

PINES OF SARASOTA FOUNDATION

The Wit and Wisdom of Aging Luncheon

2021 Panel



JON THAXTON
Sr. VP for
Community Investment
Gulf Coast Community
Foundation

A fifth-generation Sarasotan and life-long advocate for protecting our area's natural environment, Jon Thaxton served three terms as a Sarasota County Commissioner where he gained expertise in critical areas of community concern including growth, land use, water and transportation planning, and environmental resource conservation.

He served on numerous influential boards and committees including the Sarasota-Manatee Metropolitan Planning Committee, Southwest Florida Regional Planning Committee, and the Southwest Florida Water Management District's Environmental Advisory Committee.

In his current role as Gulf Coast Community Foundation's Sr. Vice President for Community Investment, he works with nonprofit organizations, donors, and other community partners to invest the Foundation's grants and resources in projects that strive to transform our region and improve public policies.



ROXANNE JOFFE
Founder and President
MagnifyGood

Growing up in apartheid-era South Africa, Roxanne Joffe learned from her parents that uplifting a community is like shining a bright light in the darkest of times.

Today, as Founder and CEO of MagnifyGood, she helps nonprofits do just that by sharing her unique perspective, expertise in communications, and belief in the power of compassion and action. By encouraging organizations to embrace new tools, think differently, and be strategic, she empowers them to amplify their impact and, in doing so, make our community and the world a better place.

Roxanne leads The Patterson Foundation's strategic communications team and is a member of the International Women's Forum, a consortium that advances women's leadership around the world. She is a recipient of the Athena Award and was named Woman Entrepreneur of the Year by the Greater Sarasota Chamber of Commerce.



DR. LAUREY STRYKER
Founder, Stryker
Consulting and
Former President,
USF Sarasota-Manatee

Creating access to education and opportunity have always been central to Laurey Stryker's work.

She began her career as an Associate Professor at Hillsborough Community College. She went on to serve as Florida's Deputy Secretary of the Department of Labor and as Deputy Commissioner of Education. During her tenure at the University of South Florida, she held multiple positions, ultimately serving as president of the USF Sarasota-Manatee campus.

Since 2009, Laurey has been an education consultant working on projects with private foundations and non-profit organizations leading both K-12 and higher education projects in the areas of STEM, cultural connections between schools and the arts, and project management. She helped develop and manage the Cross College Alliance and worked with The Patterson Foundation on a Digital Access for All initiative.