

ROTARY CLUB of SARASOTA



CHARTERED APRIL 12, 1926

CLUB NUMBER 4339

DISTRICT 6960

ZONE 34

PRESIDENT – JEFF MEYER

Classification: Vice President, Investments

September 18, 2019

SMILE, the weekly club newsletter

ROTARYCLUBOFSARASOTA.COM

ALL KINDERGARTNERS SHOULD HAVE READINESS BAGS.

WORKING THE SUNCOAST CAMPAIGN FOR GRADE LEVEL READING,
THE ROTARY CLUB OF SARASOTA FOUNDATION (RCSF) AND
THE PATTERSON FOUNDATION MADE IT HAPPEN.

Why is it important that all kindergartners receive Kindergarten Readiness Bags (KRBs)? Why not just those in need because well-off families will see that their kindergartners are ready? Not always. All families are different. Each kindergartener comes to school different. Many are away from their parents for the first time and are somewhat traumatized. They can immediately feel the difference. We adults often think of peer pressure as a problem for tweens and teens. Not so! Ask any elementary school teacher. Even at age 4, peer pressure is all too real. The minute kids enter preschool they are subject to outside influences. KRBs give them something in common while minimizing the differences in readiness levels.

Children with higher levels of school readiness at age five are generally more successful in grade school, are less likely to drop out of high school, and earn more as adults, even after adjusting for differences in family background (*Duncan et al., 2007, Duncan et al., 2010*). According to an analysis that used linked data sets to track success from birth to age 40, entering kindergarten ready to learn can improve one's chances of reaching middle class status by age 40 by about 8 percentage points (*Winship, Sawhill and Gold, 2011*).

The Patterson Foundation, through the Suncoast Campaign for Grade Level Reading (SCGLR) was furnishing KRBs for Title 1 Students only in Sarasota and Manatee counties. Rotarians believed that all kindergartners should have readiness bags. During negotiations with the SCGLR, the Patterson Foundation agreed to add the *Josh the Otter* book and program to all readiness bags and put the Rotary logo on the bags if the RCSF would fund KRBs for the non-Title I kindergartners in Sarasota County. Because of timing and cash flow, the RCSF didn't have sufficient funds to purchase the KRBs when needed, so the Patterson Foundation agreed to purchase the KRBs as long as the RCSF agreed to replace the funds.

SIGN UP TO SERVE AT A PANTRY ON OUR CLUB'S WEB SITE

<https://www.rotaryclubofsarasota.com/>

While there, consider browsing the site just to see what is on it. Suggestions for improvement are welcome. Email jrhjr@jimhenrybooks.com

SCHOOL PANTRY



To [SIGN UP](#) to serve in school pantries, please [CLICK](#) on the following links::

[ALTA VISTA >](#)

[EMMA E. BOOKER >](#)

ONLY 2 TICKETS REMAINING ROTARY NIGHT AT THE OPERA Nov. 1 — 7:30 pm. RIGOLETTO

Ana Bartys, who coordinates our annual Rotary Night at the Opera, has secured 35 tickets. The cost will be **\$83.60**. A deposit of **\$20.00** per ticket is needed when you sign up or shortly thereafter, or your signup will be invalidated. **Checks are to be made out to the Rotary Club of Sarasota.**

Ana has arranged for an optional group dinner at Umbrellas, the restaurant adjacent to the Opera House. A prix fixe two-course dinner with four entrée choices and salad will be \$33.00 plus tax and gratuity. A signup sheet will be available at the Wednesday meetings. Please indicate on the signup sheet the number of opera tickets you wish to have and whether or not your party wishes to enjoy dinner at Umbrellas. If you have any questions, please contact Ana Bartys at anabartys@gmail.com or call her at 941-321-2674.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE CHAIR - BOB GAGLIO

September Program Coordinator — Dan Dannheisser
Sept 25 — Ariel Serrano - Sarasota Cuban Ballet

October Program Coordinator — Maarten Meckman
October 2 - Margaret Good - State Representative
October 9 - Dr. Jennifer Trent - Dermatology



THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM



Liz Alpert, Sarasota Mayor and family law attorney, is the oldest of eight children. Her father was a long-distance truck driver, and her mother stayed at home to raise the children. Neither had attended college, but that didn't stop Liz—she was determined to get her college degree.

While raising three daughters, Liz took classes off and on for over 17 years and finally graduated *summa cum laude* from the University of South Florida in 1995. However, she had another dream—to become an attorney. Again, she worked and planned and finally achieved her goal by graduating from Stetson University's College of Law in 2005. She began practicing law in

Sarasota in 2006, and has served on the Florida Bar Support Issues Committee and for a time as the chair of a committee that was working on an alimony guideline formula.

Liz has also found time to give back to Sarasota. In 2003, she was appointed to the City of Sarasota's Human Relations Board where she served until 2007. She was then appointed to the City's General Personnel/Civil Service Board where she served until her election to the Sarasota City Commission on May 12, 2015.

PREVIOUS MEETING (09/11/2019) BY JIM HENRY

We were privileged to have our Rotary District 6960 governor, **Richard (Rich) Kirschner**, accompanied by his wife, Nancy, visit us. Districts are administrative divisions of Rotary International (RI). District Governors are officers of RI, and their primary duty is to guide the district in helping its clubs advance the **Object of Rotary**. Rich made it pretty clear that Districts exist to help clubs advance the Object of Rotary, and that membership is its top priority. The District is encouraging all areas (we are in District 6960's Area 7) to have a Rotary Information Meeting attended by special invitees who each club has previously approved for membership.

This priority change is still evolving from priorities several years ago when contributing to The Rotary Foundation was the district's top priority. In addition, Rich pointed out that, as a result of some of the activities and projects our club has undertaken, and influence our club has had on District activities, that the entire District Grant process is being revised.

Rich's District Conference, a celebration of club achievements, family activities, and inducting Darryl Keyes as our new District Governor, will convene May 7—9 at the Naples FL Beach and Golf Club. It is never too late to register.



Richard Kirschner
District Governor

NEXT YEAR'S CONVENTION WILL BE IN HONOLULU, HAWAII!

Wouldn't it be wonderful if a number of members could attend and take some tours before and/or after guided by or with the advice of our own Garret Grace, past president of the Rotary Club of Honolulu?

JRH says it is not too early to make plans, and you should believe him. More than likely it would be an unforgettable experience.

Diamond Head—O'ahu



Volcano National Park—Hawaii



NOTICE

To stimulate public awareness and give the public an opportunity to participate in helping Sarasota County students achieve top place in the State's third grade reading level (in systems with over 2,000 students), an on-line campaign is underway. It would be helpful for Rotarians to help us lead the way by making others aware of this goal.

CLUB MEMBERS ARE NOT TO FEEL PRESSURED TO CONTRIBUTE MORE THAN THEY WISH TO.