



Nuda Veritas

Published for Members by the Grand Rapids Lions Club
District 11-C-1 --- Vol. 2018-19, No. 5, October 13, 2018

UPCOMING EVENTS

University Club

Downtown Grand Rapids

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

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

Monday, October 15, 4:45 pm,
Bowling League, Northfield Lanes

**Tuesday, October 16, Grand
Angels – Building the MI
Ecosystem, Tim Parker**

Tuesday, October 16, 6:00 – 8:00
pm, Eyeglass Recycling Center
Open

Thursday, October 18, West
Michigan Projects Night

Monday, October 1, 4:45 pm,
Bowling League, Northfield Lanes

**Tuesday, October 23, To Be
Announced**

Monday, October 29, 4:45 pm,
Bowling League, Northfield Lanes

Tuesday, October 30, 6:00 – 8:00
pm, Meeting & Dinner at the
Eyeglass Recycling Center

*Tuesday, October 31, Scare
Someone Today!*

In Memory of Judge Benjamin H. Logan June 25, 1943 – September 24, 2018



Lion Judge Benjamin H. Logan, II, died at home in the companionship of his beloved wife, Dr. Denice M. Logan, on September 24, 2018. He was 75 years old.

Lion Ben joined the Grand Rapids Lions Club in 1988, sponsored by deceased Lion Don Nelson. He served as a Director on the Board of Directors and Chair of the Program Committee.

Undoubtedly, he was the Lions Clubs largest buyer of luncheon raffle tickets and won his share. He supported all the charities and attended many lunches, holiday gatherings and Lion Annual Meetings.

Prior to being elected to 61st District Court Judge in 1988, he had practiced law in Michigan since 1973 after earning his Juris Doctorate at Ohio Northern University in 1972. He had worked for 2 years at Legal Aid of Grand Rapids (now of West MI) and 14 years as a senior partner at Logan and Beason. Ben also earned a B.A. accounting and history in 1968 and worked as a cost accountant. Ben served as District Court Judge before retiring in 2014, about a year after suffering a major heart attack.

Lion Ben was very active in both in the community and professionally. He encouraged people to run for public office and speak out on issues that were important to the black community and the community as a whole. Lion Ben was a former

basketball player and racquetball player, but later settled into fishing and golf, in addition to many other activities.

Lawyer Stephen Drew said in *The Grand Rapids Press* that when he arrived in Grand Rapids 44 years ago, Logan welcomed him and took him under his wing. "He was a great mentor and friend," said Drew, who said he mentored many young lawyers. "I think his legacy is one of community commitment. He touched just about every aspect of this community, joining a lot of community organizations and participating fully in them all with an energy that was unparalleled." Drew said the 61st District Court is sort of the people's court, so it was significant to have an African-American judge on the court serving as a role model. He said Logan was still volunteering at the Grand Rapids Bar Association.

Kent County Circuit Court Judge Donald Johnston said Logan was a colleague and a friend. "He was a good, fair, tough-minded, no-nonsense judge, who got the job done. He did what he thought had to be done and let the chips fall where they may."

Lion Ben taught at universities, was involved with several bar associations and committees, and founded the Floyd Skinner Bar Association in Grand Rapids. In addition to being a member of the Grand Rapids Lions Club, he was a member of the Breakfast Club, Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, the Association of Black Judges of MI, Economics Club and Chair of the United Negro College Fund – West MI. A partial list of awards includes: GRCC Donald R Black Civic Award, ONU Honorary Doctorate of Law, Whitney A Young Award from the Boy Scouts, Augustus D. Straker Trailblazer Award, NAACP of GR Role Model Award, William Ming Advocacy Award (national NAACP)

Surviving Lion Ben are his wife, Dr. Denise M. Logan, his five children: Bradford Jesse (BJ), 18; Benjamin William, 16; Barry Louis, 32, Benjamin Matthew, 34, Fonda Jean, 36. 11 grandchildren, a great grandchild, an uncle and a host of other relatives. His Celebration of Life Service was on Thursday, October 4, 2018 at 1:00 am at Messiah Missionary Baptist Church.

Tuesday, October 16 **Grand Angels – Building the MI Ecosystem,** **Tim Parker**

Grand Angels is the longest-serving regional investment group that offers robust mentoring paired with patient capital and is one of Michigan's most active and most consistent investment organizations. Grand Angels' objective is to build world-class companies and entrepreneurial talent. They seek to invest in Michigan and Midwest based companies.

Their members are only successful if the people with whom they invest are successful in developing talent. They are committed to utilizing our financial, intellectual and networking resources to help their portfolio of investments achieve. They strive to enhance the economic development of the region. Grand Angels is comprised of two operations:

Angel Network

The Grand Angels' member network operates as a traditional angel organization. Each accredited member investor makes his or her own investment into a startup company, with due diligence shared among the members and decisions agreed upon within the context of the group.

Grand Angels Venture Fund II

Grand Angels Venture Fund II is a committed capital fund that was created in 2015 by legacy members involved in Grand Angels' member network who sought to diversify investments through a traditional venture fund. Grand Angels Venture Fund II will invest in 12-15 companies during the next few years and provide follow-on investments for portfolio companies. Its focus is in B2B technology, advanced manufacturing, advanced agriculture technology and life sciences companies that are currently generating revenues or are pre-revenue with a clear path to exit. Since its formation, the fund has closed eight deals.

