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Rotary



Gulf Beaches Rotary Newsletter February 2024

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Feb 2024 President's Column



It's great to be back in warm sunny Florida, after a round trip starting on January 1st of 14,000 total miles to visit Antarctica, a separate world within our world. I wanted to use this month's Presidents column to share an adventure in Antarctica, as Susan has Rotary events in February covered within the newsletter.

The trip started in warm Buenos Aires, Argentina (Direct flights from FLA or ATL). This was my second visit there, while 5,000 miles away, it's only two time zones, which means NO jetlag. It continues to be an awesome place, with walkable tree-lined neighborhoods and \$1 Empanadas with \$3 local Beers. It is

a great alternative to overcrowded European urban areas, and less expensive than most European cities.

From Buenos Aires, it was then a three-and-half hour charter flight (1,000 miles further south) to Ushuaia located on the Tierra del Fuego archipelago (southernmost tip of south America). It was here that we met up with our Atlas Cruise line ship. I was in Ushuaia, 15 years ago, and thought it was the “armpit” of the western world, now adventure tourism has remade it; with smaller cruise ships going out to Antarctica, and larger cruise ships stopping for the day. Even the airport is cool now!

With a total of 135 passengers, check-in was easy to nice cabin, and off we went across the Drake Passage on January 4th. This is where the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans meet the Southern Ocean and is either a Drake Shake or a Drake Lake. Massive waves are very common, going south of Cape Horn, but we were lucky and had mostly Drake Lake, coming and going to Antarctica, a two-day journey, both directions, for the final thousand miles of the 7,000-mile one way journey.

Atlas has a staff of young environmental scientists. True adventurers who presented continent talks, covering weather, wildlife, geography, and history. They also drive zodiacs with 50 HP motors through snow & ice, carrying 8-10 passengers on daily walk-about on shore. Landing sites are pre-approved and labeled “Captain’s choice” as the ships are always dodging local weather (snow & wind).

Each morning after a full breakfast (of note, there is great food, with wines from around the world presented with gourmet menus). You are not roughing it on the ship, it’s the getting on & off the ship & on to the continent, that requires a bit of luck and skill as first thing in the morning, you go to a mud room locker on the third level, to suit up over your warm clothing, a full parka, boots to your knees and a life jacket, then try not to fall down 12 narrow steps to board a zodiac for the days’ first adventure. Your outerwear has been cleaned before going ashore & the boots are washed coming and going off the ship to stop pollutants. There is no picking up a rock off the beach to bring home, but one day we fished out ice from the icy water surface, to later put into bar drinks.

We did not see another ship over a week of landings on the western peninsula of the continent, just lots of whales (my favorite was the humpbacks); seals, albatrosses, and penguins. We could have sun; or it could be windy & overcast, and sometimes snowing-but landings were not to be missed. We usually finished the day with a cocktail on the balcony, which if a sunny afternoon was comfortable for this true Floridian. For me it was my fifth continent, and I have a new goal for all seven within the next two years.

In closing, please attend and support February’s Rotary events, but also remember, to travel is to live.



Speaker Bureau

- February 6 – Clint Belk, Fire Chief, City of Madeira Beach
- February 13 – Dan Zsido, Drug Trends Educator & Nalaxone Trainer
- February 20 – Pinellas County Sheriff's Office, Captain Mike Leiner
- February 27 – TBD

Rotary People of Action

Welcome to new member, John "Ken" Peterson. Pictured here with John Doctor, sponsor and President Pam.



A a Good Time was had by all who attended our GBR Annual Christmas Dinner.





Rotary in Service

Free Clinic Update

Rosemary dropped off 150 pounds of Rice and Beans to the St. Pete Free Clinic! Next donation drive – March 26th. Details to follow.

25th ANNUAL GULF BEACHES ROTARY GOLF AND TENNIS CHALLENGE FEBRUARY 23–24TH

Dear Gulf Beaches Rotary friends,

The Sponsor and Vendor Forms have been distributed for our upcoming Golf and Tennis Challenge to be held on February 23-24th. The Challenge event includes a Friday Tennis match highlighting the SPC Women's Tennis Team, a dinner, and Silent Auction. On Saturday you have the option of participating in Tennis or Golf activities.

The success of this fundraiser is dependent on your support both in sponsorship and in participation. The dinner is a great opportunity to socialize with your Rotary family while helping to support Gulf Beaches Rotary's community outreach programs.

I will be addressing you frequently at our weekly meetings between now and February 23rd asking for your support with sponsorships, and Susan Smith will be asking for help with Silent Auction donations.

For those who are unable to attend the meetings or the event please realize that WE NEED YOUR HELP to be successful.

Thank you in advance for your continued participation.

Yours in Rotary,
Rosemary Thompson

Mitchell shares a special message. Thank you! Donation of Clothing to Santa's Angels at GBR/TI Annual Pancake Breakfast

Dear Mitch,

Thank you so much for your generous donation of clothing to help the needy kids of Pinellas County. We are thrilled to be able to bring the joy of Christmas to 475 children this year, and your contribution will certainly make a big difference.

We appreciate your heartfelt giving and support towards our cause, and we are confident that your donation will be well-received and appreciated by all the kids. Thank you once again for your kindness and generosity.

