

THE SPROCKET NEWSLETTER

Rotary Club of New Bern Breakfast Chartered May 9, 1985
District #7720 – Club #22802 - P. O. Box 14625, New Bern, NC 28561 -
www.NewBernRotary.org - Follow us on Facebook/NewBernBreakfastRotary

Now on Instagram at RotaryNewBernBreakfast
Meets every Thursday morning from 7:30-8:30 and
2nd & 4th Thursday evenings from 5:30 – 6:30

Governor: Brownie Futrell - 2025-26 Area 8 Assist. Dist. Gov.: Melonie Wray



MORNING MEETING SUMMARY – June 11, 2026

Thanks to Julie Burrill (Greeter), Elmer Praul (Pledge), and Rodger Allison (Invocation). Nice to have President Dave Super back from his travels to preside over our meeting this morning. Guests: Amanda Norwood from the Interfaith Refugee Ministries, and Margie Dunn, guest of George Orsega.

Morning & Evening Program:

Our speaker at both our morning and evening meetings today was Pacifique' Umimbabazi who shared a personal story that was informative and provocative.

She began her presentation by saying that most people travel by choice, but in 1996, her parents, who were farmers, fled the Democratic Republic of Congo during war to find safety in neighboring Rwanda. There they lived in a refugee camp, and she was born there five years later. During her early years, she was happy and wasn't aware of any hardships; she particularly enjoyed primary school (grades 1 to 6). She recalled a time when she lost a pen as a child and how her parents stressed how she needed to protect resources and be held accountable for her actions. To be certified for lower high school (grades 7 to 9), she had to walk 8 miles but was so happy to pass so she could continue in school. Her grades were very good, she really liked her classes, and her parents stressed the importance of education as an investment for her future. Her dream was to be a pharmacist because she loved physics, chemistry, and biology. However, when it came time for upper high school, and the first time that tuition fees must be paid, and her family could not afford it. She spent weeks at



home thinking about how unfair this was since she was one of the top ten students in her class. Through a nonprofit agency, she was eventually able to enroll two months late for the final three years of school at a boarding school outside the refugee camp. This was the first time she realized that being a refugee presented unique challenges. Although the nonprofit paid her tuition, it did not pay for her meals, so she often went hungry. To create revenue to feed herself and pay for some basic needs, being resourceful, she started an envelope business and did well enough to support herself. She graduated with honors but learned that her status as a refugee prevented her from receiving a government loan for college. Again, she learned of a nonprofit agency that was able to offer tuition for college where she earned a BS degree in Business Administration. During her college years, she became a Refugee Status Counselor, which allowed her to receive a small compensation in addition to revenue from her own growing

business. She was even able to send some money to her parents back in the refugee camp.

Pacifique' came to the United States from Rwanda, at the age of 22, in May of 2024 through a program connecting her to the Interfaith Refugee Ministries here in New Bern. She is currently enrolled in the Cyber-Security program at Craven Community College and teaches IT for grades 2 through 8 at St. Paul's Elementary School. Her parents, sister, and a nephew have now joined her in New Bern; her parents have 32 grandchildren here and in Rwanda.

Because of her experience as a refugee, and as a refugee counselor during college, Pacifique's has founded a licensed 501-c-3 nonprofit in 2025 called Community Raise Echoes (CRE). This organization is built on a powerful truth that your background does not define your future. Her personal journey through her family's displacement has evolved into a movement of transformation, believing that lived experience is a force for change to move beyond mere survival to unlock the full potential of each individual. CRE's services include community and basic needs such as food, early childhood development for 3 to 5-year-olds, youth talent development, and mentoring. There are now five refugee camps in Rwanda for over 40,000 people, with more added every day because of war and terrorists in the region, with the highest percentage from the DR of



Congo. The camps are controlled by the government of Rwanda with limited medical care and high food insecurity. Employment and self-sufficiency are almost non-existent, so conditions are worse than just being poor. Pacifique' believes, and knows from her own experiences, that people help people and it takes a village to support a village. Her vision is to help refugees, especially young and teen children, and although the return on investment may not be realized for twenty or so years, there is no limit to their potential and what they will be able to contribute to the future!

For more information about CRE – Community Raise Echoes, visit the website: www.communityraiseechoes.org, email: info@communityraiseechoes.org, and follow/donate at Instagram.

