For immediate release
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The Old Gray Mayors Speak Out
Past mayors of Sarasota offer their perspectives about city government past, present and future as part of a new panel series organized by the Historical Society of Sarasota County and called Conversations at The Crocker

Who are the Old Gray Mayors? They are a group of former mayors of the City of Sarasota who informally gather for coffee every so often and discuss the old days of dilemmas and decisions, the present problems confronting the city council and Sarasota’s prospects for effective local government in the future. Wouldn’t you just love to be a fly on the wall? Well, now you can be.

Five Old Gray Mayors will participate in a lively and audience-interactive panel discussion on Tuesday, October 9, at the Crocker Memorial Church, 1260 12th Street (Pioneer Park, between Cocoanut Ave. and N.Tamiami Trail), Sarasota. The discussion starts at 7 p.m. Community welcome. Historical Society members free; guests, $10. Former Mayor Kelly Kirschner (young in years, but seasoned in wit and wisdom) is the moderator. Panelists joining him will be former Sarasota city mayors Elmer Berkel, Kerry Kirschner, Fredd Atkins and Mollie Cardamone. And look for other former mayors in the audience who might be willing to join in the question and answer period at the end of the panel discussion.

The Old Gray Mayors is the first in a series of year-long panel discussions. Organized by the Historical Society of Sarasota County and sponsored by SARASOTA Magazine, Conversations at The Crocker events highlight specific aspects of Sarasota’s past and examines pivotal events and people who have influenced today’s Sarasota. All Conversations take place at The Crocker Memorial Church (built in 1901) and proceeds from this panel discussion series help to maintain the Historical Society’s two heritage properties at Pioneer Park – the Bidwell-Wood House (1882, Sarasota’s oldest private residence) and the Crocker Memorial Church. Docent led tours of both buildings are available an hour before each Conversations at The Crocker starts. Chairs of Conversations at The Crocker are Lynn Harding and Marsha Fottler. President of the
Historical Society of Sarasota County is Howard Rosenthal. Site Manager is Linda Garcia.


For additional information about Conversations at The Crocke, contact Linda Garcia at 364-9076 www.hsoc.com hsoc@yahoo.com

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Note: The press is invited to cover these events and HSOSC can assist in setting up interviews

Photo is of Kelly Kirschner: