



# The Spoke

## Dr. Jon Berlie, Eye Man



**Tom Briers** introduced our speaker, **Dr. Jon Berlie**. Jon is familiar to many as he was a **leading player** in **“It’s a Wonderful Life”**, playing George and Young George Bailey. Jon’s day job is as a member of the Montgomery Eye Center team. He is a Board Certified Ophthalmologist who specializes in **plastic surgery of the eyes and cataract surgery**.

Jon started off with some “Fascinating Facts” then proceeded to debunk many of our grandmother’s and mother’s mantras about eye health. For instance, the following **are false**:

- Reading in a dim light damages your eyes.
- Using computers can damage your eyes.
- Wearing the wrong kind of eyeglasses damages your eyes.
- Children outgrew crossed or misaligned eyes.
- Children shouldn’t sit close to the TV.
- To improve your vision you have to eat carrots.
- People with weak eyes should avoid reading fine print.
- Wearing eyeglasses will cause you to become dependent on them.
- A cataract must be “ripe” before it can be removed.
- Contact lenses can prevent nearsightedness from getting worse.
- Whole eyes can be transplanted.
- All eye doctors are the same. (Ophthalmologist, Optometrists, Optician).

Jon recommend that when using a computer for long periods, take regular breaks. Look across the room. Position the monitor 12 - 24” from your face at a slight downward angle. Consider artificial tears if you feel dryness.

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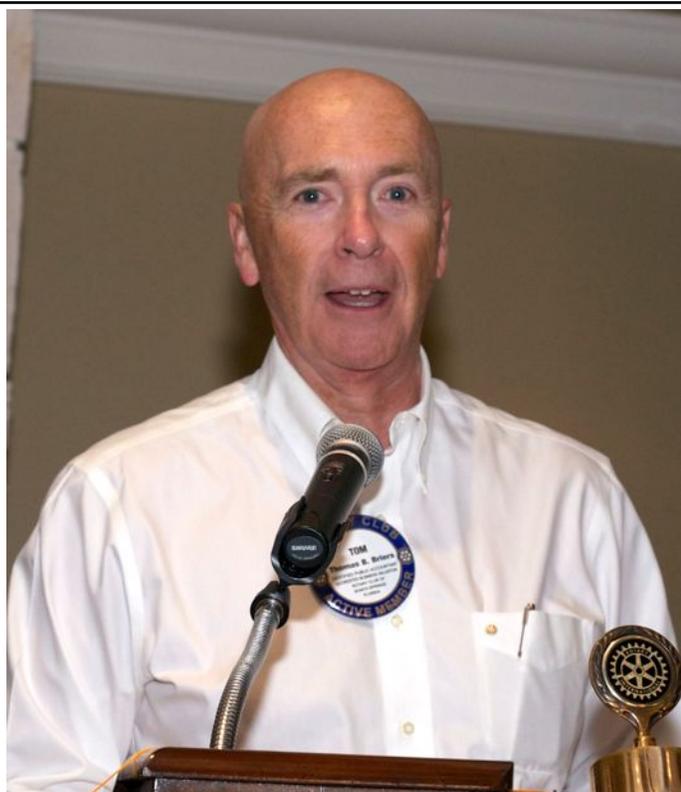
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## LAST WEEK'S MEETING - W E E K 5



President-Elect **Tom Briers** presided for Week 5. He passed on this quote, “What sunshine is to flowers, smiles are to humanity.” **Mark Generales** read the invocation; **Julie Pedretti** led the Pledge of Allegiance; and **Morgan Eldridge** almost flawlessly recited the Four-Way Test. **Dale Timple** and **Jim Dati** led the singing of *Yellow Submarine*.

Tom announced that **Drew and Kanema Clark** had a 7 pound, 4 ounce daughter on July 28th. Mother and daughter are doing fine.

**Bobbi Bird** reported that latest issue of e`Bella magazine has an article about **Wendy Aresenault**. Bobbi gave the “shoe bag” to Tom. The shoe bag has old shoes that are being collected by **Chris Cole** as part of his Vocational Outreach program. Please bring your shoes to a meeting for the collection.

**Scott Gerrish** showed a slideshow from the 2014 Installation and Awards dinner.

**Bob Lombardo** announced “Dues were due a couple of weeks ago”. He also said that pledges made to **Bos2Kw** should be paid. If you can’t remember your pledge amount please contact Bobbi.

**Mark Generales** introduced his visiting daughter, Olivia. She is from Irvine, CA and is a Special Ed teacher. She graduated from UF.

Sergeant-at-arms, **George Cohan**, started off by telling us “it is only 28 days ’til the start of college football.” **Fred Partin**, one of the members of the 50/50 winners’ syndicate, was at the meeting so George strong-armed him for a \$20 fine. Then George turned the proceedings over to Bobbi for a special birthday presentation.

Bobbi said, “Last February when celebrating my birthday, I brought cupcakes for everyone. **John Warfield** said that they were very good but a little puny.” So she presented him with a “Warfield” sized cupcake, half carrot cake, half red velvet, with about 1/2 bowl of frosting. After that, we joined in singing a robust Happy Birthday to John.



