

## THE 4-WAY TEST *of the things we think, say or do:*

1. Is it the truth?
2. Is it fair to all concerned?
3. Will it build good will and better friendships?
4. Will it be beneficial to all concerned?



# The Weekly Smile

Rotary Club of Sarasota

October 1, 2014

Wednesday at 12:00pm at Marina Jack Restaurant • Chartered April 12, 1926 • Member District 6960  
[www.rotaryclubofsarasota.com](http://www.rotaryclubofsarasota.com)

## EVENTS

**Longboat Key Club** - Meets Wednesday, 5:15, at Chart House, 205 G.M. Drive. Appetizers provided. Happy hour beverages available for purchase. A \$10 donation requested. The application for charter is now at Rotary International. Charter night planning is in the works.

## OUR ROTARY CLUB & SARASOTA'S FOOD INSECURE STUDENTS

and

*how all club members are helping food insecure students gain an education while helping Alta Vista Elementary become an A rated school. (Percentage of food insecure students according to 2013-14 School Year Data)*

Emma E. Booker - 96%; Alta Vista - 94%; Tuttle - 91%; Gocio - 88%; Wilkinson - 82%

The Rotary Club of Sarasota, for four years, has partnered with All Faiths Food Bank and Alta Vista Elementary to sponsor, *with your unused Rotary lunch payments*, and provide many volunteer hours serving programs such as the Back Pack Kids Nutritional Food Program; establish and operate a Food Pantry where needy families 'shop' for free; and taught "Cooking Matters" classes (how to shop for and prepare nutritious meals). It is time to expand these programs to all Sarasota County Title One Schools. *(Continued on Page 2)*

## REGULAR SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES

**Golf:** Bent Tree, Wednesdays at 2:20 & 2:28. E-mail [RDJWAdams@aol.com](mailto:RDJWAdams@aol.com) by noon Tuesday if you want to play.

**After Golf Dinner and Drinks:** Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. Miller's Sarasota Ale House, 3800 Kenny Drive (Bee Ridge and Cattleman). Sign up at lunch or email [Eugenerose@aol.com](mailto:Eugenerose@aol.com) before 6 pm. **Non-golfers welcome.**

**Breakfast:** Saturdays 8:30 am at Panera Bread, 41 & Bahia Vista

**WHO AM I?** This Rotarian, a rather foul-mouthed child whose grandparents lived across from Frank Sinatra's parents, said some bad things about the singer, and in mid-school year was immediately transferred to parochial school.

## THIS MEETING **Sally Smith**, a past president of the Rotary Club



of Estero, will talk about the Global Grant Projects in Guatemala, and the benefits of this level of commitment to the human needs of our world. Sally has been a member of Rotary for 5 years, and served as president of her club for 2012-2013. She is currently an Assistant Governor and the District 6869 Paul Harris Society Coordinator.

## NEXT MEETING **Habitat for Humanity Francine Diemer**

is Development and Communications Manager for Habitat for Humanity Sarasota, a position she has held for more than one and a half years. Prior to coming to Habitat, Francine was Development Director for Senior Friendship Centers in Sarasota. She has more than 20 years' experience in non-profit management and has worked for organizations throughout Florida. A graduate of the University of Florida, Francine began her career as a journalist and served as a copy editor at the Sarasota Herald-Tribune.

Francine has two grown children, both of whom she is proud to say are college graduates and gainfully employed (at least this week). She enjoys Gator and Auburn football, and the Tampa Bay Rays.

## LAST MEETING **Bruce Jacob, Former Dean Stetson Law**



**School "The Innocence Project"** The Innocence Project is a national litigation and public policy organization dedicated to exonerating wrongfully convicted individuals through DNA testing and reforming the criminal justice system to prevent future injustice. Bruce, Bob Johnson's FSU fraternity brother, kept most of the audience spellbound telling stories as he reviewed the history and effectiveness of the Innocence Project, emphasizing throughout that no one wants to see innocent people wrongfully convicted or guilty people running free. Thank you, Bob, and the rest of your committee, for gifting us with wonderful programs.

## Rotary Club of Sarasota Board Meeting Highlights:

*The Public Relations committee recommended that the SMILE, after the Monthly Board Meeting, feature Board Meeting Highlights. This gives all club members the opportunity to be aware of all club activities.*

September 8, 2014 Board Meeting: The club is in healthy financial shape with \$60,000 in the bank. Most club members are up to date with their dues. With such a good balance, the finance committee will investigate moving some of the money into a liquid interest bearing account.

