



Sister Cities Association of Sarasota

Citizen Diplomats—Carving a Path toward Peace since 1963



Marianne Janz-Wecke,
SCAS President

SCAS Call for One World Award Nominations

Sister Cities Association of Sarasota is requesting nominations from our membership as well as the general public for our prestigious **One World Awards** which will be bestowed at our Gala Luncheon, March 11, 2018. We ask that nominations include a description of the contributions and accomplishments of the individual or organization for evaluation by the nomination committee and that you confirm with the nominee that they will be present and available to receive the award at the Gala.

The One World Award is Sarasota Sister Cities' premier international award that honors one remarkable individual and one organization that have enhanced "understanding and respect" among citizens of the world through their extraordinary work or volunteer service. Each year the One World Gala shines the spotlight on area individuals and organizations which have demonstrated their continued ability to create and maintain strong bonds of understanding among the world's citizens through their extraordinary work and service to the community.

Send nominations directly to Dr. Raymond Young, Chair, One World Award Committee:

Email: aloharay4@gmail.com,

Phone: 941-225-1268

Previous Individual Winners

2011 - Robert Roskamp, Roskamp Institute

2012 - Nicholas Bollettieri, IMG Nick Bollettieri Tennis Academy for international training

2013 - Former Mayor Lou Ann Palmer

2014 - Linda Rosenbluth – Former President & City Director for SCAS. **2015** - Andrew Ezzell & JoAnn Patrick Ezzell.

2016 - Pedro Reis and Dolly Jacobs, Circus Arts

2017 - Mary Elmendorf – (pictured here)

Internationally known anthropologist, Nobel Prize Winner and Author of "From Southern Belle To Global Rebel"



Previous Organization Winners

2012 - *The ORT Organization* - Jewish global educational program for the underprivileged

2013 - *Sarasota Christian School* - Promotes diversity and international relationships

2014 - *Embracing Our Differences* City Island Poster Program promotes diversity

2017 - *Sarasota Audubon Society* Environmental Protection & Education

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Member Spotlight

Bill Wallace, Linda Rosenbluth, Two Past Presidents, Similar Views

I recently spent a little over two hours with Past Presidents Linda Rosenbluth and Bill Wallace for an enlightening discussion about how they first became a part of Sarasota Sister Cities.



Both began their affiliation due to their involvement with cities which later became Sister Cities. Linda was approached to assist with bringing Tel Mond, Israel into the Sarasota Sister City family. Bill, was a founding member of the Caledonian Club of Florida West, an organization of Scottish Americans. Founded by Scottish immigrants, the City of Sarasota wanted to find a Sister City to partner with as the centennial of the founding approached.

As we spoke, I heard other similarities. Their greatest achievements: the friendships and relationships formed both locally and around the globe based on their work with Sister Cities. The keys to a successful Sister City organization: the many face-to-face exchanges between cities, whether it be students and education; arts and culture events, or government leaders' dialogue.

As a new member, I was interested in their perspective on the state of the organization and their view of the future. Both commented on the need to continue our outreach by partnering with other ethnic and cultural organizations. This helps SCAS not only expand our base, it also keeps our mission of people to people diplomacy relevant. In addition, it lessens the burden put on the same people. The current City Directors and other members of the Board of Directors work very hard but we need to widen our net and get fresh ideas.

Each approached the impact of technology from different directions. Bill talked about his fear that technology such as Skype and videoconferencing would impede true face-to-face relationship building. Linda commented that newer technologies might actually make relationship-building easier; "It's more cost-effective to meet via Videoconference, we could videotape activities like lectures on YouTube, or we could post a digital cook book online for people around the world to view without the cost of printing and mailing it." Both believe that there are no limits to what we can achieve if we dare to dream and encouraged our current leadership to think big; perhaps an education exchange or focus on the government leadership.

Linda and Bill strongly believe that now, more than ever there is a need for civil engagement between cultures. Although language is often a barrier, individual goals and aspirations are more similar than different and Sarasota Sister Cities can help facilitate those activities with the support of our City partners and other citizen diplomats, we can affect positive change in our community and others around the world.

Sister Cities Association of Sarasota Board of Directors

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SCAS Board Meetings are usually held the last Wednesday of each month. If you are interested in attending please contact:
tlduval@sarasotasistercities.com

Sister City Spotlight

Mérida, Mexico

Our Gulf of Mexico Neighbor

Little did Mike Fehily realize when he began working with a team of people to make Mérida, Mexico a Sister City that his interest would become his passion and lead to a career. Fluent in Spanish, Mike spent two years in Mexico City after college and although he lamented that he wished he had stayed there, he confessed how much the long-lasting relationships he now has with government officials and citizens of both Sarasota and Mérida mean to him.

