



The Spoke

A Celebration of Service

Our Rotaractors Embody Vision and Leadership



A Club visit by our FGCU Rotaractors is always a signature event as it reminds us of the goodness that is Rotaract and the hard work and devotion that continues to make Rotaract a reality at FGCU.

Last Wednesday was no exception as **Tom Burgess** introduced us to Sarah Frank, Rozzelle Santos and Antoine de Maleissye-Melon current members of FGCU's Rotaract Club.

As the Club's Treasurer, Antoine offered an overview of Rotaract's impact and contribution at FGCU. From a game of broom ball, volunteering at the Sanibel Arts Festival, working at the Harry Chapin Food Bank and organizing an international service trip to Costa Rica, it is clear that FGCU Rotaractors understand the meaning and implication of "Service Above Self."

Thanks Sarah, Rozzelle, and Antoine. Visit us often as you remind us of the vision that is Rotary. And continuing thanks to Tom and his Committee for making all this a continuing reality.

Rotary International

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Yashio, Saitama, Japan

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The Rotary Club of Anna Maria Island

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Nancy Ross
The Rotary Club of Bonita Springs

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Nancy Ross, President; Steve McIntosh, Secretary; Tom Burgess, Treasurer; Fred Partin, Guy Quinn, Ray Faubion, John Mathes, Trustees

LAST WEEK'S MEETING

President Stephanie presided. **Jay Berube** led the invocation; **Adam Botana** the Pledge of Allegiance and **Jonathan Shaw** the 4-Way Test. **Ron Anderson** conducted a creative rendition of "America the Beautiful."

Make a Fashion Statement...for the next two weeks **Susan Schmitt** will be taking orders for Rotary garb. See Susan after today's meeting and learn how you can add Rotary apparel to your wardrobe.

Bob Lombardo reminded us that our annual Gift of Life Mini Golf Tournament will take place at Congo River March 20. A sign up sheet is available to buy tickets. Please do so and plan on attending this important fundraiser in support of Gift of Life. Flag and hole sponsor sheet up sheets are also available.

Bobbi Bird briefed us on the upcoming Relay for Life activities. (The Bonita Springs Relay takes place on April 6 and 7.) First, we need to organize a team. Second, we need to raise funds and support the Relay drawing for a flat screen TV. See Bobbi for information on both of

those initiatives.

Drew-Montez Clark stepped into last week's Member Spotlight. A native of Danville, Virginia, Drew was the second of three sons. He is a graduate of Virginia Tech (where he played football) and went on to earn his Doctorate from Life University in Atlanta, Georgia.

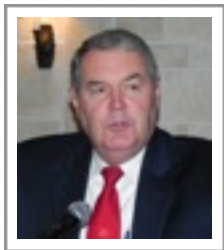


Drew spoke eloquently about his "defining moment," a mission trip to Guatemala. He reflected on the generosity of the people he met during that trip and found that experience

humbling and inspirational.

An Upper Cervical Chiropractor at Arc of Life Family Spinal Care, Drew is glad to have found his home here in Southwest Florida. Welcome Drew--we're happy you're a member of our Club.

LASTWEEK'S PROGRAM: "LEE COUNTY SCHOOLS UPDATE"

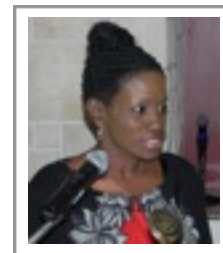


Last week our Rotary podium was privileged to welcome Dr. Joseph Burke, Superintendent of Lee County Public Schools and Dr. Deedara

Hicks, Executive Director of South Zone. Their presentations offered an excellent overview of the activities of our Pubic School System and challenges facing contemporary public education. Dr. Burke described the "perfect storm" facing educators as budgetary realities and a reevaluation of the ways in which classroom proficiency is measured challenges educators and students alike. Dr. Burke noted that a more complex student population not only requires additional resources

but creates new challenges for teachers both in the classroom and in their confidence that they can get their students to the academic standards that are being demanded by the public and the international community.

Dr. Hicks supervises thirty schools in south Lee County and focuses on school improvement. She noted and acknowledged the support organizations such as ours offer the schools. Thank you Dr. Burke and Dr. Hicks for your leadership.



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@vahoo.com.

**From Our President:
“A Message, A Challenge, and An
Opportunity”**

Dear fellow Rotarians,

In December, I spoke at the first of the three Rotary Global Peace Forums we have planned for this Rotary year. This first event, with the theme “Peace Without Borders,” was held in Berlin, the home of the Berlin Peace Clock. The clock, intended as a piece of art, is 3 meters high and weighs over 2



tons. On its side are inscribed the words, Time bursts all walls asunder.

The clock was unveiled

on 9 November 1989. That was the day the Berlin Wall fell. It was a wonderful coincidence that the moment the hands on the clock began to move, the orders were given to open the border to West Berlin. The words written on the side of the clock had come true.

In Rotary, we do not divide our work by nation, culture, or language. It does not matter what is printed in your passport. What matters is that you believe in Service Above Self. But even in Rotary, it is easy to think in terms of countries or communities. This project may help someone in my own community, or that project may help someone from Germany, or Kenya, or South Africa. Sometimes we think of

different types of borders. This project, we think, helps the young. This helps the elderly. This helps people who are hungry, poor, or sick, or who have disabilities.

The truth is that Service Above Self does not know such borders. When we serve, the impact is not limited to our community, or the community we are helping. We are not only helping the young, or the elderly, or this school, or that orphanage. When we serve, we are helping all of humanity. The effects of what we do go on and on.

When we put Service Above Self, we are making a choice. We are choosing to put other people’s needs ahead of our own desires. We are saying, “Your



problems are my problems, and I care enough to help you.”

Rotary brings peace by addressing

the needs that cause conflict: the need for clean water, for nutrition, sanitation, and health care. When these needs are met, there is opportunity. And there is hope. Hope has no borders. It is the garden from which peace can grow.

Peace Through Service brings out the best in us. It makes us aware of the borders we set up around ourselves – and it helps us tear them down.

Sakuji Tanaka, President, Rotary International



"The Fifty-Fifty"
This Week's Big Prize--\$2079

An ecstatic Rex Sims drew the King of Spades to win \$500.

As always...we're all winners as the "fifty-fifty" helps keep our Club strong and ready to serve.

"Rotary Sings"
Red River Valley

From this valley they say you are going



We will miss your bright eyes and sweet smile

For they say you

are taking the sunshine

That has brightened our pathways awhile

CHORUS:

Come and sit by my side, if you love me

Do not hasten to bid me adieu
Just remember the Red River Valley

And the cowboy who loved you so true.

I've been thinking a long time, my darling

Of the sweet words you never would say

Now, alas must my fond hopes all vanish

For they say you are going away
Do you think of the valley you're leaving

O how lonely and dreary it will be
And do you think of the kind heart you're breaking

And the pain you are causing to me.

CHORUS:

The will bury me where you have wandered

Near the hills were the daffodils grow

When you're gone from the Red River Valley

For I can't lie without you I know

CHORUS



Our Upcoming Speakers

This Morning, Robert Cacioppo, Founder "Florida Repertory Theatre"

March 6, Dr. Allen Weiss, "Naples Community Hospital."

March 13, Dr. Clinton Cottrell "Air Traffic Events of 9/11."

March 20, Denise Wheeler, "Employment Law."

March 27, Mei-Mei Chan, "The Newspaper Industry Today"



It's A Birthday Celebration!

Jim Renfro, March 2
Jim Friedgen, March 5

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?

Your finances. Your future. *Our focus.*

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