

KIWANEWS

Club Meeting - TUESDAYS at 12:05 P.M.

Sandman Inn (Catering by Country Kitchen)

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The Significance of Christmas

'tis The Season To . . . Counting our Blessings!

Dear Kiwanians:

A review of contemporary Christmas Messages reveals such themes as: celebrating life, birth, re-birth or spiritual renewal, love, hope and peace. This season of the year is recognized by many cultural traditions as a magical and sacred time. The universal values of family, love, compassion and generosity for all, and the attainment of world peace for all humankind are loudly proclaimed in word and song.

For the Christian church the two great festivals of the church year are Christmas and Easter. Both begin in darkness and proclaim new life. These two festivals are rooted in the Egyptian-style, equinoctial mode of thinking which still continues today. For example Pope Julius decreed in 345 AD that Jesus' birthday be celebrated on December 25th, rather than in the spring as it had been, as December 25th was three days after the "death of the winter solstice" and the same day on which the births of two other Gods were celebrated by Romans; Mithras the God of Mithraism and Dionysus the God of Sol Invictus. It has been observed, that "it is not just a coincidence that many ancient peoples chose the time of the year that is closest to the winter solstice to give thanks to the giver of life – The Creator – through some kind of celebration of the gift of light." The concept of light is a dominant theme in both Christmas and Hanukkah religious observances. For Christians it is the birth of the Christ child that provides a heavenly light that shines to illuminate the whole of creation. For people of the Jewish faith, Hanukkah or the Festival of the Lights is celebrated for eight nights with a new candle being lit by the center candle in the nine-branch menorah nightly. The concept of light, that is the symbolic receiving of light, has been associated with the acquisition of knowledge or wisdom. What unites these two religious celebrations is that they are considered times of light and hope for a troubled world. They are occasions for contemplating the future, to anticipate future events and their impact on mankind. They are also intended to make us consider carefully the roles that we play in our daily lives particularly in our interaction with others.

The receipt of light or wisdom, though personally beneficial, only becomes truly meaningful when shared with others. As Kiwanians we are directed to be generous – to share our time, our talents and our resources, within the means of our ability. In the sharing of our time and talents we are encouraged not to be judgmental, but rather to receive and accept all regardless of: gender, race, colour or creed. It is within that spirit of tolerance that I remind you, to be mindful of the less fortunate and to indeed be, thankful for all that we as Canadians and Albertans enjoy.

Thus, on behalf of the Board of Directors of The Kiwanis Club of Lethbridge, I wish you, your family and friends an enjoyable, memorable and peaceful festive season.

Barry W. Horner
President

PROGRAMS

Dec. 20 Christmas luncheon +
LCI choir music
Spouses & partners invited
Jan. 3 Will Crust, President
Lethbridge Therapeutic
Riding Association
Jan. 10 - Annual Rotary/Kiwanis
Joint Meeting
Sandman Hotel

BIRTHDAYS

Dec. 29 - Neil Little
Dec. 31 - Ken Peterson
Jan. 6 - Chuck McCleary

ANNIVERSARIES

Dec. 24 - Bob & Barbara
Simmons
Dec. 27 - Joe & Judy
Fosbender
Dec 28 - Jim & Gaynel Day
Dec. 30 - Chuck & Cecile
McCleary
Jan 12 - Chi & Jeannie Chang



NOON HOUR SPEAKERS



November 29: Samantha Terry - "The Girl Who Built a School in Nepal"

Hailing from Barnwell, Sam, a 16 year old high school student who juggles basketball, the honour roll and rodeo barrel racing spoke to us on her fund raising campaigns to build schools in Nepal. Working with the Edmond Hillary Foundation she raised her first \$32,000 before she'd even graduated from elementary school! Currently she is half-way to raising \$15,000 for school supplies for a new high school in Nepal. Sam, is a girl with a passion and the drive to make changes in her world - a world that could use more like her!



December 6: Garfield Bland - "Light Up for Christmas"

Garfield began his presentation with a brief history of the home. Built in 1909 by Louis Johnson a Lethbridge lawyer. Sold in '24 to George Ross - rancher and father to Stubb Ross (Time Airways founder). A bank followed - owning it for its managers, and then the Rice family bought it and became its longest owners. Thereafter came a down time - boarding house, half-way home and a residence for a hockey team. Garfield and his wife, Diane, bought the house 1982. The next year lights began to appear and continued to appear until today. Counting interior and exterior displays, some 30,000 plus lights now illuminate their Christmas contribution to the children and citizens of Lethbridge.

Christmas Party



A BIG THANK YOU to the Salvation Army Kettle Volunteers!

Leroy Cranston - Brian Unwin - Megan Yanosik - Joanne Moyer - Frank Russell
Fran McHardy - Jim Day - Keith & Jean Robin - Chuck McCleary - Joe Fosbender
Joe Gillett - Linda & Barry Horner - Vic Saunders - Ken Peterson - Jon Ackroyd

&

Seasons Greetings to One and All!