Since becoming a Sister City, Mérida and Sarasota have developed the type of relationship that other affiliates could only dream of. “The people in Mérida are very supportive. Their enthusiasm is contagious and we have lots planned for 2017/2018.” says Fehily.

Since formalizing the Sister City partnership in 2010, 18 USF Sarasota-Manatee students have participated in an Study Abroad program by studying and living with Mexican families in Mérida for five weeks each summer. Mike and other instructors live, teach, and council participants during their stay. Mérida was declared the Arts and Culture Capital of the Americas in 2017 and students and professors joined in the celebration by attending cultural events put on by the City.

The mayors of both cities have exchanged correspondence and commitments to continue expanding partnerships. Mike is working on continuing our connections; in arts and culture, business, and education. He is currently pursuing possibilities of our Sister City involvement with Mérida in the Circus Conservatory, the FST Write- A-Play program, Embracing Our Differences plus a local tow-truck manufacturer and a Merida steel fabricator. Mike stated, “The future looks bright and I’m happy to have been a part of it.”

[Click here to view Mike’s pictures from recent Mérida, Mexico visit](#)



SARASOTA SISTER CITIES & CITY DIRECTORS

Hamilton, Ontario, Canada	1990
	Position inactive
Perpignan, France	1994
	Marie des Neiges Grossas
Vladimir, Russia	1999
	Olga Pliner
Tel Mond, Israel	2002
	Sid Krupkin
Dunfermline, Scotland	2007
	Pauline Mitchell
Treviso (Province), Italy	2007
	Anna Madaschi
Xiamen (Siming District), China	2007
	Carolyn Bloomer
Mérida, Mexico	2010
	Michael Fehily
Rapperswil-Jona, Switzerland	2017
	Nelly Camardo

**INTERESTED IN
LEARNING MORE
ABOUT OUR SISTER
CITIES?
VISIT OUR WEBSITE**

www.sarasotasistercities.org

TRIVIA QUIZ!

Q. Which city recently was named Cultural Capital of the Americas?

- A. Dunfermline, Scotland
- B. Tel Mond, Israel
- C. Vladimir, Russia
- D. Merida, Mexico

Email your reply to:

tlduval@sarasotasistercities.com
with TRIVIA ANSWER in the SUBJ
and you could win a prize from our
box of tricks!

DEADLINE: August 8, 2017

Answer to last month's question:
333 plays have been submitted to the
FST Write-A-Play Contest.

SURVEY OF THE 2nd MONTH IN A ROW

TECHNOLOGY AND SOCIAL MEDIA PREFERENCES

Click on the title above and take a few
minutes to complete a survey about
how you use email and social media

EDUCATION CORNER

Learn about the World Around You
For Starters,
Learn about Sister Cities
Association of Sarasota

Dr. Raymond Young delivers a brief
presentation on the SCAS history
and mission and selection process
for our Sister Cities.

Click on link below to watch Video
[Part II – Innovation Awards and Sister
Cities: Perpignan and Tel Mond](#)

The Back Page

SCAS Member Soapbox

Involvement Equals Benefit

After I first joined Sarasota Sister Cities I felt like I wasn't getting much out of it. "Nothing seems to be happening" and I was on the verge of dropping out.

Then, President Carla Rayman asked me to help with an event. Wow, that changed everything. As I got involved and met new people, my attitude improved. I had fun at the monthly informal "Meet and Greet", the monthly luncheons introduced me to the Sister Cities around the world and the people who planned activities for those cities. The lecture series introduced me to unique topics like perfume-making, lemurs, and the Golden Age of Sarasota.

I was even part of a delegation to help inaugurate a new cultural arts center in Perpignan, France and later, I planned a trip for members to Mérida, Mexico. I helped plan a Sustainability and Renewable Energy Conference comprised of speakers from over eight countries. It seemed the more I got involved, the more benefits I received.

So, as it turns out, a lot *does* happen in Sarasota Sister Cities and as a result I've gained new friends, new foreign and local experiences. I encourage you to get involved and share your expertise. You'll be glad you did!

Dave Harralson
Sister Cities of Sarasota Member
Former Board Member

The Member's Column

Feel free to email your comments, thoughts and opinions for posting to our Member Soapbox. Note that we reserve the right to select those posts which are consistent with the values, goals, and objectives of SCAS and Sister Cities International. Email:
tlduval@sarasotasistercities.com