



BRIDGES TO THE WORLD

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Save the Date!

Sunday, March 29, 2020 | 5PM | Michael's On East

HONORARY CHAIR
The Honorable Liz Alpert, Former Mayor of Sarasota

OWA CO-CHAIRS
Katherine Benoit, Isabelle Eidet & Kenney DeCamp

Please join the Sister Cities Association of Sarasota as we celebrate Maestro Victor DeRenzi and the Sarasota Opera with the One World Award.

Register today at sarasotasisistercities.org/special-events/

ONE WORLD AWARD

Photo credit: Matt Heller

NEW FRIENDSHIP CITY— BUSSETO, ITALY

Members gathered at Bird Key Yacht Club for the November Luncheon to hear about the launch of our newest Sister City relationship, beginning with a Friendship City status for Busseto, Italy.

The speakers are also our 2020 One World Award Honorees – Maestro Victor DeRenzi, the Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of Sarasota Opera, and Richard Russell, the Executive Director of the Opera House.

Maestro DeRenzi is a noted Verdi specialist and the only conductor in the world to have conducted the entire canon of Verdi's work (Verdi Cycle) with the Sarasota Opera Company. This brought national attention to Sarasota and made Sarasota Opera the American Home of Verdi. Sarasota city leaders recognized this distinction by renaming the street in front of the Opera House Verdi Place.

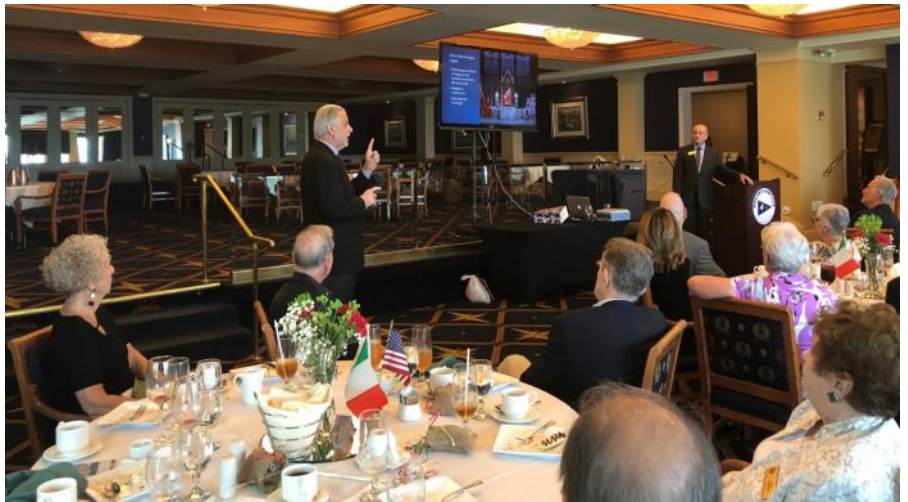
Maestro DeRenzi was also instrumental in connecting the city of the Sarasota with Busseto, Italy, Verdi's hometown. At the luncheon, Maestro DeRenzi and Richard Russell spoke about the city of Busseto, the life of Giuseppe Verdi, and the accomplishment of the Verdi Cycle.

Luncheon attendees received commemorative gift samples of balsamic vinegar, Parmigiano Reggiano and Majani chocolates from the region of Emilia-Romagna where Busseto is located.

Maestro DeRenzi and the Sarasota Opera will be honored at the **ONE WORLD GALA** on Sunday, **March 29 at Michael's on East**. To purchase your tickets to this event, please visit our website at: <https://sarasotasisistercities.org/special-events/>



Maestro Victor DeRenzi, Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of Sarasota Opera



Maestro Victor DeRenzi and Executive Director, Richard Russell are engaging speakers and have our rapt attention



Katherine Benoit & Jana Stanley, VP Communications



Busseto CD, Phillip Gordon and Assistant CD, Mirco Chiodi



Richard Russell, Executive Director, Sarasota Opera



Commemorative Gift

More photos on our [SCAS Facebook Page](#)

