



The Spoke



“A Hand-Clasp for the New Year”

“A Timeless Affirmation of What It Means to be Rotarian ”

The January, 1915 *Rotarian* contained the following message from RI President Frank L. Mulholland. It described then, now, and always what it means to be Rotarian. Happy New Year.

“It is a rare privilege to have an opportunity to greet my fellow Rotarians in this, the Yule-tide season. This is a time for new leaves to be turned over, new resolutions formed, and new life begun.

If we only stopped to consider, we would know that every day is a new leaf, a beginning again, an opportunity. But we are so accustomed to “resolve” for the new year, and as its dawn is discernible in the east, this is a day to begin to live. It is the smile season anyway, and one who had not learned to smile has failed to live. It is a good resolution that you “will smile awhile, for while you smile another smiles, and soon there are miles and miles of smiles, and life is worth while because you smile.”

This will be a great year for you and me, if we learn to smile, live, laugh and love. If we carry sunshine and good cheer throughout all the day, the whole year will be a Yule-tide season. Thus we will never grow old, and as time goes on we can gather only beautiful and fragrant flowers from the fields of memory, for:

Kind hearts are the garden,
Kind thoughts are the roots,
Kind words are the blossoms,
Kind deeds are the fruits.

No one of us can tell what the new year holds in store. Our past experience guarantees that there will be sunny days and dark days, pleasures and pain, successes and failures, and it is well to know that:

.....
The test of the heart is trouble
And it always comes with years,
But the man who is worth
All the praises of earth,
Is the man who smiles through tears.

Rotary is the brightest inspiration that has reached the business world. It has an individual message as well as a social message. It relates itself to your present, supreme interest. It will help you to smile, live, laugh and love....So, my fellows, here’s a smile, a thought, a hand clasp and a sincere New Year’s Greeting, with the hope that this year may be your best year, that you will smile, live, laugh, love and thus make life worth while and bring all blessings that life can hold.”

Rotarily yours,

Toledo, January 1, 1915

Frank L. Mulholland

Rotary International President

Gary C. K. Huang
Rotary Club of Tapei, 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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LASTWEEK'S MEETING

President Sandy presided. Rev. Dr. Doug Pratt delivered the invocation; **Gerry Myers** led the Pledge of Allegiance; and **Ron Anderson** the 4 Way



Test. Our popular and well-regarded Rotary Chorus (shown left) led us

in an extended, comprehensive, and festive version of "The Twelve Months of Rotary."

Our Resource Center Needs You



Our Rotary/ Rotaract Resource Center has been developed to provide a meaningful and robust mentoring experience for our FGCU Rotaractors. As of last meeting 32 of us had registered for the Resource Center. **Jack Powers** offered an update on the

Center's networking initiatives for 2015. If you haven't already done so, please see **Jack Powers** or **Tom Burgess**, fill out the registration form and help make a difference.

Thanks for Your Help

Thanks to **Scott Anderson**, his committee, and all who devoted their time, energy, and enthusiasm to make this year's Christmas Tree Sale a success. As it does every year, "our tent" provides a number of lasting Holiday memories. And to underscore that fact, **Ray Faubion** was kind enough to forward along the above picture of **Carl Nickel** busily preparing and planning for next year's sale.



Our Speaker



We were pleased to welcome our good friend Rev. Dr. Douglas G. Pratt to our Rotary podium. Currently serving as Senior Pastor and Head of Staff at First Presbyterian Church, Doug has been an ordained Presbyterian minister since 1979 with degrees from Allegheny College, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, and Fuller Theological Seminary. He has served the First Presbyterian Church Congregation since 2004.

The topic of Doug's talk was "Amazing Stories Among Us" and utilized that theme of inspiring stories to introduce us to the Bonita Christian Forum. The Forum was established in 2005 by First Presbyterian Church to enrich the cultural and spiritual life of the Bonita Springs area.

The Forum will be presenting several inspiring speakers in 2015, among them Gretchen Carlson, Eric Metaxas, and Chris Spielman. Thanks Doug for a very interesting and enjoyable presentation.

