



President's Message

2021-2022

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Happy Holidays! It has been a very fruitful fall for Sister Cities Association of Sarasota. We appreciate all of you who attended events, participated, and helped make it such a wonderful time after a year spent away from in-person events. In October we had a luncheon at our usual venue, the beautiful Bird Key Yacht Club, and in September and October two Experiential Forums at the Selby Library, followed by a Meet and Greet event at a local watering hole. Jennifer Mitchell, Executive Vice President and COO of the Circus Arts Conservatory gave an inspiring presentation at our October luncheon, and at the Forums many SCAS members participated in sharing remarkable overseas experiences.

After being postponed over a year and a half due to COVID-19, our major fundraiser, the One World Award Gala, finally took place on November 7 at 5 PM at Michael's on East. It was a gorgeous night celebrating our 2021 individual and organizational winners of the One World Award, Maestro Victor DeRenzi and the Sarasota Opera.

Guests glanced over silent auction items and mingled before being called to their seats, after which Honorary Chair and City Commissioner Liz Alpert officially opened the event. After dinner was served and singers entertained the attendees with a number of opera selections, City Manager Marlon Brown presented Executive Manager Richard Russell with the organizational award for the Sarasota Opera, and City Commissioner Liz Alpert presented Maestro Victor DeRenzi with the individual award.

Continued on next page

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

Phillip Gordon (CD)

Kenney DeCamp (ACD)

As President, I was thrilled to see SCAS members introducing members of the Sarasota Opera and other new friends to our organization's heartfelt goals of creating peace and international connection through many kinds of exchanges, including the arts. The One World Award Committee deserves its own award for the care and love they put into organizing, getting donations, reaching out to the community, and making sure the event went flawlessly. Great thanks to Co-chairs Isabelle Eidet, Katherine Benoit, and Kenney DeCamp, along with the many others who helped. It was no small feat to make this event happen despite the unpredictable and continuous hiatuses imposed by the pandemic. I am immensely proud of everyone who helped make this a rousing success both financially and organizationally. I know we minted a few new citizen diplomats along the way.

If you are a member, spouse, or partner, you are invited to our Membership Holiday Gathering on December 27, 2021, from 4-7 pm at Brevard's Salute Restaurant. It costs \$10 per person and includes plentiful hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar with a happy hour from 4-6 pm. You can bring cash or a check to Ray Young at the restaurant after notifying him of your attendance at aloharay4@gmail.com.

Please also see inside this newsletter our list of upcoming events in 2022, including a luncheon featuring President and CEO of WEDU PBS, Paul Grove, in February, and more Speaker's and Experiential Forums. Here's to a healthy and glorious 2022! Please take care and stay safe.

Miriam Kramer



2021 ONE WORLD AWARD GALA



President, Miriam Kramer speaking about Sarasota Sister Cities at the One World Award Gala

Thank You

Thank you to everyone that celebrated the 2021 OWA Gala in person at Michael's on East, and in spirit with your generous donations! Despite the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, there was an outpouring of support for our long delayed event and appreciation for all that we have been able to accomplish this year despite having to shutdown and postpone our event in March last year.

I am extremely grateful to my treasured OWA Gala Committee members for their endless generosity and support! This event could not have happened without them. The OWA Committee tirelessly dedicated their talents and time. A deep, heartfelt thank you to each and every one of them for their dedication, creativity, and resourcefulness in assisting me in putting together a successful event!

Special thanks and gratitude to our City leaders: Honorary OWA Gala Chair, Commissioner Liz Alpert, and City Manager, Marlon Brown; our Sponsors and Donors that generously supported us; our OWA Presenters: President Miriam Kramer; Ray Young, VP Programs & Planning; Rabbi Jonathan Katz, VP Cities & Candidate Cities & CD Tel Mond; and Phillip Gordon, CD Busseto; and Kenney DeCamp, ACD Busseto and Master of Ceremonies.

Our OWA Honorees: Maestro Victor DeRenzi and Richard Russell of the Sarasota Opera contributed and provided the wonderful entertainment for the OWA Gala, and we thank them for their tremendous support. Selections from several Verdi operas were performed before dinner and the OWA presentations of awards.

I would like to especially recognize and thank Bill Wallace, our past President and founder of the One World Awards, who also generously contributed to the OWA.

