



The Spoke



“Interactyx”

“Local Company on Inc. Magazine’s Fastest Growing List”



Last week we heard from Alfred R. Novas, CEO and Jodi Harrison, Vice President, Business Development for Interactyx. Headquartered in Bonita Springs, Interactyx has earned the position of 790 in Inc. Magazine’s list of latest growing private companies in the country.

Al was appointed Chief Executive Officer and Director in April, 2008. Jodi has served as Vice President, Business Development since January 2009. Their presentation highlighted TOPYX, an educational software which offers an eLearning platform for business, associations, and nonprofit organizations of any size throughout the world. And of great interest is the fact that one of its clients is none other than Rotary International who in 2014 was named a Learning! 100 Award winner. Thanks Al and Jodi for your presentation and highlighting an interesting Rotary connection.

Rotary International President

Gary C. K. Huang
Rotary Club of Tapei, Taiwan

District 6960 Governor
Pete Doragh

The Rotary Club of Fort Myers

Area 3 Assistant Governor
Rick Perry

The Rotary Club of Bonita Springs, Noon

2013-2014 Club Officers

President	Sandra Hemstead
President-Elect	Thomas B. Briers
Secretary	Gregory T. Holtz
Treasurer	Bob Lombardo
Sergeant-at-Arms	George M. Cohan III
Assoc. Sgt.-at-Arms	William Banfield

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Immediate Past President

2012-2015

Brian Olitsky Scott Anderson

Peter Zahner Jason Dolle

2013-2016

Sara McCallum Tom Briers

Gregory T. Holtz Steven Slachta

2014-2017

Bob Lombardo Frank Mazzeo

Peter O’Flinn Susan Schmitt

Trustees of The Foundation of The Rotary Club of Bonita Springs

Nancy Ross, Secretary; Richard Garner, Treasurer;

Guy Quinn, James Dati, Ray Faubion, Ed Houck, John Mathes, Trustees

LASTWEEK'S MEETING

President Sandy presided. **Carl Bals** delivered the invocation; **Jim Friedgen** led the Pledge of Allegiance; and **Tom Burgess** the 4 Way Test. Musical Director **Ron Anderson** led us in a rousing version of "God Bless America."

Estero High School Awards of Excellence



Jack Powers introduced us to this month's Estero High School Awards of Excellence winners. Congratulations to Cody Rines (Faculty); Anita Smith (Staff); Drake Philip (Academic Student); and Thren Rodriguez (Service Student) for your commitment to education, leadership, and excellence.

A Blue Badge Ceremony

The Blue Badge Ceremony signifies the completion of a process where a new member makes a conscious commitment of time and effort to learn more about Rotary and our Club.

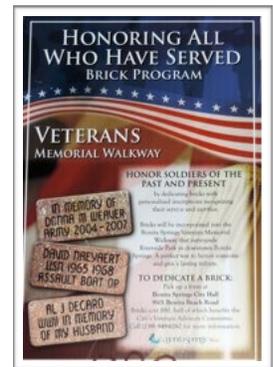
So it was a happy occasion to witness **Peter Zahner** present **Susan Hill** with her Blue Badge. Congratulations Susan and once again, welcome.



Our Christmas Tree Sale Is Underway

Garnering sponsors is the surest way to insure the success of our Club's largest fundraiser, the Christmas Tree Sale. **Jonathan Shaw** advised the Spoke of the current "press time" list of sponsors namely **Smile Design, Bonita Community Health Center, The Law Offices of John D. Spear, P.A., American House Senior Living Communities, and Encompass Group.** Thanks to each of these sponsors for their generous support. Please see Jon if you would like more information on sponsorship opportunities.

Bob Lombardo reminded us about the Veterans Memorial Walkway Project being constructed in Riverside Park. Bob will be submitting orders after our November 26 meeting. Half of the proceeds from brick sales will benefit the Bonita Springs Veterans Advisory Committee—see him for order forms and details.



And finally...we all appreciated **Scott Gerrish's** diligent work and creative talent in producing and narrating "1800 Meetings in 18 Minutes" during our recent Charter Day celebration. In recognition of those efforts, **President Sandy** presented Scott with a rare and highly sought after "Bill Oehler Coffee Mug." Thanks for all you do Scott.



