



## BRIDGES TO THE WORLD

### President's Message



**2021-2022**

#### SCAS Board of Directors

**Miriam Kramer**  
President

**Open**  
Secretary

**Gloria Grenier**  
Treasurer

**Sue Gordon**  
Art & Culture VP

**Craig Hullinger**  
Business & Econ  
Development VP

**Rabbi Jonathan Katz**  
Cities & Candidate Cities  
VP

**Jana Stanley**  
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**Dawn Graber**  
Education & Youth VP

**Open**  
Fundraising VP

**Isabelle Eidet**  
Membership VP

**Open**  
Programs & Planning VP

**Open**  
Sports VP

**Charlotte Hull**  
Events Director

**Open**  
Youth Ambassador

So far it has been an eventful late winter and early spring. In February, the Omicron virus started spreading, so we returned to hosting Zoom events. The delightful Paul Grove, President & CEO of WEDU PBS, spoke via Zoom to an audience interested in new developments in PBS programming in the area. He spoke about hyperlocal programming focused on Sarasota, Manatee, and other areas in the greater Tampa area. We also celebrated our Sister City of Dunfermline through attending the Highland Games and Celtic Festival with our own tent and much good cheer.

March was a very challenging month. After the war in Ukraine started, one City Commissioner proposed severing our Vladimir Sister City relationship. I presented the Sister Cities International and our Sister Cities Association of Sarasota official position on maintaining citizen diplomacy ties to promote peace and keep communication channels alive. I did TV and press interviews to support our pro-peace colleagues and friends.

Thank you so much for your support. You made a difference in buoying up the organization and contacting City Hall. Thank you also to the few members who spoke against keeping Vladimir as a Sister City for sharing your opinion. The City Commissioners finally voted 5-0 to suspend and not terminate this relationship.

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### SCAS City Directors 2021-2022

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

Merida, Mexico  
**Grisell Aleman (CD)**  
**Michael Fehily (ACD)**

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  
**Open (CD)**  
**Kenney DeCamp (ACD)**

We had a lovely luncheon in March to celebrate Vickie Oldham, CEO of the Sarasota African American Cultural Coalition, and her Newtown Alive initiative. After learning about Sarasota's African-American pioneers and history, SCAS members took a trolley tour through Newtown and the Rosemary District, which African-Americans call Overtown. We heard stories of brave civil rights initiatives and their unsung heroes: forward-thinking citizens who helped found and enrich Sarasota.

We hope you will attend our next Bird Key Yacht Club luncheon, "A Walk in the Park," on April 20<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am, with Bill Waddill, COO of the Bay Park Conservancy. The organization's goal is to implement a plan for the 53-acre Sarasota Bayfront area that will establish a cultural and economic legacy for the region while ensuring open, public access to the Bayfront.

On May 18th at 11:30 am we will have our Annual Meeting at Bird Key Yacht Club, at which the membership is invited to partake in our luncheon and then vote. At the same time we will be hosting a joint event with the Swiss-American Club: "Swiss Culture: The Land of Milk & Money," featuring British travel writer and Swiss resident Diccon Bewes. Unfortunately, the Mayor in Mérida, Mexico, has postponed the "Week in Mérida" pop-up exhibit that was supposed to take place in the end of May to an as-yet unscheduled date.

I would be remiss if I did not put on my fundraising hat! If you enjoy our programs and support our mission to promote, please consider donating to us at <https://sarasotasistercities.org/donate/>. Our goals are more important than ever as we watch this senseless war in Ukraine unfold. With our colleagues in each city, we do what we can to create strong bridges and bonds of peace and understanding to prevent more conflicts of this sort in the future. Thanks in advance for your consideration.

