

# Prime Timers Sarasota

Enriching social lives of mature gay/bi men

## *President's Message*

By Steve Horowitz



February 2026

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Happy Valentine's Day! Valentine's Day wasn't always all cherubs and hearts. As you probably know, the day is named after St. Valentine. The holiday's origin might stem from the ancient pagan festival of Lupercalia, which predated Christianity. Similar to the modern Valentine's Day holiday, the Roman festival was celebrated in the middle of February and involved feasting and pairing off partners. However, *unlike* Valentine's Day, it was a bit of a raucous celebration filled with debauchery, blood, and sacrifice. For example, it was tradition for the hide of a sacrificed goat to be cut into strips and dipped in blood. Then, priests would go around slapping women with the strips. The practice was supposedly welcomed, as it was believed to make the women more fertile in the coming year. The theory goes that as Romans turned away from their pagan beliefs and embraced Christianity, the holiday evolved into one honoring St. Valentine. Lupercalia was eventually outlawed at the end of the 5th century, right around the time Pope Gelasius declared February 14<sup>th</sup> as St. Valentine's Day.

On Valentine's Day, many people wonder whether to focus their celebrations on a particular loved one or to include all their friends and family. For those of us in the LGBTQ+ community, our friends often become our chosen family. In this sense, Prime Timers embodies that spirit—bringing together a group of individuals who consider each other both friends and family. This community provides a space where everyone feels the warmth and support of belonging, making Valentine's Day an opportunity to honor the special connections we share with those closest to us.

The original mission of Prime Timers Worldwide was to create a social outlet exclusively for gay, bisexual, and male transgender men. Over time, the Sarasota chapter recognized the importance of expanding this mission. In addition to being a welcoming social group, Prime Timers Sarasota now places a strong emphasis on providing care and support to its members. This evolution reflects our commitment to building a community where everyone feels valued, supported, and connected.

Under this care and support umbrella, we recently have developed a number of programs: Member drivers to assist non-driving members; cell phone, tablet, and computer help; sending E-cards for birthdays, illnesses, and for difficult times; holding Singles and Solos socials; check-ups with single members living alone; and a Hospital Team to provide assistance for members in and after hospital stays.

From my perspective, kindness is the key. Let's treat each other with kindness with the things that we say and that we do to one another. I encourage you to embrace the concept of kindness. You will be much happier for it. This is my Valentine's Day wish for you.

*Steve*

**Prime Timers Sarasota** is a nonpartisan social club for gay, bisexual, male transgender or transitioning men over 21. In addition to our Fall Picnic and Holiday Party, each month we offer a potluck supper, two luncheons at area restaurants, a members' meeting with a speaker, home nights with games or movies, and day trips by bus or carpool to unique Florida Sun Coast attractions. Our social events are chosen to fit individual needs, priorities and affordability. Equally important is our commitment to Care and Support, where members assist one another with activities and needs of daily living. If a member is ill, injured or otherwise incapacitated, he can reach out for assistance to members nearby to help him with activities such as shopping, transportation, moral support, or help at home. To find out who is nearby contact any Board member.

# *February 2026 Calendar of Events*

**Saturday February 7 @ 6:00 P.M.** Potluck. Syster Hall, 1st Congregational Church, 1031 South Euclid Ave, Sarasota. Lots of good food and friendship. Plan to come a bit early to enjoy visiting with other members and help set up. (And please hang around a few minutes afterward to help clean up.) MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK! Bring a dish to share (main, side dish, appetizer, dessert. Don't forget to bring a serving utensil and the name of your dish.

**Wednesday, February 11 @ 12 P.M.** Solomon's Castle, 4533 Solomon Road, Ona, Florida. Tickets are \$32 for seniors. Tour this whimsical house of stained-glass windows and other delights. Lunch at their Boat-in-the-Moat.

