



THE COG



A Monthly Publication of the Brookings Rotary Club

DECEMBER 2020

December Programs

Dr. David Reynolds -- Program Coordinator for December

Dec 1...Tammy Hillestad.....Chief of Nurses, BKX Health System
 Dec 8...Linda Peterson.....Whiteclay Makerspace Project
 Dec 15...Christine Garst-Santos...Dir. School of American & Global Studies
 Dec 22...Keith Mahlum.....VP for Development, SDSU Foundation
 Dec 29...Happy New Year.....NO MEETING.....

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

3 Jan Fjeldos
 8 Teree Nesvold
 15 Yvette Campbell
 15 David Reynolds
 21 Bradley Blaha
 21 Isaiah Crevier
 26 Zeno Wicks
 29 Don Crowe



December Sgt. at Arms will be Gregg Jongeling, taking advantage of ZOOM meetings!!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE FOR DECEMBER

Kids – Like You and Me

It was just a few hours before the start of the Dean Martin TV Christmas Show in 1968 when the producer said they needed to fill some time at the end. They needed a song! One of the show's writers had an idea, and the result is the beautiful song that concludes the program - "Christmas is for Kids."

You can watch a brief version of it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hMRn-JWOyig>, although the full song goes on for several minutes with celebrities lifting up the hopes of children by sending toys to orphanages, on Native American reservations, and in children's hospitals across America.

And so it is as we close out this most challenging year as Rotarians. We all need a lot of holiday joy this year! I like to think that Rotary carries the joy of this season all year long by helping people through our service projects and the Rotary Foundation. There are countless studies that prove "doing good feels good."
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American supporters of the School of St. Jude in Tanzania can donate online, by check, or wire transfer via The American Friends of the School of St. Jude. The American Friends of the School of St. Jude, Tanzania, Inc. is a registered 501(c)(3) public charity with federal tax-exempt status. Their EIN is 47-3077055. You will receive a receipt for your tax-deductible gift from American Friends. [Click here to make an online donation.](#) You will be redirected to **The American Friends of the School of St. Jude's website**, where you can make your tax-deductible contribution to the school.

By check **SCHOOL OF ST. JUDE DONATIONS**

[Visit the donate page](#), select "check" option and fill out the form. Then make check payable to AF School of St. Jude and mail to:

AF School of St. Jude
PO Box 3994
Rapid City, SD 57709



DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Robert & Pat Fishback Dec 26
 Brian & Carla Gatzke Dec 27



To provide content for the COG please contact
Gregg Jongeling 605-691-4015
gjongeling@gmail.com

December Service Anniversaries



12-19-95	Brian Gatzke	25 yrs	12-21-10	Gary Gramm	10 yrs
12-15-09	Jennifer Olson	11 yrs	12-13-16	Jason Flaskey	4 yrs
12-16-10	Jan Fjeldos	10 yrs	12-17-19	Nicole Bieber	1 yr

November perfect attendance

Brad Blaha	Larry Janssen	Bruce Lushbough	Jennifer Soma
Steve Carnes	Marcia Janssen	Doug Miller	Chad Vilhauer
Lewayne Erickson	Del Johnson	Don Norton	Cathy Voelzke
Jim Gilkerson	Gregg Jongeling	Kay Norton	Vern Voelzke
Michael Gonda	Millie Juel	David Odens	

(President's message continued)

So get out and ring the Salvation Army bell, help out at McCrory Gardens, support the Brookings Food Pantry and Feeding Brookings. These are great ways to get in the holiday spirit. The closing line of the song says it best: "Christmas is for kids...like you and me."
Merry Christmas, Don



Rotary Clock Install



Food Drive Delivery



Born Learning Trail Install



Rotary Coat Drive

In the past year Brookings Rotary has been involved in several successful volunteer activities. With continued enthusiasm Brookings Rotary intends to complete many more in the next year!

MEETING STATS FOR NOVEMBER

For the month of November **58 of our 99 active, 4 honorary members** participated in at least one of our ZOOM meetings. Outstanding!!