Grateful thanks as well as the volunteers that helped to meet and greet our OWA guests at the receiving line and registration and check-in tables including our Board members and SCAS members: Miriam Kramer; Gloria Grenier; Ray Young; Beth Ruyle-Hullinger; Craig Hullinger; Linda Rosenbluth; Betty & Rich Greenspan; Hope Byrnes; Maria Duprez; Sylva Kanderl; Bobby Garibaldi, Mary Alice DeVirgilis; Judy Kramer; Ellie Stoll; and Audrey Marten.

Thanks to our SCAS Board of Directors and members, friends and patrons of the Sarasota Opera and Sister Cities that supported us all the way to seeing this event through to completion – grateful thanks to each and every one of you!

Last, but certainly not least to thank for their hard work and continued *esprit de corps* are my OWA Committee: Co-Chairs – Katherine Benoit and Kenney DeCamp; Charlotte Hull, Director of Events; Jana Stanley, VP PR & Communications; President Miriam Kramer and former President, Toni Duval – ex-officio members; Marianne Gordon, Betty Greenspan, Linda Mercurio and Diane Heron for handling our Silent Auction and to all the S/A volunteers that helped including Sue Gordon, Grisell Aleman, Judy Seale Cooper, Dawn Graber, Matty Maloni, Michael Ayres, and Rich Greenspan.

This event was also our largest fundraiser of the year and we collected about \$15,000 before expenses. These are truly unprecedented times, and thanks to the determination, participation, and dedication from all of you – the OWA Gala was truly a spectacular evening, and one that I am so proud to have been a part of.

With Gratitude,

Isabelle Eidet

2021 OWA Gala Co-Chair

2021 ONE WORLD AWARD GALA PHOTO GALLERY



OWA Gala Co-Chairs & Honorees: Katherine Benoit, Richard Russell, Kenney DeCamp, Maestro Victor DeRenzi, Isabelle Eidet



Honorary OWA Chair, Commissioner Liz Alpert presents the OWA INDIVIDUAL Award to Maestro Victor DeRenzi



City Manager, Marlon Brown presents the OWA ORGANIZATION Award to the Sarasota Opera's General Director, Richard Russell

2021 ONE WORLD AWARD GALA



Richard Russell & Maestro Victor DeRenzi are presented with the Sarasota Mayor's City Proclamation by OWA Honorary Chair and former Mayor, Liz Alpert



ONE WORLD
INDIVIDUAL AWARD



Pauline Mitchell, CD Dunfermline is recognized for her contributions as a volunteer for many years to SCAS



Charlotte Hull, Director of Events and ACD Rapperswil-Jona, Switzerland



OWA INDIVIDUAL Winner — Maestro Victor DeRenzi and spouse, Stephanie Sundine



OWA Master of Ceremonies and ACD Busseto, Kenney DeCamp with SCAS member, Sylva Kanderl

2021 ONE WORLD AWARD GALA



Craig Hullinger & Beth Ruyle-Hullinger



Ray & Kathryn Young



Wendy Babb & Gerry Fickenscher



Judith & Miriam Kramer



Marianne & Phillip Gordon



Dawn Graber, Matty Maloni, Phillip Gordon



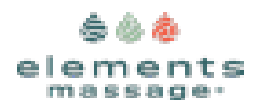
Gala Patrons arriving at the venue at Michael's on East. More photos will be posted on the website.

Grateful Thanks to our very generous ONE WORLD AWARD Donors and Sponsors!

— CORPORATE SPONSORS —



SARASOTA



“New SCAS Speaker’s Program Well Received”

Ray Young

VP-Planning and Programs

The new format for our Selby Library Speaker’s Bureau was very well received by our membership and guests this past Fall/Winter session. The “International Experiential Forum” featured four brief ten minute presentations with no PowerPoint slides, just a few pictures or objects that were passed around the audience. It was a great opportunity for our members to share some unique travel experiences. The descriptions ranged from novel and amusing to adventurous and harrowing, with an enthralled audience of over 50 people at each event. The speaker and their topics are listed below and cover 11 different countries, demonstrating both the breadth and diversity of travel experiences of our board and members.

