



# BRIDGES TO THE WORLD



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## President's Message



As I write my first "President's Letter," it does not go unnoticed that I owe a great debt to my predecessor, Marianna Janz-Wecke and those who came before her. My goal is to move with SCAS into the future, meet challenges head on, and celebrate the beauty of citizen-to-citizen bridge-building one relationship at a time.

In times of polarization, one side takes all deal-making, opportunities to seek consensus whether working together across the aisle or the Atlantic, are harder and harder to come by. Yet, needed now more than ever.

Involvement in Sarasota Sister Cities activities and getting to know others is a great start, but at least for me it is only the beginning. While looking back at our 2018 Strategic Goals and Objectives, I noticed that a common thread binding almost all of the individual goals together was "improving the quality of our relationships" including:

- Our SCAS Membership
- Our International Sister Cities
- Our City of Sarasota Government
- Our SCAS City Directors and Board Members
- Our Community and Alliance Organizations

Our City Directors continue to build relationships with their counterparts in our Sister Cities.

- Over the summer a delegation from Sarasota visited our Sister City, Perpignan, France.

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**SCAS City Directors  
2019-2020**

Dunfermline, Scotland  
**Pauline Mitchell (CD)**  
**Karen Malesky (ACD)**

Merida, Mexico  
**Michael Fehily (CD)**

Perpignan, France  
**Marie des Neiges  
Grossas (CD)**

Rapperswill-Jona,  
Switzerland  
**Nelly Camardo (CD)**  
**Charlotte Hull (ACD)**

Tel Mond, Israel  
**Jonathan Katz (CD)**  
**Alice Cotman (ACD)**  
**Kim Sheintal (ACD)**

Vladimir, Russia  
**Miriam Kramer (CD)**

Xiamen, China  
**Douglas Sparks (CD)**  
**Larry Bennison (ACD)**  
**Duane Finger (ACD)**

Busseto, Italy  
**Phillip Gordon (CD)**  
**Kenney DeCamp (ACD)**  
**Mirco Chiodi (ACD)**

- CD Mike Fehily is hosting a delegation from Merida, Mexico who will be visiting Sarasota in December, and in collaboration with the Ringling Museum of Art who have agreed to let one of the guests stay on the grounds. A highlight of the visit includes a Mexican Dance performance to kick start the museum's new Latino initiative.
- Two other City Directors recently visited their Sister Cities for the first time. Douglas Sparks visited Xiamen, China and Miriam Kramer, was awarded a grant from Community Foundation of Sarasota for a trip to Moscow, Russia as part of a Sister City International delegation and then on to Vladimir, Russia.
- As we have moved Treviso, Italy to emeritus status and with involvement from Sarasota Opera Maestro Victor DeRenzi, SCAS is currently in the early stages of making Busseto, Italy, a "Friendship City". Philip Gordon, the Busseto City Director held his first project status meeting and is working with alliance organizations; Sarasota Italian Cultural Events (SICE) and Gulf Coast Italian Cultural Society (GICS).

The Sister Cities International Annual Leadership Conference will be held in Tampa in November 2020. Florida Sister Cities will have the opportunity to participate and I encourage all members who believe in citizen-to-citizen dialogue and diplomacy to attend.

My personal commitment to learn more about our Alliance Organizations includes acceptance of invitations for happy hours, picnics, and other great events. I'm learning a lot about community cultural heritage and other organizations and hope to learn more. "It's a tough job, but someone has to do it" and I enjoy every minute of it. I look forward to hearing your stories and about what brought you to SCAS and your ideas about how our organization can best serve your needs and that of our community.

*Toni Duval*

# Speaker's Bureau

Over 70 people attended our Fall Speaker's Bureau kickoff at the Selby Library. The presenter was **Wojtek Sawa**, President of Polish-American Friends of the Arts and Sciences. The title of his presentation was "The Other Europe - Today," focusing on Central and Eastern Europe, its economies, cultures, modern-day challenges, accomplishments, and its changing place in Europe and the world.

After the presentation, **Margot Zarzycka-Whitelaw**, a violinist from the Sarasota Symphony Orchestra, and a winner and finalist of numerous European violin competitions, played a few samples of classical music with Central and Eastern European folk influences.



