

ROTARY CLUB of SARASOTA



CHARTERED APRIL 12, 1926
CLUB NUMBER 4339
DISTRICT 6960
ZONE 34

PRESIDENT – BEN BATES
Classification: Real Estate Broker

FEBRUARY 1, 2017

SMILE THE WEEKLY CLUB NEWSLETTER

WWW.ROTARYCLUBOFSARASOTA.COM

This Weeks's Speaker: Meg Lowman, Myakka Canopy Walk



Canopy Meg, Real Life Lorax, Einstein of the Treetops. Meg has been called many affectionate names. She is Director of Global Initiatives, Lindsay Chair of Botany and Senior Scientist in Plant Conservation, pioneered the science of canopy ecology.

For over thirty years, she has designed hot-air balloons and walkways for treetop exploration to solve mysteries in the world's forests, especially insect pests and ecosystem health. We are fortunate to have a canopy walk in Myakka State Park that has been an outstanding learning experience for students of all ages.



Dining For Women – Tuesday, February 21 at 6:30pm
Bill Jotham's House, 7157 Hawk's Harbor Circle, Bradenton
Gate Number is 2576

This Month's Project Location – Bolivia : targeting health, sanitation and clean water

Open to all Rotarians, Friends and Guests

Bring a dish to pass and beverage of your choice!

RSVP to Lois Schaper 941-388-8492 or loisschaper@yahoo.com

New Member Bio : Janna Overstreet



Janna was born and raised in Central Illinois where she also raised her two children, Emmalee and Oliver. After receiving her advanced degree she worked as a therapist and clinical director in mental health services for many years. In 1997 she began working with adults returning to school in higher education. In 2008 she became the founding director of the Academy of Lifetime Learning at Eastern Illinois University. In December of 2012 she was recruited

to serve as the Executive Director of the Lifelong Learning Academy in Sarasota(LLA). In June of 2016 she was named the Director of the Ringling College Lifelong Learning Academy when LLA merged with Ringling College of Art and Design. For the past twenty years Janna has also served as adjunct Psychology professor at Eastern Illinois University.

PREVIOUS MEETING (1/25/17) by Ron Rayevich

I had no idea that 20% of the residents of Sarasota County were functionally illiterate. According to **Tom Melville**, Executive Director of **The Literacy Council of Sarasota (LCS)**, that is nearly double the rate of functional illiterate Americans.

So what is being done about this? Tom explained that today 200 trained volunteers are tutoring 200 individuals to be sure they can read and write effectively enough to at least pass a GED exam and thereby qualify as equivalent to high school graduates. To qualify as a tutor requires 18 hours of training by LCS. There is a waiting list of 35 -50 individuals who want to be able to read more effectively. LCS also teaches about 100 other individuals in small groups for workplace literacy, adult basic education, English for speakers of other languages, financial literacy, jail literacy (*illiteracy is a major cause of re-entry into our local prisons because of the inability to find a job*), health literacy, and finally, a newly planned course in digital literacy. Those interested in becoming a tutor should call **The Literacy Council of Sarasota** at 941-955-0421 and ask for Susan Bergstrom, Program Director.

Tom, Thanks for bringing this information about LCS to us.

Stoves Save Lives For \$155! Stop the Smoke!
Please contact Paul Mlotok at paul@janaka.org for more details

Give to the Guatemala Stove Project!

New Prospective Member

Name: Rhett Bogacz

Sponsor: Rick Hughes

Classification: Chiropractor

We Welcome Your Comments!

Every Saturday Morning for Coffee!

Saturday Mornings at 9:00am - Panera Bread at Bahia Vista
Rotarians and significant others welcome at this informal Rotary social gathering.

Every Monday Night for Snacks and Drinks!

Monday Evenings at 5:30 pm - Social Eatery and Bar -1219 First St.
Bring a Friend!!!