2020 ONE WORLD AWARD GALA

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO JOIN US! MARCH 29 | 5PM | MICHAEL'S ON EAST | COCKTAIL ATTIRE

Entertainment by the SARASOTA YOUTH OPERA

TICKETS ARE ON SALE NOW! REGISTER AT: [SARASOTASISTERCITIES.ORG/SPECIAL-EVENTS/](https://sarasotasistercities.org/special-events/)

INDIVIDUAL AWARD MAESTRO VICTOR DERENZI



Matt Holler Photo

MAESTRO VICTOR DERENZI

SARASOTA OPERA

Maestro Victor DeRenzi is honored for enhancing peace, understanding, and respect among citizens of the world through his extraordinary achievements. He is the only conductor ever to have conducted the entire canon of famed Italian Composer, Giuseppe Verdi. The 28-season Verdi Cycle was an important initiative that brought national attention to Sarasota and contributed to music, art, and cultural exchanges.

Through his long devotion to Verdi's work, Maestro DeRenzi and Sarasota Opera have developed relationships with international scholars and the descendants of Giuseppe Verdi who still live in the composer's estate, Villa Verdi, near the small city where he grew up, in Busseto, Italy. With the cooperation of SCAS and former Mayor and Honorary OWA Chair, Liz Alpert, Maestro DeRenzi initiated a Sister City relationship between Busseto and Sarasota. The first stage was to establish a Friendship City Agreement. It was ratified at the municipal level by then-Mayor, Liz Alpert in December 2019. The Mayor of Busseto, Giancarlo Contini signed the agreement on January 27, 2020 – the 119th anniversary of Giuseppe Verdi's passing.

In recognition of this stellar achievement of the Verdi Cycle in 2016, the government of Italy knighted the Maestro with the title of Cavaliere dell'ordine della Stella d'Italia – Knight of the Order of the Star of Italy for promoting Italian culture abroad.

ORGANIZATIONAL AWARD SARASOTA OPERA

The SARASOTA OPERA will receive the ONE WORLD ORGANIZATIONAL AWARD.

Under the leadership of Maestro Victor DeRenzi and the Executive Director, Richard Russell, Sarasota Opera is "Verdi's American Home," the only company in the world to have performed all of his works. The City of Sarasota recognized this incredible distinction by naming the street in front of the Opera House – Verdi Place.

Sarasota Sister Cities aims to share exchanges with citizens of Busseto, Italy in arts, culture, education, sports, tourism, and economic development among others. When President Dwight D. Eisenhower founded Sister Cities International after World War II, he envisioned that such citizen-to-citizen connections would build and promote world peace.



Matt Holler Photo

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, RICHARD RUSSELL

SARASOTA OPERA

Register now to purchase your **ONE WORLD AWARD GALA — EARLY BIRD** tickets as general admission prices will increase after March 10. More info: Charlotte_Events@sarasotasisstercities.com or visit:

sarasotasisstercities.org/special-events/

Deadline to sign up — March 24

Sister Cities Association of Sarasota

One World Gala

**Sunday, March 29, 2020
5PM | Michael's On East**

SISTER CITIES ASSOCIATION OF SARASOTA REQUESTS THE HONOR
OF YOUR PRESENCE AT THE 2020 ONE WORLD AWARD GALA
INDIVIDUAL AWARD – MAESTRO VICTOR DERENZI
ORGANIZATIONAL AWARD – SARASOTA OPERA



Photo by Michael

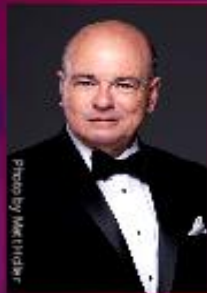


Photo by Michael



Sarasota Youth Opera "Hobbit" photo: Rod McElroy

5:00 PM COCKTAIL RECEPTION AND SILENT AUCTION BASKETS

Bid on items featuring products and themes from our local Donors and our Sister Cities: Perpignan, France; Vladimir, Russia; Tel Mond, Israel; Dunfermline, Scotland; Xiamen, China; Mérida, Mexico; and Friendship Cities of Rapperswil-Jona, Switzerland, and Busseto, Italy.

