

# Sister Cities Association of Sarasota

Citizen Diplomats—Carving a Path toward Peace since 1963



## Luncheon to Celebrate our Newest Sarasota Sister City Rapperswil-Jona

Not since 2010 have we been able to celebrate a new Sister City. At the November 29 Luncheon, held at Bird Key Yacht Club, Nelly Camardo and others will give us an overview of the City and highlight some of the reasons R-J makes a good choice for it becoming our Sister City.

The first of two signings is set for August and a group of City officials, Sarasota Sister City Members, and others will be traveling to Switzerland for the event and to visit the area. Sarasota boasts a large Swiss contingent, many live in R-J area. There is even a Rapperswil-Jona Sister City Association and they will be there to welcome us and have a full slate of activities planned. The day after the signing is the beginning of a two-day festival, Seenachtfest, (which mean lots of nighttime fireworks) and includes music and special events.

The trip, arranged by SCAS will also include side trips around the region and many of the visitors will travel on to Perpignan, France and Treviso, Italy. Details will be available at the luncheon.



Settlements in the region of Rapperswil date back at least 5000 years. Atop the Lindenhof hill overlooking a former small village (Endingen), Rapperswil Castle was built around 1220 by the Counts of Rapperswil and is first mentioned in 1229. The town was founded when the nobility of Rapperswil moved from Altendorf across the lake to Rapperswil.

On January 1, 2007, the municipalities of Rapperswil and Jona merged to form a new political entity making it the second largest town in the canton after the capital itself, St. Gallen.

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# Program Spotlight

## Effective Intercultural Communication

The November 2<sup>nd</sup> Speaker's Bureau Presentation featured Toni Duval who spoke about dynamics that impact our ability to communicate across cultures. As an organization made of members, many of whom are bi-cultural, speaking more than one language, we know all too well the challenges of effective communication.

For example, our City Directors communicate with their counterparts on a regular basis and face time zone and in some cases language differences. In the United States, volunteerism is common, however in other countries, work without pay is uncommon and gaining cooperation takes special considerations.

Building relationships across cultures takes time and empathy. Asking questions and listening to the comments and concerns of Sister City partners is paramount to gaining cooperation. For some of our partners, support from their local government changes as the leaders change. Therefore patience is often needed.

Being genuine when communicating is also important. If you have trouble pronouncing a name or understanding what the other person says, be proactive and apologize for not understanding. Own the consequence of your actions or words if they imply something other than your intention.

Remember, it takes both a Sender and a Receiver to communicate. The messages that travel to and from each are open for misinterpretation. When each is open and honest with the other communication missteps can be dealt with quickly, and you can move forward toward your goal of cooperation and action.



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### SCAS Event Calendar

[Visit website for details!](#)

November 2017		January 2018		February 2018	
11.2	Presentation & Meet 'n' Greet	1.9	Presentation & Meet 'n' Greet History & Culture of Cuba	2.6	Presentation & Meet 'n' Greet "7 Generations of Chinese Cinema"
11.13	General Information Session	1.17	Luncheon The Cuban Ballet	2.21	Luncheon Great Places Around the World We've Visited"
11.29	Luncheon R-J Sister City Celebration				

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

# Rapperswil-Jona Reporter Visits The Gulf Coast

During the preparations for the signing of R-J as our next Sister City, Nelly Camardo met many people during her visits to Switzerland. One such contact was Christian Dietz-Saluz, Chief Reporter for Zürichsee-Zeitung, (ZSZ), a Swiss German-language daily newspaper, published in Stäfa.

Christian was visiting the Gulf Coast with his wife and other family members and while sitting on the patio of Maria Jacks, we talked about life in Switzerland.



Nelly Camardo (l) and Christian Dietz-Saluz

My first question was about the similarities between Rapperswil-Jona and Sarasota. He smiled and answered “Like Sarasota, R-J’s population has above average education, income, and age”. People enjoy the arts and culture, sports and politics, and although not on the ocean, the city is on the banks of Lake Zuerich and enjoy outdoor activities.

Swiss culture is community and volunteer oriented. People like to feel that they are not merely numbers but in fact individuals that matter. People greet each other on the street. They take care of their families and then ensure that others within the community safe, secure, and part of society. “We place a premium on punctuality, however we are also polite.” That means when invited to a dinner party, the guests show up 5-10 minutes late in order to give the hostess time to prepare.

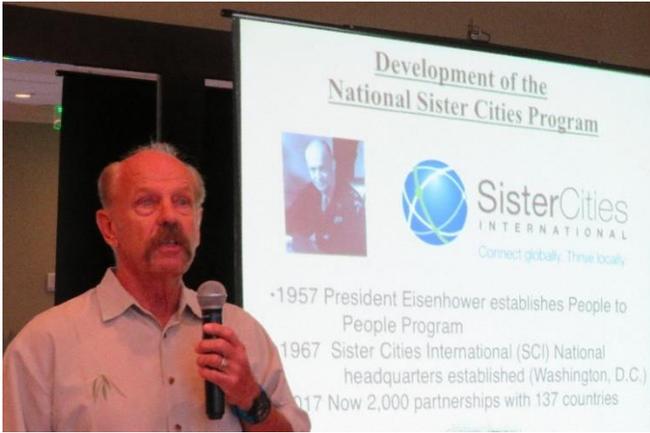
Christian has been a reporter his entire career. After being a beat reporter, he was promoted to a “desk-job” managing others. Recently he asked his boss to send him back out in the field where he could mentor younger reporters while actually covering regional politics and other events. “I enjoy learning something new each and every day.” During this part of his career he, like others is learning to enjoy his leisure time as well as his work life, and he seemed to enjoy the Florida sun and the sights of Sarasota.

## SARASOTA SISTER CITIES & CITY DIRECTORS

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

# “What’s Going On?”

## SCAS People and Activities



Ray Young spoke to the Welcome Club Luncheon, Stoney Brook Country Club, Palmer Ranch

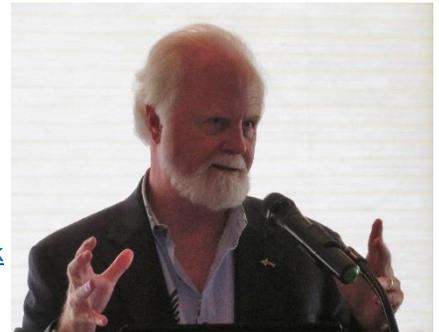


Marianna Janz-Wecke with Nanda De Medeiros (r) and her daughter after the November 2 Speaker’s Bureau Presentation at Selby Library, Sarasota

Mickey White and Kathleen Scotti, November 2 at Cask and Ale Happy Hour



Dr. Michael Crosby speaking at the October SCAS Luncheon about Mote Marine Laboratory; Our Ocean, Our Community, Our Future Together. [Click here to download pdf](#) of his presentation.



Feel free to share any pictures taken at our events of people or of places you feel would be of interest for publication on our Website, Facebook, or Newsletter.

Email: [tduval@sarasotasistercities.com](mailto:tduval@sarasotasistercities.com).



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