



President's Message



Greetings to all our members who have remained steadfast in supporting Sister Cities Association of Sarasota (SCAS) through the past COVID-influenced year. As the then-Vice President of Cities I appreciated everything our City Directors and other board members did to maintain contact with their colleagues overseas. Their Zoom lectures on each of our eight cities and our presentations on other topics kept members informed during our hiatus from in-person activities.

I urge you to use your renewed energy to participate actively in Sister Cities this upcoming year. We are only as strong as our members. SCAS is planning an exciting range of luncheons, in-person lectures, and other activities. In November we will be celebrating Maestro Victor DeRenzi and the Sarasota Opera, who won our One World Award before COVID arrived. We will finally be holding our postponed One World Award Gala on November 7th at Michael's on East. Please see more information on page 9 and buy tickets at the link on page 10 of this newsletter:

www.sarasotasisitercities.org/special-events/

I am excited to focus on growing our organization through adding members, increasing participation in our activities, building relationships with City Hall, and raising funds for SCAS. I ask you as an individual or a couple to invite two likely friends to join our organization, thereby strengthening our ability to build bridges of peace and understanding between cities.

I recently won the Kathryn Davis Fellowship for Peace to study Russian intensively at Middlebury College in Vermont for two months. This summer will help me improve my language so that SCAS can better communicate with and build peace between Sarasota and our Russian Sister City, Vladimir. I relish the challenge of this intensive course and will make the most of it.

I wish you a wonderful summer: one in which you can finally travel, see loved ones, and refresh yourself for our upcoming programs. Thank you again for your continued support.

Miriam Kramer

Annual SCAS Members Meeting 2021

The SCAS Annual Meeting was held on May 9, 2021 at 2 pm in Room 112 at Sarasota City Hall. All members were invited to attend either in person or via zoom. The election for the 2021-2022 SCAS Board of Directors took place and here is the list of our Board Members for the new term:

2021-2022 SCAS Board of Directors

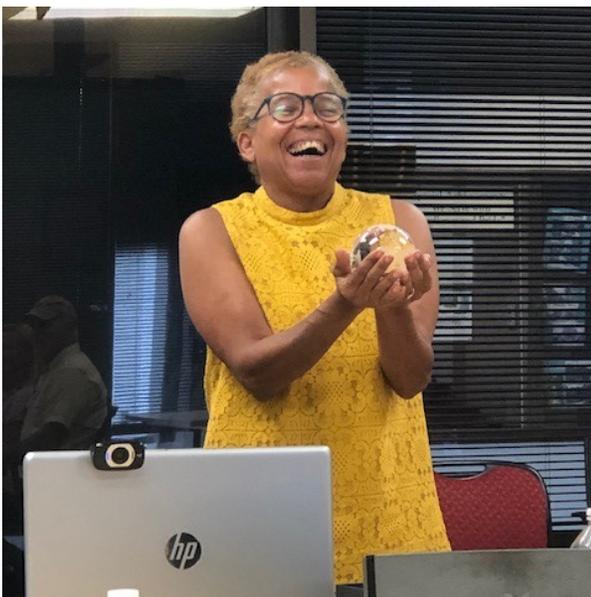
President	Miriam Kramer
Past President	Toni Duval
Secretary	Beth Ruyle-Hullinger
Treasurer	Gloria Grenier

Vice Presidents

Arts and Culture	Sue Gordon
Cities & Candidates	Rabbi Jonathan Katz
Communications	Jana Stanley
Economic Development	Craig Hullinger
Education	Dawn Graber
Events	Charlotte Hull
Fund Raising	Betty Greenspan
Membership	Isabelle Eidet
Programs and Planning	Ray Young
Sports	Richard Greenspan

City Directors

Busseto	Phillip Gordon
Dunfermline	Pauline Mitchell
Merida	Grisell Aleman
Perpignan	Marie des Neiges Grossas
Rapperswil-Jona	Nelly Camardo
Tel Mond	Rabbi Jonathan Katz
Vladimir	Miriam Kramer
Xiamen	Douglas Sparks
Youth Ambassador	Matthew Maloni



Toni with her farewell and thank you gift from SCAS



The Ties That Bind

Ray Young, VP – Programs & Planning

Five hundred cities in the USA have sister city relationships in 145 countries around the world. We are occasionally asked how we choose a new Sister City or, as referred to in Europe, twin with another city. When choosing a new partner, we look for a city of similar size and compatible cultural and academic offerings. However other factors, such as previously established relationships with people or organizations in the city, often come into play. The process also frequently involves a “champion” who promotes and negotiates the “twinning” as well as subsequent administrative tasks.