6:15 PM ENTERTAINMENT BY THE SARASOTA YOUTH OPERA FOLLOWED BY DINNER AND AWARDS CEREMONY

HONORARY CHAIR

The Honorable Liz Alpert, Former Mayor of Sarasota

OWA CO-CHAIRS

Katherine Benoit, Isabelle Eidet, Kenney DeCamp



ONE WORLD AWARD

COCKTAIL ATTIRE • PLEASE RESPOND BEFORE MARCH 24, 2020

Tickets \$125 through March 10 • \$150 after March 10

Table Sponsors \$1,500 • Gold Sponsors \$500

Register today at sarasotasisstercities.org/special-events/

Speaker's Bureau



JOIN US on Thursday March 19, 2020, from 4 to 5 PM at the Selby Library for the next Speaker's Bureau — a special presentation by 4 leaders from Sarasota's cultural organizations:

- Swiss American Club of Sarasota
- Caledonian Club of Florida West
- Alliance Francaise de Sarasota
- Gulf Coast Italian Cultural Society

Learn about the history, activities, and mission of each of these cultural organizations.

After the presentation, please join us for a Meet & Greet Happy Hour from 5:30 - 7:30 PM at Salute Restaurant, 23 Lemon Ave.

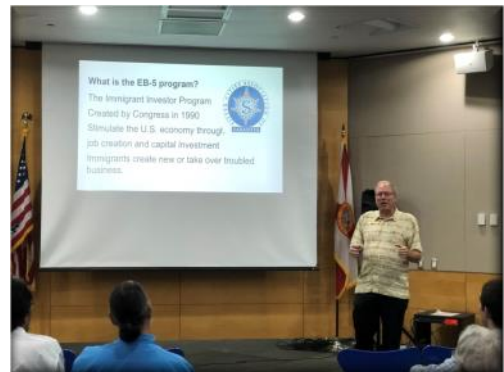
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN SARASOTA

The November Speaker's Bureau featured the topic of economic development in the city of Sarasota and Sarasota County, and how to secure a Green Card through business investments. Presenters Destin Wells, VP of business Development Services from Sarasota County, and Steve Stencel, GM Economic Development from City of Sarasota both gave overviews of economic development in the area and shared resources and incentives for making investments in Sarasota.

SCAS members, Sylva Kanderl and Craig Hullinger, VP Economic Development, ended the presentation with "How to secure a Green Card through business investment."



Sylva Kanderl, SCAS Presenter



Craig Hullinger, SCAS VP ECON



Destin Wells, VP of Business Development Services, Sarasota County



Steve Stencel, General Manager of Economic Development, City of Sarasota

MERIDA DELEGATION VISIT

Last fall, in conjunction with “International Education Week,” there were celebrations of Mexican cultural heritage at the USF Sarasota-Manatee Campus and at Ringling Museum. Officials from our Sister City of Merida, in the Yucatan, Mexico were invited to visit Sarasota.

Merida Delegate, Julio Sauma Castillo and Mike Fehily, SCAS Merida City Director had a busy week attending many events, including meeting with the Mayor of Sarasota and the Director of USF, attending Ringling Museum Mexican dance performance from Veracruz, and much more. Merida hopes to bring a performing group to Sarasota in 2020.



VISITORS FROM OUR SISTER CITY OF MERIDA WITH CD, MIKE FEHILY AND CD, BUSSETO, PHILLIP GORDON AT THE FEDERAL BUILDING

More photos at: <https://meridasarasota.blogspot.com/>

CITY DIRECTORS

VP CITIES & CANDIDATE CITIES

Beth Ruyle-Hullinger

Perpignan, France 1994

Marie des Neiges
Grossas

Vladimir, Russia 1994

Miriam Kramer

Tel Mond, Israel 1999

Jonathan Katz
Alice Cotman (ACD)
Kim Sheintal (ACD)

Dunfermline, Scotland 2002

Pauline Mitchell
Karen Malesky (ACD)