Program Calendar:



June 18 – MicroProject during meeting - packaging 100 bags of candy for Juneteenth Parade on June 20

June 25 – AM & PM mtg – No regular meetings; it's our Annual Installation Dinner

July 2 – AM mtg – No meeting – enjoy the July 4 holiday weekend!

July 9 – AM mtg – Taylor Seijo, Sound Rivers

PM mtg – Jasyn Griffith, Founder of Supporting Peace, a local nonprofit

July 16 – AM mtg – John Barnes, New Bern Preservation Foundation

July 23 – AM & PM mtg – Dave Super, Rotary video from 2026 President-Elect Training Seminar

July 30 – AM mtg – To be announced

Club announcements:

- Committee Meetings – all members welcome to attend any of these meetings
 - Oktoberfest – Monday, June 15, 5:30-6:30 pm at Craven Literacy Council offices
- Annual Installation Dinner, Thursday, June 25, Chelsea Restaurant. You already know about this!

Treasurer, Ann Super –

- There are still some members who have not yet paid their 4th quarter dues, and she'd really appreciate receiving them by June 30 to close this Rotary year. First quarter dues for RY 2026-27 will go out in July.
- She is pleased with the Officers and Committee Chairs who have agreed to serve during her Presidential term in the coming Rotary year, but she is still hoping someone will step up to serve as Program Chair (Nicole Williamson will help/mentor), and a much-needed Fundraising Committee Chair.

Membership Chair, Deedra Durocher –

- New Member Orientation on Wednesday, June 17, from 5:30 to 7:00 pm at Craven Literacy Council offices, 2507 Neuse Blvd. Snacks & beverages provided. **SEE SEPARATE EMAIL WITH AGENDA. Please RSVP!**

Community Service Chair, Gretchen Derda –

- June 20, Saturday – Juneteenth Parade – line up at 9:30 am to decorate trailer, parade starts at 11:00. Wear your Rotary shirt and/or hat! (See schedule of Juneteenth events below)

Oktoberfest Chair, Rodger Allison –



- Ramona's back, and we got some of her "Buts" of how she had hoped for more by now, as well as "Ands" that there is still time to do better! Currently, **Curt's Crusaders** are ahead of **Deedra's Dreamers** by just \$50 for sponsorships received or committed, with **Joni's Jammers** coming up from behind them both!

Michael Macey –

- Michael reminded everyone that Sunday, June 14, is Flag Day and he passed out lapel flag pins to everyone!

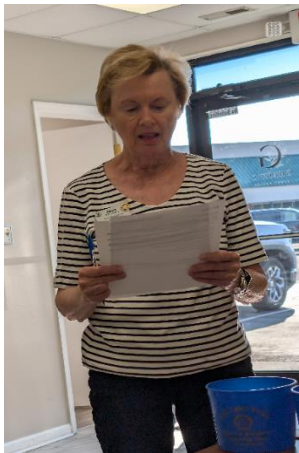
CART:

David Whitley was back with us to share that as much as he appreciates women, he is also concerned for them because some 2/3 of those diagnosed with Alzheimer's are women. This is due to a variety of biological differences between men and women, particularly hormonal changes during menopause. There has been a lot of research on the wide disparity between the sexes, but factors that are controllable include maintaining a positive attitude to reduce stress and depression, staying active for at least 20 minutes a day, watching diet and blood pressure, and getting plenty of good sleep for 7 to 8 hours each night. Support Alzheimer's research by donating every week to the Blue CART buckets on our tables!

Of the 5.4 million Americans living with Alzheimer's disease, nearly two-thirds are women.



Health & Happiness:



Bette Morris recognized important dates this week for club members:

Member Birthdays – Barbara Belon (6/16)

Membership Anniversaries – Mike Williams celebrates 9 years with our club on 6/15

Wedding Anniversaries – Charlie & Jenn Jump have their 19th wedding anniversary on 6/16

Please keep **Liz Praul** in your thoughts and prayers. She fell at 4:30 this morning and was taken to the hospital where she is reported to be okay but being kept for observation. Being the trooper he is, Elmer was at our meeting long enough to lead the Pledge he had signed up for but returned to the hospital right after that.