Sarasota and Vladimir, Russia became Sister Cities as a result of prior Rotary club exchanges. Jewish organizational relationships and champions Linda Rosenbluth and Betty Schoenbaum were instrumental in establishing Tel Mond as our Israeli Sister City. Carolyn Bloomer carried out graduate studies in Xiamen, China and advocated for a Sister City relationship. She worked with the US-China Peoples Friendship Assoc. in Sarasota to establish the twinning. Michael Fehily, who spent considerable time in Merida, partnered with a coalition of Mexican Americans in Sarasota to promote Merida as our Mexican sister city. The establishment of our new Friendship City of Busseto, Italy, the home of Giuseppe Verdi, was initiated by our Sarasota Opera Maestro, Victor DeRenzi. He is the only Maestro in the world to have performed all of Verdi’s operas. The relationship was finalized by City Director, Phillip Gordon.



Verdi Statue

There are a variety of other reasons that cities around the world start twinning. Chicago's historic **Polish community** motivated them to twin with Warsaw, Poland. Seattle's **Norwegian community** promoted partnering with Bergen, Norway. They both celebrate Norwegian independence on Syttende Mai (May 17). The town of Liberal, Kansas twinned with Olney, England so the cities could have a **joint Pancake Race!**



Chicago-Polish Connection



Syttende Mai Parade, Seattle



Kansas Pancake Race

Indianapolis twinned with Monza, Italy because they both have a strong association with **Auto racing**. Sometimes business relationships are a factor, as with the twinning of Portland, Oregon with Bologna, Italy due to their shared **Biotechnology industries** and “shared attitude towards food!” Rochester, Minnesota and Knebworth, England partnered since both are centers of **Medical research**.



Auto racing, Monza



Rochester, Minnesota

Common names have been another motivation for having sister cities. For example, Subiaco, Arkansas partnered with Subiaco, Australia and Orange, California with Orange, Australia, as well as Gisborne, Australia with Gisborne, New Zealand.

But the most **hilarious reason** for twinning was between **Dull, Scotland and Boring, Oregon** to promote tourism by playing on their distinct, but rather pale and unimpressive names!



SCAS One World Award Past Honoree

The **ONE WORLD AWARD (OWA)** is the Sister Cities Association of Sarasota's (SCAS) premier international award that honors one remarkable individual and one organization in our community that have enhanced peace, understanding, and respect among citizens of the world through their extraordinary work or volunteer service. This award shines the spotlight on individuals and organizations that have demonstrated their continued ability to create and maintain strong bonds of peace and understanding among the world's citizens.

The 2021 OWA Individual Award recipient is the Principal Artistic Director of the Sarasota Opera, Maestro Victor DeRenzi, for his spectacular accomplishment of the 28-year Verdi Cycle; and the OWA Organization Award recipient is the Sarasota Opera for their partnership in this endeavor. Mr. Richard Russell, the Executive Director, will accept the award for the Opera.

Want to learn more about the One World Award and its past honoree? Here is a video presentation from Dr. Ray Young, VP Programs and Planning.

Please click on the video below:



Sister Cities Association of Sarasota

One World Gala

Sunday, November 7, 2021
5PM | Michael's On East

SISTER CITIES ASSOCIATION OF SARASOTA REQUESTS THE HONOR
OF YOUR PRESENCE AT THE 2021 ONE WORLD AWARD GALA
INDIVIDUAL AWARD – MAESTRO VICTOR DERENZI
ORGANIZATIONAL AWARD – SARASOTA OPERA

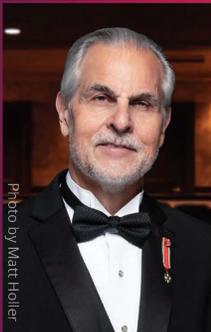


Photo by Matt Holler

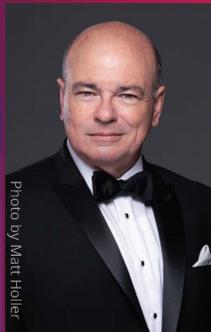


Photo by Matt Holler



Sarasota Youth Opera "Hobbit" photo: Rod Millington

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 • TICKET SALES END ON OCTOBER 31, 2021

Tickets \$125 through July 31 • \$150 after August 1

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

Register today at sarasotasistercities.org/special-events/

ONE WORLD GALA tickets are ON SALE now!

