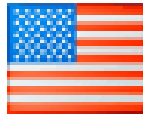




# BRIDGES TO THE WORLD

Newsletter of the Sarasota Sister Cities Association

July 2008



## SARASOTA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO ATTEND CATALAN FESTIVAL

By Harry Dunn, SSCA Perpignan City Director

After a year and a half of planning, eight high school students and two chaperones will leave on July 17, 2008, to attend the Catalan Youth Festival in our sister city of Perpignan, France. The exceptional students represent River View, Pine View, Cardinal Mooney, and the Out of Door Academy, in addition to the City of Sarasota and Sarasota Sister Cities. Applications were initially reviewed by members of the SSCA Perpignan committee, and *Alliance Francaise* members. The finalists were chosen by a selection committee, and were based on performance skills, personal interviews and personal and teacher recommendations. We are most fortunate to have Barbara and Jim Shirley participating in the trip as chaperones. Barbara is Principal of Alta Vista Elementary School, and Jim is the Director of Development for the PAL Sailor Circus.

The Youth Festival in Perpignan will take place from July 18 through July 25<sup>th</sup> and will include young people ages sixteen to eighteen from eight countries (England, Germany, Spain, Portugal, Israel, Lebanon, France and the United States). The students will put on a performance on July 24<sup>th</sup> dedicated to the theme of peace and will be representative of the culture of the home countries of the students. The Sarasota students created their own performance and have been diligently rehearsing.

Hadda Lamotte, an English teacher from *Lyce Pablo Picasso* in Perpignan, and her husband Dr. Frederic Lamotte, were guests of the Dunns. They

## Membership Luncheon

October 15, 2008

Location: TBD

Time: TBD

This meeting features Sarasota city commissioner, Ken Shelin, who will present highlights of the recent city delegation to Israel.

Cost for advance reservations is \$20 for members, \$23 for non-members and \$25 for all at the door.

Further information concerning the location, cost, and to whom registration should be directed will be sent later and posted to the website [Sarasotasistercities.org](http://Sarasotasistercities.org).

came to Sarasota to meet with Sarasota school officials Linda Nook, principal of Riverview High School, Eric Jackson, assistant director of Sarasota County Technical School, and Jennifer Putnam, principal of the new Suncoast Polytechnical High School, to discuss and plan a student exchange. Harry Dunn and Ms. Lamotte also met with Nick Pierce of Florida Studio Theater Young Playwrights and with Michael Shelton of Embracing Our Differences. Following the meetings with school officials, Harry and Happy Dunn held a reception at their home to introduce the Lamottes to teachers, students, friends, and supporters with an interest in helping with the student exchange.

Nicolas Berthet, a representative of the Office du Tourisme in Perpignan, was a guest of the Dunns while here to tour Sarasota area points of interest and meet with Stephanie Grosskreutz and Erin Duggan of the Sarasota Convention and Visitors Bureau. Discus-

(Please see "Perpignan," continued on page 7)

## Executive Board and Officers

**President**, Carla Rayman  
**Past President**, Bill Wallace  
**City Representatives**,  
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**V.P. Resources -Economic Development**, vacant  
**V.P. Education & Culture**,  
Liliane Sealy-Schrock  
**V.P. Public Relations & Communications**, Bill Sikes  
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**V.P. Cities and Candidate Cities**, Mirco Chiodi  
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**Tel Mond, Israel**, Linda Rosenbluth  
Vice, Betty Greenspan  
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Vice, Joe Loccisano  
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**Historian**, Judy Caldwell Moore  
**Grant Writer**, Gloria Grenier  
**Event Coordinators**– Linda and Richard Frary  
**Newsletter Editor**  
Salie O'Malley, Esq  
saliec@hotmail.com

To get involved in any of the organization's activities or for more information, visit our website, [sarasotasistercities.org](http://sarasotasistercities.org).

