

ROTARY CLUB of SARASOTA



CHARTERED APRIL 12, 1926

CLUB NUMBER 4339

DISTRICT 6960

ZONE 34

PRESIDENT – JEFF MEYER

Classification: Vice President, Investments

September 25, 2019

SMILE, the weekly club newsletter

ROTARYCLUBOFSARASOTA.COM



Mike Melnick receiving the 2018-19 Sean Skinner Award for Bringing Joy to Everyone - Presented by Pat Skinner and 2018-19 president Joe Devore.



President Jeff Meyer, Sarasota Mayor Liz Alpert (and Tony Swart's mother-in-law,) newly inducted member John Coleman, and old Rotarian Jim Henry



PROPOSED NEW MEMBER

Name

Lois McGovern

Classification

Innkeeper

Proposed by

Steve Cork

If no written objections are submitted to the Board of Directors by the end of the work day Sept 25, Lois will be invited to our club's Rotary Information Meeting.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE CHAIR - BOB GAGLIO

September Program Coordinator — Dan Dannheisser
October Program Coordinator — Maarten Meckman

October 2 - Margaret Good - State Representative
October 9 - Dr. Jennifer Trent - Dermatology
October 16 - Jennifer O. Rominiecki - Selby Gardens



THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM



Garrett Grace, a relatively new member and past president of the Rotary Club of Honolulu, will talk to us about his profession and may say a few things about Rotary House and the International Convention in Honolulu. For those of you who have not read Garrett's bio in the 2018-19 fourth quarter *Eye into Why*, Garrett was born in Ireland, and comes to Sarasota via South Africa, Namibia, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, and Australia, where he served 6 years in the Royal Australian Navy. He saw activity during the Desert Storm operation. He saw active duty on the destroyer HMAS Brisbane. In 1993, he immigrated to the USA and settled in Hawaii.

Prior to moving to Sarasota, Garrett was Executive VP at Apparent, Inc., a renewable energy technology company. Today, he is in real estate sales and leasing with Coldwell Banker Lakewood Ranch and with the Grace's real estate rental portfolio in Hawaii and Sarasota. He is also very involved in club activities and is often accompanied to our club's social activities with his wonderful wife, Linda Anzai, who is originally from Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

PREVIOUS MEETING (09/18/2019) BY RON RAYEVICH

It was a real honor to have the **Mayor of the City of Sarasota, Liz Alpert**, as our speaker. **Mayor Alpert** is a graduate of USF, holds a law degree from Stetson University, and practices family law in Sarasota. **Mayor Alpert** was elected to the Sarasota City Commission in 2015 and focused on six key issues when she ran for office. First was the Bayfront project where the Van Wezel and adjoining property are located and where the master plan was recently approved by the City Commission. Next was homelessness in Sarasota where the Housing First initiative has been approved and where the number of homeless has declined by 800. In covering growth and traffic concerns the mayor explained the city master plan and the 25 year transportation plan. The issue of improving Bobby Jones Golf Course was discussed as well as the recent city approval of funds to upgrade the courses and provide for enhanced park areas. Affordable housing has been a continuing issue in the city and **Mayor Alpert** talked about the Lofts on Lemon and the Rosemary overlay district as part of the solution to workforce housing. Finally the mayor focused on the importance of arts and culture to Sarasota and how the new performing arts hall at the Bayfront and retaining the Sarasota Orchestra in the city were keys to maintaining this critical component of city life. Thanks, **Mayor Alpert**, for sharing your views on how the city is progressing toward these important goals and for your leadership.



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 Garrett 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.