Miriam Kramer

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS PAGE

### Welcome to our newest Members

Judy Seale Cooper

Paula Dempsey

Kathleen Hoge

Dennis Ciborowski and Meryl Gale

Justin and Inna Kloer

Jeanne Murphy



### Welcome Back & Thank You for staying with SCAS

Grisell Aleman

Larry Bennison

Isabelle and Gary Eidet

Gloria Grenier

Sue Gordon

Marianne and Phillip Gordon

Beth Ruyle-Hullinger and Craig Hullinger

Rosa and Per Lundin

Linda and Robert Rosenbluth

Richard Wires

Marie Beck

Julia Coll

Maria Duprez

Betty and Rich Greenspan

Bob and Diane Heron

Barbara Hopton

Charlotte Hull

Sylva Kanderall

Pauline Mitchell

Kim Sheintal

Raymond Young



## Please Renew Your Membership

SCAS MEMBERS: it is not too late to renew your dues for 2022. If you have received a renewal email recently from the VP Membership, Isabelle Eidet, please send your check payable to SCAS to our Treasurer:

Gloria Grenier

6501 17th Avenue West, Apt I-401

Bradenton, FL, 34209

Or click on the link to pay securely with a credit card: [www.sarasotasistercities.org/membership-payment-page](http://www.sarasotasistercities.org/membership-payment-page)

Your membership is valid for 12 months from the date that you renew. Your dues help to support SCAS projects and exchanges with our Sister Cities. Thank you for your continued support.

## Member Birthdays

Yulia Kuzenko	10 March
Keith Stanley	15 March
Maria Ines Robaya	18 March
Linda Rosenbluth	19 March
Libbe Lamb	21 March
Jill Schachter	21 March
Mirco Chiodi	30 March
Miriam Kramer	3 April
Mary Alice DeVirgilis	5 May
Richard Mantyla	8 May
Brenda Lee Yanofsky	10 May
Marie Beck	11 May
Miriam Sparks	19 May
Ange Wanless	25 May





## SCAS LEADERSHIP BEGINS WITH YOU

At SCAS we value integrity, respect, collaboration, commitment, inclusivity, and accountability. Bring your talents, skills, and professional and volunteer experiences to Sister Cities to enrich and sustain our activities and position us for continued success.

Please reach out to one of us on the Nominating Committee if you wish to serve or if you would like more information about these upcoming open Board positions: **Secretary | Treasurer | VP Membership | Director of Events | VP Communications | VP Programs & Planning | VP Fundraising | VP Sports | CD Perpignan**

Our mandate is to find future leaders to administer, manage, and guide the mission, vision, and values of Sister Cities Association of Sarasota (SCAS). We are responsible for selecting Board candidates to present to the general membership for election at the Annual Members meeting in May. Please contact us if you are interested in serving on our Board of Directors and representing Sister Cities in our community.

### **2022 Nominating Committee:**

Chair: Isabelle Eidet, [membership-vp@sarasotasistercities.com](mailto:membership-vp@sarasotasistercities.com) (202) 821-7836

Pauline Mitchell, [pjmitchell@yahoo.com](mailto:pjmitchell@yahoo.com) (941) 485-5199)

Grisell Aleman, [Grisellaleman@sarasotasistercities.com](mailto:Grisellaleman@sarasotasistercities.com) (631) 456-1805

Rabbi Jonathan Katz, [jrkatz1@aol.com](mailto:jrkatz1@aol.com) (941) 993-4026

Ex-officio: Miram Kramer, [mrkramer@sarasotasistercities.com](mailto:mrkramer@sarasotasistercities.com) (571) 332-1191