Xiamen, China 2007

Douglas Sparks
Larry Bennison (ACD)
Duane Finger (ACD)

Merida, Mexico 2010

Michael Fehily
Grissell Aleman (ACD)

Rapperswil-Jona, Switzerland 2017

Nelly Camardo
Charlotte Hull (ACD)

Busseto, Italy 2020

Phillip Gordon
Kenney DeCamp (ACD)
Mirco Chiodi (ACD)

Photos from Meet-n-Greet Social, Sephardic Food Experience, Book Fair at Barnes & Noble



Members: Sylva Kanderl, Charlotte Hull and Maria Duprez



City Director for Merida, Mexico, Mike Fehily with other guests



Dr. Fred Bloom of SCAS helps out at the Sephardic Food Experience event



Members & Friends enjoy the Merida, Mexico reception



City Director for Vladimir, Russia, Miriam Kramer



Photos from recent events

SARASOTA HIGHLAND GAMES – Several Board Members & Volunteers braved the rain and cold weather to represent our Sister City of Dunfermline, Scotland. City Director, Pauline Mitchell kept us warm with wee drams of single malt scotch whiskey and Drambuie and lovely shortbread cookies, cheese & fruit.



Craig Hullinger, Beth Ruyle-Hullinger



Kenney DeCamp & Pauline Mitchell



Ready to march in the parade



St. Andrews Pipe & Drums



Kenney points to Dunfermline banner



Thistle, the Scotty in her limo



Highland dances



Highland dances



City Directors L-R: Pauline Mitchell - Dunfermline, Scotland; Rabbi Jonathan Katz - Tel Mond, Israel; Miriam Kramer - Vladimir, Russia



On the February Luncheon Menu:
Shrimp Louis Salad



On the February Luncheon Menu:
Chicken Kiev



On the February Luncheon Menu:
Chocolate Silk Bar

Photos from recent events

TEL MOND, ISRAEL

TASTES OF SEPHARDIC COOKING & THE SEPHARDIC ISRAELI EXPERIENCE led by Tel Mond City Director, Rabbi Jonathan Katz at the Sarasota Art Center on February 18



L-R: VP CC, Beth Ruyle-Hullinger, ACD Busseto, Kenney DeCamp; President, Toni Duval; CD Dunfermline, Pauline Mitchell



Rabbi Jonathan Katz speaking about the Sephardic Experience

New Member Coffee at the Book Fair at Barnes & Noble on February 22

Barnes & Noble will donate a percentage of all Book Fair sales to SCAS.

For SCAS to benefit, customers mentioned SCAS at the register.



L-R: New member & attorney, Amy Greenberg, Dr. Rich Greenspan, VP P&P - Dr. Ray Young, and newest member, Grissell Aleman



CD Busseto, Phillip Gordon, Betty Greenspan and new member, Libbe Lamb



L-R: New member, Doris Hurwitz, potential new member, Monica, Amy Greenberg and Dr. Rich Greenspan.

Standing Rear: VP ECON, Craig Hullinger



SCAS Member & OWA laureate, Andrew Ezzell introducing Mia Hanes at the February Luncheon. Read more about buildON on the next page...



Building schools in developing countries - a philanthropic program

February's Luncheon Speaker Mia Hanes, a senior at Pineview High School in Sarasota reported on the great work she is doing with buildON. Their mission is to break the cycle of poverty, illiteracy and low expectations through service and education. BuildON empowers urban youth to transform their neighborhoods through intensive community service and to change the world by building schools in some of the economically poorest countries on the planet.