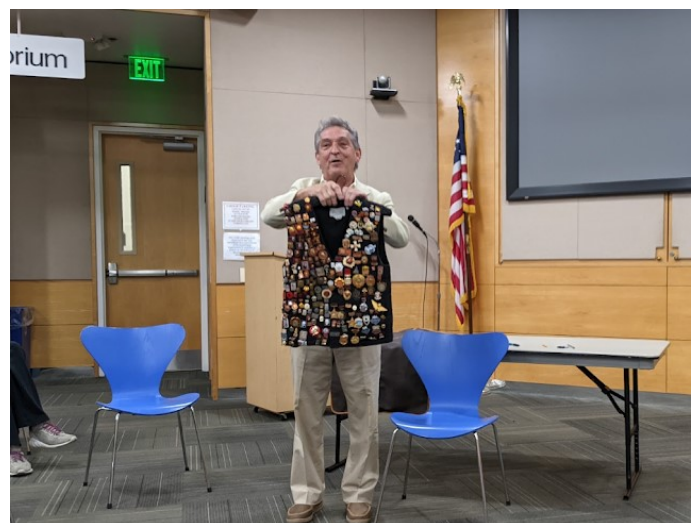
Grisell Aleman	<i>Unforgettable Drink in Mexico</i>
Kenny DeCamp	<i>Guest of Gorbachev</i>
Audrey Marten	<i>Tripping to Switzerland</i>
Phillip Gordon	<i>Elephant Polo in India</i>
Barbara Frey	<i>Walking the Milford Track, South Island, New Zealand</i>
Emile & Pam Langlois	<i>Bridal Celebration in Tunisia</i>
Mark Freedman	<i>Malpaisillo, Nicaragua, a Hotbed of Sandinista Support</i>
Tom Halbert	<i>Goldfish Saved the Day in Canada</i>
Rabbi Jonathan Katz	<i>A Meeting with Tony Perkins in the South of France</i>
Kenney DeCamp	<i>A Special Massage in Nha Trang, Viet Nam</i>
Ray Young	<i>Descent to Kalaupapa: The Leper Colony on Moloka’i</i>
Craig Hullinger	<i>Vietnam 1969 - 1999</i>

Another session of the “International Experiential Forum” is scheduled for January 13, 2022 at the Selby Library (4:00 pm) and the scheduled speakers and topics are shown below. Hope to see you there!

Richard Wires	<i>Getting Out of Yugoslavia as it Collapsed</i>
Hope Byrnes	<i>Life as the Wife of a US Foreign Service Officer – Rome, Madrid & Antigua</i>
Craig & Beth Hullinger	<i>Sister City Trip to Taiwan</i>
Toni Duval	<i>See America First</i>



International Experiential Forum



SCAS October Luncheon at Bird Key Yacht Club



From Our City Director

Kim Sheintal

SCAS Assistant City Director of Tel Mond, Israel



What Makes Sarasota Sister City Tel Mond, Israel So Special

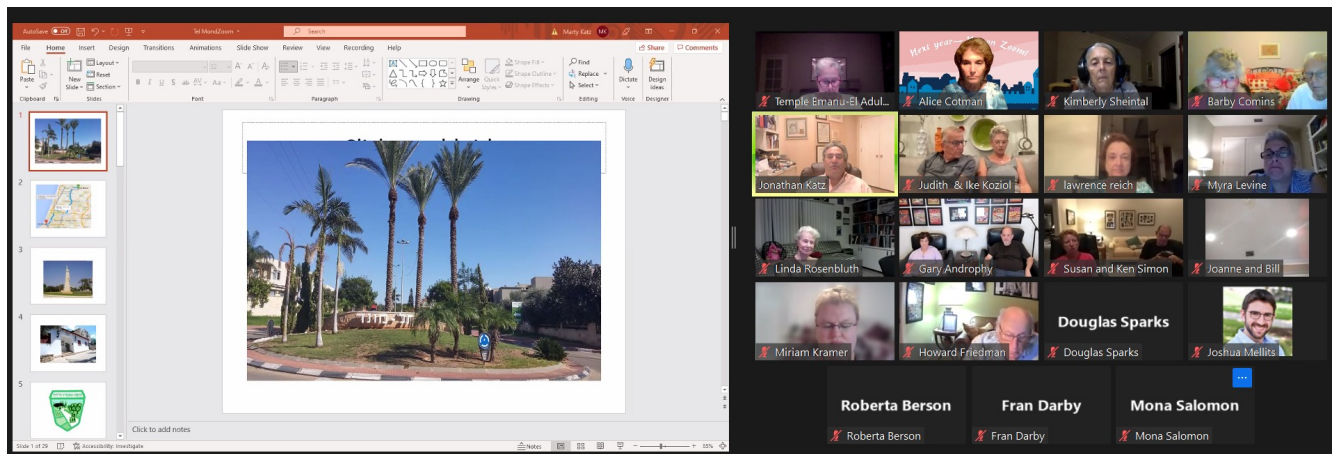
In October, Rabbi Jonathan R. Katz shared a Zoom presentation, "What Makes Sarasota Sister City Tel Mond, Israel So Special," sponsored by Temple Emanu-El's Israel Committee. He discussed the community's history and showed photos of prominent sites, picturesque streetscapes, and homes.

