



Photos from April  
With a Recap of Dr. Kreek's Address

## Greetings!

Join us in May for  
**"Addiction, Reentry & Recidivism"**  
at Strong Voices, the lecture series that explores prisoner reentry  
and its impact upon the community



**May 6th**  
**Panel of former offenders**  
Featuring Special Guest  
State House Representative Darryl Rouson

**June 10th**  
Nationally distinguished speaker  
**Jane Dwyer, MSW, LCSW**

11:30 am to 1:00 pm  
The Francis

1289 N. Palm Avenue  
Sarasota

**Click here** to secure tickets.

Tickets start at \$30 and include lunch.

Ticket options include The Series, Individual, Patron, and Table of Eight.

**For sponsorships**, [click here](#) or contact [barbara@project180reentry.org](mailto:barbara@project180reentry.org).

## Mary Jeanne Kreek, MD

### *Addictions are Diseases*

**Mary Jeanne Kreek, MD**, The Rockefeller University, led the series on Friday, April 1st with her address, "Addictions are Diseases: The Science of Addiction."

Dr. Kreek's primary message was that addiction is a disease--a disease of the brain--with behavioral manifestations that include "drug craving" which leads to compulsive drug-seeking and drug self-administration.



In her address, Dr. Kreek explained that when one ingests or injects addictive drugs, alterations to normal brain networks and brain chemicals occur. An addiction may be the result of experimenting with a drug but a patient with an addictive disease does not continue using it because he or she lacks the courage, will or determination to stop; self-administration becomes compulsive.

In an interview after the lecture, Kreek provided an analogy to skin cancer. The cause of skin cancer is exposure to the sun's rays. The cause of heroin addiction, which affects one in 3 to 5 who try the drug (33.3% to 17.5%), is exposure to heroin. The drug then relentlessly prompts the patient to seek additional exposures.

***More than three people die every hour in the US*** from illicit opiate overdose. Resistance to treating heroin addiction as a disease is due to both stigma and ignorance of the vital role that pharmacotherapy, or prescribed medication, plays in addictive diseases. Counseling alone is insufficient when used to treat an addictive disease; the same is true for medication. Both are necessary for most patients.

Medication can smooth out the effects of certain addictive diseases and is a life-long need for most patients just as a lifetime of insulin is required for type 1 diabetes patients. Naltrexone is the most successful drug for alcoholism; Dr. Kreek's lab is currently working on a medication for cocaine dependency.

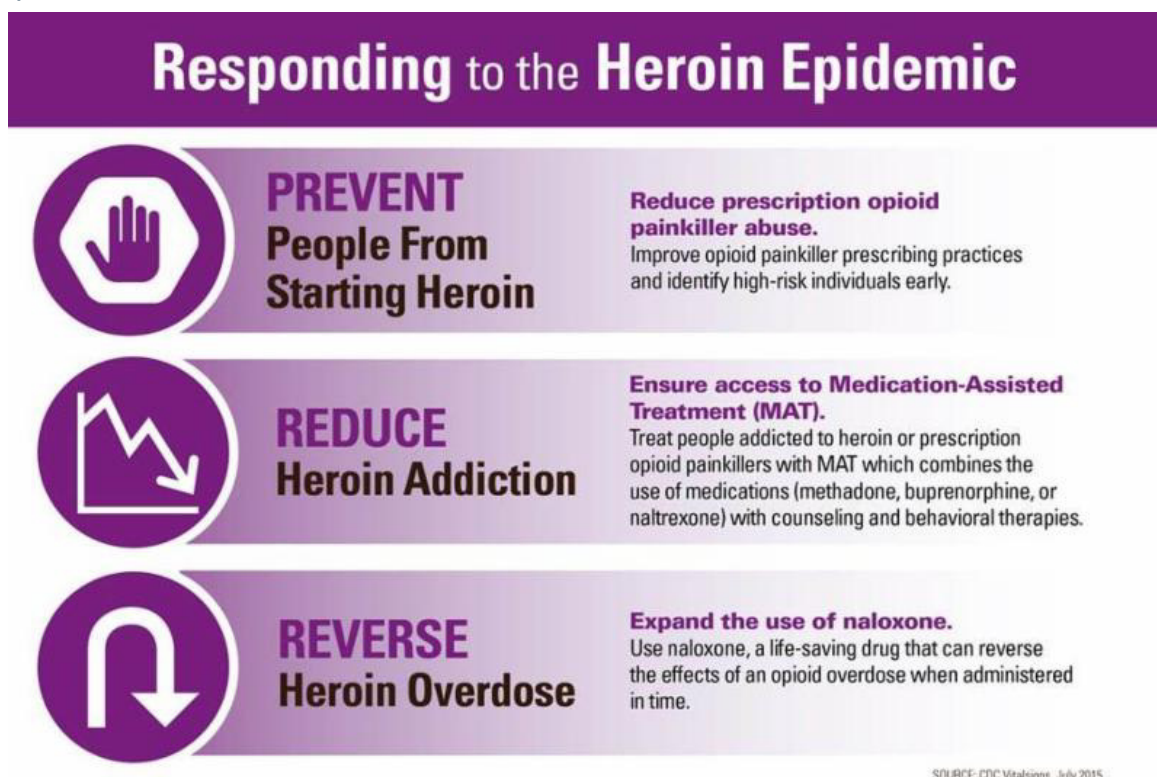
Methadone has the greatest success for most heroin-addicted patients;