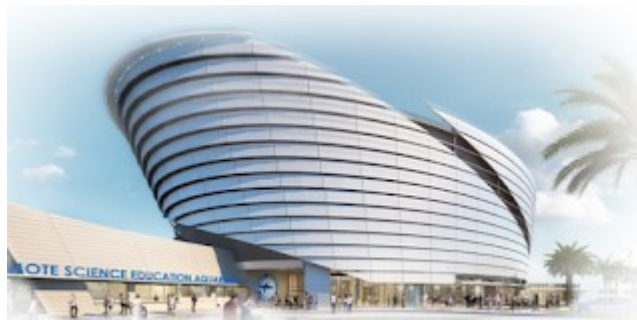
Sarasota Sister Cities has a strong economic development program. We keep our information on [sarasotasistercities.com](http://sarasotasistercities.com), which forwards to [sarasotasistercities.blogspot.com](http://sarasotasistercities.blogspot.com). Our economic development strategy can be found at: [sarasotasistercitiesdevelopment.blogspot.com](http://sarasotasistercitiesdevelopment.blogspot.com). We welcome assistance from our membership - if you would like to work on economic development issues contact Craig Hullinger at [sarasotasistercities@gmail.com](mailto:sarasotasistercities@gmail.com)

The economic development of Sarasota is proceeding at a high pace. Progress is being made on the major public private partnerships for the new Mote Aquarium, The Bay, and Selby Gardens.

[thebaysarasota.org](http://thebaysarasota.org)

[mote.org](http://mote.org)

[selby.org](http://selby.org)



The cost of housing continues to rise rapidly in our metro region. This is beginning to create problems to recruit talent to our region. Our salaries are good but the cost of housing is a problem for people considering moving into our area for a job.

<https://www.heraldtribune.com/story/news/local/sarasota/2022/02/14/sarasota-manatee-businesses-harmed-housing-and-rent-increases-affordable-housing/6649806001/>

Our major sources of income are the income and wealth that people have earned and who retire in our community. And the significant amount of expenditures on health care.



We are writing a book about Sarasota Sister Cities. You can read the developing draft at: [booksarasota.blogspot.com](http://booksarasota.blogspot.com). We welcome input from our membership.

If you have changes, additions or corrections email them to us.

We have a significant amount of information online. Our addresses below:

Facebook.....[facebook.com/SarasotaSisterCities](https://facebook.com/SarasotaSisterCities)

Web.....[sarasotasistercities.org](http://sarasotasistercities.org)

Pinterest.....[pinterest.com/sarasotasister](https://pinterest.com/sarasotasister)

Twitter.....[twitter.com/#!/SarasotaSisterC](https://twitter.com/#!/SarasotaSisterC)

LinkedIn.....[linkedin.com/in/sarasotasistercities](https://linkedin.com/in/sarasotasistercities)

The history of Sarasota Sister Cities can be found at: [sarasotasistercities.blogspot.com](http://sarasotasistercities.blogspot.com)

We have a blog for each one of our Sister Cities, with photos of our exchanges.

Sister City Blogs

[dunfermlinesarasota.blogspot.com](http://dunfermlinesarasota.blogspot.com)

[hamiltonsarasota.blogspot.com](http://hamiltonsarasota.blogspot.com)

[meridasarasota.blogspot.com](http://meridasarasota.blogspot.com)

[perpignansarasota.blogspot.com](http://perpignansarasota.blogspot.com)

[rapperswil-jonasarasota.blogspot.com](http://rapperswil-jonasarasota.blogspot.com)

[telmondsarasota.blogspot.com](http://telmondsarasota.blogspot.com)

[bussetosarasota.blogspot.com](http://bussetosarasota.blogspot.com)

[vladimirsarasota.blogspot.com](http://vladimirsarasota.blogspot.com)

[xiamensarasota.blogspot.com](http://xiamensarasota.blogspot.com)

**Craig Hullinger**

VP Economic and Development

## Newtown and Overtown Come Alive

Miriam Kramer

On March 16<sup>th</sup> Sister Cities Association of Sarasota hosted storyteller and historian Vickie Oldham, President/CEO of the Sarasota African American Cultural Coalition, at a luncheon to discuss Newtown Alive. This fascinating initiative memorializes and bring to life a significant African-American community in Sarasota and the people who blazed a trail to create its full-bodied cultural history in the face of multiple challenges such as prejudice and segregation.

