



# Nuda Veritas

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District 11-C-1 --- Vol. 2018-19, No.17, April 13, 2019

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**University Club**

**Downtown Grand Rapids**

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

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

**Every Tuesday, Recycling Center  
Open, 6:00 – 8:00 pm**

Thursday, April 11, 6-9:00 pm,  
Blind Dinner Date, The B.O.B.

Monday, April 15' 4:45 pm, Bowling  
League, Northfield Lanes

**Tuesday, April 16, WAR  
International, Rachel Olexa &  
Bethany Bratt**

Monday, April 22, 4:45 pm, Last  
Night of Bowling League, Northfield  
Lanes

**Tuesday, April 23, Future of the  
Fruit Business in West Michigan,  
Ed Robinette**

**Tuesday, April 30, 6-8:00 pm,  
Eyeglass Recycling & Dinner  
Meeting, Jamark Labs**

**Friday and Saturday, May 3 & 4,  
Volunteer for the White Cane  
Drive, Alpine Wal-Mart**

## *100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary - Grand Rapids Lions Club*

**Tuesday, April 16  
WAR International,  
Rachel Olexa & Bethany Bratt**

Women At Risk, International (WAR Int'l) grew out of President & Founder Becky McDonald's heart for wounded and at-risk women, and her desire to see them protected, restored and nurtured back to wholeness. Growing up in Pakistan (then called West Pakistan), she lived among at-risk women and children from an early age. Her passion for this cause was ignited at age 14 when her friend, resisting rape, had acid poured down her throat to silence her cries.

The path her action took was evident as she later ministered overseas with her husband and lived in the midst of hurting women and families. She stepped into their lives showing love for the women, confronting the risks they faced and creating circles of protection around them. She would listen to their stories and offer words of worth and dignity to them.

Originally under the umbrella of another humanitarian ministry, the programs consisted primarily of partnering with orphanages and providing job skill training to at-risk women, with an emphasis on self-sustainability. As the programs expanded, it was clear that "Women At Risk," as it was known, needed to incorporate as a separate organization. In October 2006, a separate board was formed and WAR, Int'l was established as a non-profit organization, with representation in 16 states and projects in 14 countries. Since then, the reach has continued to expand as the number of projects has multiplied. I continues to provide safe places to heal from abuse, trafficking, exploitation, and more.

Rachel Oleza and Bethany Bratt will be joining us today. Ms. Olexa is Program Manager at WAR Int'l and speaks to raise

awareness to prevent poverty and trafficking. She was abducted in 1996 and works with women who have experienced this trauma. She has an BA from St. Olaf College (MN) and an MA in Social Justice from Marygrove College in Detroit. Ms. Bratt is the Marketing Lead for WAR Int'l. She is a Grand Rapids native and attending college in Tennessee and North Carolina before returning to MI.

## Tuesday, April 23 Future of the Fruit Business in West Michigan, Ed Robinette

The farm history of Robinette's goes back over 100 years. The photo shown here was taken in 1912, with the Robinette family and a load of fruit bound for the Grand Rapids market. Our family bought the farm in 1911 and moved here from Macedonia, Ohio.



Since 1911, Robinette's Orchard has been a West Michigan staple for over 100 years, located at 4 Mile & the East Beltline. In response to consumer demand, the Robinette family opened the Apple Haus in 1973. It is home to the bakery, lunch counter & dining area, cider mill, home-grown fresh fruits in season, and a variety of other tasty treats and gift boxes.

Robinette's is a close-by family destination where you can enjoy horse-drawn hayrides pulled by a team of Belgian horses, hike or bike our scenic trails, pick out a pumpkin, enjoy our world-class corn maze and a lot more! Ed Robinette will be our speaker and don't be surprised to hear some fruit-based humor.

## White Cane Drive 2019, May 3rd & 4th Volunteers Needed!

The White Cane Drive will take place on Friday, May 3 & Saturday, May 4. This year, the fundraising continues to be at one location, the Walmart Store on Alpine. Our club will concentrate our "people resources" at the Alpine Walmart on both days.

We need volunteers – either Lions or others who want *To Serve* to collect funds to help visually-impaired kids afford special eye glasses and others who often have many other challenges. We need to help these kids to develop their full potentials at Ken-O-Sha. There is no cost to the families who are eligible for these eyeglasses

Sign-up at the meetings or contact Lion Don Jakel ([donaldjakel@aol.com](mailto:donaldjakel@aol.com) or (616) 891-8690). Your fellow Lions need your help, even for an hour (perhaps 2 or 3) to solicit donations. If you have questions, please contact Lion Don. Thanks to all those who have volunteer!