**Thursday, February 12 @ 1:00 P.M.** Northside Lunch at Mariscos Azteca Mexican Restaurant located at 1100 N. Tuttle in Sarasota. RSVPs can be sent to Dan Warren at [danmichaelwarren@gmail.com](mailto:danmichaelwarren@gmail.com) no later than 2 P.M. on Wednesday, February 11.

**Sunday, February 15 @ 3:00 – 5:00 P.M.** Prime Timers Second Sunday Social combined with Singles and Solos at the Purple Rhino at the corner of Beneva and Webber. Plan to stop by, have a drink, and catch up with friends. Delicious snacks are provided by Rick, our own friendly bartender. Good friends ... good conversation ... good comradery. And a good way to meet some of your fellow Prime Timers in a more intimate setting. Free raffle.

**Tuesday, February 17 @ 10:30 A.M.** Cover to Cover Book Club Meeting. This month the discussion is on *Florence Foster Jenkins* by Nicholas Martin and Jasper Rees. For additional information contact David Guyet ([sandheim@msn.com](mailto:sandheim@msn.com)).

**Wednesday, February 18 @ 10:30 A.M.** Board Meeting at Steve Horowitz, American House, 4540 Bee Ridge Road, Sarasota, 1st floor card room. Be sure to check in. Please e-mail ([stevehor2004@yahoo.com](mailto:stevehor2004@yahoo.com)) ahead of time if you'd like to attend. Any member is welcome. See your Board in action and share your ideas and concerns for the good of the club.

**Wednesday, February 25 @ 6:00 P.M.** Prime Timers Hamburger Night at the Purple Rhino, 2920 S. Beneva (Corner of Webber). You must eat dinner, so why not eat with some of your Prime Timer buddies? Hamburgers, grilled chicken and vegetarian burgers are available. Choose sides from onion rings, French fries, and potato salad. All for \$8.50. Hint: Get there by 5:30 P.M. to get served sooner.

**Thursday, February 26 @ 1:00 P.M.** Southside Lunch at Gecko's Grill & Pub, 5585 Palmer Crossing Circle in Sarasota. Please RSVP to Kurt Juedes, [chorkymorky@gmail.com](mailto:chorkymorky@gmail.com), no later than 2 P.M. on Wednesday February 25.

**Sunday, February 22 @ 3 P.M.** General meeting at Syster Hall, 1st Congregational Church, 1031 South Euclid Ave, Sarasota. The speaker will be Tom Edwards, President, discussing Project Pride's goals, objectives, and activities. Optional dinner afterwards at Demetrio's.

### UPCOMING

**Sunday, March 1 @ 2 P.M.** Zubrick Magic Theatre, 1211 1<sup>st</sup> Street North, Suite 101, St. Pete, Florida. Magic show by two gay magicians. General tickets are \$50. Get tickets at [www.zubrickmagic.com/tickets](http://www.zubrickmagic.com/tickets). Optional dinner afterwards at a local restaurant.

**Saturday March 7 @ 6:00 P.M.** Potluck. Syster Hall, 1st Congregational Church, 1031 South Euclid Ave, Sarasota. Lots of good food and friendship. Plan to come a bit early to enjoy visiting with other members and help set up. (And please hang around a few minutes afterward to help clean up.) **MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK!** Bring a dish to share (main, side dish, appetizer, dessert. Don't forget to bring a serving utensil and the name of your dish.

## *February Birthdays*

2/5	DuPonte	Joseph
2/5	Garcia	Paul
2/7	Hauslaib	Seth
2/8	Closser	Chuck
2/8	Davis	Eddie
2/10	Ferrell	James
2/10	Stanley	Stephen
2/11	Brinkman	Richard
2/15	Blake	Tom
2/15	Pirhalla	Frank
2/20	Levin	Marvin
2/24	Medrek	Ted
2/28	Krauledis	Irvin
2/29	Knoblauch	Russ



