

First Coast Tiger Bay Tracks



February 2020 The First Coast Tiger Bay Club, Inc. P.O. Box 2608, Jacksonville, FL 32203

Times-Union Editor Mary Kelli Palka February 21, 2020



The **First Coast Tiger Bay Club** welcomes **Mary Kelli Palka**, Florida *Times-Union* editor, as guest speaker for our February program. Drawing on a quarter century of experience in the news media, she brings a passion for investigative journalism and in-depth storytelling. Still she maintains “a daily newspaper should also cover more than a community’s troubles. I love our stories about the good in Jacksonville and Northeast Florida, about the successes, virtues and

strength of the people who live here, and about the trends and issues facing our community.” This community she describes as “our beautiful, complicated and sometimes flawed corner of Florida.” (For more about her ideas on how news should be covered see: (<https://www.jacksonville.com/news/2016-12-31/mary-kelli-palka-investigative-reporting-and-depth-storytelling-are-times-union-s> and <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/mary-kelli-palka-thank-you-jacksonville-for-supporting-the-times-union-and-its-jea-investigation/ar-BBYp5Oh>.)

During her tenure at the *Times-Union* Mary Kelli played a central role in the investigations of Corrine Brown, pension reform, juvenile justice, the El Faro sinking, human trafficking, hurricanes, economic development, the firing of the Jaguars coach and the JEA fiasco. She first came to the *Times-Union* in 2002 with responsibilities for covering the Mayor’s Office and

worked her way up to Managing Editor in 2014 and then Editor in 2017. Previously she reported primarily on criminal justice issues for the Naples *Daily News* and the Burlington *Times-News* (North Carolina).

Mary Kelli is a native of Jacksonville Beach, graduated from Bishop Kenny High School and earned an associate degree from Florida State College at Jacksonville before finishing her education at Elon University in North Carolina.

Reflecting on the print portion of the media Mary Kelli previously observed “Much about the world of newspapers has changed in the 21 years I’ve been in the business. Newsrooms are smaller. And our deadlines are often minutes rather than a day because of the internet. But the fundamentals are the same.” She continued “Our job is to report the news without fear or favor.”

We invite you to join us on February 21st to engage in a dialogue with the *Times-Union* Editor and hear her insights into the major issues our community faces. What are the underlying questions about the creation of a new JEA Board, the School Board’s controversy regarding a half-cent sales tax increase, the future of the downtown Landing, Jacksonville’s ability to deal with sea-level rising and the future of print journalism, especially at the local level?

Please note: The February and March First Coast Tiger Bay Club programs will be meeting at the **Epping Forest Country Club** instead of the River Club.

2020 Meeting Notice

Due scheduling conflict at the River Club in **February** and **April**, the Tiger Bay meetings will be held at the **Epping Forest Yacht & Country Club**
1830 Epping Forest Drive
Jacksonville, FL 32217

2020 Tiger Bay Officers

Sam Hall, President
Dr. Stephen Baker, Vice President
Henry Cordes, Secretary
Marcia Turner, Treasurer

FIRST COAST TIGER BAY CLUB meets for lunch every month, except June, July and December, on the 3rd Friday at 11:30 at The River Club, 1 Independent Drive, 35th Floor. Cost for the event, which includes the wonderful buffet and parking, is \$28.

Reservations are required: Call (904) 404-5471 or E-Mail: fcTigerbay@gmail.com

Time to Renew Your Tiger Bay Dues for 2020

The dues for 2020 will remain the same as last year.

\$75 for dues and **\$28** for each meeting attended

Student: \$20 dues and **\$20** for each meeting attended

Straw Poll Results for January 2020

How well do you think consolidation has done with some of the issues it was meant to fix?

Inefficiency in government (e.g. purchasing, duplication of work, etc.).

15% - Well

45% - Fairly well

15% - Just adequately

25% - Badly

Lack of trust in local government

5% - Well

10% - Fairly well

40% - Just adequately

45% - Badly

Uneven distribution of resources and power (e.g. poorer areas)

5% - Well

5% - Fairly well

25% - Just adequately

65% - Badly

Schools

0% - Well

15% - Fairly well

40% - Just adequately

45% - Badly

Crime

0% - Well

25% - Fairly well

20% - Just adequately

55% - Badly

Racial issues

0% Well

25% - Fairly well

25% - Just adequately

50% - Badly

Services (sewer, water, fire, garbage, libraries, etc.)

15% - Well

40% - Fairly well

25% - Just adequately

20% - Badly

The First Coast Tiger Bay Club is a multi-partisan political forum that promotes free and open debate but does not support any candidates or issues.

Dr. Stephen Baker, Newsletter Editor

Henry Cordes, Publisher

**Reservations are REQUIRED. Please RSVP by
Tuesday February 18, 2020
E-mail: fctigerbay@gmail.com or 904-404-5471**

The First Coast Tiger Bay Club is a multi-partisan political and civic forum designed to explore crucial issues of the day by interacting with outstanding speakers in an open format. The club is non-partisan, never supports particular candidates, nor take sides on issues.