Location	Day	Times (1 or more 1-hour shifts)
Walmart – Alpine NW	Friday, May 3rd	2:30-3:30, 3:30-4:30, 4:30-5:30, 5:30-6:30, 6:30-7:30
	Saturday, May 4th	9-10:00, 10-11:00, 11-12:00 12-1:00, 1-2:00

## Grand Rapids Lions Club Eyeglass Recycling & Vision Mission Trips (the 3<sup>rd</sup> of a 3-part article)

*This is the third of a 3-part article on the Grand Rapids Lions Club's eyeglass recycling and vision mission trips: The first two parts described the development of the eyeglass recycling program & vision mission trips, and the vision mission trip to Jamaica last fall. The third part describes the most recent trip to Izamal, Mexico. Thank you to Lions Scott Brady, Gary Anderson and, for this article, Brent Spoelstra, for putting the information together.*

On Tuesday, February 24, 2019 twenty Lions from western Michigan met at Gerald R. Ford Airport in Grand Rapids to embark upon the latest Vision Mission trip to the historic town of Izamal, Yucatan, Mexico (MX). After a full day of travel, overcoming several travel hiccups due to weather delays, our entire team of twenty-six members rendezvoused at a modest hotel called "Tu'ul."

Bright and early the following day, a short fifteen minute walk brought the team to the city center where the local Lions Club of Izamal (25 members) had set up a clinic in a public auditorium. Within an hour and a half, our team was examining patients from the town and extended vicinities. Our goal was to provide patients with free comprehensive eye exams, providing glasses to those that needed them, and referring those with pathological issues to ophthalmologists in Merida, a city 1 hour away. Patients ranged in age from 4 to 94 years. We were happy to have six optometrists and twenty lay workers on this trip, enabling us to see nearly 2200 patients and dispensing 1856 pair of glasses in four days.

Work days lasted until about 4:00 pm and a short walk back to the hotel ended with a refreshing dip in the pool with a refreshing beverage close at hand, followed by dinner at a nearby restaurant or take-out pizza (\$45 fed 26 people with all they could eat!). Travel by the team back to Grand Rapids on Sunday was thankfully uneventful.

Kudos to Izamal Lions Club for their outstanding organizational effort. Their preparations and support of our team ensured that the clinic worked like a well-oiled machine.

The Eyeglass Recycling program of our Grand Rapids Lions Club is what makes these trips possible. Tuesday nights at the warehouse may not seem significant, but we would not be able to provide the high quality glasses on these mission trips without the dedication of those at home. I would especially like to thank **Lions Scott Brady, Gail Junod and Jean Kraai** for organizing the warehouse activities.

Thanks also go to the team members (most are Lions, three are not) who took time from their busy schedules to serve our neighbors to the south:

- The **Lions** are: **Dr. Gary Anderson, Dr. Adam Carlson, Dr. Sherah Eavey, Dr. Michele Bullion, Dr. Donna Wicker, Ken Adamy, Cheryl Anderson, Anne Baird, Jim Baird, Scott Brady, Rich Carlson, Bill Fleetham, Ken Frary, Joel Gomez, Tammy Johnson, Jean Kraai, Rob Lalley, Gail McCready, Kathy O'Bee, Kathy Oberlin, Mark Oberlin, Brent Spoelstra**, and **Ann Zoellner**.
- The **non-Lions** are **Linda Lalley, Dr. Jay Crank, and Hayden Johnson**.

## The Board Invites Your Help

Each year, several awards are given out at the Annual Meeting in June. This year, the Board invites you to make suggestions on who has contributed to the Lions this year. You can pass on your

suggestion as soon as you can to Shawn Eyestone, Chairman at [shawn@eyestonelawoffices.com](mailto:shawn@eyestonelawoffices.com) or 616-498-1895, or Cheryl Anderson at [andersoc@gvsu.edu](mailto:andersoc@gvsu.edu) or 616-443-1995.

**Rookie of the Year:** The Board selects the member and presents the "Rookie of the Year" award to a member who meets several criteria:

- Joined the club within the last two years and is a member in good standing;
- Demonstrated good attendance;
- Shown initiative;
- Motivated others and/or set an example for other members;
- Had good participation in club projects;
- Demonstrated enthusiasm for Lionism; and
- Has not had to be a chairperson or necessarily served on a committee.

**Lion of the Year:** The following "guidelines" or "criteria" used for discussion in selecting a member for this award:

- Been a member for at least two years;
- Demonstrated good participation in Lion events and activities;
- Motivated others and/or set an example for other members;
- Demonstrated enthusiasm for Lionism;
- Made significant contributions to the success of our club during the past year;
- Depending on the member's contribution each year, this award can be given more than once to a member.

**Henry Voet Meritorious Service Award:** All the past-presidents of our club meeting in May to select the awardee. The Board Chair calls them together, but you can make your suggestions through Chairman Shawn.

## Choose Your Coast Raffle

Spring offers you the chance for a trip for two to New York, San Francisco, Miami or Seattle. *Choose Your Coast Raffle* is a fund raiser for the Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired (ABVI). It includes airfare, four days, three nights with hotel. Last year, one of our own members won the lucky draw.

