

Rotary



Rotary Opens Opportunities

The SMILE

March 24, 2021

ROTARY CLUB OF SARASOTA

CHARTERED APRIL 12, 1926
CLUB NUMBER 4339
DISTRICT 6960
ZONE 34
PRESIDENT – LAURA RANDALL

The Four Way Test of Things we Think, Say or Do:

- 1. Is it the TRUTH?
- 2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
- 3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
- 4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

Upcoming speakers

Mar 31.....Ron Turner,
Supervisor of Elections

Apr 7.....Pam Akins,
The Rotary Foundation

Apr 14.....Toni Duval,
Sister Cities Program

This week's speaker

Beth Duda

Director, Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading



Since May of 2015, Beth Duda has been one of the driving forces of the Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading (SCGLR). SCGLR is a four-county effort to help children from birth through 3rd grade, especially those from asset-limited families, succeed in life by ensuring they read on grade level.

An award-winning playwright and educator, Beth spent more than twenty years working with students and educators in elementary schools as part of the Education Department of Florida Studio Theatre. These experiences fueled her commitment to deepening community connections in order to improve reading proficiency in our region and beyond.

As the Director of the SCGLR, Beth works closely with local lead partners—United Way of Charlotte County, United Way Suncoast and the Community Foundation of Sarasota County—to drive positive change in the region. To embed lasting change, the future-focused partners strive to collaborate with every sector: business, government, nonprofits, media, and individuals.

Beth first worked with The Patterson Foundation when she directed the community dedication of Patriot Plaza, a 2,800-seat ceremonial amphitheater at Sarasota National Cemetery. Following the dedication, she conceived and directed "Celebrate Service & Sacrifice" at Patriot Plaza for an audience comprised of guests from 25 states and the District of Columbia.

Beth has created several one-act plays performed for thousands of school-aged children. Recently, she used her playwriting skills to write Abraham Lincoln & Frederick Douglass, A Walk to Respect, which The Patterson Foundation produced in partnership with Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe as part of The Patterson Foundation's 10th Anniversary Celebration, Honoring & Onward. In Beth's twenty-plus years of arts education, her sensitive and visionary approach to educating and learning continues to inspire students, parents, and educators.

March 17th Meeting Recap

by Francine DiFilippo

Dr. Brennan Asplen stepped into the position as Superintendent of Sarasota County Schools on August 10, 2020. Prior to coming to Sarasota, he served as Deputy Superintendent for academic and Student Services in the St. Johns County School District.

This was obviously a challenging time to take over district responsibilities when our schools were mandated to be open by the Governor and nothing was normal due to COVID. There was a lot of anxiety and concern from parents, teachers and students. Many things had to change from the business-as-usual model to having to modify and change almost everything from teacher training for remote class instruction for all teachers to having the custodial staff sanitize and clean everything regularly multiple times during the day. We are currently at 85% in person classroom attendance with about 6,000 students still on-line of the total population of 44,000 students.

They are continuing to work on the gap between at-risk populations and the control group of students. Even when improvements are achieved the gap remains because you do not want to hold anyone back. Both are growing but at the same rate, so the gap does not change significantly. This is a challenge they are trying to overcome.

Dr. Asplen mentioned culture and collaboration and improving communications as top goals, they are currently also working on a strategic plan.

He left plenty of time for questions and did not dodge on any of them from empty buses – not COVID related to the inequities in funding for capital improvements for charter schools, Green teachers being assigned to the toughest educational environments, ESL for parents which might help with closing their gap, the special needs students unique challenges and working with the various stakeholders to achieve what is in the best interests of the students, allowing volunteers and clubs to meet again, etc.

The school system has 5 foundations working for the betterment of the school system in various capacities. Our students are tested on proficiency in math and English, but he feels that if the arts were included our schools would be at the very top in the state and as it is, we perform very well relative to the other school districts.

Where do you help?

We want to know where our members do good deeds outside our Club. Brag a little and let us know about your do-goodery! Send info to laurarandall813@gmail.com



**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY!**

3/24 - Laura Randall
3/25 - Susan Leavis



Let's get social!

You can now find the Rotary Club of Sarasota on Facebook and Instagram @RotaryClubOfSarasota. We'll post photos and stories so you can share.





Election Alert!

Election of our Club's Officers and Directors will be held at our lunch meeting on March 31st. According to our bylaws, members wishing to vote in the election must be present at the meeting either in person or via Zoom.

The Nominating Committee, comprised of Past Presidents David Bowman and Joe Devore, Immediate Past President Jeff Meyer, President-Elect Lee-En Chung and Vice President Steve Cork, have proposed the following slate of candidates for election:

- **Vice President - Jay Riggs**
- **Secretary - Pam Akins**
- **Treasurer - Peg Cork**
- **Sargent-at-Arms - Tony Swart**
- **Director - Dan Dannheiser**
- **Director - Francine DiFilippo**
- **Director - Lois Schaper**
- **Director - Lou Schwartz**

Nominations from the floor will be accepted at the meeting. Once all names have been collected, the ballot will be created and an electronic copy will be sent to all members who are present at the meeting. Ballots must be returned by 5:00pm on Friday, April 2nd to be counted.

Is it fair to all concerned?

As Rotarians we need to be aware of the behavior expected of us. Conducting ourselves in adherence to this code of conduct can help us all act in the Rotary spirit.

ROTARIAN CODE OF CONDUCT

As a Rotarian, I will:

1. Act with integrity and high ethical standards in my personal and professional life
2. Deal fairly with others and treat them and their occupations with respect
3. Use my professional skills through Rotary to mentor young people, help those with special needs, and improve people's quality of life in my community and in the world
4. Avoid behavior that reflects adversely on Rotary or other Rotarians
5. Help maintain a harassment-free environment in Rotary meetings, events, and activities; report any suspected harassment; and help ensure non-retaliation to those individuals that report harassment



2020-2021 Rotary Club Board of Directors

Laura Randall - President
Lee-En Chung - President-Elect
Steve Cork - Vice President
Jeff Meyer - Immediate Past President
Andrea Nierenberg - Secretary
Dan Smith - Treasurer
Drew Adams - Sargent-at-Arms

Directors
Pam Akins
Peg Cork
Zain Hartman
Ruth McLaren
Tom Melville
Paul Mlotok
Steven Stegall