



The Spoke

“A Lifetime Legacy”

“Rotary Scholarships Make A Difference”



Last week **Steve Krchniak** read an email he received from Laura (Thimling) Hagler our Club’s Ambassadorial Scholar during the Club’s 2001-2002 year. Laura offered the following positive and uplifting observations:

My name is Laura Hagler, and I was a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar representing the Bonita Springs, FL Rotary Club in 2002-2003. I wanted to reach out to say hello and thank your club again for selecting and supporting me during my study abroad and intercultural experience in the UK. I still keep in touch with my host parents from Lancaster as well as Steve and Nancy Krchniak, who encouraged me from Florida. After returning to complete university, I moved to Japan for 5 years to teach English where I met my husband who was doing the same. Rotary gave me my first opportunity to live abroad, and lit that fire in me. While in Japan, our local expat group put on annual Charity Musical Shows to raise money for a variety of organizations, and volunteered a lot of time teaching and interacting with local children to promote international understanding.

Laura’s email confirms a fact of which we can all be proud, namely, the Rotary Foundation’s rich history of finding scholarships for undergraduate and graduate study in a wide range of academic fields. So whether it is teaching English in Japan as did Laura or overseeing a landscape design class in Rignac (shown above) Rotary makes it possible for students to gain education and truly “make a difference.”

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The Rotary Club of Bonita Springs, Noon

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Stephanie Kissinger, President; Nancy Ross, Secretary; Richard Garner, Treasurer; Guy Quinn, Ray Faubion, Ed Houck, John Mathes, Trustees

LASTWEEK'S MEETING

President Sandy presided. **Jim Friedgen** delivered the invocation; our guest speaker Christine Ross led the Pledge of Allegiance; and **Ken King** the 4 Way Test. **Dale Timple** provided musical accompaniment to a very engaging and unique version of "Dock on Bonita Bay."

New Member Moment

Peter Zahner, our Membership Chair conducted an initiation ceremony which confirmed **Scott Vail** as our newest member. Welcome Scott—we are glad you are a member of our Club.



Congratulations Tom

Our meetings often provide unexpected and poignant Rotarian moments. Such was the case last week as **President Sandy** presented **Tom Briers** with his President-elect pin. Congratulations Tom and thanks

for your generosity of time and talent.

A District "Signature Event"

If you haven't already done so, please mark your calendars now and plan on participating in one of our District's signature events—Dictionary

Day. Two dates require your attention. The first, "Labeling Day," starts at 8 am Saturday September 6 at the Lee County School District Offices (located at the corner of Colonial and Metro). The second, the actual dictionary distribution day, is Friday, October 3rd. Please see **Roger Brunswick** for additional information.

Rotary Leadership Institute

The Rotary Leadership Institute or "RLI" is a leadership development program. Its purpose is that of providing background and education in Rotary and related leadership skills. **President Sandy** advised that the "Sunshine Division" of RLI is hosting a Leadership Institute September 27 at the Cultural Center of Charlotte County. You can register for the event online on our

District website.

Last Week's Speaker

Last week we welcomed our friend Christine Ross, President and CEO of the Bonita Springs Area Chamber of Commerce. Christine has extensive experience in economic development, serving as Executive Director of the Bonita Springs Estero Economic Development Council and on the National Board of Directors for the American Chamber of Commerce Executives. She holds a Master of Business Administration and a Master of Science Degree in Marketing both from the University of Maryland. Christine provided us a comprehensive and regional economic overview and update. Thanks Christine for your leadership and your vision.



From RI: “Rotary Helps Young Writers Get Published”

In Jamaica, 11-year-old Jordan Allwood reads his classmates a story about a lonely puppy who finds a new family. The puppy grows into a big dog, enjoys walks along the beach, and survives a frightening autumn day when he is caught in a trap before being rescued by his family. Jordan's story is one of hundreds that were written by children ages 7-11 for a writing contest organized by the Rotary E-Club of the Caribbean 7020 and supported by clubs in 10 Caribbean nations.

The best stories, including Jordan's, were published in "The Butterfly StoryBook," produced by the club and sold through Amazon.com. Rotary members and others are encouraged to donate copies to school libraries. Proceeds are used to support other literacy efforts.

In July, Rotary International and the International Reading Association (IRA) selected the Butterfly StoryBook project and a summer mobile library project run by the Rotary Club of Ellensburg Morning, Washington, USA, to receive two \$2,500 awards from the Pearson Foundation. The awards recognize projects in which Rotary clubs and local IRA-affiliated reading councils collaborate to strengthen literacy in local and international communities. Rotary and the IRA have been project partners since 2002.

"It's been a great shot in the arm for our club, which only just chartered last year," says White. "We tried to think of things we could do

specifically that didn't require everyone getting together in one place. This project has been more successful than we could have imagined and has been a great source of pride for our members."

In 2013, the contest's first year, 200 children contributed stories. This year, 300 young writers took part. Each club selects three local winners, who receive certificates. Then a panel of judges from the e-club chooses 10 stories from among all of those to include in "The Butterfly StoryBook." Each of those young authors receives \$50 in books.



This year, the e-club provided a free copy of the e-book to the Jamaica Reading Association, an IRA-affiliated council, which used it in its annual Reading Week in April. The association signed an agreement with the club to further promote the contest throughout the Caribbean. Rotary clubs in the U.S. Virgin Islands purchased 500 copies for the Summer Reading Challenge held there. Clubs have also purchased copies to donate to schools in Canada, Ethiopia, Haiti, India, and the United Kingdom.

"We get a lot of smiles," says Laurent, who became a member of the Rotary club as a result of the project. "The children in these communities tend to be underserved, and many of them have very few books in their homes."



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—\$1035**

Last week an ebullient Len Eckert drew the Nine of Diamonds to win \$500. As always,,we're all winners as the "fifty-fifty" helps keep our Club strong and ready to serve.



It's A Birthday Celebration!

Joe Murgalo, August 27



This Morning's Speaker

Dr. Stefan Gehrold

**"Rotary Sings"
*America The Beautiful***

O beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain!
America! America!
God shed his grace on thee
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!

O beautiful for patriot dream
That sees beyond the years
Thine alabaster cities gleam
Undimmed by human tears!
America! America!
God shed his grace on thee
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!

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, we come humbly into your presence by this avenue of prayer, expressing both our gratitude for gifts received, and our yearnings to be used as gifts to others.

To that end, grant us visions of service yet unrendered, an awareness of goals yet unattained and hopes yet unrealized. Give us zeal and power to bring to reality the good and worthy things waiting to be done, and confirm our efforts by your assistance without which we labor in vain.

Strengthen us now by food prepared and enjoyed. Enlighten us through productive conversations, and go with us as we return to waiting opportunities to make the day better for others. Amen.

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