Established as an agricultural settlement in 1929 for the cultivation of citrus orchards, Tel Mond (population 10,000) is centrally located 25 minutes northwest of Tel Aviv and fifty minutes south of Haifa. It is regarded as one of Israel's most desirable places to live, prompting many of the nation's leading high-tech executives to call it home.

Possessing excellent schools and an active community center, its library is named for legendary Sarasota philanthropists Alex and Betty Schoenbaum. Like Sarasota, the city supports a range of cultural interests and has a considerable senior citizen and ex-pat population. Since Tel Mond became a Sarasota Sister City in 1999, several student exchanges, group visits, and joint civic projects have been undertaken.

Temple Emanu-El and Sister Cities Association of Sarasota members offered interesting anecdotes about their own Israel travel experiences. The Temple's Judith Koziol conveyed how much she personally derived from her involvement with Richmond, Virginia's sister city in Israel, which just happens to be located fairly close to Tel Mond.

Linda Rosenbluth spoke of early visits to Tel Mond more than thirty years ago before the settlement had paved roads. Alice Cotman displayed embroidered artwork from Tel Mond while Kim Sheintal shared about a scrapbook of photos she prepared following a wonderful visit to Tel Mond several years ago.



Temple members, Sister City members, and community leaders enjoyed learning about Tel Mond

Grisell Aleman

SCAS City Director of Merida, Mexico



Top left *Mike Fehily*, top right *Grisell Aleman* - Sarasota
Bottom left *Gabriela Echeverria* and *Miguel Morales*, bottom right *Jose Luis Martinez* - Mérida

The Sister City of Mérida

THE “CASA MERIDA” PROJECT

We continued talks with our friends from the City Hall of Mérida for the future during our monthly Zoom meeting.

The “Casa Mérida” project is a pilot project in the United States with Sarasota being the first city to host this type of event. The “Casa Mérida” project (a pop-up event) will exhibit plastic arts, handcrafts, gastronomy, jewelry, stone, and wood art in Sarasota, where attendees may have the opportunity to buy some of the products. The “Casa Mérida” project will be hosted by Selby Library for one week at the end of May 2022. This project has now been named “**Mérida’s Week in Sarasota.**” It will be an honor to have the mayor of Mérida, Renán Barrera, come to Sarasota for the project to work on future agreements with the Chamber of Commerce, Tourism and Education. The mayor is pursuing scholarship agreements abroad.



Welcome New Members

Recently joining us at the Individual Level:

Nileema Noble

Judy Seale Cooper

Welcome Back and thank you for staying with SCAS

Ellie Stoll

Dawn Graber

Margareta Rower

Please Renew Your Membership

SCAS MEMBERS that have received a renewal notice this year from the VP Membership, Isabelle Eidet – it is not too late to renew your dues for 2021. Your membership is valid for 12 months from the date that you renew.

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: <https://sarasotasistercities.org/membership-payment-page/>

Please share the Membership Form on the next page with others and invite them to join SCAS.



SISTER CITIES ASSOCIATION OF SARASOTA

2021 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Partner with us to build bridges of peace and understanding with our Sister Cities

Name: _____ Spouse/Partner Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Home Tel: _____ Business: _____ Cell: _____

Birthday: _____ Spouse/Partner Birthday: _____

HOW DID YOU DISCOVER SISTER CITIES OF SARASOTA? ☐ Internet ☐ TV ☐ Print Media ☐ Social Media
☐ Friend ☐ Other

DO YOU USE SOCIAL MEDIA? ☐ Facebook ☐ Twitter ☐ Instagram ☐ Pinterest ☐ Other

PLEASE CHECK ANY ACTIVITIES & EXCHANGES THAT INTEREST YOU:

- ☐ Art & Culture ☐ Board Position ☐ Business ☐ City Director ☐ Education ☐ Event Planning
☐ Events Greeter ☐ Fundraising ☐ Grant Writing ☐ Hospitality/Hosting
☐ Languages/Translation ☐ Medicine/Science ☐ Mentor ☐ Publicity ☐ Photography
☐ Sport ☐ Travel ☐ Writing/Newsletter ☐ Other: _____

PLEASE SHARE YOUR SKILLS, LANGUAGES & BACKGROUND:

WHICH OF OUR SISTER CITY RELATIONSHIPS ARE YOU MOST INTERESTED IN?