Speaker Wojtek Sawa



**Margot Zarzycka-Whitelaw**

*Meet-n-Greet Happy Hour After Program  
Element Restaurant*



# Bird Key Luncheon

## September Luncheon

This was our first luncheon after the summer break and members were happy to see each other back and catch up. **Sarah Wertheimer**, Executive Director of the organization Embracing Our Differences, was the speaker. Embracing Our Differences champions diversity and fosters the values of inclusion, compassion and respect through art and education initiatives. Its annual outdoor art exhibit, celebrating the theme of “enriching lives through diversity”, showcases the art and words of thousands of artists and writers from around the world. The exhibition has attracted 2.7 million visitors since its inception in 2004.

During the luncheon, Membership VP Isabelle Eidet introduced and welcomed new members and our newly elected CD for Busseto, **Phillip Gordon**.



President Duval and speaker Sarah Wertheimer



Sarah Wertheimer



Membership VP Isabelle Eidet



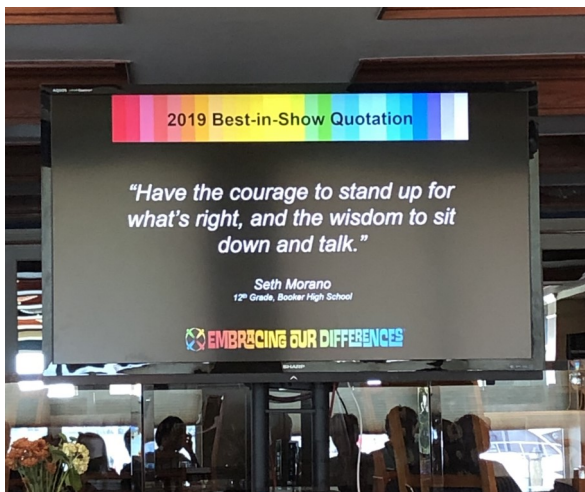
Busseto CD Phillip Gordon



Alice Cotman, ACD Tel Mond speaking to guests



New member introductions



To see more photos , go to our [Facebook page](#)

## October Luncheon

October luncheon started with a short introduction by our Programs and Planning VP Raymond Young, followed by President Toni Duval who greeted and welcomed our new member Doris Hurwitz. The speaker of our October Luncheon was **Robert Rogers**, Director of Community Outreach, Sarasota Friendship Center. During the presentation, Robert shared many inspiring stories about the volunteers, participants and staff at the Sarasota Friendship Center. He spoke about the history of the organization; how it has evolved over the years from offering a few activities to its currently expanded wide range of programs.



Programs & Planning VP Raymond Young



President Duval and speaker Robert Rogers



Speaker Robert Rogers





Sarasota Assistant City Manager Marlon Brown  
meets-n-greets



Group Photo  
(Please go to our [facebook](#) page and tag yourself the photo)

