

# Rotary



# Rotary Opens Opportunities

## The SMILE

September 2, 2020

### 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

Sept 9.....Christina Captain, Sarasota Center for Acupuncture and Nutrition

Sept 16.....Jeff Jackson, CEO, PGT Innovations

Sept 23.....Kat Ross, Dockmaster, Marina Jacks

Sept 30.....Lynn Cole, Certified Mediator

#### President Laura's Update

Hello, Fellow Rotarians!

I am pleased to note Hurricane Laura left our area unscathed. This was, however, an opportunity for us all to assess our storm supplies and test our Club emergency communications plan. I hope you all received a phone call and took time to check your supply of batteries, water, and snacks and/or wine. The Randall family is set!

Though the hurricane did not hit us, the first two months of this Rotary year have been a tad stormy, but I have been impressed by the resilience of this group. Our members pivoted to remote Zoom meetings, we inducted a new member, launched a strategic planning initiative, served at a mobile food pantry, AND witnessed the eradication of wild polio in Africa. Rotarians are always people of action; doing so in a pandemic is particularly impressive.

While the COVID situation seems to be moving in the right direction, we are clearly not out of the pandemic woods yet. Your Club leadership will continue to keep the best interests of our members and our community at top of mind. As a result, we will hold our weekly meetings virtually for the time being. Please know we are continually assessing the environment and will return to Marina Jacks as soon as prudent. Until then, I encourage you to reach out to one another and continue your Rotary fellowship. Now more than ever, it is important we check on each other and deepen those ties.

Please keep an eye out for information about participating in the Strategic Planning process. The group spearheading this effort wants to ensure EVERY member has a voice in designing the future of our Club. Your input will help us create a vibrant club to meet the needs of our members and our community.

I appreciate the support and engagement I have seen over the past 8 weeks. I look forward to seeing you all over the MJ buffet at our earliest opportunity.

- LR

# This week's speaker

## **Jim Shirley, Executive Director Arts & Cultural Alliance of Sarasota County**

Jim Shirley is the Executive Director of the Arts and Cultural Alliance of Sarasota County. He is a long-time Sarasota resident with extensive ties to the arts and cultural community.



Prior to joining the Alliance, Jim served as Director of Development for PAL Sailor Circus.

Jim holds a Bachelors degree from the University of Central Arkansas and has more than 30 years experience in sales, marketing and management. Prior to entering the non profit world, he owned and managed a highly successful executive search firm for over 20 years.

The Arts and Cultural Alliance is a member-powered organization passionate about building appreciation, participation and support for arts and culture. Founded in 1986 by a group of committed citizens, the Alliance has administered over \$22 million in grants to area artists and arts organizations. The Alliance enhances the connection between the community and regional arts and culture by strengthening cooperation among business, community and elected leaders, audiences and the public. This is achieved through arts advocacy, education and arts appreciation events.

## **MAJOR POLIOPLUS NEWS: AFRICA NOW POLIO FREE**

Africa has been declared free of the wild polio virus! This is the result of decades of effort across 47 countries in Africa, involving millions of health workers traveling by foot, boat, bike and bus, innovative strategies to vaccinate children amid conflict and insecurity, and a huge disease surveillance network for testing paralysis cases and checking sewage for polio virus.



Over the last two decades, countless Rotary members have worked together to raise funds, immunize children, advocate with local and national leaders, and raise awareness about the importance of vaccination. This milestone is an incredible public health achievement for Rotarians, Africa, and our Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) partners, including the World Health Organization, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and many of the world's leading nations. Because of Rotary's effort to rid the African region of wild polio, we can be proud we've eliminated the wild poliovirus in nearly every country in the world. The polio infrastructure Rotarians helped create will continue to help protect vulnerable children against other diseases for decades to come.

We still have two countries to go: Pakistan and Afghanistan. Support Rotary's End Polio Now Campaign with a donation to The Rotary Foundation. Go to [ww.rotary.org/give](http://ww.rotary.org/give) and make your donation online.

