



# The Spoke



## “Bringing Sight to China”

*“Rotary Partnerships Make A Difference”*



Seeing an elderly Tibetan woman weep with joy when cataract surgery restored her vision after 10 years is the kind of moment Dave Razo will never tire of.

For several summers Razo, a member of the Rotary Club of Warner Robins, Georgia, USA, traveled to rural northwest China with a team from Georgia-based nonprofit Gansu, Inc., to provide free sight-restoring cataract surgery to some of the country's poorest residents. In 2012, after 22 years and 6,000 successful procedures, Gansu's founder, ophthalmologist William Conrad, retired and discontinued the organization's operations.

**But Razo didn't want the effort to end. He had seen how life-changing the surgery could be, not only for the patients but for their families and their community.**

During one of his missions with Gansu, Razo had met Frank Yih, of the Rotary Club of Shanghai. Yih, who is chair of the nonprofit HuaQiao Foundation, which

provides in-country logistical support for international charities, arranged housing for team members during their last two visits to China. When Gansu closed its doors, Razo's Rotary club and the Shanghai club partnered to fund cataract surgery for 400 people at two hospitals in the northeast provinces of Shandong, Gansu, and Qinghai, as well as remote areas closer to Shanghai.

The clubs raised a total of \$46,000, including \$21,000 in matching funds from The Rotary Foundation. The surgeries, each of which cost about \$110 and took about two hours, were completed in June. The Shanghai club collaborated with Visions in Practice an organization that provides surgical training, consultation, and assistance to eye care institutions and professionals, to oversee the procedures and assist hospital staff.

Yih says the grant project has introduced a low-cost, high-quality cataract surgery model into the Chinese health care system, and he hopes his club can help expand the effort.

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Rotary Club of Taipei, Taiwan

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## LAST WEEK'S MEETING

**President Sandy** presided. Rotaractor Andy Aguirre delivered the invocation; **Frank Liles** led the Pledge of Allegiance; and **Dave Shellenbarger** the 4 Way Test. Musical Director **Ron Anderson** led us in a rousing version of "When The Saints Go Marching In."

### Wounded Warriors Initiative

**President Sandy** reminded us of upcoming Wounded Warriors softball event, a collaborative project which will allow us to support and enjoy their doubleheader in January. As part of that initiative, we are making available copies of the book "Battlefield to Ball Field" for \$20 which funds support the

Wounded Warriors softball team. If you are interested in obtaining a copy, please see **Bobbi Bird** or **Bob Gillette**.

### Congratulations and Thanks

It's always good to visit with our Assistant Governor Rick Perry. Last week Rick presented **President Sandy** and **Immediate Past President Bobbi**, on behalf of us all, a Certificate of Appreciation for our Club's financial support of the End Polio Now/Make History Today Campaign. Thanks to everyone in the Club for their continuing generosity and commitment to this most Rotarian of initiatives.

### "In Full Bloom"

Our Poinsettia Sale that is—and **Susan Schmitt** and **Scott Vail** briefed on the ways in which we can become involved in this year's sale. To place your order your poinsettias see please Susan or Scott.

## Our Speakers

The Bonita Springs Historical Society, Inc was formed in 1984 by individuals who shared a common interest in discovering and preserving the unique heritage of our community. Members are involved in historical preservation on the local and county levels. So it was good to hear from Jane Whitehead and Ronda Lyles Lawhon, President and Board member of the Historical Society. Jane and Ronda reported on the restoration of the McSwain House and led us in a very interesting and interactive "quiz" highlighting the rich history of our City. Thanks for visiting.



## Rotaract Update

We always enjoy visits from our FGCU Rotaractors and last week Robert Guido, President of the FGCU Chapter, updated us on their activities. Our Rotaractors have participated along with 800 other volunteers to clean-up our beaches and also helped label dictionaries. Robert advises that the Club's main focus is a trip they are planning to Kenya to offer a music and arts program for eight orphanages. Last week's Rotaract presentation offers a great reminder of Club's mentoring program. If you haven't already done so, considering seeing **Tom Burgess** or any member of his Committee to discuss ways of getting involved in our our Rotaract initiatives.



## “Halloween in the Park”



As this happy group of Rotarians can attest, participating in Halloween in the Park is a great way to begin one’s Halloween celebration. Our table teemed with sweets and smiles.

## “Our President’s November Message”

Four months into this year of working to Light Up Rotary, I am more excited about Rotary than ever before. I've been to 22 countries, visited dozens of cities, and met thousands of Rotarians. I've seen amazing projects and been inspired over and over again by the terrific work Rotarians do all over the world.

You could say that Rotary is built of service: Each project is another brick in the big building that is Rotary. If our service forms the bricks, then there is no question that friendship is the mortar that holds those bricks together. I see this every day, but nowhere more clearly than at some of the most special Rotary club events: their centennial celebrations.

Being president of Rotary International in its 110th year, I've been lucky to take part in a number of these. It is natural, when visiting long-serving clubs, to want to know what their secret is – because I have always

noticed that the longest-serving clubs are also some of the most productive. They are large, they are active, and they do great work. Not only that, but they have a great time doing it.



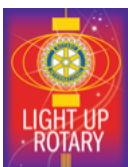
Of course, that is their secret: In Rotary, strong friendships and great service go hand in hand. When we enjoy our work, we want to do it. We want to work harder, and we want to work better. We look forward to Rotary meetings. Even when our lives are busy, we make Rotary a priority – because we want to see our friends, and we want to serve.

In Chinese, we say:

如果人生没有朋友，就等于没有太阳。

A life without a friend is a life without sun.

Our Rotary friendships give light to our lives, and it is Rotary friendship – as well as service – that lets us Light Up Rotary. *(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](http://www.bonitaspringsrotary.org). and [www.facebook.com/myrotary](http://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](mailto:riverchip12-spoke@yahoo.com)



### "The Fifty-Fifty" This Week's Big Prize—\$1712

Last week, an ebullient Carl Schwing drew the Ace of Spades to win \$100.00. We, along with Carl, are always winners as the "fifty-fifty" helps keep our Club strong and ready to serve. And thanks Carl for your generous donation of one-half of your prize to "Halloween in the Park."

### "Rotary Sings" "When You're Smiling"



When you're smiling  
When you're smiling  
The whole world smiles with you

When you're laughing  
When you're laughing  
The sun comes shining through

But when you're crying  
You bring on the rain  
So stop your sighing, be happy again  
Keep on smiling  
'Cause when you're smiling  
The whole world smiles with you



### It's A Birthday Celebration!

**Bob Lombardo, November 10**



### This Morning's Speaker

Club Assembly  
"Founder's Day"

### This Morning's Invocation

Good and Gracious God, we pray for Your presence and benevolent power to be felt by our friends and family as they deal with the uncertainties of life. We hold in prayer also that vast number of people around the world who are benefiting from the generous work of the Rotary Foundation, the object of this month's designation. Take all efforts expended by Rotarians and use them in accord with Your will. Use each of us in our own spheres of influence to make life better for someone else.

For the material things of life which we have in comparative abundance, we offer our thanks including food to sustain our bodies. Thank you also for the ability to enjoy fellowship with others, and with You in prayer. Amen.

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?

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