It's your opportunity to purchase a 2019 raffle ticket (or many tickets) to travel to one of the great cities along the coasts of our great land. Tickets are still only \$20 each, or 6 for \$100. Only 600 tickets will be sold! The drawing will be held on June 7, 2018. Ticket holders need not be present to win. Please contact Lion Rick Stevens at ABVI to order your ticket(s): [rstevens@abvimichigan.org](mailto:rstevens@abvimichigan.org) or 616-458-1187 or (Raffle License: R51470)

## Looking Back – Grand Rapids Lions Club – January through December 1981

*As we celebrate 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 January through December 1981. (some editions missing)*

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

- Dr Marvin De Vries, Dean of Seidman College of Business and Administration, spoke on “The State of the Economy.”
- Ruth Butler spoke as the Lions honored the West Catholic High School Girls Basketball Champions.
- Lions and guests enjoyed the fashion show put on by May’s of Michigan [Was on the corner of Monroe Avenue & Lyon Street].
- The Lions honored the Boys Basketball Champions, Creston-City High, with speaker Dick Parfitt, CMU Basketball Coach.
- The Maria Strong Dancers were followed the next week by Soprano Sharon Daniels at the noon luncheons.
- Anthony Hope (Bob Hope’s son), a CPA, presented “Washington Briefing – Deregulation & Tax Policy.”
- Jean Miller and Lion Keith Crittenden’s Easter music following Chaplain Fr. James Fellows “Easter Message.”
- Frank Kelly, MI Attorney General, made the Law Day presentation.
- Lion Jerry O’Bee presented “A Defense of Your Family’s Future”, on the importance of estate planning.
- The “FBI Role in Society” was presented by Eugene Debbaudt, Supervisory Senior Resident Agent.
- Union High School City Baseball Champions were guests at lunch. The speaker was Phil Regan, GVSC baseball coach.
- G. Stevens Bernard, GR City Mayor, gave an update on City activities and plans.
- The first Annual Academic Honors took place on May 19, 1981.
- Magician June Horowitz was the first presentation in September.
- On October 6, the Lions had lunch at and toured the new Amway Grand Plaza.
- “Business in Society” was presented by Richard Lewis, Dean, MSU College of Business and Graduate School of Business Administration.
- “Revolution in Banking – Fasten Your Seatbelts” was presented Chuck Stoddard, President, Michigan National Bank.
- Philip Ruppe, US Senate Candidate in the upcoming election, presented his views.
- Fr. James Fellows presented the Thanksgiving Day Program, followed by the Forest Hills Central Arion Singers,
- The Ottawa Hill were this year’s City High Schools Football Champs, with speaker “Muddy” Waters, MSU football coach.
- Rev. W. Thomas Zollman presented the Christmas Program, followed by the St. Cecilia Society Singers.

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

- Fred Waring’s 2-Day Farewell Performance netted \$12,200 for Welcome Home for the Blind.
- The club realized a net profit of about \$1,500 from the sale of grapefruit and oranges.
- Noel’s Leopards were 2<sup>nd</sup> half Bowling Champions with a record 28-17, The individual Champion was Ed Veneklas with an average of 188.
- The White Cane Drive was held on May 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>.
- The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Welcome Home Strawberry Festival took place on June 20.
- Summer golf & dinners were at the following country clubs: Green Ridge, Silver Lake, Deer Run & Forest Hills.
- In the fall of 1981, the Lions Board agreed to contribute \$100 for the winning artist in the design of a mural for the retaining wall in Belknap Park overlooking I-196 to the east of downtown. The winner was Russ Brown, who made a presentation at a Lions luncheon. The Mural still exists today.
- On November 24, the Lions Board of Directors voted to return to the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel for Lions regular meetings.
- The preliminary results showed that Lion “Bell-Ringers” collected over \$2,100 for the Salvation Army.

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## Other Lion News

**Drive for Vision: Mark your calendars!** The annual Drive for Vision will take place on **Monday, June 17, 2019** at Quail Ridge Golf Course. You can play or your company can be a sponsor (various levels). For reservations, sponsorship or more information, contact Kyle Travis at 616-224-1559 or [travis.kd@gmail.com](mailto:travis.kd@gmail.com).

**Grand Rapids Lions Club Foundation & Second Century Success Campaign:** The Second Century Success campaign continues. *We urge you to donate or pledge for any amount, so we can achieve 100%-member participation.*

Please direct questions about the campaign to Kim Gary at [kimgary55@gmail.com](mailto:kimgary55@gmail.com) or 616-291-5438 (mobile) or to Pat Mullen at: [pmullen@mullencoins.com](mailto:pmullen@mullencoins.com) or 616-272-4402 (mobile).

**Lion Member Yard Signs:** Have you picked up your yard sign yet? As part of a Lions District initial to celebrate 100 years of Lionism, our club wants every member to have a sign to display in his or her yard to help us celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our own Club.

The signs read (across the top) “A Proud LION lives here!” with the “Lions logo” in the middle and (across the bottom) “[www.Lions100years.com](http://www.Lions100years.com).” The signs are one-sided, weatherproof plastic yard signs with aluminum stakes. We have them stored and available at the Eyeglass Recycling Center. So, volunteer to help recycle eyeglasses and pick up your sign at the Recycling Center at the same time.