buprenorphine/naloxone (aka Suboxone) is also effective. Methadone prevents withdrawal symptoms and craving, blocks the euphoric effects of heroin and allows both the brain and the patient time to stabilize. In Sarasota and Bradenton, methadone is provided with counseling at Sarasota's Operation Par for \$13.00 a day.

Three known factors contribute to addiction: genetic predisposition, environmental factors and drug-induced effects. Two non-addicted parents might have one child who never acquires an addictive disease despite self-administration of addictive drugs, one child who becomes addicted to heroin and one who suffers from alcoholism. Vulnerability to addiction is highly individual.

The Centers for Disease Control has issued the following three-step protocol for stemming the current heroin epidemic (see below). Dr. Kreek stressed that although we may be fairly successful in addressing Steps One and Three, attention Step Two is a critical need. "Medication-Assisted Treatment is not an option but a requisite," stated Kreek.

Step Two is the missing piece not only for addiction treatment and recovery centers but also hospitals, homeless shelters, prisons and jails. Until it is in place, addictive disease patients will be condemned to ostracism, grossly inadequate health care and cycles of incarceration.



We send our thanks to everyone who joined us at the luncheon and especially to Dr. Kreek and her husband, Dr. Robert Schaefer, for traveling to Sarasota to educate us about her research.

To secure tickets for the second and third lectures in the series, please go to <https://goo.gl/DyjHBh>.

## Upcoming Lectures

### May 6. In Their Own Words: Addiction, Reentry & Recidivism

Moderated by **Susan Nilon**, a panel of former offenders will share their personal histories, discuss prison, jail and reentry experiences and provide insight into their lives as individuals whose addictive diseases led to their involvement in the criminal justice system.

Florida House Representative Darryl Rouson is a special guest.

Join us on Friday, May 6th at The Francis. Tickets are available on Eventbrite at <https://goo.gl/DyjHBh>.



State House  
Representative Darryl  
Rouson

### June 10. Heart and Soul: *The Price of Addiction*

**Jane Dwyer, MSW, LCSW**, Associate Teaching Professor in the College of Social Work at The Florida State University in Tallahassee, will deliver the keynote address on **Friday, June 10th**.

Her research interests in corrections, criminal justice, reentry preparation and substance abuse stem, in part, from personal experiences.

Nationally distinguished for her unaffected, soul-baring lectures, Ms. Dwyer was convicted of DUI Manslaughter in 1996 and spent five years in prison followed by ten years of probation.



Jane Dwyer, MSW,  
LCSW

Ms. Dwyer will be introduced by **Melissa Larkin-Skinner**, Chief Clinical Officer for Centerstone in Bradenton.

**For tickets** to hear Representative Darryl Rouson, the panel of former offenders and/or Ms. Dwyer, please [click here](#).

