



The Spoke



“A Happy Holiday”

Bob and Theresa Lombardo Host A Festive Gathering



Mark Twain once identified “good friends” as a component of the “ideal life.” The truth of that statement was underscored as we enjoyed an evening courtesy of our good friends **Bob and Theresa Lombardo**. Many thanks.

Rotary International
President
 Ron D. Burton
 Rotary Club of Norman, Oklahoma

District 6960 Governor
 Timothy P. Milligan
 The Rotary Club of Bradenton

Area 3 Assistant Governor
 Dr. Larry Byrnes
 The Rotary Club of Estero

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President	Bobbi Bird
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Sandra Scoggins

2012-2015
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2013-2016
Jay Berube Bobbi Bird
Gregory T. Holtz Steven Slachta

Trustees of The Foundation of The Rotary Club of Bonita Springs

Nancy Ross, President; John Mathes, Secretary; Tom Burgess, Treasurer; Fred Partin, Guy Quinn, Ray Faubion, Stephanie Kissinger, Trustees

LAST WEEK'S MEETING

President Bobbi presided. **Jim O' Leary** delivered the invocation; Chief Joseph Daigle the Pledge of Allegiance; and **Jim Dati** the 4 Way Test. **Ron Anderson** led a rousing version of "Jingle Bells."

President Bobbi acknowledged the generosity of **Brian Olitsky, Larry Miller, Jack Powers, Jane Goble** and **Julie Pedretti** whose collective pledges matched our Foundation's allowing us to sponsor a food packing station at the Meals of Hope "Holidays Without Hunger" event at the Harborside Events Center in Fort Myers, December 24 from 9 am to 11 am. If you would like to participate contact Julie at jpedretti29@gmail.com.

Jon McLeod offered an update on preparations for his Gift of Life Ride in May. Along with his coach Brian Walton who we met last week, Jon rode an outstanding 400 miles in five days. Thanks Jon for your commitment to our Club and Gift of Life—both through your Ride and "alternative fundraising" initiative.

A Spoke Exclusive

The word is out—in an unprecedented interview this week with the Spoke, Santa revealed his choice for what is sure to be this year's "hit" stocking stuffer—tickets to "It's A Wonderful Life." Tickets are currently available and on sale—**Bob Lombardo** and his team have all the details.

There's Still Time...**Ray Faubion** reported on the Bonita Assistance Office Toy Drive. Thanks to all those who already have contributed an unwrapped toy. You can still bring a toy to this morning's meeting which Ray will gladly accept and collect. Approximately 90 families and 350 children will appreciate your kindness and generosity.

As part of our "Rotary Has Heart" Initiative and in support of the Bonita Assistance Office, we will be collecting food items throughout January and early February. Each week there will be a "suggested" food item for donation and the January 8 items are peanut butter, jelly, and shampoo. If you have questions, or would like to volunteer, please see **Julie Pedretti**.



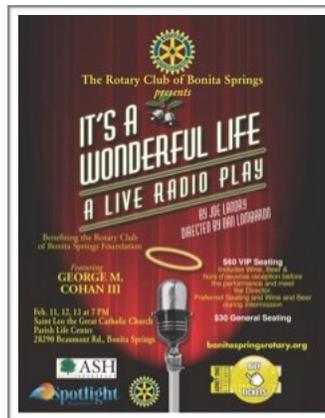
Our Program

Last week we heard from Chief Joseph V. Daigle who commands the Bonita Springs Fire Control and Rescue District. Chief since February 1, 2013, his



Department serves one of the largest districts in the area, with a response territory of 72 square miles. The Fire District's mission is "to preserve life and property and promote public safety through strong leadership, management, professionalism and integrity."

Chief Daigle's presentation offered numerous and moving examples of how personnel and staff at the Fire District fulfill that mission each and every day. Thank you Chief for your commitment and leadership.



“Awards of Excellence”

Last week **Jack Powers** introduced us to this month’s Estero High School Award of Excellence winners. These award ceremonies are always welcome additions to our meeting agenda as they celebrate achievement, initiative and accomplishment. Congratulations to Jennifer Brownlee (Faculty Member of the Month); Dania Duarte (Staff Member of the Month); Gaby Hernandez (Academic Student of the Month) and Livia Katroschi (Service Student of the Month).



From RI: “Ride” Raises \$730,000 To End Polio

For the past five years, Rotary members around Tucson, Arizona, USA, have bicycled as many as 111 miles in a day to raise money for polio eradication. This year’s team of 70 cyclists and their supporters raised \$730,000 in the Ride to End Polio, which, after matched two-to-one by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, will make \$2.1 million available for polio eradication.

“With every penny going to end polio, we’ve immunized an awful lot of kids against this horrible disease,” says Gary Hirsch, a member of the Rotary Club of Tucson and a ride organizer.

The Ride to End Polio is part of the annual El Tour de Tucson bike event. This year’s ride, which took place 23 November, was dedicated to Rotary General Secretary John Hewko,

who once again participated. The honor was given in recognition of his contributions to the bicycling community and the global eradication of polio. Hewko has raised more money than any other rider in a single El Tour event: over \$243,000 in 2012.



“It was an incredible honor to accept the 2013 Dedication Award on behalf of Rotary and friends of Rotary -- including our fine staff at the Secretariat -- who

supported the effort this year and also in 2012,” Hewko says. “And I can’t thank Rotary members in Arizona enough for inviting me to participate in their Ride to End Polio.”



Rotary Club of Bonita Springs, chartered November 3, 1978, meets every Wednesday at Pelican’s Nest 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-~~\$~~1675

Last week a delighted Scott Gerrish drew the Three of Hearts to win ~~\$~~500.

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

"Rotary Sings" "We Wish You A Merry Christmas"



We wish you a Merry Christmas
We wish you a Merry Christmas
We wish you a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year.

REFRAIN

Good tidings we bring for you and
your kin,
Good tidings for Christmas and a
Happy New Year.

We wish you a Merry Christmas
We wish you a Merry Christmas
We wish you a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year.



It's A Birthday Celebration!

Michael O'Dell, December 18
Carl Nickel, December 22
Peter O'Flinn, December 23
Scott Gerrish, December 25



Our Upcoming Speakers

**This Morning,
Estero High School
Interact Club**

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

Ever Present God, in the remainder of this month, help us to capture its emphasis on peace and good will, and on the spiritual aspects of religious traditions. In this season of giving and receiving, help us to be generous in remembrance of others less fortunate than ourselves. As our seasonal charity is extended, may the recipients be warmed by our genuine interest in them as well as our gifts to them.

We are grateful for Your gifts to us, for food and friends, for needs to meet, and work to do. Amen