## Rotary Peace Fellow Helps Protect U.S. Diplomats

As an agent for the U.S. Diplomatic Security Service, **Justin Peele applies the education he received in conflict resolution as a Rotary Peace Fellow** to a job that puts him in some dicey situations – including one in 2013 in which his actions won him State Department recognition for his courage and decisiveness.

Peele is one of 2,000 DS agents who protect U.S. diplomats and embassies around the world. The **Diplomatic Security Service**, the law enforcement and security arm of the U.S. State Department, **is the most extensive global security agency in the government, operating in more than 160 countries.**

"This is my dream job," says Peele, who was in the 2011-12 class of **Rotary Peace Fellows at the Universidad del Salvador in Buenos Aires, Argentina.** "I'm in a unique position where I must face conflict head-on."

"This proved true when **Peele served as the assistant regional security officer in Mali.** It was a period when the country was torn by political strife and violence as several Islamic insurgent groups fought the government for greater autonomy in the northern part of the country. The crisis led factions of the military who were displeased with the government's response to overthrow President Amadou Toumani Touré in 2012. Because of the conflict, **the State Department sent extra security to protect the U.S. Embassy in Bamako, Mali's capital.**

One day in 2013, violent clashes between students and the police **trapped an embassy worker and four Malian colleagues** in the National Institute of Health offices in downtown Bamako. When the fighting spun out of control, **embassy officials called on Peele to safely extract the workers.**

As he and a driver navigated through the war-torn streets, "I could see the smoke and tear gas from a long distance," recalls Peele. He now admits to having been a little nervous, but says he knew that his training would enable him to carry out the mission. **"We found them, hurried them into the vehicle and were able to get out of there safely and bring them back to the embassy without harm."**

For his response that day, the State Department **gave Peele its Meritorious Honor Award for "courageous, efficient, and decisive action taken."**

"During a time of crisis is the best time to shine," he says. "There is a lot of trust with my job – **to be able to look someone in the eye and say, 'If you're in trouble, I will be the person to come get you.'**"

In addition to moving diplomats safely from place-to-place, members of the Diplomatic Security Service **work with host nation law enforcement** representatives to investigate crimes against U.S. citizens, **coordinate protection details** with the security teams of foreign dignitaries, and maintain frequent contact with local community members.

One of Peele's other assignments was a **six-month stint as part of the security detail for U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry**, as he crisscrossed the world on diplomatic missions, with stops in China, Israel, Europe, and the Middle East.

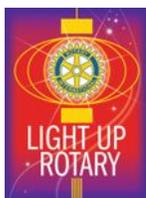
"I get a front-row seat for observing U.S. foreign policy, and help represent the U.S. all over the world," says Peele. **"It's a great lesson in government, diplomacy, and humanity."**

Although many DS agents have military or law enforcement backgrounds, others are lawyers, scientists, linguists, and yes, even peace scholars. Peele, who served for three years as a Peace Corps volunteer in Paraguay, says **his experience there and as a Rotary Peace Fellow helped him get his foot in the door at the security agency.**

He recalls that the State Department officials who interviewed him were impressed with his global education in peace and conflict resolution. **"With Rotary and the Peace Corps I was able to work closely with the local populace. I think that went a long way in getting this job," he says.**

"I learned a lot from my peace fellowship. The bottom line is that everything we do is to ease the suffering of others," says Peele. "Not only are the Peace Centers a good example of that, but **everything Rotary does is an example of how to reach that goal."**

*Rotary Weekly*



**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 website [www.bonitaspringsrotary.org](http://www.bonitaspringsrotary.org). **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). **Scott Gerrish** issue editor.

**Last Week:  
A Smiling Claudie Feeney  
drew the 3♠ to win \$5**



**The 50/50 Now  
\$919**

*Rotary Sings: Beer Barrel Polka*  
**Oh, there's music and there's dancing  
And a lot of sweet romancing  
When they play the polka  
They all get in the swing**

**Roll out the barrel,  
we'll have a barrel of fun  
Roll out the barrel,  
we've got the blues on the run  
Zing boom tatarrel,  
ring out a song of good cheer  
Now's the time to roll the barrel,  
for the gang's all here**

**Upcoming Speakers**

*This Week:*

**Connie Boyd  
Harry Chapin  
Food Bank**



***It's A Birthday  
Celebration!***

***Wendy Arsenault Aug 7  
Gary Murphy Aug 12  
Nancy Ross Aug 12***

The 4-Way Test  
of things we think, say or do.

Is it the **TRUTH**?

Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?

Will it build **GOODWILL**  
and **BETTER**  
**FRIENDSHIPS**?

Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to  
all concerned?

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O God, whose summer schedule never includes vacation from your sovereign surveillance over the world, and your merciful vigilance over us in daily life, we are comforted by that knowledge.

We are challenged in response to not abandon our own attention to the responsibilities of which we are stewards.

Knowing that moral and ethical principles are not seasonal, we pray for strength to implement them in daily life and work.

Help us to review our loyalties and to re-commit ourselves to those we know should have high priority.

Grant your blessing to us as we have gratefully partaken of the gift of food and share fully in table fellowship. Then go with us as we go out to meet the opportunities for service awaiting us in places unknown at the moment. Amen.