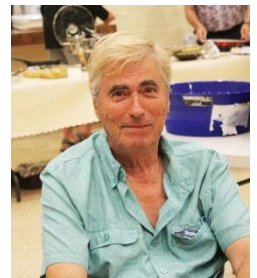
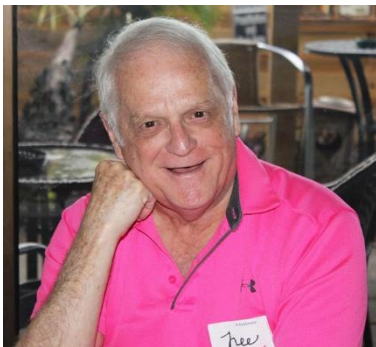


# February Event of the Month



**Sunday, March 1 at 2:00 PM. Zubrick Magic Theatre, 1211 1<sup>st</sup> Street North, Suite 101, St. Pete, Florida. Magic show by two gay magicians. General tickets are \$50. Get tickets at [Zubric Magic](#). Optional dinner afterwards at a local restaurant.**

## January Social





## ***Just Asking ...***

Now you can ask other members for assistance or invite other members to join you for a movie, dinner, or a Prime Timers event. For example: does anyone know of a good handyman? My name/email/phone number; or Does anyone want to join me for lunch Thursday at The Breakfast House? My name/email/phone number



**Now you can order your very own Prime Timers Sarasota Name Badge for just \$9.50.**

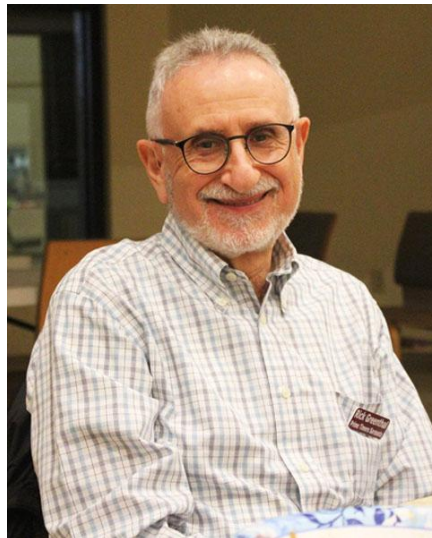
You will be asked how you wish your name to read on the badge. You may use just your first name or your full name on the badge -- whichever you prefer. As we've done in the past with handwritten paper badges at our events, the badges are color coded. Partnered members will receive burgundy badges, while single members will receive blue badges. *Prime Timers Sarasota* will appear on the badge below your name.

**Note:** Your name badge will be sent directly to the mailing address that we have on file for you as shown in the official Prime Timers Sarasota Member Roster.

Click on this link to order your badge/badges: <https://custom-name-badge.cheddarup.com/>



## *January Potluck*





***MEMBERS WHO ARE WILLING TO  
PROVIDE OCCASIONAL  
TRANSPORTATION IF NEEDED***

Winer, Jon	401-477-2560	Bradenton	34210	<a href="mailto:jaydub6743@gmail.com">jaydub6743@gmail.com</a>	
Carrier, Mark	386-788-1423	Bradenton	34203	<a href="mailto:kramreirrac@aol.com">kramreirrac@aol.com</a>	
Leona, Matt	941-750-6457	Bradenton	34208	<a href="mailto:bongo44@aol.com">bongo44@aol.com</a>	
Coyne, Rick	309-824-7524	Bradenton	34209	<a href="mailto:rickcoyne507@yahoo.com">rickcoyne507@yahoo.com</a>	
Pierson, Terry Estates	530-902-1349	Sarasota	34231	<a href="mailto:sierra95618@yahoo.com">sierra95618@yahoo.com</a>	Gulf Gate
Moore, Dale	941-993-0128	Sarasota	34232	<a href="mailto:demor37@yahoo.com">demor37@yahoo.com</a>	
Krauledis, Irv	562-243-9067	Sarasota	34234	<a href="mailto:ilhairdesign@aol.com">ilhairdesign@aol.com</a>	North Sarasota
Officer, Wayne	941-321-0195	Sarasota	34234	<a href="mailto:woff405813@hotmail.com">woff405813@hotmail.com</a>	North Sarasota
Doty, Al	941-377-3789	Sarasota	34235	<a href="mailto:aldoty@comcast.net">aldoty@comcast.net</a>	Meadows
Fox, Michael	517-706-7929	Sarasota	34235	<a href="mailto:dickensofatale@gmail.com">dickensofatale@gmail.com</a>	Meadows
Bramson, Ron	301-980-3056	Sarasota	34237	<a href="mailto:ronbramson@comcast.net">ronbramson@comcast.net</a>	University Park
Stone, Michael	941-359-8212	Sarasota	34243	<a href="mailto:mstonefl@gmail.com">mstonefl@gmail.com</a>	University Park
Semmer, Dean	224-381-2309	Sarasota	34243	<a href="mailto:dfs3935@gmail.com">dfs3935@gmail.com</a>	Cedar Creek
Juedes, Kurt	785-633-7929	Sarasota	34238	<a href="mailto:chorkymorky@gmail.com">chorkymorky@gmail.com</a>	





