



The Spoke



“A Tribute To Polio Eradication”

“Rotarians Help Break Guinness World Record”



To eradicate polio in India, Rotary members displayed impressive coordination and commitment. So it should come as no surprise that Rotary members in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, were able to mobilize more than 40,000 people to create the world's largest human national flag. The tribute to the polio eradication effort qualified as a Guinness World Records-breaking achievement.

"What impressed me most was that all of Rotary was represented: Rotaractors, Interactors, and Rotarians," says RI President Gary C.K. Huang, who participated in the event along with his wife, Corinna, and other Rotary senior leaders. **"They brought their classmates, friends, and co-workers. I think that says a lot about how important it is to the people that India is polio free."**

Participants from all walks of life holding placards stood together on a local fairgrounds to form the Indian flag. Their display broke the record set last year by the Sports Club of Lahore, which organized nearly 30,000 people to form the Pakistani flag.

After breaking the record, local Rotary members, who'd formed the blue wheel in the center of the flag, flipped their placards over to create Rotary wheels, and other Rotary members unfurled a large banner reading "Keep India Polio Free." The organizers, led by District 3230, estimate that another 50,000 people showed up to watch on large TV screens set up outside the event. Once the participants were organized, they had to hold up the placards for more than five minutes to enable the representative from Guinness to verify the new record. *(Courtesy of RI)*

Rotary International President

Gary C. K. Huang
Rotary Club of Taipei, 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

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Trustees of The Foundation of The Rotary Club of Bonita Springs

Nancy Ross, President; Richard Garner, Treasurer; Jim Dati, Secretary
Guy Quinn, Ray Faubion, Ed Houck, John Mathes, Trustees.

LAST WEEK'S MEETING

President Sandy presided. **Chuck Spears** delivered the invocation; Mayor Ben Nelson led the Pledge of Allegiance; and **Jim O'Leary** the 4 Way Test. Musical Director **Ron Anderson** led us in an inspiring version of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic."

A New Member Moment



Every new member initiation ceremony is a celebration, insuring the future of Rotary and its work, introducing fresh ideas, new energy and new interests and offering increased opportunities for community, service, and fellowship. So it was good to witness and celebrate the initiation of **Charles Spears** and **Michael Poff** our Club's newest members. Welcome Charles and Michael.

Your Support and Attendance Is Requested

Bob Lombardo reminded us of the Wounded Warrior Softball Team events taking place this Friday and Saturday. Friday's concert and Saturday's softball doubleheader are both free. Please try to attend both events and encourage your friends and neighbors to do so as well. Our Club will be coordinating beer sales at the

Saturday doubleheader beginning at 4:30. If you have not already signed up, please see Bob for more information. Bob also advised that our dues statements are in the mail. The Club appreciates your attention in promptly forwarding your dues payment. Payment by check is preferred.

Our Speaker

Last week we were pleased and honored to welcome our friend Bonita Springs Mayor Ben Nelson to our Club podium. Ben is one of Bonita Springs' original Council members, having served on Council for eight years and now serving his second term as Mayor. He is committed to his community, having been named Bonita Springs Citizen of the Year in 2008 and finalist for both the Uncommon Friends Business Ethics Award in 2010 and the News-Press Person of the Year Award in 2012. He has also been named one of "Southwest Florida Elite Power Eight" by Gulf Shore Business.



Mayor Nelson offered both a retrospective and perspective on the growth and progress of the City of Bonita Springs since residents voted to incorporate in 1999. He described the process, courage, and decisions that went into implementing the infrastructure and policy necessary to create a City that today enjoys both "Small Town Charm" and a "Big Bright Future." He spoke of the City's need to invest in itself and offered several examples of the good and positive results of such investment. Thank you Mr. Mayor for your leadership, your service, and a most insightful presentation.

“Around the Club”

Holidays Without Hunger



This happy group of Rotarians joined their friends and neighbors for the Holidays Without Hunger/Meals of Hope food packing event Christmas Eve at the Harborside Event Center. 535,488 meals were packed that morning—thanks to all who helped accomplish that noble and wonderful task and to **Nancy Ross** for organizing and coordinating our Club’s participation.

Wendy Arsenault reported on our Poinsettia Sale. Preliminary information suggests that our Club garnered a profit of approximately \$6100. **Scott Anderson** updated us on the Christmas Tree Sale. We sold 496 trees. Final information is currently being tabulated and Scott advises that a complete report on that successful sale will be forthcoming shortly. Thanks to all who

helped make these important fundraising events a success.

Honoring A Rotarian Tradition

One of the most colorful and time-honored Rotarian traditions is the exchange of Club banners which tradition represents a wonderful expression of international friendship. The Rotary International Board recognized the growing popularity of banner exchanges in 1959 and recommended that banners include

pictures or designs portraying the Club, its community, and its region. Such tradition and practice was highlighted at a recent Club meeting as Visiting Rotarian



Paul Gavin, representing the Vista Hi Noon Rotary Club, exchanged his Club’s banner with **President Sandy**.

Some Important Reminders



Sgt. at Arms George announced that our Reverse Raffle will be held March 14. Tickets are on their way. **Susan Schmitt** briefed us on this year’s shirt sale which begins this week. Be sure to

watch your email for an order form.



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—\$2283.50**

Last week an ecstatic Tom Briers drew the Two of Diamonds to win \$500.
As always...we're all winners as the "fifty-fifty" helps keep our Club strong and ready to serve.



**"Rotary Sings"
Puff The Magic Dragon**

Puff, the magic dragon lived by the sea
And frolicked in the autumn mist
in a land called Honnah Lee
Little Jackie Paper loved that rascal Puff
And brought him strings and sealing wax and other fancy stuff, oh!

Puff, the magic dragon lived by the sea
And frolicked in the autumn mist
in a land called Honnah Lee
Puff, the magic dragon lived by the sea
And frolicked in the autumn mist
in a land called Honnah Lee



It's A Birthday Celebration!

- Ron Anderson, January 8**
- Don Manley, January 12**
- Gary Colecchio, January 18**
- Bob Rosier, January 19**
- Marjorie Rubacky, January 19**



This Morning's Speaker

Club Assembly

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

Loving and Gracious God, whose existence we humbly and gratefully acknowledge, within whose Providence we have been held since last we gathered here, and from whose beneficent Hand we have received bounties unnumbered, bless now this gathering with Your presence.

Be with us at these tables that our fellowship will be wholesome and meaningful, and that the noble purposes of our club will receive our renewed commitment. To that end, bless the food prepared for us that strength will be sustained for tasks awaiting us. As we return to our places of labor and leadership, or to moments of leisure, help us discern the difference between right and wrong, to have the will to follow the right. Amen.

Your finances. Your future. *Our focus.*

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