An email has been received from **Brian Gugler** about his partner Sharon's progress with her current health issues. Her doctor has confirmed kidney cancer, but fortunately she has no pain, is looking great, but feeling tired. Although one kidney is affected, the other one is functioning well which is encouraging. They go back to Duke next week to discuss what's next but really appreciate, and continue to need, our thoughts and prayers!



Happy Dollars:

Paul Platek collected Happy Dollars again this morning. Lunch money came to \$12 and the Queen now holds \$132. You may remember that Greg Postle had to draw from the deck first for his winning ticket last week but missed again. This week, Gretchen Derda had the ticket pulled by our speaker, but she missed the Queen of Hearts as well.



News to Share:

Go to the website: www.jonb1865.org/events for the full calendar details.



JUNETEENTH
of
NEW BERN
2026 EVENT SCHEDULE
Rooted in Resiliency & Unity • June 8–22, 2026

PROMO WEEK • June 8–11

- Monday, June 8 – Podcast
- Tuesday, June 9 – Social Media – Facebook / Webpage: JONB1865.org
- Wednesday, June 10 – Radio
- Thursday, June 11 – TV News

KICK-OFF WEEKEND • June 12–14

- Friday, June 12 – NB Live
- Friday, June 12 – Artwalk Juneteenth Kick-off – Craven Arts Council & Gallery @ 5p – 8p
- Friday, June 12 – Flying Fox Patronage @ 4p – midnight
- Saturday, June 13 – Slave Quarters Tour @ 11a – 2p
- Saturday, June 13 – Miss Juneteenth ENC Pageant – Stanley A. White Rec Center @ 5p – 8p
- Saturday, June 13 – Brown Pelican Patronage – Band “Bridge to Breakdown” @ 7p – 2a
- Sunday, June 14 – Church Worship & Fellowship – Guildfield MB Church @ 11a – 1p

COMMUNITY WEEK • June 16–18

- Tuesday, June 16 – Jonkonnu Unity Project – Craven Terrace Comm. Bldg. @ 10a – 1p
- Tuesday, June 16 – Educational Day: Climbers Club Event @ 11a – 1p & 6p – 7:30p
- Tuesday, June 16 – Youth Community Health Day – Freedom Skate – Rollerland @ 4p – 6p
- Wednesday, June 17 – Jonkonnu Unity Project – Craven Terrace Comm. Bldg. @ 10a – 1p
- Wednesday, June 17 – HBCU D9 Day: Stanley White Gym @ 6p – 9p
- Thursday, June 18 – Jonkonnu Unity Project – Craven Terrace Comm. Bldg. @ 10a – 1p
- Thursday, June 18 – NB Southpaws Baseball Game: 50/50 Raffle & Dinner for Players @ 7p

JUNETEENTH WEEKEND • June 19–22

- Friday, June 19 – Havelock Juneteenth & Cultural Jamboree – Hyk City Park @ 3p
- Friday, June 19 – Day 1: Juneteenth Military Basketball Tourney – Stanley White Rec Center @ 5p – 9p
- Friday, June 19 – 7th Annual Premier Juneteenth Rooftop Celebration – 405 Middle Street @ 7p – 12a
- Saturday, June 20 – Juneteenth Parade @ 11a / Festival @ 12p – 4p / Fireworks @ 8:30p
- Saturday, June 20 – Day 2: Juneteenth Military Basketball Tournament @ 8a – 8p
- Saturday, June 20 – The FHC Scholarship Foundation All White Affair – NB Riverfront Convention Center @ 7p
- Sunday, June 21 – Day 3: Juneteenth Military Basketball Tournament Championships – Father’s Day
- Monday, June 22 – MAAFA BBQ – Union Point Park @ 6p – 8p

FOR DETAILS & UPDATES
Visit **JONB1865.org**
Call **252-617-7544**

WORLD REFUGEE DAY

Saturday, June 20 from 12:00 to 4:00 pm on the lawns of Christ Episcopal Church in New Bern

Activities include: Table-top Displays representing the many cultures and talents of refugees in our Community, Traditional Dress, Entertainment, Parade of Flags, Games, and more!

Come join the Celebration (maybe after our club participation in the Juneteenth Parade, or after the Juneteenth Festival, before the Fireworks.

For information, contact Amanda Norwood – 252-349-9411