## President's Message

**Greetings, Bonjour, Shalom,  
Buenos Dias, πρωιαιετ, 您好!**

Thank you all for a fantastic season, for your patronage, and assistance. As a volunteer organization, we are only as strong as our members and I appreciate all that you do. I would like to recognize the following long-time board members who retired this year: **Tom Halbert, Hope Byrnes, Carol Furlong, and Susan Moir**. We are sad to see you go and you will be greatly missed! With that being said, I am pleased to welcome our newest board members who have jumped right in and made this transition easier:

Gundula Coleman, Secretary  
Liliane Sealy-Schrock, VP Education and Culture  
Bill Sikes, VP Public Relations and Communication  
Jerry Kelly, City Director, Dunfermline  
Larisa Trexler, City Director, Vladimir  
Ian Krouse, Community Youth Development

As we continue to grow, our Sister Cities become more active. We are excited about the exchanges that are happening. Two of our cities were exhibited at Embracing Our Differences – **David Ewles**, a photographer and graphic artist from Dunfermline, and **Luo Sihang**, a fourth grade student from our newest Sister City, Xiamen.

In May, we were honored to work with **Kate Alexander** and her team from Florida Studio Theater to host the winners of the Young Playwrights Program. This year, three students from Vladimir, three students from Tel Mond, and two from Dunfermline were among the winners. To celebrate, we held our annual new

*(Please Turn to "President's Message," continued on page 6)*





## Welcome to New Members

Irene Leung  
Harvey Webb Jr.  
Robert Mofta  
Greg Crumbly

### ***Buon Giorno!***

*from Mirco Chiodi, SSCA City Director, Treviso, Italy*

**AS THE SARASOTA SISTER CITIES ASSOCIATION CITY DIRECTOR FOR TREVISO, (Italy)**, I have been blessed with so much in organizing this twinning. I have learned the diplomatic approach to working with and connecting people, both within our local organization and overseas in Italy, where they are used to quite a different approach in these cultural exchanges. But most important blessing for me is, of all I continue to do, there is always more to learn.

Treviso has been on the radar of exploration at SSCA, for many years, even before I came into the picture in 2003, but the actual twinning of the two cities faced a lot of turbulence before the final, official relationship with Sarasota was sealed in February, 2007. The perceived obstacles arose from several political and diplomatic customs.

Treviso, like many political entities in Europe, does not allow volunteers to promote its government and territory. Therefore, it was crucial to learn and understand the protocol they use in their command structure. The good news is they always allow a way for people to voice their comments and are willing to listen when it appears an issue has potential or positive political exposure and to promote the geographical area.

I've had the opportunity to travel to Treviso a few times and been honored to be received by the president of the Province. Each time we were able to develop the relationship and the respect for each other's cities, while managing to have a great time while visiting. As I've



come to understand their view, once the political administration has paved the way for the people of the community to benefit from a twinning relationship, it will step aside to let the relationship develop. By contrast, volunteerism at the community level often initiates these types of exchanges and benefits in the U.S. The mission and activities of Sarasota Sister Cities Association are primarily initiated and supported by civilian volunteers and contributors, instead of elected officials or government administrators. We volunteers believe we can make the difference in this world and create our vision, then turn for support to our political system. This is how the city of Sarasota and many other Sister City volunteer organizations around the nation work to achieve their mission, which has brought great success in school exchanges, tourism, commerce, real estate, technology and so on, to the benefit of their communities.

In my role as SSCA director for Treviso, I maintain the sister city twinning by following up and making myself available to my Treviso counterparts. I believe it is important that they know they can count on me to address and assist with exchanges that may benefit the people of both cities. I also keep in touch with many of our members locally and ask them their opinions and about what exchanges to develop. Their responses and ideas are always welcomed.

Among current exchanges between our two cities, Treviso currently has a visual art exchange (beginning June 5, 2008) with Sarasota through the Manatee Community College. Dr. Drew Webster of MCC, a great supporter of Sarasota Sister Cities Association, worked diligently with Professor Giovanni Lenti of Treviso's *Liceo Artistico Statale*, to prepare for this visual art show. **Joseph Loccisano** of MCC, also serving

*(Please turn to "Buon Giorno," continued on page 9)*

## SARASOTANS REPORT FROM DUNFERMLINE

### **Hope Byrnes** reports:

During my visit to Scotland May 24-28, 2008, Gerry [McMullan] gave us a wonderful tour of Dunfermline and the surrounding countryside. I had the opportunity of meeting with Principal Bill McIntosh, Vice Principal Janet McCauslin, and Angus Hogg of the Carnegie UK Trust at a dinner at the Carnegie College. We are working on possible ties and Janet plans to visit Sarasota in the near future to meet with education leaders and local colleges. The weather was beautiful and I stayed in town in a lovely B&B, Pitreavie Guest House, where I felt so welcome.

