

Monthly Newsletter



Message from Heidi:

Hi Everyone,

As we move forward together, I want to thank everyone who participated in our recent Club Assembly. It was a productive and meaningful meeting where we evaluated our club's mission, reflected on our current activities, and shared thoughtful ideas for the future. Your input was truly invaluable, and it reinforces our commitment to listening, growing, and continuing to enhance your membership experience. The strength of our club lies in the engagement, insight, and dedication of our members.

February brings Valentine's Day—a perfect reminder of the power of connection, kindness, and goodwill. Let us take this opportunity to share our positive energy with one another and extend that same spirit of care and service into our community. Together, through friendship and service, we continue to make a meaningful difference—united in purpose and united for good. ❤️

Heidi

In this newsletter
you can expect:

Other
Happenings

Member
Birthdays

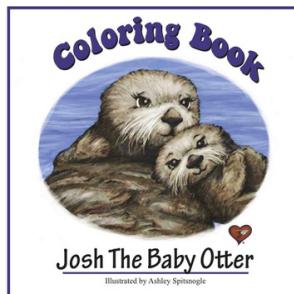
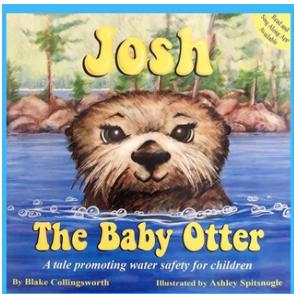
New Members

Speaker
Highlights

Upcoming
Events

Member
Spotlight

UNITE FOR GOOD



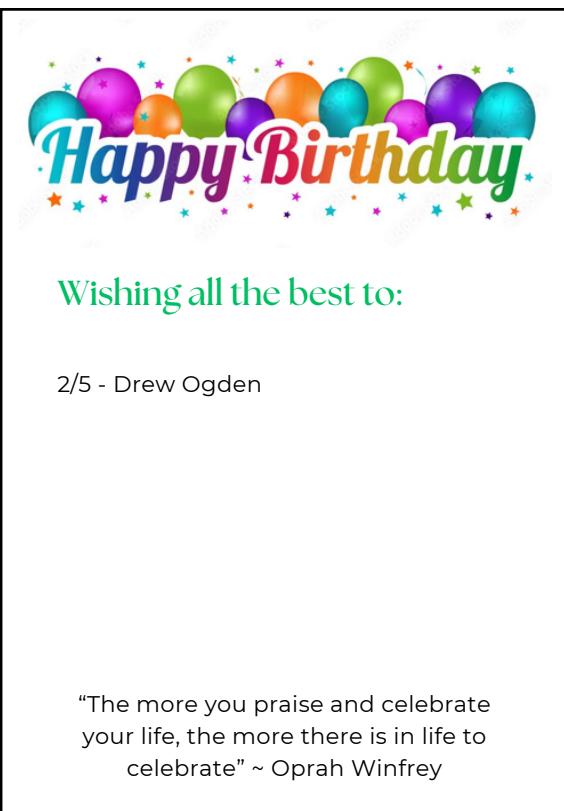
Other Happenings:

Florida loses more children under the age of 5 to drowning than any other state in the nation. Last year, there were a total of 119 drowning related fatalities, 10% more than 2024, and nearly double what it was in 2020.

Helping address this crisis is a big part of our club's Youth Services programs. In collaboration with the **Joshua Collingsworth Memorial Foundation**, January 29th marks our third anniversary of conducting Josh the Baby Otter water safety sessions at the Bonita Springs Charter School. Each year, our 6 volunteers, together with the teachers educate 150 kindergarten students the importance of learning how to float, having swimming buddies, and most importantly, **never be around water without an adult**. For participating in this program, each student receives a copy of **Josh the Baby Otter** book along with the accompanying Coloring Book.

This year, we are especially excited that we will expand our program to an additional 75 kindergartens at the Fun Time Academy.

{Photo from 1/29/26 event (L-R): J. Meyer, B. Meyer, H. Varsames, M. Rusk, T. Bligh, F. Rizzo}



- Maggie VanLaere
- Paul Hanysz who transferred from the Rotary Club of East Lansing

"Rotary changes us and those we serve. I believe we can change the world one life at a time."
~ Paul Harris

Speaker Highlights

Robbie Robodog



We had a special visit from the Lee County Sheriff's Office. **CIA Deniz Santizo** told us all about their advance technology crime unit and introduced us to Robbie the Robo-dog. Robbie was very cute in his own way. For those of us who stuck around, Deniz let us peek inside his Unmanned Aerial Support Unit van, which was very impressive.