The Grand Angels organization is supported by member fees and generous corporate and academic sponsorships. Grand Angels is a member of the Angel Capital Association, an organization sponsored by the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation (Kansas City, MO), which continues to provide leadership and resources for angel investors across the country. Tim Parker, President of Grand Angels, will join us today to talk to us about Grand Angels.

Tuesday, October 23 To Be Announced

Final arrangements have not been made for this program but will be announced later.

ABVI's Crafting Vision – A Fund Raising Event

Join ABVI on Thursday, October 18 for an evening of great food, craft beer, raffle prizes more to support the Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired at its Crafting Vision fund raiser at the Grand Rapids Brewing Company, 1 Ionia Ave SW. The Brewmaster Sponsor is Kent Companies, Leaders in Concrete. Individual tickets are \$50, which include entry to the event, appetizers & light dinner fare, first drink of the evening, raffle ticket entry and the opportunity to learn more about ABVI and its services, but there are sponsorships opportunities are available.

Please contact Linda Zizos at 616-458-1187 or lzizos@abvimichigan.org, You can also visit www.abvimichigan.org for more information.

Looking Back – Grand Rapids Lions Club – July through December 1970

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 Nuda Veritas editions that we have in our archives from July through December 1970. (several editions missing)

The Tuesday weekly luncheons continued at the Pantlind Hotel. Here are a few programs:

- Lenore Romney, Republican candidate for U. S. Senate, spoke on September 1 at the first meeting of the fall. She was the only woman candidate running for a Senate seat this year.
- FBI Special Agent Neil Welch, of the FBI office in Detroit that is responsible the FBI operations in the State of Michigan, spoke to the Club.
- Mrs. Jean McKee, candidate for the U. S. Congress 5th District, spoke at the October 6 luncheon. She was an attorney, served on several statewide commissions and committees, involved in education, was the presiding officer of the YWCA and involved in the League of Women Voters, among her many activities.
- Representative Gerald R. Ford presented his Annual Report on what's going on in Washington. He continued to be the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives (since 1965).

- The annual Thanksgiving message was given by Club member, Rev. Leonard Putnam, pastor of the Northlawn United Methodist Church in Grand Rapids. The Madrigal Singers from Creston High School provided the music for the day.
- The Polka Dots, one of the Sweet Adelines group, provided musical entertainment for a meeting, while “the Club Services boys were on hand to give away turkeys and hams.
- “A Message of Christmas” was delivered by Rev. James Fellows of the Catholic Diocese of Grand Rapids. Music for the Christmas program was provided by Catholic Central High School Chorus.

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

- Past President Burton C. Saunders (1928-29) installed his son, B. Robert Saunders, as President for 1970-71.
- The usual four golf outings followed by evening dinners took place again this year.
- On Tuesday, August 11, the Annual Family picnic was held again at Townsend Park, with games, prizes, refreshment and food (sliced prime rib, corn, etc.).
- A Michigan Lion Coho Salmon Tournament was held on September 21-23 at Crystal Mountain Ski Lodge (arrivals on Sunday, September 20).
- The Lions Club contributed \$9,679 to Welcome home for the Blind the previous year.
- Fred Waring and his Pennsylvanians, sponsored by the Grand Rapids Lions Club, performed on Thursday, November 12, with net proceeds to Lions charities.
- Ladies Night was December 5 at the Pantlind Hotel for 250 Lions and their Ladies.

News and the Functional Illiterate

(An excerpt of an article from the *Nuda Veritas* that originally appeared in the *Saturday Review*; June 13, 1970; Today’s question posed by this excerpt – what progress has been made in the 48 years since this was written?)

“... Much of the **essential reading** required in a democracy, even **at level of driving manuals and newspapers**, is at least on the tenth to **eleventh-grade level**, but the Harvard study contends, an astonishing number of adults have not even kept up with fourth or fifth-grade readings skills and are, therefore, to all intents and purposes unable to read and write or absorb information from print.”

“Is the gap actually widening nowadays between the literate and illiterate? It may be that we are drifting into two classes of adults, not divided by social position, income, religion, color, or background, but by those who can read and write and do so habitually and for those, for all practical purposes, cannot.”

It continues later, “Since democracy is the most complex, the most advanced, the most sophisticated, of political ideas, the system requires a large and prosperous middle class, and it asks that great middle class a certain literacy, not simply a smattering of wigwam gossip . . . it is little wonder that academic freedom and free speech have in recent weeks eroded occasionally to a sort of fascist emotionalism, without overmuch reaction to it on the part of the average American. In this soil, dictatorships of Left or Right are seeded and grown to harvest, sometimes so quickly that it is over before people know what’s happened.”

Although television is a great medium, “. . . the people themselves are going to have to assume some of the responsibility to learn, and that this cannot happen until the trend toward functional illiteracy is somehow reversed.”

Other Lion News

Grand Rapids Lions Club Foundation & Second Century Success Campaign: The Second Century Success campaign continues. We urge you to donate or pledge soon, so we reach 100% of member participation. Please direct questions about the campaign to Kim Gary at kimgary55@gmail.com or 616-291-5438 (mobile) or to Pat Mullen at: pmullen@mullencoins.com or 616-272-4402 (mobile).

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