



SCAS Looks Toward the Future

As we embark on another year, SCAS leadership embraces the opportunities that lie ahead. Together we will tackle the challenges as well. As always, we encourage our supporters, especially our long-time members, to help launch us into the next decade.

Your Board is committed to working toward goals and objectives that sustain this organization into the future and we look forward to your input as we stay true to our mission as citizen diplomats and “Carve a Path Toward Peace”.

Marianne Janz-Wecke,
SCAS President

The process began at the May Board Meeting when SCAS President, Marianna Janz-Wecke presented her goals and objectives for the upcoming year. Over the summer, each Board Member will develop his/her own objectives for their areas of responsibility. In the fall, the Board will develop a strategic plan aimed at increasing community engagement and member retention, two of our highest priorities.

We will continue to seek our membership’s feedback regarding SCAS programs, community partnerships, and Sister City relationship-building activities.

For example, a survey of attendees at a recent luncheon indicated that a highlight of our luncheons is the opportunity to

socialize with old friends. However, another attendee’s comment indicated that we should consider having more formal introductions prior to the meal. So, how do we continue to meet the needs of our long-time members and provide opportunities and value to new and prospective members?

We try to compromise and have quite a few advantages, too: we have several annual events that help keep us “on our toes.” Our participation in Florida Studio Theatre’s *Write-A-Play* Program brought visitors from three of our Sister Cities to Sarasota to see their plays performed on stage. In September, our *Speaker’s Bureau* Presentations and *Meet ‘n’ Greet*s will resume and we are beginning plans for our *One World Award*.

In addition, we are in the very early stages of developing a Member Orientation program.

Another SCAS priority includes establishing and maintaining our relationships with other community organizations: the city of Sarasota, and other Sister City organizations.

So, as you can see, there’s much to do, however Sister Cities Association of Sarasota has a great team and with the support of our Community partners, we will continue our strong partnership with our Sister Cities.

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Member Spotlight

Meet Gabriella Hazen

Youth Ambassador



When you first meet Gabriella, you can't help but notice her poise and confidence. She speaks openly about her travels (her parents run a cooking school). She's spent extended time in Italy, as well visiting over five countries.

When asked what she liked about her time as Sister Cities Association of Sarasota's Youth Ambassador, she speaks of the benefits of working with a wide variety of adults and observing how real-world organizations operate. "It's given me perspective about the diverse way people discuss and approach problems."

As a Board member, Gabriella attended the General Board Meetings, as well as the City Directors' meetings. She was surprised at how formal meetings are and conducted.

She regrets that her time was brief, but suggests that SCAS replace her as soon as possible, in order for the new 'recruit' to participate on one or more of our various committees in order to get a complete view of the organization. "Also, (s/he) would be able to create a network with other Sister City organizations." commented Gabriella.

Gabriella enjoys learning about other cultures and no matter her what path her future studies take her, she plans on continuing her love of travel, and who knows maybe even a global job.

Gabriella is off to Rice University and is looking forward to being out on her own. We wish her well and look forward to hearing about your college experience when you return home to Sarasota!

Membership Information

Spread the word about SCAS and invite your friends, colleagues, and other interested people to join this very special organization.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Want to get more involved? We could use folks who are interested in...

- Event Planning
- Article Writing
- Youth Ambassador
- Public Relations
- Sports

Please email your interest to: tlduval@sistercities.com

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

- DJADSK
- KJADSJA
- KJADKSJA;
- AKA;DKALD

COMING SOON!

Member Database Training
TBA...

Sister Cities Association of Sarasota Board of Directors

Marianna Janz-Wecke	President
Werner Knoop	Treasurer
Jane Passman	Secretary
Dr. Ray Young	VP-Education
Carrie Weaver	VP-Membership
Toni Duval	VP-Communications & PR
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Eladio Amores	VP-Business & Economic Dev.
Dr. Carolyn Bloomer	VP-Cities (pro tem)
Gloria Grenier	VP-Arts & Culture

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

Sister City Spotlight

Rapperswil-Jona, Switzerland

Our Newest Sister City

Just days after the official designation was secured at the Sarasota City Commissioners meeting, Nelly Camardo, SCAS City Director for Rapperswil-Jona traveled to the “City of Roses” in Switzerland to meet city leaders on the upper banks of Lake Zurich.

The journey toward Sister City status began in 2015 when the Swiss-American Club (Sarasota) president, Primo Bader came up with the idea and a team was formed. The group discussed the similarities of our two cities. Renae Faessler, who lives six months of the year near Rapperswil-Jona was asked to contact interested people in Switzerland and the partnerships began.

On the project since its inception, Nelly says she’s most proud of achieving what the team set out to do and get an agreement in both cities to work together. When asked, she indicated that convincing both cities they were a perfect match for one another, was a challenge. “By making presentations and explaining the mission of the Sister City concept we were able to get all parties excited about the project,” said Nelly.

What happens next? Each city’s delegation will conduct the official signing ceremony. Sarasota will visit R-J in August, 2018 at the Festival of lights for the ceremony and R-J will attend the signing ceremony here at a date to be determined.

Congratulations to the entire team for this accomplishment!



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
Merida, 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. Tami Philosoph, the recently retired teacher from Tel Mond, Israel has participated in the FST program for 16 years resulting in 11 Winners and 25 Honorable Mention prizes being award to her students. How many plays have her students submitted to the competition?

- A.** 178
- B.** 226
- C.** 333
- D.** 378

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: July 6, 2017

SURVEY OF THE MONTH

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 I - Selection of Sister Cities
& Administration](#)

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SCAS Member Soapbox

Searching for Similarities Rather Than Differences

I must say, I was quite surprised and forced to admit my own bias, when I learned that it was Dwight D Eisenhower who, in 1956 held a *White House summit on citizen diplomacy, where he envisioned a network that would be a champion for peace and prosperity by fostering bonds between people from different communities around the world. By forming these relationships, he reasoned that people from different cultures could understand, appreciate, and celebrate their differences while building partnerships that would lessen the chance of new conflicts.*

Perhaps I shouldn't be surprised at my bias because each of us is disposed to lean one way or another. My experience led me to think narrowly of certain categories of people. Eisenhower fell into a couple of those groups. However, my experience also has led me to look for, acknowledge, and grapple with my bias daily in order to overcome senseless stereotyping.

SCAS gives me the opportunity to do that. At my first luncheon I sat at the Swiss table and everyone was speaking German. It was delightful. Although so different, we quickly found we had so much in common. Since then, I have learned much about our Sister Cities and its cultures.

In a time when we receive divisive "us/them" messages daily, I appreciate the space and freedom to learn about what unites us as human beings rather than what divides us.

Toni Duval

VP-Communications/PR

Sister Cities Association of Sarasota

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