



The Spoke

“A Headliner”

Actress Amanda Hootman To Star in “It’s A Wonderful Life”



“It’s A Wonderful Life” Director Dan Lombardo recently issued the following, exciting press release to the Spoke:

I’m happy to announce the casting of a terrific actress, Amanda Hootman. She’s a professional Equity actress...and completed three years training at a British drama school. She’s been working in theater in London since graduating, and is currently touring the UK with a new musical based on *A Christmas Carol*.

Amanda, who hails from Fort Myers, will be playing Mary Hatch Bailey and Young Mary. She will be joined by a talented and extraordinary cast which will include Club Members **George Cohan, Sue Masters, Bill Banfield, and Mark Generales.**

Tickets to “It’s A Wonderful Life” are currently available. They can be purchased by returning a completed ticket order form to **Wendy Arsenault** or online at our Club website. Plan to be part of a magical and memorable evening of theatre February 11 through 13.

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The Rotary Club of Bonita
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LAST WEEK'S MEETING

President Bobbi presided and delivered the invocation; **Ken King** led the Pledge of Allegiance; and **Sara McCallum** the 4 Way Test. **Ron Anderson** led a rousing version of "God Bless America."

Peter Zahner presided over a Red to Blue Badge Ceremony, honoring and celebrating **Morgan Eldridge** and **Drew Montez-Clark** completing those tasks necessary to earn the Rotary Blue Badge. Congratulations and welcome Morgan and Drew.

Jon McLeod rolled out a new and innovative fundraiser in support of Gift of Life. **Carl Nickel** recently escorted "several" twelve packs of New Glarus beer back from his trip to Wisconsin, the exclusive brew becoming the subject of a special Gift of Life auction. "Spirited" bidding resulted in the sale of half our New Glarus stock. Thanks Jon and Carl for presenting a frothy and fun fundraising idea.

Rotary Has Heart...this week's donation suggestion is flour/maseca and

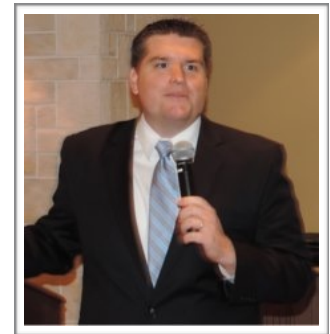


toothbrushes. Thanks to all for your continued "heart" in making this project a successful reality.

Attention Rotary Regulars...if your name is not on the sign-in sheet at the front desk, please see **Roger Brunswick** to complete your registration.

Our Speaker...last week we were pleased to meet Brian Hamman, recently appointed Lee County Commissioner. A graduate of Cape Coral High School, Brian earned an associate's degree from Edison State College and a bachelor's degree from Florida

Gulf Coast University. He also spent ten years in the TV news business. Brian shared his perspective on a number of local and regional issues and emphasized his commitment to economic development and fiscal responsibility. Thanks Brian for a thoughtful presentation. Visit us again soon.



And finally...our meetings are often wonderful journeys into the unexpected. Last week was no exception as our friend Peter Ferner of the Starnberg Bavaria Rotary Club offered us insight into the German hunting tradition as he expertly serenaded us with a New Year "signal salutation." Thanks Peter.



From RI: Rotarian Vision Offers Hope in Afghanistan



RI recently reported that “the Zabuli Education Center (ZEC) in the villages of Deh'Subz, Afghanistan, is now in its sixth year of operations. The student body has grown to over four hundred students; girls ranging in age from 6 to 20 attend the school free of charge. Every student at ZEC studies Dari (the local language,) English, and Math. As their studies progress, the curriculum expands to include a third language Pashto, History, Science, Health and Hygiene, Geography, Religion, and Reading the Quran. Girls from the rural villages of Deh'Subz had no access to education before the ZEC came to be.

Rotarian and CNN Hero Razia Jan founded the school and now resides in Afghanistan to oversee operations. She selects teachers and administers her own test to ensure their competency to teach the

unusually rigorous curriculum. She works to educate the local populace on the benefits of women's education. She visits with students' families to dissuade them from entering girls into early marriages.

When Razia returned to her native Afghanistan after the fall of the Taliban in 2002, she could hardly believe the plight of Afghan women, especially in rural areas. Under Taliban rule, women were unable to pursue education at all. Razia brought together the funding and resources to create a new educational institution where an old one once stood. The land the Zabuli Education Center is built upon was once the site of an academy for boys built by an Afghan king.

Today, girls walking to school is becoming the norm in this part of Afghanistan, thanks to one Rotarian's vision. In order to ensure that students do not face any financial barriers to their education, every cost related to their attendance is provided for: tuition, books, uniforms that include shoes and a warm coat, pencils and paper. Funding is provided through Razia's Ray of Hope Foundation, a registered non-profit organization based in Wellesley, MA.”



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-~~\$~~1,587.50

Last week a delighted President Bobbi drew the Seven of Spades to win ~~\$~~5.00.

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

"Rotary Sings" "Vive Le Rotary"

Let all good Rotarians stand up and sing.

Vive le Rotary!

Chorus:

Vive le, Vive le Rotary! Vive le, Vie le Rotary!

Truth is our right, Love is our might Vive le Rotary!

An honest day's work is a duty we claim, Vive le Rotary! And truth in our business will honor our name.

Vive le Rotary!

Chorus

A friend with a smile is the person we need. Vive le Rotary! Who truly believes in our Rotary creed.

Vive le Rotary!

Chorus

Be quick to give service, we must not be shy, Vive le Rotary!

Let's join all our voices and give a great cry. Vive le Rotary!

Chorus



It's A Birthday Celebration!

Don Manley, January 12

Gary Colecchio, January 18

Bob Rosier, January 19

Marjorie Rubacky, January 19



Our Upcoming Speakers

**This Morning,
Roger Desjarlais,
Lee County Manager**

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, in the ebb and flow of circumstances, in our professional and personal lives, help us to maintain stability of purpose, strength of character, moral responsibility, the courage of bold convictions, and always a sense of compassion and concern for others.

Accept now our gratitude as we partake of that which has been provided to sustain our bodies in order that our minds and wills may be dedicated to worthy and productive endeavors in our community and the world.

We lift our prayer to you with humility and appreciation.

Amen.