Oldham, along with singer and former Marvelette Brenda Watty and Walter Gilbert, Senior Director of Diversity and Inclusion at Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, illustrated how the Newtown Alive project presents this community today as it thrives and changes in reaction to new challenges and possibilities.

Their thoughtful, uplifting presentation combined with song and a Q and A session gave a diverse audience of SCAS members a fresh perspective on a long-overlooked part of Sarasota's history. In attendance was former SCAS One World Award winner April Glasco, founder of Second Chance/Last Opportunity, an organization that helps an underserved community learn life skills and receive support to better their situations.

On April 7<sup>th</sup> multiple attendees at the luncheon rejoined Oldham, Watty, and Gilbert, along with longtime Sarasota resident Odessa Butler, on a trolley tour that took them from the Leonard Reid House through notable streets of Newtown and Overtown. The latter, primarily African-American district, has recently become gentrified as the current Rosemary District. The trolley tour is helping to celebrate its African-American roots as Sarasota residents enjoy a more complex view of Sarasota.

Brenda Watty led SCAS members in song several times during the tour to lift spirits and celebrate fellowship. This journey was helpful for the SCAS membership to envision the rich cultural heritage on display in Oldtown before its current, slicker iteration. We heard about Sarasota's actions during the civil rights movement as Sarasota community leaders, such as Walter Gilbert himself, a past Sarasota NAACP president, stood up against injustice. He led the initiative for single member district voting.

The tour leaders recounted activists' earlier protests to desegregate county beaches with "wade-ins." Newtown residents resisted diverse Jim Crow-era injustices. The tour passed by community cornerstones and revered symbols of hope such as the Payne Chapel AME Church, which just turned ninety-four this April; Greater Hurst Chapel AME, and Bethlehem Bible Church.

If you are interested in learning more about Newtown and Overtown's history, please visit [www.newtownalive.org](http://www.newtownalive.org).







## Recent Event and Photo Gallery

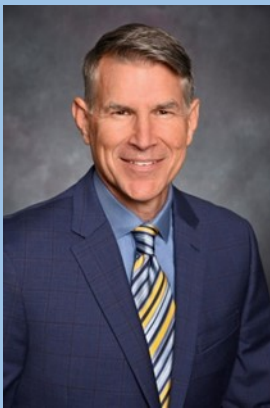


### **Zoom Photo Presentation**

**“Vladimir and the Vladimirians: Ancient and  
Modern Russia in the Golden Ring”**

**Presenter: Tatiana Semenova from Sister City of Vladimir,  
with an introduction by Miriam Kramer, SCAS President and City  
Director for Vladimir**

Watch in YouTube video, click [here](#).



**Wednesday, February 9th, 12:00 PM**

**Speaker: Paul Grove, CEO and President**

**PBS Television Station, WEDU**

**Florida West Coast Public Broadcasting, Inc.**

**“Educate. Explore. Engage”**

Watch in YouTube video, click [here](#).

## Happy Hour and Welcoming Gabriela Echeverría, Tourism Deputy Director of Mérida





## 27th Sarasota Highland Games and Celtic Festival







## International Experiential Forum Selby Library



## SCAS Bird Key Luncheon with Vickie Oldham





## SCAS Bird Key Luncheon





### Upcoming SCAS Schedule of Events

Date	Event
<b>April 20, 2022</b> <b>11:30 am - 1:30 pm</b>	<u>Luncheon</u> – Bird Key Yacht Club “A Walk in the Park” Bill Waddill, Chief Operating Officer The Bay Park Conservancy
<b>April 27, 2022</b>	SCAS Board Meeting
<b>May 18, 2022</b> <b>11:30 am - 1:30 pm</b>	<u>Luncheon</u> - Bird Key Yacht Club Election of Board Members Speaker: Diccon Bewes on Swiss Culture and “The Land of Milk and Money” (with the Swiss American Club)
<b>May 23 - May 28</b>	"Casa Mérida " Project at Selby Library ( <b>CANCELLED</b> )
<b>May 25, 2022</b>	SCAS Board Meeting