Mia has helped to build schools in Malawi and Haiti and her next project is to build a school in Guatemala this year. On her mission, Mia stays with a local host family, and shares meals, songs, dances, conversations with some miming and hand signs, and most of all she gives love and receives it tenfold from so many grateful children she has helped. With additional funding for their Malawi school, even parents are able to learn in the very classroom their children attend. Follow and support our local Pine View School's buildON mission on Facebook: Pine View BuildOn or to donate to their next mission visit: <https://act.buildon.org/team/238462>



Mia Hanes

SCAS members and OWA laureates, Andrew & JoAnn Ezzell are also lending their support to the Haiti mission through their charitable foundation — Give Something Back.

buildOn welcomes volunteers from all over the world to build schools with them. Current and past teams have traveled from throughout U.S., Asia and Europe to volunteer with buildOn. To support their efforts, and to learn more, please visit: <https://www.buildon.org/take-action/build-a-school/>



Tim Ramage and President, Toni Duval

Sovereignty or Sustainability: going alone or working together

Planetary ethicist and naturalist, Tim Ramage was our speaker at the January Luncheon. Taking an interdisciplinary and systems-thinking approach to education, he has been teaching at the intersection of Science, Ecology, Art, Design and Architecture for more than 30 years.

Tim is the Coordinator/Developer of Environmental Studies at Ringling College of Art and Design where he teaches courses on environmental science, sustainability, creating ecological cities, applied environmental design, food, water, biodiversity and environmental ethics. He is also a Coordinator for Sustainability in Design Education for CUMULUS and a frequent lecturer at other colleges and for community organizations. As a trained field biologist, Tim has been involved in a variety of interdisciplinary projects in the US and Africa involving habitat restoration and protection, green infrastructure, local food production and sustainability.

Our thanks to Tim Ramage for an enlightening and informative presentation. He challenged us all to start by doing one thing to change our habits and to begin looking at the impact our actions have on the planet.

Welcome

New Members

Anahi Abbassy—Youth

Burt & Mireille Gloor

Dorothy Kushner

Ambassador

Richard & Amy Greenberg

Libbe Lamb

Grisell Aleman

Ginger Godschalk

Carol Sitrin

Thank you!

We are so glad you stayed

Eladio & Judy Amores

Gloria Grenier

Patricia Ladwig

Larry Bennison

Sue Gordon

Linda Mercurio

Hope Byrnes

Barbara Hamilton

Dr Robert & Linda Rosenbluth

Isabelle & Gary Eidet

Charlotte Hull

Arthur & Susanne Schaerli

Andrew & JoAnn Ezzell

Beth Ruyle-Hullinger &

Ellie Stoll

Gerald Fickenscher

Craig Hullinger

Richard Wires

Dr Richard & Betty Greenspan Dan Kennedy

We're Sorry!

Sincere apologies to John Brooks for misspelling his name in a previous issue of the Newsletter.

MEMBER DUES – We love to have you stay!

PayPal invoices are currently being sent out, and members may renew online or send a check payable to Sister Cities Association of Sarasota (SCAS) to:

Sister Cities Association of Sarasota

111 S. Orange Ave., Suite 103 Sarasota, FL 34236

Alliance Organization News

Asian Film Series at New College

The 2019-20 season's Asian Film and Talk Series features films addressing immigration, global migration, and cultural conflicts from a diverse range of Asian perspectives, with introductions by New College faculty from Economics, Geography, Islamic studies, English, and Asian Studies.

The series is free and open to the public, on Friday nights from 6-8pm at Sainer Auditorium on the New College Campus. A buffet of catered comestibles will be available at 6 pm for those who want to grab a quick bite before the film is introduced at 6:30.

Dates for the season's remaining films are as follows:

Friday, March 27: ***The Reluctant Fundamentalist (2012)***, run time 130 min.

A political thriller in which a middle-class Pakistani from Lahore chases his dream of success in a prestigious Wall Street firm and finds himself embroiled in a hostage crisis.

A full schedule of other New College events connecting the arts and humanities, funded by a five-year Andrew Mellon Foundation, and free and open to the public can be found on the website

<https://www.ncf.edu/about/news-and-events/events-and-conferences/mellon/>

A map of the New College Campus can be found at <https://www.ncf.edu/admissions/visit-campus/maps-and-directions/>

Newsletter Submissions

Please email photos, Sister Cities events information to VP — PR & Communications, Jana Stanley, info@sarasotasisistercities.com by **March 20, 2020**.

SCAS Website changes should be emailed to Isabelle Eidet, membership-vp@sarasotasisistercities.com