My trip to Scotland started out with the idea of cheering for my daughter Kate,

Hope Byrnes pictured with Ben Conway, chair of education in Dunfermline. Dunfermline Abbey is in the background.

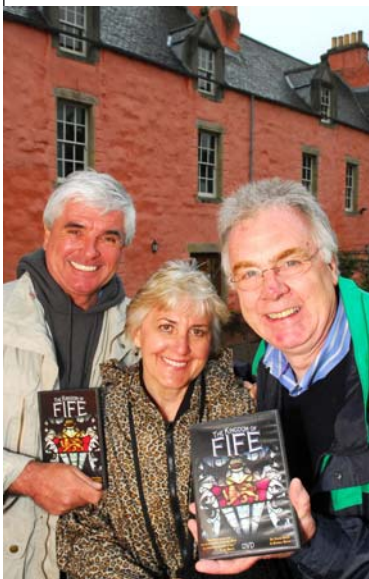


who was coming from Brussels to run in the Edinburgh Marathon on May 25th. I did get to see her and was there to welcome her at the end of the race. The rest of the day we walked the Royal Mile in Edinburgh, taking in the castle, and ended with fish and chips and a brew at a tavern on the Mile. After 26.2 miles she was still going, but I was tired. She had to return to Brussels the

(“Please turn to “Byrnes Report,” continued on page 6)

**ALSO PAYING A SPRING VISIT** to Dunfermline were Florida blogger, broadcaster and columnist **Cliff Roles**, (pictured below, far left) and his wife **Maria**. Following is an excerpt from an interview he gave to the *Dunfermline Press*, May 2008, while visiting.

SARASOTANS were able to follow a running commentary of the visit to Dunfermline by the local radio host, actor, and columnist while they spent a four-day sojourn in Sarasota’s Scottish sister city. The couple were co-hosted by Councillor **Gerry McMullan** (far right) and Culross photographer and graphic designer David Ewles (not pictured) – both leading lights of the Dunfermline-Sarasota Sister Cities Association.



During their fortnight’s vacation in the UK, Cliff and Maria were shown the heritage sites of Dunfermline and Culross when they diverted to Dunfermline at the suggestion of **Hope Byrnes**, past-president of Sarasota Sister Cities Association, who was coincidentally paying a three-day visit to renew her acquaintance with her contacts in the Auld Grey Toun.

Cliff recalls, “Gerry and David came on my radio show, *Talk of the Sun Coast*, in January. They were marvelous guests and when Gerry heard I was coming anywhere near Dunfermline, he also said, ‘You have got to come and stay here and let us show you our Dunfermline hospitality’ – and they’ve been doing that in huge amounts!”

Cliff and Maria joined Hope Byrnes for dinner at the Culross home of David Ewles and a tour of the tiny 17th century township.

Cliff explained, “I have my own website – [www.cliffroles.com](http://www.cliffroles.com) – and a weekly newsletter to tell everyone where I am and what I’m doing. And everyone has been following this trip. I’m blogging and photographing all of this for the website, [SarasotaLocal.com](http://SarasotaLocal.com).”

After a tour of Dunfermline, with Gerry as guide, Cliff said, “This is so wonderful. We were going to do all Edinburgh during our trip to Scotland

(Please turn to “Cliff Roles,” continued on page 10)

## Florida Studio Theatre Honors Sister City Playwrights— Again

By Bill Wallace

May 19<sup>th</sup> was a big day for eight young playwrights from three of Sarasota's seven sister cities as they ventured here, with their teachers and chaperones, from Dunfermline, Scotland; Tel Mond, Israel and Vladimir, Russia to be honored as award winning authors in the 2008 Florida Studio Theatre's Young Playwrights Festival.

The awards were made even more special this year when the packed house at the Holley Hall awards ceremony learned that more than 9,200 plays had been submitted, then read twice by separate judges, to determine the final 15 winners!

Actually, there were ten winners from these three cities, but two from Dunfermline were unable to attend. Adding to the luster, 20 additional young playwrights from these three cities were accorded "honorable mention."

This was the sixth consecutive year that young authors from our Sister Cities have put pen to paper and been declared winners in this highly acclaimed international competition.

Winners able to make the trip were: Eryn **MacGregor** and **Callum Fairbairn** from Dunfermline; **Gallil Maimon**, **Yuval Levi**, and **Tohar Strul** from Tel Mond; and **Zhenya Goryacheva**, **Arina Novikova**, and **Polina Timofeeva** from Vladimir. This was the second time Tohar has been honored as she was a winner and attended in 2006!