Best regards,

Mike Brown
President Santa's Angels

Paradise News ran this item in their January 2024 tidbits section.

Our 12th Annual Robbie's pancake breakfast was a huge success, over 400 friends and neighbors enjoyed the event, hosted by Middle Grounds Grill and Gulf Beaches Rotary.

Pictured are our Admiral Farragut interact Rotary Club, who helped bus the tables and helped our quests.

Lake Seminole Rotary Club collected thousands of dollars' worth of Christmas toys for our children in foster care.

All profits from the breakfast goes back into the community to the needy children and families.



January 23rd speaker, Dr. Josh Patterson, Marine Biologist, Apollo Beach Research Facility, on the health of sea urchins.



Upcoming Events

Farewell Reception Join us for a farewell reception for City Manager Amy Davis as she moves on to take a job with Pinellas County.



The graphic features a central circular portrait of Amy Davis, a woman with curly hair, smiling. The portrait is set against a background of palm trees and a Florida state flag. The entire graphic is decorated with colorful confetti and geometric patterns. Below the portrait, the name 'Amy Davis' is written in white on a teal rounded rectangle. The main title 'FAREWELL Reception' is displayed in large, bold, red and teal letters. A paragraph of text provides details about the event, and a red rounded rectangle at the bottom contains icons for a calendar and a location pin, along with the date and address. The Treasure Island Florida logo is in the bottom right corner.

Amy Davis

FAREWELL ● Reception ●

After years of dedicated service and countless achievements, City Manager Amy Davis's journey with the city of Treasure Island has come to an end. To honor Amy's contributions and to express gratitude for her service, we invite you to a farewell reception in her honor. Join the Mayor and Commissioners for a farewell reception on Feb. 6, at 5 p.m. in the Treasure Island City Hall Auditorium as we bid good luck to Amy on her new adventure. The 6 p.m. Commission meeting will follow.

 **Tuesday**
Feb. 6

 **City Hall**
120 108th Avenue



Save The Date - Rotary District Conference – April 26 - 28

Rotary
District 6950

END POLIO NOW

SCAN TO REGISTER



CONFERENCE RUNDOWN

APRIL 26 - 28, 2024 • **ROSEN PLAZA, ORLANDO**

THURSDAY 7 PM - **EARLY ARRIVAL RECEPTION**
District Hospitality Suite

FRIDAY 9 AM - **OPENING WELCOME**
PROGRAMS, SPEAKER PRESENTATIONS
The Fight against Polio, Polio Plus
Alzheimer's Research Project, CART
Peace & Conflict Resolution Panel
AWARD PRESENTATIONS
Governor's Citation Award Recipients
NOONISH - BUFFET LUNCH "TASTE OF ITALY"
Area President of the Year Awards
AFTERNOON FREE OR-OPIONAL ORGANIZED ACTIVITIES
PM - POLIO PUB CRAWL, TIME TBD

SATURDAY 8 AM - **BREAKFAST, MORNING SESSION**
PROGRAM & SPEAKERS
Human Trafficking Initiative
Mental Health Initiative
AWARD PRESENTATIONS
Assistant Governor of the Year Award
Keith Kurber ACE Award
Area Clubs of the Year Award
5 PM - COCKTAILS 6 PM - DINNER
INSTALLATION OF DEREK PONTLITZ - GOVERNOR
AWARD PRESENTATIONS
Milton O. & Alice Jones Exemplary Service Award
Woodrow V. Register Distinguished Leadership Award
Herbert G. & Diane Brown Humanitarian Award
Mel & Judy Greene Legacy Award
Club President of the Year-Large, Medium, and Small Clubs
Club of the Year Award-Large, Medium, and Small Clubs
Rotarian of the Year
9 PM - 80'S DANCE PARTY

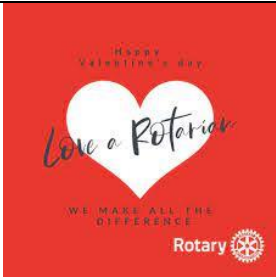
Conference Chair Jeanie Germain, PDG
jeanie6950rotary@gmail.com

Rotary
District 6950

CREATE HOPE IN THE WORLD

Registration Evie Parks
evieparksemail@yahoo.com

Register Here:  [Register NOW](#) for D6950 Conference & Hotel Reservations Link

<p>February 14 – Happy Valentine’s Day</p> <p>Feb 29- 8.30am Rotary Board Mtg</p> <p>February 23 – 24 25th Annual Gulf Beaches Rotary Golf and Tennis Challenge</p> <p>March 14-17 Madeira Beach Rotary Carnival</p>	 <p>Happy Rotary Birthdays <u>February</u></p> <p>Bill England 2/7</p>
<p><i>Rotary Club of Gulf Beaches PO Box 8805 Madeira Beach, FL 33738</i></p> <p>Newsletter Editors:</p> <p>Rosemary Thompson rollerrosie@gmail.com</p> <p>Susan Smith susanann5152@gmail.com</p>	<p>Club Meeting Information Weekly: Every Tuesday at 12 noon We meet in person at VFW, Madeira Beach – John’s Pass</p> <p>All Rotary members are welcome to attend our board meetings which take place on the last Thursday of each month at 8:30am at Madeira Beach City Hall.</p>