## August 26th Meeting Recap

By Bonnie Calvert

Thank you to our own member Mike Melnick for speaking to us from Armel Jewelers on ST. ARMANDS CIRCLE. A family business dating back to 1966, the business is associated with American Gem Society and Mike just hit his 30 year milestone as a certified appraiser. He showed us around the store, showing us sapphires (which come in every color of the rainbow), estate merchandise, aquamarine, pearls, tanzanites and diamonds, then showed us an 1898 Rickenbacker watch. Mike's love of his profession was obvious throughout his presentation even though it was a family illness that brought him back from mining in Colorado many years ago.



## Community Service Committee Ruth McLaren, Chair

These are challenging times to do good in our community! While we continue to search for local projects which can be managed from a distance, our thanks go out to Lou Schwartz for keeping the efforts going with the Alta Vista Food Pantry. See Rotarians in action in the photos below!

The most recent event served over 150 families. The next opportunity to volunteer will be on September 28. Contact Jolly Lou if you would like to get to work serving.

In addition, President Laura just announced that we will participate in the laptop collection drive which will benefit the Children's Guardian Fund. Please see the attached flyer for more information. And lastly, the 10th Street Clean Up project is gearing up to clean the street again. More information will be forthcoming from Maarten Meckman. If you have any ideas you would like to share for service activities, please feel free to reach out to me (rsmclaren55@gmail.com) or Laura.

**The Community Service Committee will be meeting via Zoom Monday, August 31 at 10:00am. Please join us and bring your ideas for new projects by clicking this [link](#).**



# What's next?

## Where in the world is our speaker?

Out of an abundance of caution for our members and our community, we will continue to meet virtually via Zoom for the foreseeable future. Our team will be hitting the road to meet our speakers in their space. Zoom in this Wednesday and find out where **Jim Shirley** will take us! Click [here](#) for the permanent lunch time link. The meeting ID is 850 7495 4959.

## Stay Connected!

Don't let a Global Pandemic get in the way of connecting with Rotarians! Here are a few ways to stay connected:

- Join our weekly Zoom meetings and learn from our engaging speakers
- Join the Saturday morning Zoom Room @ 9:00am. [Here's](#) the link or call **Lee-En Chung** for info.
- Join a Rotary Affinity Group like the Supper Club or create your own group. Contact **Tom Melville** for assistance.



## Working Women @ Rotary

**Working Women @ Rotary**, founded in 2020, is a community where likeminded women can connect, get inspired, and cultivate their careers. It was founded as an effort to grow and maintain our exceptional club environment by creating a more inclusive culture. As such, the **Working Women @ Rotary** objectives include championing diversity and inclusion, having a positive, open dialogue, encouraging each other to showcase and develop leadership skills, and inspiring each other.

If you are interested in being a part of this dynamic group, please reach out to Shelly Wilson, [swilson@rpmosp.com](mailto:swilson@rpmosp.com)



*Here is how you can help!*

# OLD COMPUTER?

YOU CAN USE IT TO HELP OTHERS.



## Laptop Donation Drive for area foster kids

The Children's Guardian Fund (CGF) and Sarasota Technology Users Group (STUG) have teamed up to collect used computer laptops. With a long history of recycling and safety, the STUG *sanitizes* the hard drive with a seven-step process that protects the donor's information. The STUG employs software similar to that used by the **U.S. Department of Defense to completely eliminate all data on the hard-drives**. They then refurbish the laptop and install software that is typically required for school. Refurbished laptops are distributed to area students in foster or state care through the CGF and the Guardian ad Litem Program.

**Drop off at:** 1750 17th Street, Building J-1, Sarasota FL 34234

**Arrange for a pickup:** call MARK at [941.374.1107](tel:941.374.1107) or e-mail [msharff@gmail.com](mailto:msharff@gmail.com)



## 2020-2021 Rotary Club Board of Directors

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Dan Smith - Vice President  
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