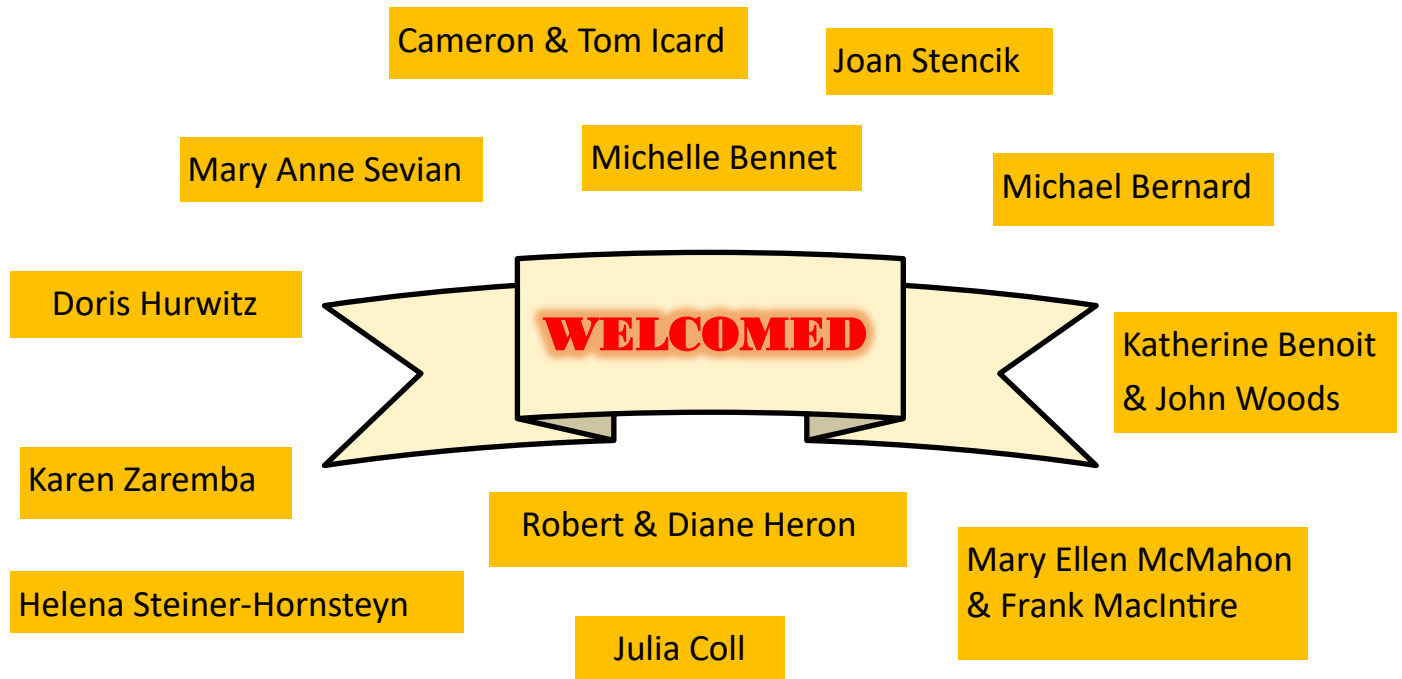


To see more photos , go to our [Facebook page](#)



# Membership News

## SCAS NEW MEMBERS



## SPONSORS

The SCAS Board of Directors thanks our Sponsor member, Mr. Michael Bernard for your generous donation.

## CONDOLENCES

Richard Storm of Sarasota, FL passed away on Oct 19, 2019. Richard served as the Honorary Vice-Consul of Italy for Southwestern Florida for several years, during which he worked to coordinate the Sister Cities relationship between Sarasota and Treviso, Italy.



The SCAS Boards of Directors extends our deepest condolences to Richard Storm's family.



*\*Note - Members who paid their dues last fall, (2018) will be getting an email to renew their Membership Dues soon. They can pay online via PayPal or send a check payable to SCAS at 111 S. Orange Ave., Suite 103, Sarasota, FL 34236*

# Upcoming Events

DATE	EVENT
November 7	<p>SCAS Speaker’s Bureau, Selby Public Library</p> <p>Economic Development in Sarasota and How to Secure a Green Card through Business Investment.</p> <p>Presenters: Destin Wells, Steve Stancel, Sylva Kanderall, and Craig Hullinger</p>
November 13	<p>Monthly Luncheon, Bird Key Yacht Club</p> <p>Newest Sister City Relationship with Busseto, Italy</p> <p>Presenters: Maestro Victor DeRenzi and Richard Russell, Sarasota Opera</p> 

## Alliance Organization News

Organization	Event	Date	Time
The Caledonion Club of Southwest Florida	Piper in the Park	Every Sunday January 1 through March 15 except Super Bowl Sunday	Half an hour before sunset

## 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, November 22: ***Finding Kukan (2016)***, run time 75 min.

The story of Chinese Hawaii-born Li Ling-Ai, producer of a lost 1941 Academy Award-winning color documentary about World War II China. Introduced by Dr. Fangyu Li.

Friday, February 21: ***Human Flow (2017)***, run time 140 min.

A breathtaking epic film journey by artist-activist Ai Weiwei about the global refugee crisis. Introduced by Dr. Ilaria Giglioli.

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/>