- ☐ Dunfermline, Scotland ☐ Mérida, Yucatán, México ☐ Perpignan, France ☐ Tel Mond, Israel
☐ Vladimir, Russia ☐ Xiamen, China ☐ Rapperswil-Jona, Switzerland ☐ Busseto, Italy

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS:

- ☐ Individual \$40 ☐ Family \$60 ☐ Patron \$100 ☐ Sponsor \$150 ☐ National Sponsor \$500

WE NEED YOU! PLEASE VOLUNTEER:

- ☐ Yes, I want to volunteer ☐ Yes, I want to micro-volunteer my skills on a specific task/project

FOR MORE INFORMATION - PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.sarasotasistercities.org

Blog: sarasotasistercities.com

Facebook: facebook.com/SarasotaSisterCities

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

MAIL THIS COMPLETED FORM WITH YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO SCAS TO OUR TREASURER:

GLORIA GRENIER
6501 17TH Ave W, Apt I-401
Bradenton, FL 34209

Or Mail to our Office:

SISTER CITIES ASSOCIATION OF SARASOTA
111 S. ORANGE AVE., SUITE 103
SARASOTA, FL 34236

For Office Use Only:

- ☐ NEW ☐ RENEWAL ☐ CHECK NO. ____ ☐ DATE REC ____

Upcoming SCAS Schedule of Events

Date	Event
December 27, 2021 4 pm - 7 pm	<u>All Membership Holiday Gathering</u> Brevard's Salute Restaurant (Private Room) 23 N. Lemon St. Sarasota Ample Appetizers Provided (Happy Hour Cash Bar) All Members and Spouses/Partners invited, \$10 per person (supplemented by SCAS) To register simply send an e-mail message to Ray Young (ahoharay4@gmail.com) with the number and names of those attending. Payment of \$10 can be made at the door with a check to SCAS or with Cash
January 13, 2022 4 pm	<u>Selby Library International Experiential Forum</u> (followed by Meet & Greet) <div> <div>Richard Wires</div> <div><i>Getting Out of Yugoslavia as it Collapsed</i></div> </div> <div> <div>Hope Byrnes</div> <div><i>Life as the Wife of a US Foreign Service Officer – Rome, Madrid & Antigua</i></div> </div> <div> <div>Craig & Beth Hullinger</div> <div><i>Sister City Trip to Taiwan</i></div> </div> <div> <div>Toni Duval</div> <div><i>See America First</i></div> </div>
January 19, 2022 11:30 am - 1:30 pm	<u>Luncheon</u> – Bird Key Yacht Club “Bit by the Dragon!” “How Dragon Boat Racing is Impacting Our Community and the World, One Paddler at a Time” Presenter: Angela Long , Founder Survivors in Sync, Breast Cancer Survivor Dragon Boat Team. Head Coach of the NBP Paddling Program, Nathan Benderson Park
January 26, 2022	SCAS Board Meeting

Date	Event
February 2, 2022 11:00 am	Zoom Photo Presentation on Vladimir, Russia “Vladimir and the Vladimirians” Presenter: Tatiana Semenova from Sister City of Vladimir, with an introduction by Miriam Kramer , SCAS President and City Director for Vladimir
February 9, 2022 11:30 am - 1:30 pm	<u>Luncheon</u> – Bird Key Yacht Club “Spotlight on WEDU PBS” Presenter: Paul Grove , President and CEO
February 17, 2022 4 pm	Selby Library Presentation, (followed by Meet & Greet) “The Wonders of Java, Indonesia” Presenter: Pauline Mitchell , City Director, Dunfermline
February 23, 2022 2 pm	SCAS Board Meeting
March 10, 2022 4 pm	Selby Library Presentation, followed by Meet & Greet “Across Siberia by Train” Presenter: Richard Wires , SCAS Member
March 16, 2022 11:30 am - 1:30 pm	Luncheon – Bird Key Yacht Club “Newtown’s Renaissance: A Historic Treasure” Presenter: Vickie Oldham , Sarasota African American Cultural Coalition
March 23, 2022 2 pm	SCAS Board Meeting

Date	Event
April 7	Interactive Trolley Tour "History of Sarasota's Earliest African American Pioneers"
April 20 11:30 am - 1:30 pm	Luncheon – Bird Key Yacht Club "A Walk in the Park" Presenter: Jeannie Perales , Chief Experience Officer The Bay Park Conservancy



**Sister Cities Association of Sarasota Wishing You a Happy,
Healthy, and Joyous Holidays**