entire life in West Michigan, serving 40 years as a pastor in the United Methodist Church (UMC). He pastored for several churches over the years. From 1968 to 1973, he headed the program staff of the UMC of West Michigan. Later, he was appointed Superintendent of the Central District where he supervised the work of fifty-five pastors. These varied appointments gave him the opportunity to serve as a part of nearly every board and agency of the UMC in West Michigan. He retired in 1989 as senior pastor of Trinity UMC on Lake Drive, Grand Rapids, and moved to Cascade Township. Rev. Fry co-founded Clergy Financial Services, a publishing concern that helped pastors around the country with their personal finances. During retirement, he prepared tax returns for clergy, thus enjoying new friends in 25 states.

Since retirement, Chuck was an active member of First UMC of Grand Rapids, a member of the University Club and the

Economic Club, tutored students at M. L. King Academy, served on the Advisory Board of the Cascade Library and was a Trustee of the Kent District Library. The Frys traveled overseas, leading both youth and adult groups on several occasions. Chuck enjoyed reading, model building, stained glass projects, boating, gardening, meeting new people and, after moving to a home at Clark Retirement Community on Keller Lake, enjoyed the wildlife flying into and out of Keller Lake, as Chuck and Betty Jean watched from their living room.

Thoughts shared at Chuck's Memorial Service reflected the person that Lions members knew. This kind and gentle man not only lived his life as an example to others, but also died with grace and dignity at peace with himself and the world. Chuck always met people with his warm smile and handshake. He always asked about you, whether meeting you for the first time or as an old friend. He seemed to seamlessly keep the spotlight on the other person simply because he was genuinely interested in them, whether this was as a pastor, a Lion or someone elsewhere in the community. He reached out to individuals and engaged others with warm conversation, whether they were wait staff in a restaurant, someone he had just met or an old friend. He treated everyone as an equal and they responded with a smile, and he probably made their day. Chuck had fun in life while doing serious work to serve others in so many ways.

Chuck attended Albion College (honorary doctorate in 1982) and Michigan State University, and graduated from Western Michigan University. In 1955, he graduated from Garrett-Evangelical School of Theology in Evanston, Illinois and was ordained that same year. Betty Jean Phillips Fry, his wonderful wife of more than 65 years, survives him, as well as their children and families: Bruce (Harpers Ferry, WV), Stephen (Grand Rapids) and Kathryn (Marshall, MI. Grandchildren include Gretchen Fry, Laura Gilbertson, Elizabeth Holden, Andrew Ludington, Allen Stahl and Lauren Stahl. Great grandchildren are Leo, Evie, Ilya and Desmond Holden, Josephine Ludington and Aurora Gilbertson. Also surviving him are sisters-in-laws are Bernona Fry and Joyce Phillips Elkins.

Chuck, we will miss your welcoming smile and friendship!

Tuesday, February 3 **Mind Meets Music, Dr. Monique Salinas**

Mind Meets Music was started in 2009 by Dr. Monique Salinas, as a project of the Girls Choral Academy to help students in Grand Rapids who were struggling to read and write. These children are likely to face difficulties throughout their education and life if their skills don't improve. Mind Meets Music became an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in 2013 and has been expanding services rapidly ever since.

Last fall, Mind meets Music was awarded a four-year, \$2 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education to enhance teaching and learning through the arts. Dr. Salinas said at the time, "Music helps academic achievement, helping the brain in unique and wonderful ways."

The program consists of two 30-minute sessions per class twice a week in 10 schools -- seven that the grant will specifically target. Master Teaching Artists lead students in singing songs, reading and writing music, tapping music notes, and playing games to review new skills. The curriculum is based on Kodály Music Methodology, which uses rhythmic concepts to teach syllable sounds, memory and listening skills. What sets this program apart is that it uses singing, reading and writing music which is something accessible to every child. Through that medium the children learn to recognize patterns, sequences and steady beat, while it also helps them organize information. Dr. Salinas said, "It is very

gratifying to see children excel in this program and hear comments from teachers that it has improved their reading and math skills."

Our speaker today is Dr. Salinas, Executive Director. She did her undergraduate work at Aquinas College and Central Michigan University, and received her Doctorate in Music Education with a cognate in Conducting from Michigan State University.

Tuesday, February 10 **Neighborhood Ventures, Mark Lewis**

Neighborhood Ventures is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit, neighborhood-based community and economic development organization with the mission to interject vitality into the heart of each Grand Rapids neighborhood by revitalizing its business district. It has a vision of a city full of vibrant business districts, distinctive and reflective of each of the unique neighborhoods.

Working with the businesses in each of the neighborhoods and the City of Grand Rapids, its efforts help to improve quality of life and quality of place to enhance the economic health of Grand Rapids' urban neighborhoods. Neighborhood Ventures focuses on the strategic priorities of business recruitment, retention & expansion and business corridor organizing. Because of its continued work, urban neighborhoods are more inviting to visit, safer to live in and better places in which to do business.

The Neighborhood Business Alliance, which represents the 20 neighborhood business districts in Grand Rapids, hired Mark Lewis, our speaker today's meeting, as Neighborhood Ventures' new director in 2009. Mr. Lewis had worked in several businesses and volunteered for various neighborhood residential initiatives before making his career change. Mr. Lewis is a Grand Rapids native and still lives in the city. He said he decided to become involved with the neighborhoods when he bought his first house in 1994 on Lake Drive SE in East Hills. He admitted that buying that house had a huge impact on who he is today.

