

ROTARY CLUB of SARASOTA



CHARTERED APRIL 12, 1926

CLUB NUMBER 4339

DISTRICT 6960

ZONE 34

PRESIDENT – JEFF MEYER

Classification: Vice President, Investments

June 3, 2020

SMILE, the weekly club newsletter

ROTARYCLUBOFSARASOTA.COM

SOCIAL SEPARATION (SS) EDITION #12

Rotary Club of Sarasota Lunch Meeting Noon Wednesdays

Continuing Link. Really.

<https://ismyrotaryclub.com/Click/?uid=800548772&ctid=1591627&redirect=https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85074954959?pwd=YWFzZa0djMct6NGJ0eUZPR0hmZjE2Zz09>

AWARDS AND INSTALLATION CELEBRATION

JUNE 27, 2020

SARASOTA YACHT CLUB

TO MAKE RESERVATIONS PLEASE GO TO

<https://forms.gle/XeoaSeo9dcHL4a2r9>



Adventures of Bob Stone and Exchange Student Crew traveling mainly on Interstate 20, with side trips

PROGRAM COMMITTEE CHAIR
BOB GAGLIO
June Program Coordinator

June 10 - RCSF Foundation Report and
Annual Meeting

Thanks to Maarten, the Saturday Morning Zoom now has a permanent link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/36569938109>

THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM FULBRIGHT SPECIALIST AWARD RECIPIENT



Dr. Deri Ronis has been providing innovative seminars and workshops for over three decades to schools, corporations, government agencies and religious organizations. She earned a Doctorate in International Peace Studies and Conflict Resolution, pioneering numerous programs which include mediation, meditation, anger management and stress reduction.

Deri lived and taught in the Bahamas from 1979—1984 and has spoken at many venues over the past 3 decades. She was a Rotary International Goodwill Ambassador and University Professor Grant Recipient, and is currently a Fulbright Specialist Grant Recipient.

She was scheduled to teach at the Rotary International Peace Center at Uppsala University in March of this year but her trip was cancelled the day before her departure, due to the Corona Virus.

She is currently an ESOL Adjunct Professor in Linguistics, teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages with many talented immigrants at the Suncoast Technical College. She is a Florida Supreme Court Certified Family and County Mediator, a U.S. Postal Redress Mediator, a Trainer in Anti Bullying and Cyber Bullying with the ADL, Anti Defamation League, and an EAP (*Employee Assistance Programs*) trainer, and a published author. Dr. Deri can be contacted through on her website www.DrDeri.com or by phone is 561-644-3904.

PREVIOUS VIRTUAL MEETING (MAY 27) BY RON RAYEVICH

And you thought U.S. Sugar was just a sugar conglomerate responsible for polluting Lake Okeechobee!

Forty-six (46) club members attended the virtual club meeting via Zoom and heard **Judy Sanchez, Sr. Director for Corporate Communications & Public Affairs** representing **U. S. Sugar: Feeding Families Since 1931.**

I think I am like others who thought that **U. S. Sugar** was one of the companies responsible for the pollution of Lake Okeechobee and contributing to the algae which causes problems on both the east and west coast of Florida. In fact all **240,000 acres of U. S. Sugar's** holdings are south of the lake and are planted primarily with sugar cane, which duplicates the original native grasses located there.

The land was originally assembly for **U. S. Sugar** by it's founder Charles Steward Mott, who was a co-founder of General Motors in 1908 with William Durant.. The runoff from the cane fields and the 13,500 acres planted in citrus, together with other acreage planted in vegetable crops such as corn, lettuce, green beans, squash, etc., slowly drains through the Everglades south of **U. S. Sugar**, and eventually into the Ten Thousand Islands and Florida Bay. The runoff is filtered as it moves south, just as the Florida grasslands runoff was filtered by the Everglades 100 years ago before **U. S. Sugar** bought this vast tract of land.

U. S. Sugar, located in Clewiston, Florida, is primarily owned by two charitable foundations (*Mott Foundation and the Mott Children's Health Center*) together with U. S. Sugar's employees through an Employee Stock Ownership Program (ESOP). 2,500 individuals are either employed directly by U. S. Sugar or are under contract as farmers, citrus growers, etc.

The company also operates its own railroad with 300 miles of track, 24 locomotives, and 850 rail cars. It's quite an operation and our thanks to **Judy Sanchez** for bringing this story to us with a wonderful power-point presentation.



SMILE editor's note: The Zoom meetings have allowed for some quality programming that members otherwise would not have had the privilege of experiencing. Thanks, Lee-En for arranging meetings for us from New York City and Clewiston.