And finally...sponsorship opportunities are still available in support of the upcoming Wounded Warrior weekend. If you would like more information on how you can participate please see **Bobbi Bird**.

“On Building Trust”

For decades, the small, pastoral communities in northern Kenya have been caught in a cycle of violence. Tribes have shed blood over distrust, scarce resources, and the theft of livestock.

Rotary Scholar Monica Kinyua founded the Children Peace Initiative (CPI) Kenya with her twin sister, Jane Wanjiru, to end the fighting by building friendships between children from different tribes.

Earlier this year, the sisters used a global grant sponsored by Rotary members in San Diego, California, and the Rotary Club of Nairobi to conduct a peace camp for children in Baragoi, Samburu County, one of the most dangerous in northern Kenya.

During the peace camp in May 2014, Turkana students from three community schools and Samburu students from three schools along with their teachers mingled for five days of ice-breaking and bonding activities. At the end of each camp, every child is strongly encouraged to make a friend with a child from another tribe.

CPI Kenya volunteers also organized events in Marsabit County where children who had formed friendships with children from neighboring communities invited their parents to meet their friends, and in the process the two families formed friendships.

Monica contacted Rotary for help following a series of serendipitous events that began in 2011. She had just been selected to receive a

scholarship to the University of San Diego to pursue a master's in peace and justice, but she had no means of paying her living expenses. Days before she had to decide whether to accept the scholarship, she attended a Rotaract club she was considering joining.

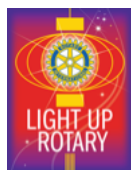


Carol Kurth, a college student from San Diego, was also visiting the club that day as part of a trip she was taking through another nonprofit. Her mother, San Diego Rotary member Janice Kurth, had spent time in Kenya on a Rotary vocational exchange 18 months earlier.

Kurth said Monica became like another daughter to her during the scholarship. Near its conclusion, Kurth called one of her contacts in Kenya, Rotary Club of Nairobi member Sudish Walia, and they began putting together a global grant to fund Monica's work.

More communities have requested CPI Kenya's help as they hear about the work the sisters are doing. At the end of each peace camp, community leaders recommend other villages that would be helped by the program.

Monica, who serves as executive director of CPI Kenya, says her Rotary scholarship helped her become a better leader and form a wider network of support. She got to know Interactions for Peace, a nonprofit based in San Diego, through a Rotary member, and is now partnering with the group. The University of San Diego has also lent support. *(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. 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—\$2168**

Last week a delighted Ron Anderson drew the Six of Clubs 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!

***Hal Cooper, January 3
Peter Zahner, January 3***



This Morning's Speaker

**Mayor Ben Nelson
City of Bonita Springs**

**"Rotary Sings"
Battle Hymn of the Republic**

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord;
He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;
He hath loosed the fateful lightning of His terrible swift sword:
His truth is marching on.

(Chorus)

Glory, glory, hallelujah!
Glory, glory, hallelujah!
Glory, glory, hallelujah!
His truth is marching on.

I have seen Him in the watch-fires of a hundred circling camps,
They have builded Him an altar in the evening dews and damps;
I can read His righteous sentence by the dim and flaring lamps:
His day is marching on.

(Chorus)

**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, as the new year stretches before us, help us not to have sighs of remorse for things undone. Help us not to so bewail our by-gone yesterdays that our bright tomorrows fail to receive full attention.

As the months unfold, we shall be grateful for every new hour brought to birth for our use. Inspire and strengthen us to make worthy use of the precious time entrusted to us. Help us to discharge our duties with diligence and to seize every opportunity with eagerness to serve. In this Rotary Awareness Month, help us to be constantly aware of the blessings You have bestowed upon the far-flung enterprise in which we are privileged to be engaged. Be with us now as we enjoy the blessings of food and fellowship in the spirit of togetherness which binds us together in our common cause. Thank you for calling us to be servants. Amen.

Your finances. Your future. *Our focus.*

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