Lewis graduated from Davenport College (now Davenport University) with a degree in business management and, two years later, earned his sales and marketing degree from Davenport. He's served as chairman of the Grand Rapids Board of Zoning Appeals since 2010. He is on the boards for SiTE:LAB and Friends of the Opera. Before he became Neighborhood Ventures' executive director, he was the organization's board secretary from 2005 to 2007, and board president from 2007 to 2009.

Michigan Lions Forum – February 27-28

Every Lion still has time to participate in the annual [Michigan Lions Forum](#) – Strengthen the Pride, scheduled of February 27-28, 2015 in Lansing. It is another educational offering that can help you learn and meet Lions from throughout the state. Most Grand Rapids Lions have usually attended the Saturday session (Feb 28) for the educational sessions and typically car pool to Lansing. The event will be held at the Causeway Bay Hotel, 6820 S. Cedar Street, Lansing MI.

On Saturday, forum offers four sessions within which you can select one of four topics (16 topics in all). Afterward, lunch will feature the entertainment of KT Maviglia, the 2014 Miss Michigan. Her personal platform is "LISTEN UP: Advocating for those with Hearing Disabilities."

A flyer on the Michigan Lions Forum will accompany the mailing of this newsletter. The \$35.00 registration fee will be paid by the Grand Rapids Lions Club. If you plan to attend, please contact Craig Nobbelin by January 29, 2015 at c.nobbelin@yahoo.com or 616-458-0471.



blind --- *dinner date*

Blind Dinner Date – Thursday, March 5, 6 – 9 PM **The Goei Conference Center** ***Make Your Reservations Now!***

The Grand Rapids Lions Club is hosting the **9th Annual Blind Dinner Date** to honor local programs and people serving those who live with vision loss, and to raise funds to benefit our major charities: Grand Rapids Lions Vision Clinic at Cherry Street Health Services, early vision program for children at Ken-O-Sha, the youth programs at the Association for the Blind & Visually Impaired and the Grand Rapids Lions Fund at the Grand Rapids Community Foundation.

The program guest for this year's dinner will be Christine Ha, the first ever blind contestant and season 3 winner of the competitive amateur cooking show, "[MasterChef](#)" USA, on FOX with Gordon Ramsay, Graham Elliot, and Joe Bastianich. She defeated over 30,000 home cooks across America to secure the coveted MasterChef title, a \$250,000 cash prize, and a cookbook deal.

Several sponsorship levels to raise funds are still available. Your company can reserve also a table for 8 for a discounted price of \$600. Individual tickets are also available for \$75 each for you, your spouse or significant other, and your friends or colleagues. Introduce new acquaintances to the Lions Club and perhaps they may want to become members. [For sponsorship, ticket, or other information about the Blind Dinner Date](#), please call either of our co-chairs Shawn Eyestone at 616-777-5292 or Ralph Holewinski at 800-694-3175, Ext. 55. For Grand Rapids Lions members, the cost of the tickets can be billed on your quarterly statement.

In addition to our guest speaker, the program will feature awards in up to 3 categories:

- * ***Dr. Mark Sheldon Lifetime Achievement Award:*** The award is given to an individual who has made vision improvement and vision loss elimination their passionate life's work both inside and outside their profession. Their dedication and unselfish contributions have made very positive impact in reducing avoidable blindness especially with those from economically challenged parts of our community.
- * ***Visionary of the Year Award:*** Awarded to an individual within the medical profession who has made distinguished contributions during the past 1-3 years in their career and by significant volunteer activity that has led to major progress in the early detection and correction of vision problems in the greater Grand Rapids Community.
- * ***Vision in Action Award:*** Awarded to a non-medical individual in the Greater Grand Rapids area who has made significant contributions in their career or through volunteer efforts to reduce avoidable blindness and/or provide quality of life support to those with vision loss.

Other Lion's News:

Chili Fest 2015: The Rockford Lions Club will hold its 6th Annual Chili Cook Off on Thursday, February 26 at the American Legion, 330 Rockford Park Dr. N.E., Rockford, MI. It is the “**Battle of the Chili-O's**” – 10 varieties of great chili - 10+ varieties, \$8 - all you can eat, and get to know some Rockford Lions. New challengers for the Chili Cook Off are welcome. (I think Brent Spoelstra entered one year.) Register now with PDG Warren Sibilla at (616) 241-1066 or www.sibilla@aol.com.

Lions District 11-C1/11-E1 Convention: All members are invited to attend the annual 11-C1 Convention, a combined convention with District 11-E1. It will be held at the Park Place Hotel in Traverse City, MI from Friday, March 27 – Sunday, March 29. Members could go up for the whole or part of the fun weekend. Even though it would be a long day, other Lions members could for the day on Saturday for lunch and for the business meeting which normally is done by 4:00 pm. The Grand Rapids Lions Club has 10 votes at the business meeting. Any member can be a delegate. The Club will pay for the registration fee to the conference, but not food or lodging. Please contact Craig Nobbelin to let him know if you are interested in attending: c.nobbelin@yahoo.com or 616-458-0471. More information will be forthcoming in a future edition of the *Nuda Veritas*.

Mark Your Calendars for the USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum: The USA/Canada Lions Leadership Form returns to Grand Rapids on September 17-19, 2015 for the second time, 8 years after hosting the event the first time. Mark your calendars to attend and/or volunteer for the forum. More information will be coming over the next several months.