Lt. Frank Pisano, who is a member of our Rotary club as well as the LCSO Community Response Unit, shared some interesting facts about local law enforcement and answered members' questions.



Dr. Abul Sharah

Founder of the International Village Clinic, Dr. Sharah gave an interesting presentation on bringing health and medical services to the poor villages of India.



Prof. Keith Kaufman

Director of the Pneumonia and Pandemic Preparedness Program at the Gates Foundation, shared the incredible work which the foundation is doing and the tremendous results which the vaccination campaigns have had in decreasing child and adult deaths through vaccinations.

Upcoming Speakers & Events

- **2/5** - Barbara Shearer & Patty Duncan - "Silver Tsunami ~ or Silver Strong?"
- **2/12** - Steve Popper - Wheels of Hope
- **2/19** - Amanda Manrique - "Ospreys" The Sanibel Captiva Conservation Foundation (SCCF)
- **2/26** - Lori Lee - Sunshine Home

Pints With a Purpose:

- **2/11 - 6:00-8:00** - Chubby Mermaid Brewing Co.
- **2/21 - 4:00-7:00** - Visit our table at the Bonita Springs Brew Fest at Riverside Park
- **2/25 - 6:00-8:00** - Bone Hook Brewing Co.



Fundraiser & Fun

Come and support our club's fundraising events at local breweries. Both our February sponsors have delicious in-house food options, and wines and non-alcoholic drinks (for those of us who aren't beer drinkers).





Member Spotlight - Dee Fabry

Rotary Involvement: Club Secretary and President, RLI Graduate, Area Governor, District 6960 Literacy Chair and other committees, Paul Harris Society, Major Donor, Bequest Society, RI Avenues of Service Citation, Focus area - Basic Education and Literacy. With help from members of our club, developed Books for Kids - which gave every student in grades K - 3 a book on their reading level every month, Kindergarten Reading Tutoring, Third Grade Read Aloud Day, Carnival Book Give Away, and more at the Bonita Springs Charter School. A cadre of Rotary volunteers from our club and sister clubs have provided literacy support to K-3 students over the past 6 years. In addition, we have two Little Libraries at the Bonita Springs YMCA that provide free books to children and adults. What do you like best about Rotary? Being in an organization where you can follow your passion for helping others with the support of a like-minded, non-political, safe community of caring people. What was/is your profession? I have worked in both corporate positions and academia over the past 5 decades. I served as National Sales Manager for two publishing companies, taught in public education, served as the Associate Provost of National University, Department Chair of the Teacher Education Program, am a Reading Specialist, and a University Professor. I co-authored two books: Opening Doors to Reading (2001) and Assessing Through the Lens of Social and Emotional Learning (2025) and numerous articles. My profession is to help people reach their fullest potential. What accomplishments are you most proud of: Reaching this point in life with gratitude, being married to Jim for 49 years this March 19 - what a great partnership, enjoying our Zekee who spreads joy to everyone he encounters, having two wonderful (bonus for me) daughters who we enjoy spending precious time with, and knowing that my students have learned to recognize and value their own potential to impact change in education. What do you like to do in your free time: Channeling my inner Matisse - immersed in learning to paint using the versatility of acrylics. Taking 3 online courses and a variety of offerings at Arts Bonita gives me multiple perspectives. Three of my paintings were accepted in exhibitions in 2025. Jim, Zekee, and I are simply enjoying living in and exploring SW Florida.

ROTARY CLUB OF BONITA NAPLES	MEETING THURSDAYS AT NOON
BonitaNaplesRotary.com	The Stage Restaurant 9144 Bonita Beach Rd Bonita Springs, FL 34135

Pints w/a Purpose

STOP BY OUR TABLE

BONITA BREW FEST

February 21, 2026 | 4:00-7:30
Riverside Park
BONITA SPRINGS, FL



Bonita
BREW FEST
February 21, 2026
Riverside Park | Bonita Springs, FL



- Unlimited Sampling of 200+ Unique Beers & Ciders
- Souvenir Pint Glass • Brewers on Site
- Live Music, Food Trucks & Vendors
- Non-Drinker Tickets & NA Beverages Available

SWFL Best Outdoor Party! Drinks Included!



QR code for more information

Proceeds to Benefit
the Southwest
Florida Brewcrafters
and their Charities

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