On Awards Day, May 19<sup>th</sup>, the crowd was "piped in" by two bagpipers from the Sarasota Military Academy, **Duncan Pressy** and **Jonathan Derosa**. Our sister City attendees, along with a huge crowd, saw their plays performed by the professional company at Florida Studio Theatre. It was a thrill for each of the young playwrights to see their plays done professionally.

The students spent a week with Sarasota Sister City Association (SSCA) members enjoying the west coast of Florida as they visited the John and Mabel Ringling Museum of Art and

Circus Museum; Jungle Gardens, where they fed the flamingos and had pictures taken holding alligators or fearsome birds of prey, and Mote Marine Laboratory and Aquarium, seeing for the first time manatees, sharks, and manta rays.

They also toured Marie Selby Gardens lead by Executive Director Jessica Ventimiglia, marveling at giant flowers they'd never seen before, then spent time at the beach, had a beach barbecue, and danced at the Sunday evening "Drum Circle" at Siesta Key.

During their time here, Arina celebrated her 13th birthday and the Dunfermline youngsters were awed by a performance at the Asolo Theatre, the mainstage and beautifully renovated interior of which is the old opera house from their hometown.

On their final day, they were granted "Honorary Citizenship Certificates" by **Mayor Lou Ann Palmer** and the Sarasota city commissioners, then met and conversed – student to student- with the city's Youth Advisory Board.

At the traditional farewell dinner hosted by the SSCA in conjunction with its New Member Event, their plays were once again performed by FST actors and, following each of their plays, the young playwrights were invited on stage to answer questions about their plays.

Teacher/chaperones for the winners included **Gabriel McNeil**, a teacher at St. Margaret's Primary (who had two winners this year and is a repeat "teacher-winner") and **Ben Conway**, former superintendent of schools and education director of the Dunfermline Sister City Association; Mrs. **Anat Strul**, mother of Tohar, from Tel Mond and **Marina Trubitsyna**, teacher of English at the Linguistic School #23 in Vladimir.

The two young authors from Dunfermline who were unable to attend are **Jennifer Riddell** and **Helen Robertson**, students of Mrs. McNeil, who co-authored their winning play.

All arrangements for housing, meals, entertainment and transportation were made by an SSCA team headed by **Carol Furlong**, Vice-President for Cities and Candidate Cities; Jerry **Kelly**, City Director for Dunfermline; **Linda Rosenbluth** and **Betty Greenspan**, City Director

(Please turn to "Young Playwrights," continued on page 11)

## Member Notes

Former SSCA President **Bill Wallace** has been selected by the Sarasota Keys Rotary for a *Service Above Self Award*. Wallace was presented a plaque by the Rotarians as “an individual who has shown a single person can make a difference... showing that a person committed to a cause rises up with honor, integrity and courage.” The *Service Above Self Award* is presented annually to “those who have made exceptional and sustained volunteer service to the community. The purpose of the Rotary award is to encourage and foster the ideals of service, award committee chairman Jim Greenwald said. “During these challenging times, both in America and throughout the world, it is important to seek ways that draw us together,” Greenwald noted. “Acknowledging the selfless service of others is one way for us to look beyond ourselves and make a difference.” A photo of the award presentation is available in .pdf format by going to [http://www.rotarysarasotakeys.org/bulletin/KeyNotes03\\_05\\_08.pdf](http://www.rotarysarasotakeys.org/bulletin/KeyNotes03_05_08.pdf) •

(“Byrnes Report,” continued from page 4)

next morning for her job at the U.S. mission to NATO, but we did get to spend some quality time together. I headed back to Dunfermline for the 25 minute train ride. All worked out well.

I thought it a perfect opportunity to visit Dunfermline, since I had been the initiator of the tie [between Sarasota and Dumfermline] along with **Don Osborne** and the Caledonian Club, working with our Scottish counterpart, **Gerry McMullan**, in Dunfermline. It

was well worth the trip. When I heard that **Cliff Roles**, the Florida broadcaster and columnist and a big Sarasota Sister Cities Association supporter, was visiting Wales with his wife Maria and planned to go to Edinburgh on the 27th, I talked him into stopping in Dunfermline to get a first hand look at our Sister City. Apparently, he and Maria fell in love with the city and were interviewed by the Dunfermline Press, which was transmitted all over the world on Cliff's blog. Great publicity for our two sister cities. •

(“President's Message,” continued from page 2)

member event at Florida Studio Theater where attendees were able to see the playwrights' plays performed on stage. Our time together with our visitors was magical and the talent exhibited extraordinary!