The PR Committee is looking for ways to add content to the SMILE. In order to keep the club up to date on board activities, board meetings will be summarized for inclusion in the SMILE. Committee chairs and others are encouraged to submit more information so club members will be aware of the many club activities.

Lois Schaper reported on the trip to Guatemala and the global grant. It is an exciting project to provide stoves for families in Guatemala. Lois and Heather Gillon visited the manufacturers of the stoves and took school supplies with them.

After long deliberation and reflection, including a helpful evening forum on September 4 led by DG Pete Doragh, the board discussed the issue of invocation. The consensus was to begin each meeting with moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The Rotary Minute and four-way test would follow, and then the Rotarian of the Day would recognize guests and collect happy dollars. While the board recognizes that not everyone will be happy, the board hopes that this solution will allow us to move forward with the business of Rotary.

The next board meeting will be held on October 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.



All Faiths Food Bank served 51,800 people during past year, more than half of whom have health issues relating to poor nutrition. The income of 80% of the households served was \$20,000 or less, and 68% of them have had to choose between buying food or medicine, while 57% have had to choose between buying food or paying rent. More than 4,000 families don't have a refrigerator, or even a permanent home. Approximately half the children in the Sarasota School District qualify for the free or reduced-price lunch program, available only on school days. For these children and their families, weekends, holidays and summertime are occasions for increased stress caused by food insecurity or downright hunger.

Sandra Frank, CEO of All Faiths Food Bank, stated: *"What strikes me most about the findings of our local study is the desperate choices that families have to make to avoid hunger. The level of poverty, the instability of their lives, and the implications for their health and livelihood are appalling."*

In recent brainstorming sessions, while partaking of various types of food and beverages intended to stimulate brain cells, several Rotarians in our club discussed how Rotary could be even more helpful in minimizing food insecurity in Sarasota County. One workable approach would be to expand or create Rotary partnerships with all Sarasota County schools, beginning with those with the most need to combat food insecurity. This is a big challenge that fits the objectives of Rotary, the Food Bank, the Board of Education, and many charitable foundations.

Nick Rossi approached the leadership of All Faiths Food Bank and looked at the "Title One" elementary schools in the Sarasota School District – those with a high percentage of children experiencing food insecurity. The five neediest are all in northern Sarasota County and are listed in this article's lead paragraph. Preliminary data for this year shows the percentages might be higher. The idea would be to extend the Rotary Club of Sarasota's Alta Vista experience to assist each of these schools with similar food programs, then expand to the remaining qualified schools in Sarasota County next school year.

All five schools participate in the Back Pack Kids Program, but cover only partial percentages of qualifying children. Gocio and Wilkinson already have food pantry programs. Alta Vista is covered by the Rotary Club of Sarasota. But Tuttle and Emma E. Booker do not have a food pantry program. Rotarians and Food Bank representatives have met with them to identify their interest and needs, and will be seeking assistance from other Rotary clubs and/or other organizations to set up programs. At this writing, the Rotary Club of Longboat Key is assessing their ability to establish and operate a food pantry at Tuttle, and the Food Bank has increased Tuttle's backpack coverage.

Our intent is to urge the other Area 9 Rotary Clubs to take on Emma E. Booker, perhaps as a joint effort of multiple clubs. This should not be a major problem because this is what Rotarians do on a worldwide basis so shouldn't we also work to alleviate food insecurity in our own community? It won't be fast and it won't be easy, but if it were anything but challenging, the problem would not need Rotary.

**Rotarians in the Rotary Club of Sarasota have done a remarkable job supporting the club's partnership with All Faiths Food Bank and Sarasota County School District. We have helped make a real difference in the lives of the children and families served by Alta Vista Elementary School. Please continue this support. It does make a difference.**



## OUR ROTARY CLUB & SARASOTA'S FOOD INSECURE STUDENTS

Most educators agree that young minds cannot concentrate on schoolwork when they are hungry or stressed about whether their family has food.

Feeding America (the parent organization of All Faiths Food Bank) recently released a nationwide study, the result of 60,000 face-to-face interviews, giving a voice to the people who need food and the agencies that serve them. With funds from Gulf Coast Community Foundation, a vivid picture emerged of the people right here in Sarasota/Desoto Counties struggling with hunger: