

Julie's Weekly Rotary E-Newsletter – Mini-Spoke, January 6, 2026

STILL NEED 4 VOLUNTEERS - Arts Bonita Art Festival on Jan. 10: Seeking four (4) additional Rotary Club members (and spouses) to join the Rotary Club of Bonita Springs Team to staff the gate on Saturday, Jan. 10, for the Arts Bonita **Arts Festival**.

Volunteers should wear their "Rotarians at Work" shirt. Please reach out to Angela Swanepoel (203.915.4275; aswanepoel@gmail.com) or Alyona Ushe (561.245.0180; ushe@artsbonita.org) to sign up to greet guests, wearing your "Rotarian at Work" shirt.

DATE: Saturday, January 10

TIME: 8am-12pm

ROLE: Gate Attendant and Greeter (together with your Rotary colleagues)

First (Second) Thursday: Our host Steve Sims will welcome us at 6 p.m. Thursday, January 8, at Fernandez the Bull, Cuban Restaurant, 3250 Bonita Beach Road, SW, Unit 207 (NW corner of Bonita Beach Road and Hwy 41, just east of Synovus Bank, southeast of Publix.)

Upcoming Programs:

- **Jan. 8:** Club Assembly, featuring Chris Riesen providing an update about our Rotary Club Foundation, Jim Fitzpatrick sharing our mid-year financial picture. In addition, new member Lisa Rozanski will talk about her new school for children with special needs – a life skills training center for neurodivergent adolescents in South Fort Myers. **BONUS:** We will be installing two new members (Jules Inman, Baywater Boat Club, and Tom Snyder, Contractor) and awarding a Blue Badge to Joshua Gutierrez. And **SUPER BONUS:** Joe Murgalo will lead the EZ-Cash drawing for January. Who wants to win \$100 or \$250 or \$500?!?
- **Upcoming: January Speaker Chair Gary Price** has lined up these programs:
Jan. 15: Frank Kinsey to talk about the Storm Surge Threat and how we can protect our community. **Jan. 22:** Jacob Winge will present a history of 250 years in Southwest Florida. **Jan. 29:** Caily Martin, Director of Operations, will provide an update about the Bonita Springs Assistance Office.

Former Rotarian Robert R. Lorenz Passed Away at 95: Bob Lorenz passed away on Christmas Day. A memorial service commemorating Bob's life will be held at 11 a.m. Monday, Jan. 19, at First Presbyterian Church of Bonita Springs. Memorials to First Presbyterian, Bonita Senior Center or the Café of Life of Bonita Springs.

<https://www.marconews.com/obituaries/psar1371882>

Fundraisers – We Need Support From Every Club Member

Everblades Hockey Game: Now that the strike issue appears to have been resolved, order your tickets today for the **Wednesday, January 14** game with the Everblades (1st Place in South Division) vs. Jacksonville. Game starts at 7:30 pm. **Buy Your Tickets**

Now: Use this link to buy tickets to the Rotary/Blades fundraiser games. Hope to see you Jan. 14 at Hertz Arena!

Do you drive a Lexus? If you own a Lexus and are one of the first 50 Lexus owners to show, you can park free!

[Florida Everblades - Powered by Spinzo](#)

Only \$35/ticket for premium seats. Some games offer special beer & hot dog prices. Invite family, friends and neighbors. Go Blades and Go Rotary! Upcoming Games:

- Wednesday, Feb. 11, 7:30 p.m. vs. Maine
- Wednesday, March 25, 7:30 p.m. vs. Savannah
- Friday, April 10, 7:30 p.m. South Carolina

Rotary Raffle With a Twist – Saturday, March 21, 2026, at St. Leo’s Church: Reach out to Mike Poff and Wendy Arsenault if you are able to assist in securing silent auction items, including gift certificates to restaurants, hotels, golf courses and retail stores. They are especially interested in “experiences,” such as weekends or a week at your summer | second home, or the “Sicilian Dinner for Four” which Bob Lombardo will be offering at his beautiful Bonita Bay home. Even helping to secure two or three items/experiences will make a big difference in the funds we are able to raise to support our community. Mike: 989.330.1524; Wendy: 239.287.4545.

Club Service:

2026 Invocation, Greeter and Registration Desk: Please sign up to provide an invocation, serve as a greeter or staff the registration desk. See attached sign-up sheet and reach out to me with preferred roles and dates. Julie: 414.861.3077.

Global Impact:

Gift of Life Gala: Consider joining your Rotary friends in support of Gift of Life, an incredible international program providing life-saving surgeries for babies with congenital heart defects. 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 7 in Venice. See attached flyer for details.

Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change across the globe, in our communities and in ourselves. “Our projects bring together people of all races, religions, genders, ideologies and economic backgrounds, uniting us in a shared purpose to **do good in the world**. Let’s build a Rotary that **unites for good** and ensures a brighter future for all.”

Best wishes for a Happy & Healthy New Year!

Julie

Julie Pedretti, President, Rotary Club of Bonita Springs

