

ROTARY CLUB of SARASOTA



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PRESIDENT - VICENTE MEDINA

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SMILE THE WEEKLY CLUB NEWSLETTER

WWW.ROTARYCLUBOFSARASOTA.COM

THIS MEETING

PROGRAM COMMITTEE CHAIR—BOB JOHNSON

This Week — Bob Stone, Trevor Stone, Will Zelin, and Doug Meyer, outgoing S4TL president, will talk about S4TL (Seminar for Tomorrow's Leaders), a program that Peggy Williams' father, Ray Skinner, was instrumental in beginning.



FUTURE PROGRAMS



August 26 Terri Wonder, PhD., a former Army Civilian Social Scientist embedded with combat personnel in Iraq between 2008 and 2010, will give a presentation on how she predicted in 2010 that Islamic State would organize to topple the government of Iraq. Additionally, she will delineate a set of cultural-military recommendations vital to de-radicalizing Iraq and inoculating it against a future third wave of insurgency. Dr. Wonder's job in Iraq was to conduct ethnographic and statistical research on local populations in order to accurately advise future military operations aimed at pacifying and stabilizing the Iraqi countryside. Dr. Wonder is an expert in militant Islamic fundamentalism and the cultural psychology of the Middle East. She lives with her husband in Bradenton, Florida, and grew up in Sarasota, Florida, graduating from Riverview High School in 1984. She is the owner and chief editor of www.nautilusediting.com.

GEORGE A. HANDLEY, NEW MEMBER

After years of periodic snow birding, I am now a full-time Sarasota resident. I retired in October of last year as Business Administrator of a large church in my Connecticut hometown, Old Greenwich, a position I held, amazingly, for 18 years. Prior to that, I was an account manager in the advertising agency business in New York City for 35 years, followed by a few years of marketing & communications consulting. I'm currently looking for some interesting part-time or full-time work for what has humorously been called my "Encore Career"! My "significant-other", Lucy Hedrick, and I have been together for almost 21 years. I have three married children (*Chicago suburbs & Phoenix*) and 9 grandchildren (*six of whom are twins!*); Lucy has one married son and one grandchild, in Brooklyn, NY. This is all probably more than you care to know. Lastly, but importantly, I'm proud to be a Rotary member & look forward to being an active participant.



AROUND THE CLUB Roy and Jean Adams, in Norway halfway through their travels, are healthy and happy. Spotted at the recent Tiger Bay luncheon: Attorney **Ralph Friedland**, artist **Betty Griggs**, engineer **Lee-En Chung** and banker **Jim Roque**. Dr. **Dick Rehmeier**, president **Vicente Medina**, and Dr. **Caridad Santos** are in Manila, Philippines to help celebrate a Global Grant our club joined in sponsoring. For a video on the Grant, visit the club's web page—**Club Impact—International**. **Rick & Peg Hughes** just returned from a Goodwill business and 20th anniversary celebration trip to Portland, OR. While traveling, Rick read and recommends "**HOT STUFF**" by **Don Bruns**. (Okay, **Rick** and **Don** - Remember the Giving Challenge is coming up.)

!!! IMPORTANT NOTICE !!!

September 2 Meeting will not be at Marina Jack.

**It will be at the Salvation Army,
1400 10th Street.**

!!! IMPORTANT NOTICE !!!

PREVIOUS MEETING by Ron Rayevich

It was great to hear such good news about the growth of tourism from **Virginia Haley**, Executive Director of Visit Sarasota County. 2014 broke all previous records with 929,000 visitors to Sarasota County and 2015 is on its way to topping that record. Visit Sarasota (*a 501(c)(6) corporation*) has a budget of \$18.2 million to promote tourism with \$6.2 million coming from a 5% countywide tax on tourist accommodations, 44% from private funds, and the balance from other governmental funds such as the State of Florida. About 1/3 of the total funds are spent on our county beaches, 1/3 for promotion of tourism, and the balance for cultural activities, the arts, Ed Smith Stadium, and the aquatic center. Only 1.5% is spent for administration. In 2014 the average occupancy for county hotels reached 72% (*anything above 67% is considered good*) with an average daily room rate of \$160. There is a program to promote additional airline growth at Sarasota-Bradenton International Airport called Air Team SRQ, which we all might benefit from over the long term. Thanks, Virginia, for giving us such a clear picture of tourism today and for your 16 years of service with Visit Sarasota.



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ROTARY CLUBS DO NOT MAKE COMMUNITIES. ROTARY CLUBS MAKE COMMUNITIES BETTER.