VISIT OUR WEBSITE



## Photos from April 1st



Project 180 Founder's Circle member Tom Koski and Susan Nilon



Project 180 Honorary Society and Founder's Circle member  
Michael Carlson, Carlson Studio Architecture,  
with Karen Cadou, ABC 7



Project 180 Board Members Mike Gonzalez of Labor Ready, Nancy Krohngold of Nancy's Bar-B-Q and Li'l Nancy's at the Ranch and Project 180 Executive Director Barbara Richards



Project 180 Board Members Max E. Shaw, Jr., and Jim Roque, SunTrust Private Wealth



Elisa Graber and Susan Brothers, IBERIABANK  
with Board Member Max Shaw



Denice Monaco, Kathleen Shinn, Micky Lindberg, Pat Sleight and Cynthia Iverson





Ben Vanderneck and Walter Padgett of CareerSource Suncoast



Project 180 volunteers  
Kellie Detreville, Alex Thomson, James Gaudino and Steve Phalen





Jessica Spencer, Drug Free Manatee  
and Ro Mohamed, Manatee County Schools



Dana Knuuti, Goodwill Manasota



The Francis



Drug Free Manatee guests and The Francis ballroom

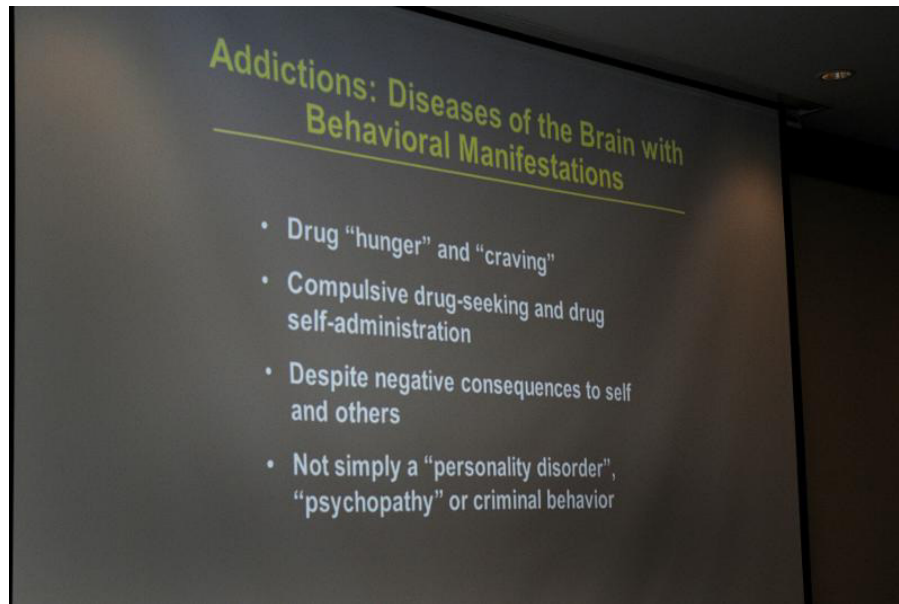


Sheriff Tom Knight introduces Dr. Kreek



Mary Jeanne Kreek, MD





Addictions: Diseases of the Brain



Dr. Kreek with her husband, gastroenterologist Dr. Robert Schaefer

More photos will follow in our next e-newsletter.  
Photos by Evelyn England, Sage Art.

**With sincere thanks to our wonderful Sponsors**





## A Note from the Executive Director

**Project 180 seeks to reintegrate former offenders into community life.**

To that end, we work to create a bridge of knowledge and understanding between inmates and the public. In our education programs at Florida Gulf Coast prisons and jails, our Coaches learn just as much as the inmates.

Click [here](#) to a recent Biz941 article about Board member **Max Shaw's** eye-opening experiences as a Project 180 Financial Literacy Coach.



I hope you will join us for the rest of the **Strong Voices** series. Educating ourselves about this forgotten population is the first step toward reconciliation, reintegration and improved public safety.

With kindest regards,

Barbara Richards  
Founder, Executive Director  
Project 180

[Website](#) [About](#) [Why Give?](#) [Programs](#) [Become a Resident](#) [Partners](#) [Contact](#)



<http://project180reentry.org>