“How Social Media Made A Rotary Difference”

Erin Mills had just finished teaching for the day in Montevideo, Uruguay, when her smartphone buzzed with a message.

An impromptu gathering to watch Uruguay's World Cup soccer match was being organized. Through the power of a mobile messaging app, a majority of the Rotary Club of Plaza Matriz had soon assembled at a member's home to munch on baked goods and chips while rooting for their national team.

That enthusiasm and ability to draw a crowd has made the club, which just received its charter in July, a success in the country's capital city.

Made up almost entirely of young professionals, it is the kind of club Rotary is eager to have more of. It has also served as a bridge back to Rotary for former members of Rotaract, who must leave the program when they turn 30.

The club has partnered with PORSALEU, a local charity that provides a place for leukemia patients and their families to stay close to the hospital when they travel to the city for treatment. They held their first fundraiser during the World Cup, auctioning off a jersey signed by Uruguayan footballer Cristian Rodríguez -- through social media. And they're planning a Rotary award night to recognize and encourage humanitarian service, which they are calling the "Golden Wheel."

"It's like an Oscars for Rotary," Mills explains. "Clubs that enter have a chance to win a Golden Wheel in categories such as best outreach program for new members, best service project."

Members are conducting workshops to teach other Rotary members in the city how to use social media to their advantage.

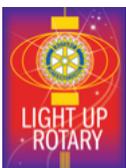


For Mills, the club has also offered a way to get reestablished in Uruguay. She came to Montevideo in 2008 on a scholarship sponsored by the Rotary Club of Casa Grande, Arizona, USA, and joined the Rotaract Club of Paso Molino. About the same time, Nicolas Ortiz, a member of the Rotary

Club of Montevideo and chair of the district's New Generations committee, began running into many of Mills' old friends. He realized that all of these former Rotaractors and the former Rotary Scholar would be the ideal core for a new club, so he encouraged them to start one.

"We were all a little intimidated by the responsibility. Where do you even start? And then there's the financial responsibility involved," Mills recalls. "But he helped us and got his club to sponsor many of our costs, and his club eventually became our sponsor club."

"We're excited to bring Rotary into the next generation," says Mills. (Courtesy of RI)



Rotary Club of Bonita Springs, chartered November 3, 1978, meets every Wednesday at Bonita Bay Club. The Club may be contacted through its mailing address P.O. Box 474, Bonita Springs Florida 34133, or its websites www.bonitaspringsrotary.org, and www.facebook.com/myrotary. **The Spoke**, the Club's official newsletter, is published weekly throughout the year (except when the Club is in recess.) You can reach the Spoke through its email riverchip12-spoke@yahoo.com



**“The Fifty-Fifty”
This Week’s Big Prize—\$1873.50**

Last week a delighted Sara McCallum drew the Jack of Diamonds to win \$5.00. As always,,we’re all winners as the “fifty-fifty” helps keep our Club strong and ready to serve.

**“Rotary Sings”
“When You’re Smiling”**

When you're smilin', when you're smilin'

The whole world smiles with you
When you're laughin', when you're laughin'



The sun comes shinin' through
But when you're cryin', you bring on the rain
So stop your sighin', be happy again
Keep on smilin', 'cause when you're smilin'
The whole world smiles with you



**It's A
Birthday
Celebration!**

**Richard Garner, November 20
Dave Langendorfer (rr)
November 25**



**This
Morning's
Speaker**

Tom Hayden, *News-Press*
Community Conversation
Editor

The 4-Way Test
Of the things we think, say or do.

Is it the **TRUTH**?
Is its **FAIR** to all concerned?
Will it build **GOODWILL**
and **BETTER**
FRIENDSHIPS?
Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to
all concerned?

This Morning's Invocation

Good and Gracious God, in this season of Thanksgiving, we pause to reflect upon what life would be like were it not for Your immeasurable love, grace, and generosity. We give thanks for life itself, for minds to use in creative ways, and for hearts which generate compassion and love. We are grateful for the capacity to worship, to work, and to use those gifts to bring honor and glory to Your name.

As we share today the material gift of food in the context of meaningful relationships, we are grateful for the spiritual realities of life which supersede the material, giving satisfaction to the soul. With thankful hearts, we pray.
Amen.

Your finances. Your future. *Our focus.*

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