



## Club Meeting

Bonita Naples  
Meets at Artichoke & Company -  
11920 Saradrienne Ln, Bonita  
Springs, FL 34135  
11920 Saradrienne Ln.  
Bonita Springs, FL 34135  
Time: Thursday at 12:00 PM

## Club Leaders



Gary S. Dworkin  
President



James F. Fabry  
President-Elect



John G. Wharton  
Secretary



Dixon W. Blevins  
Treasurer



Kim Scott Anderson  
Club Director



Linda Lee Dworkin  
Club Director



Tamton Mustapha  
PDG  
Club Director  
Public Relations Chair



Stephen C. Agius  
Membership Chair



Cindy Cedeno  
Past President  
Rotary Foundation  
Chair



Robert A. Grady  
Sergeant-at-Arms

## Events and Speakers

### November 14, 2019 Meeting

Members Attending: Steve A., Kim A., Sam B., Dick B., Anne B., Bob Bornstein, Cindy C., Betty Jean, Don C., Gary D., Lin D., Dee F., Jim F., Campbell G., Joe G., Sonny G., Scott H., Tam M., Carolyn P., Mike P., Phil R., Mike R., Ken S., John W.

**President Gary** called the meeting to order at 12:00 noon.

The invocation was given by **DG Rich Kirschner** and **Betty Jean** led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### Introduction of Guests:

Frank Jensen from Germany, Glenn Housey, and Brian Alosi

**DG Rich Kirschner** introduced Kim Olsoni, Shaban Abdul, Ashley Holmer, and Maris Janasova from the Red Sweater Project, our guest speakers for today.

**Mike P.** explained that there were sheets at each table listing club member's names and a volunteer opportunity at Bonita Fest. If you are unhappy with the volunteer role, write in what you want to do. The actual Fest runs from 3:00 – 9:00 PM on Saturday, November 23. There are two 'shifts' Noon – 9:00 pm and 2:00 – 9:00 pm. More to come on details next week. Scott reminded everyone to wear the NEW blue 'Rotarian at Work' shirts.

There will be a Bonita Fest Committee meeting after our regular meeting today.

**Sam** led us in her infamous **B-O-N-I-T-A F-E-S-T** cheer and proudly announced that Anne B. just wrote a check for \$1,000. She then asked who would be a \$250 sponsor to move us to our \$20,000 goal? Campbell contributed it and we reached our \$20,000 sponsorship goal.

**Club Raffle** – Mike R. has the raffle tickets. Be sure to get your raffle tickets from Mike.

Gary asked the club to think about who would step up to join the Board this coming year. Let Gary know if you are interested in serving.

### The District Foundation Dinner is this evening.

Thanks to those who volunteered to serve as judges for the Science Fair next Wednesday. There are two time slots: 10 – noon and noon to 2:00 PM. The teacher coordinating it all is Regina Liggins. The school address is 10141 West Terry St, Bonita Springs, FL 34135. Just park, and go into the front office to check in. Thanks to those who signed up. Joe, Betty Jean and Joanne volunteering from 10am-12pm, and Tamton, Dee, and Rosi volunteering from 12pm-2pm.

Wanted – Store Captains for the Publix Harry Chapin Food Drive on February 8<sup>th</sup>.



Betty Jean Christensen  
Youth Services Chair



Scott D Hunter  
iPast President



Jonathon McLeod  
Assistant Governor

**Sergeant-at-Arms** – Brian was drafted to serve today.

## **Happy/Sad Dollars**

**Phil** – Provided a litany of excuses for not being here for several meetings. He announced that Christmas would not be a Rotary International event as previously planned as his daughter and her boyfriend split.

**Sam** – Happy we made the Bonita Fest goal.

**Carolyn** – Reminded us that we once again missed her birthday, October 13

**Campbell** – Happy to be here.

**Ken** – Regaled us with witticisms

**Dee** – Happy Jim's eye appointment was positive and he does not need the eye shots. Ouch!

**Gary** – Let us know the 280 wheelchairs for Tobago and Trinidad have been ordered.

Thanks to all for the Wheelchair Dinner support.

## **Guest Speakers: The Red Sweater Project – Building Affordable and Accessible Schools**

**District Governor Rich** introduced **Ashley Holmer**, Red Sweater Founder and Executive Director. Rich explained that they truly had an experience that aligns with the Rotary Connects the World focus for this year. The Red Sweater Web site is: [www.redsweaterproject.org](http://www.redsweaterproject.org)

Ashley shared her history and how the Red Sweater Project came about. She and her twin sister lived, taught, and coached soccer in Tanzania and learned that education simply was not a priority in this area of extreme poverty. Teachers often did not show up to teach, but when they did the classrooms were packed. 75% of the country is illiterate. Less than 1% of girls complete secondary school in Tanzania. However, for girls with a high school degree, the impact on the economy is substantial since they stay in the villages and work to improve the entire village.

Unfortunately, while elementary school is free, high school costs about \$500 US dollars a year. The average yearly income is \$530 US dollars.

**The Red Sweater Project** came about when a community offered 20 acres to have a school built. The project builds schools because the community asks for them and supports them. Mungere School is the first high school available to kids in the rural community of Mungere, Tanzania. Every year more than 200 families apply for one of the 30-40 available spots in the incoming class. When completed, Mungere School will serve over 300 students each year.

Ashley explained that the need right now is to build capacity at the Mungere School. Additional classrooms and learning spaces are needed as well as technology.

Shaban Abdul, Project Director, shared his story and the impact of the Red Sweater Project on him and the community. This is Shaban's first trip to the United States. He has visited 11 states so far sharing the message.

**From the Red Sweater Web site:**

### **What does the red sweater symbolize?**

For these students, putting on a red sweater means access to a high-quality high

school education at Mungere School, established by Red Sweater Project. Beyond the opportunity to learn, the school gives children the means to move their entire community forward. Students receive a quality education, gender equality is seen in action, and we ensure responsible innovation.

### **Where did the red sweater name come from?**

Red and blue colors, traditionally worn by the indigenous Masaai tribe, inspired the school uniform of red sweaters with blue skirts or pants. This design represents the commitment to celebrate—not replace—tribal heritage.

For more information on how you can contribute: [ashley@redsweaterproject.org](mailto:ashley@redsweaterproject.org)