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E-mail: [primetimerssarasota@gmail.com](mailto:primetimerssarasota@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.sarasotaprimetimers.org](http://www.sarasotaprimetimers.org)

Scan  
Me



#### ***2024 BOARD of DIRECTORS***

President: Steve Horowitz  
Vice President: Lee Linkous  
Secretary: Tom Peterson  
Treasurer: Bill Thomas  
Members at Large: Jerry Travis, Matt Leona, Rick Coyne, Steve Hoffner

#### **COMMITTEES**

##### **EVENTS**

Events Coordinator: Matt Leona  
North Lunch: Dan Warren  
South Lunch: Kurt Juedes  
Book Club: David Guyet  
Bridge Club: Volunteer Needed  
Singles and Solos: Matt Leona  
Theatre Group: Matt Leona  
All Faiths Food Bank: Steve Hoffner  
Hospital Team: Tom Peterson & Eddie Davis

##### **MEMBERSHIP**

Membership Roster: Steve Horowitz  
New Member E-Mail Package: Steve Horowitz  
Paper Name Tags: Michael Sloan

##### **HOSPITALITY**

Membership Meeting Speakers: Matt Leona  
Potluck Supplies: Board of Directors

##### **COMMUNICATIONS**

Newsletter Editor: Stephen Stanley  
Newsletter Proofreader: Steve Horowitz  
Google Lists: Steve Horowitz  
Web Master: Michael Sloan  
Facebook: Ron Robuck

##### **CARE AND SUPPORT**

Steve Horowitz, Dale Moore, Tom Peterson, and All Prime Timers Members\*




***Official Newsletter Information***  
Stephen Stanley, Newsletter Editor  
[onemainewriter@gmail.com](mailto:onemainewriter@gmail.com)

***PLEASE NOTE: We will be using your personal contact information to send you our newsletters, event information, and chapter notices.***

Articles and letters to the editor are ***due no later than the 20th of each month*** and should be emailed to Stephen Stanley rather than to [primetimerssarasota@gmail.com](mailto:primetimerssarasota@gmail.com).

**PRIME TIMERS SARASOTA**  
**941-993-3561**  
[primetimerssarasota@gmail.com](mailto:primetimerssarasota@gmail.com)

Be sure to visit our website at: <http://sarasotaprimetimers.org/>

 ***Interested in joining?*** Click on the website link above. Click on *Membership*. Complete an application for *each* new member. Below the application is the payment method through Cheddar Up. If you don't pay by credit or with a debit card, don't forget to send your check, payable to *Prime Timers Sarasota* to:

**Prime Timers Sarasota, P.O. Box 1003, Tallevast, FL, 34270.**

Visit us on Facebook at: [www.facebook.com/PTsarasota](http://www.facebook.com/PTsarasota)

Prime Timers Worldwide Web Site at <https://theprimetimersww.com/>

[illegible]

**PurpleRhino**  
The Fun & Charity of Sarasota's Gay Community

8660 S. Tamiami Trail  
Sarasota, FL 34238

