

ROTARY CLUB of SARASOTA



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

PRESIDENT - VICENTE MEDINA
Classification. Insurance — Commercial: Personal

MARCH 16, 2016

SMILE THE WEEKLY CLUB NEWSLETTER

WWW.ROTARYCLUBOFSARASOTA.COM

PROGRAM CHAIR APRIL, MAY, JUNE—DAN DANNHEISSER

THIS MEETING

Karen Rushing, Clerk of the Circuit Court and County Comptroller, is an integral part of the entire county government process. Elected to a four-year term, Karen's office has responsibilities as Auditor and Custodian of all county funds. The Comptroller provides a check and balance of county revenues and expenditures on behalf of all citizens. Ms. Rushing serves as Clerk of the Circuit and County Courts, County Comptroller, Treasurer, Recorder, Auditor, Finance Officer, Clerk to the VAB, and Ex-Officio Clerk of the County Commission. The office has received the distinguished "Excellence in Financial Reporting" award every year during Karen's tenure. She has been asked by the United States Department of Commerce to speak to and serve as technical advisor to foreign officials and offices.

FUTURE PROGRAMS

March 23 - Larry Thompson, Ringling College of Art and Design
March 30 - Club Assembly

In Bill Jotham's World

- People eat breakfast like a king, lunch like a prince, and dinner like a college kid with a maxed out credit card.
- When a lady is pregnant, her friends touch her stomach and say "Congrats," but nobody congratulates the man for the good job he has done!

**ROTARY CLUB OF SARASOTA'S
INTERNATIONAL ARTS AND CRAFTS
FESTIVAL
MARCH 26 & 27
HILVIEW STREET
9:30 TO 5:00**

Fair Committee Chair — Francine DiFilippo-Kent
(difikent@aol.com)

THE ROTARY CLUB OF SARASOTA FOUNDATION'S \$ FOR \$ MATCH IS HELPING SARASOTA'S STUDENTS!

The Rotary Club of Longboat Key contributed \$5,000 and the RCSF matched it to the Education Foundation of Sarasota to create the **Sydelle Pittas Digital Learning Lab (DDL)** at Tuttle Elementary. In schools where DDLs are in operation, student reading and math scores have improved an average of 56% and 58% respectively.



All of you, through your contributions to the Rotary Club of Sarasota Foundation, are active participants in helping to make Sarasota better. For more photos and information, please go to page 2.

Dining for Women



**March 21 6:30 p.m.
Nancy Flouret's 435 S. Gulfstream
#401
Help reduce maternal and child mortality in the rural communities of Jalapa, Nicaragua.**

PREVIOUS MEETING By Dorothy Pratt & Charlotte Ryan

Child abuse occurs across every denomination, race, and socio-economic group, according to Rotary speaker **Lucia Branton**, director of external affairs for the Safe Children Coalition, serving forty children per month. Some children have been abused while others are referred because of drug abuse, mental health problems or domestic violence. Some 116 more foster homes are needed for children, especially teens. Staff works with family members in hopes of reuniting the family within six months. Ms. Branton stated: "We try to be their advocates. We offer them tools. Without encouragement, they can stop believing in themselves." The local coalition has the best record in the state for preventing recidivism.



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ROTARIANS MAKE THE WORLD BETTER . . . ONE COMMUNITY AT THE TIME.

The **Rotary Club of Sarasota Foundation (RCSF)** partnered with the **Education Foundation of Sarasota County** and committed up to \$20,000 to match \$ for \$ contributions to start and operate for one year Digital Learning Labs (DLL) in select locations. **The Rotary Club of Longboat Key** contributed \$5,000, the RCSF matched it, and the Tuttle Elementary **Sydelle Pittas Digital Learning Lab** is now in operation. The Longboat Key members arranged to have Sydelle, unable to attend, listen in during the dedication and speak to the audience afterwards.

(Photos courtesy of Rick Hughes.)



Nick Rossi & RCSF Board Member & Grants Committee Chair Joan Verizzo.



RCSF has \$15,000 available to match contributions to the Education Foundation \$ for \$ for DLLs.



Carol Erker, president of the Rotary Club of Longboat Key.



Welcome to the
SYDELLE PITTAS
Digital Learning Lab
Tuttle Elementary School

POWERED BY:



Thank you Excellence Founding Donors:



Sign to be replaced by a permanent plaque.



Are Superintendent Lori White & Principal Tomas Dinverno giving or getting instruction?



School board member Carolyn Zucker Looking on!

The Rotary Club of Sarasota is helping make Sarasota Better!



RCSF Board Member Sarah Lodge chatting with Robyn Faucy, Education Foundation Director of Development.



Each DLL has on-site tutors.

DLLS AWAITING FUNDING:

- **Children's First Head Start Program**
 - Girls Incorporated
- **Wilkinson Elementary School**
- **Gocio Elementary School**
- **Jacaranda Library**

RCSF \$ for \$ Match Waits!

DLLs have a proven track record of improving average student performance in math and reading by 58% and 56% respectively.



Rotary District 6960 Governor- Elect Ladd Waldo and wife Sally.

Education Foundation Press Release

Partnership Helps Bridge the Digital Divide for Students

March 11, 2016- The Education Foundation of Sarasota County held the Grand Opening of a Digital Learning Lab at Tuttle Elementary School on Thursday, March 10. The opening of the Lab was made possible due to the generosity of the **Rotary Club of Sarasota Foundation** and the **Rotary Club of Longboat Key**.

More than 50 attendees were on hand to celebrate the event as the Lab was dedicated to Sydelle Pittas, the founder of the Longboat Key Rotary Club and avid Tuttle Elementary School volunteer. Education Foundation Board members, members of both Rotary Clubs, Sarasota County Schools Superintendent Lori White, School Board Member Caroline Zucker, students, and parents of Tuttle Elementary School were among those in attendance.

This marks the 25th Digital Learning Lab the Education Foundation has opened in Sarasota County over the past two and a half years. The Lab will be used by students and families in Tuttle's afterschool and summer programs.