During the month **20 members donated \$287** to the scholarship fund. Please be willing to step up and donate each week as we need to raise \$6000 annually to fulfill our commitment to scholarships. Just speak up during the Scholar Dollars portion of the program and announce your pledge. It will be added to your Rotary bill that is sent quarterly. **Thank you all so much for your generosity!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

Christmas Gift Suggestions:

- To your enemy - forgiveness.**
- To an opponent - tolerance.**
- To a friend - your heart.**
- To a customer - service.**
- To all - charity.**
- To a child - a good example.**
- To yourself - respect.**



December Meal Schedule (home)

- Dec 1.....leftover turkey
- Dec 8.....leftover turkey
- Dec 15.....leftover turkey
- Dec 22.....leftover turkey
- Dec 29.....NO MEETING

A SUPER FUN OPPORTUNITY FOR SERVICE

The Brookings Rotary Club is looking for volunteers to help with Garden Glow at McCrory Gardens! Rotarians will be volunteering for five evenings during the **week of December 13 through 19**. We will be welcoming guests when they arrive and thanking them when they leave. The SDSU Athletic Department has generously donated their ticket booths for Garden Glow so Rotarians can stay warm in the ticket booths while welcoming and thanking guests! If you are interested in volunteering, please contact either Michael Gonda (605-690-6379 michael.gonda@sdstate.edu) or Larry and Marcia Janssen (605-695-9747 larryljanssen@yahoo.com) More details on specific dates and times will follow.



October Students of the Month

BROOKINGS – Brookings High School seniors Serena An and Cherish Stern were honored as the Brookings Rotary Club's October Students of the Month. The students joined the Club's Zoom meeting to address the members and receive their recognition.

An is the daughter of Wenfeng An and Ping Ye. A National Merit semifinalist, she also qualified for the Math Olympiad Program in 2019 and 2020, was a statewide piano award winner in 2018 and 2019 and an All-State Band qualifier earlier this year.



Serena An

At BHS, she has been active in quiz bowl, band, math club, science olympiad, speech and debate, and National Honor Society. She also has been involved in teaching at the Brookings Math Circle, Research Math and is studying Korean and Mandarin. She plans to major in math and is considering a gap year to study languages.

Stern is the daughter of Michael and Laura Stern. The head drum major at BHS, she also was honored as homecoming queen and Most Improved Female Track Athlete. She received the FFA Greenhand Award and AP Scholar Award. Other activities at BHS include band, wrestling, figure skating, orchestra, Environmental Club, debate, theater/Theatians and Board Game Club. In the community Stern is involved in her church youth group and Northview Lads & Lassies 4-H Club.



Cherish Stern

She has been employed at Hy-Vee her junior and senior years and was formerly a volunteer at youth wrestling practices. She plans to pursue a pre-medical track.



**Brookings Rotary
Says Farewell to
Ron Waltz**

Ronald D. Waltz, 79, of Brookings, passed away Friday, November 6, 2020, at The Neighborhood's at Brookview. Ronald Dean Waltz was born on July 25, 1941, in Turtle Lake, ND. He graduated from Turtle Lake High School in 1959. Ron attended the University of North Dakota and received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration. In 2000, Ron retired, and he and Judy moved to Brookings, SD. Ron intended to retire but soon found he was still needed in healthcare and became a consultant working with several hospitals in the upper Midwest on an interim basis which included serving as interim CEO at Brookings Health System for about a year.

He is survived by his wife, Judy Waltz, of Brookings, SD; two sons, Bryan Waltz of Volga, SD and Greg (Kristan) Waltz, of Shakopee, MN; three grandchildren, Natalie, Andrew and Kade;

A private family service was held November 12th. A huge Celebration of Life is planned on July 25, 2021 on what would have been Ron's 80th birthday. Memorials may be sent to The Neighborhoods at Brookview or Ascension Lutheran Church in Brookings.

COVID RELIEF

My husband purchased a world map and then gave me a dart and said, "Throw this and wherever it lands—that's where I'm taking you when this pandemic ends." Turns out, we're spending two weeks behind the fridge.

After years of wanting to thoroughly clean my house but lacking the time, this week I discovered that wasn't the reason.

Every few days try your jeans on just to make sure they fit. Pajamas will have you believe all is well in the kingdom.

The World Health Organization announced that dogs cannot contract COVID-19. Dogs previously held in quarantine can now be released. To be clear, WHO let the dogs out.

Since we're all in quarantine I guess we'll be making only inside jokes from now on.

Nothing like relaxing on the couch after a long day of being tense on the couch.

The world has turned upside down. Old folks are sneaking out of the house, and their kids are yelling at them to stay indoors.

If you need 144 rolls of toilet paper for a month-long quarantine, you probably should've seen a doctor long before COVID-19.

Quarantine has turned us into dogs. We roam the house all day looking for food. We are told "no" if we get too close to strangers. And we get really excited about car rides.

A man walks into a pet store and asks for a dozen bees. The clerk carefully counts 13 bees out onto the counter. 'That's one too many!' says the customer. The clerk replies 'It's a freebie.'"

I got an email from Google saying, 'At Google Earth, we are able to read maps backwards!' and I thought, 'That's just spam!'"