Please save the date and join us at the **ONE WORLD AWARD**
Sunday, November 7, 2021
5 PM at Michael's on East

Early Bird Ticket Specials are available for a limited time.
Get your tickets now!

Prices are only \$125 per person. Please visit our website for more details about our Program, Sponsor, and Menu choices.

To purchase tickets, visit: <https://sarasotasisitercities.org/special-events/>

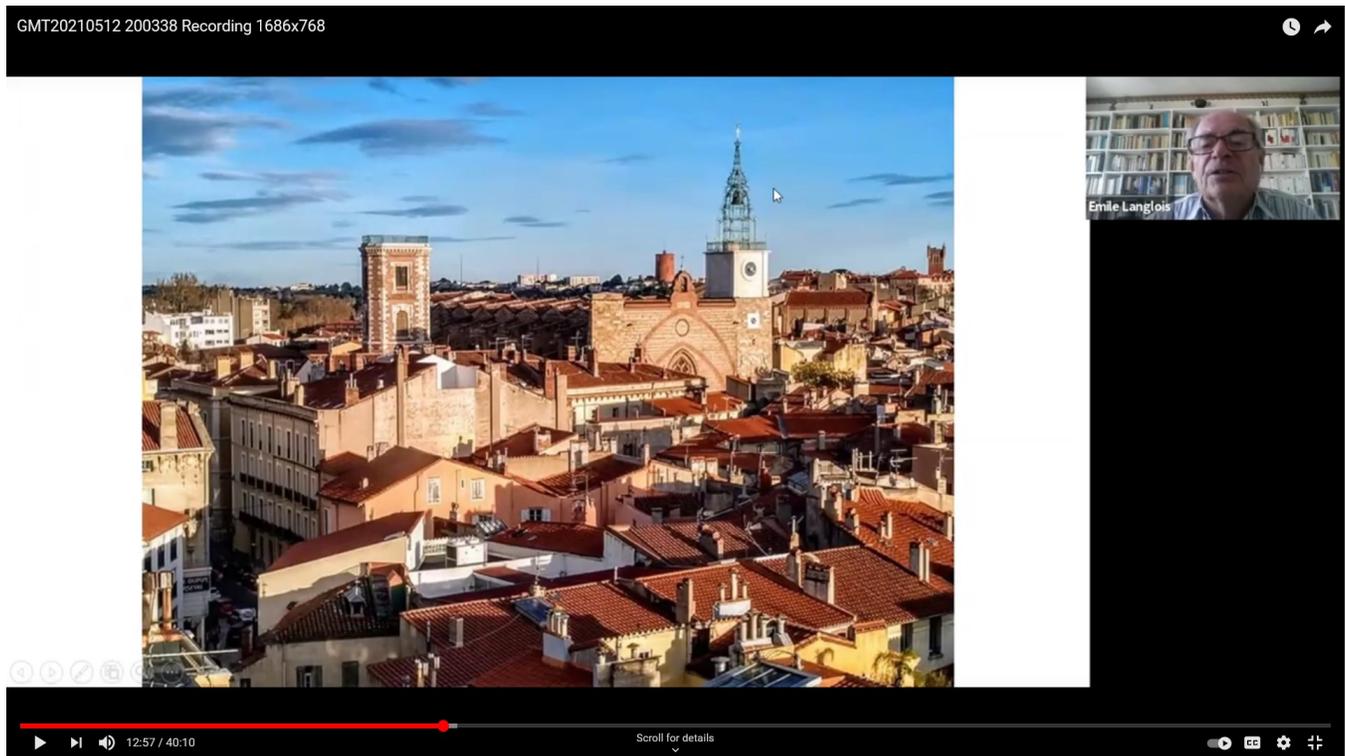
For more info, contact Director of Events, Charlotte Hull at (941) 201-7437 or email: Charlotte_Events@sarasotasisitercities.com

We hope to see you there!

Warm regards from the OWA Committee



If you missed our Sister City Spotlight presentation on Perpignan by *Emile Langlois*, former Assistant Director of Perpignan. Here is the video recording for you to enjoy.



Recent Event and Photo Gallery

Past President Toni Duval's presentation at Rotary Club of Sarasota



Wine Tasting Meet n Greet