The Sister Cities program is built on friendships and relationships. Many thanks to **Florida Studio Theatre, Mote Marine, The John and Mabel Ringling Museum of Art, the Asolo Repertory Theater, The Marie Selby Gardens, Jungle Gardens, the City of Sarasota, and the Youth Advisory Board** for your hospitality and for being great community partners. Your ongoing support and willingness to help us with incoming delegations is appreciated more than you know. I also wish to personally thank all our wonderful returning board members for their dedication and time and our new board members for making this commitment. For those of you who would like to become more involved, we welcome your participation and have a variety of opportunities for you to explore. Please feel free to contact us at any time – we would love to hear from you.

*Best regards, Carla*

("Perpignan," continued from page 1)

sions centered on how the two cities might work together to promote each city to inhabitants of the other city. This is only the first step in trying to find common ground to begin the development of what we hope will be a mutually rewarding relationship. •



The lucky students who will be going to Perpignan and the Catalan Festival are (from left to right): Front row, Shanley Caswell, Christy Skarulis Back row, Nina Danese, Calliope Desenberg, Christian Keller, Amber Suleskey, Alex Shames, and Mary Kelly. Photo by Harry Dunn

## Xiamen High Officials Visit Sarasota

By Dr. Carolyn M Bloomer

City Director for Siming District (Xiamen), China

**On March 26**, eleven high-level officials from Xiamen visited Sarasota. The delegation was led by Xiamen's Vice Mayor Pan Shijian, and included directors of various municipal bureaus (Urban Planning, Civil Administration, Sports, Oceans and Fisheries, Foreign Affairs), managers of ports, tourism, road and bridge construction groups, as well as the editor of *Xiamen Evening News*.

The one-day visit was planned to resonate with Mayor Pan's special interest in public art, particularly sculpture. At the John and Mabel Ringling Museum of Art, a morning tour of the Sculpture Garden, Ca d'Zan, and the Tibbals Center was followed by lunch at the museum's Treviso Restaurant, attended by Mayor Lou Ann Palmer and 12 board members of SSCA, Gulfcoast Chinese American Association (GCAA), and the Sarasota chapter of the U.S. China People's Friendship Association (USCPFA).

A leisurely ride down Bayshore Drive in-

cluded a stop at Indian Beach to view the John Ringling Bridge and Longboat Key, where the group would dine later that evening. At Ringling College of Art and Design, the delegation was graciously greeted by Lance Burchette, Vice President for Institutional Advancement, who had arranged for the delegation to be photographed in front of the 12 x 18 foot banner of a winning entry to the Embracing Our Differences exhibit, which had been submitted by a 4<sup>th</sup> grade student at the Da Tong Elementary School in Xiamen. Heaven was certainly shining on us – sending the delegation to Sarasota on the very day that this Xiamen pupil's work was on public display!

Another great photo op occurred when the delegation visited Sarasota artist Dennis Kowal's gigantic *Photon* sculpture on the water's edge at the Van Wezel Theatre. In June of 2007, a small version of this very sculpture had been given to Siming District as a gift from Sarasota. At city hall, Gary A. Kecskes, Senior Urban Designer, gave a power-point presentation, outlining Sarasota's policies and practices in regard to the city's public art collection. This stimulated lively discussion. Mayor Palmer also introduced the

(Please turn to "Siming Visitors," continued on page 8)

*("Siming Visitors," Continued from page 7)*

delegation to the Youth Advisory Council, which just happened to be meeting at this very time (heaven shines again), and about which Mayor Pan expressed great interest.

At Bayfront Park, Brenda Terris, Executive Director of Sarasota Season of Sculpture, led the delegation on a tour of public sculpture. After, the delegation toured the installation of Embracing Our Differences and visited the Sister City Tree Walk, where they viewed the Siming tree and plaque, put in place only last October as part of the signing ceremonies.

The day ended with dinner at the Chart House Restaurant on Longboat Key, hosted with elegant service and a spectacular night view of the Gulf, attended by 17 officers of SSCA, GCAA, USCPFA,

and some local business groups. Throughout the entire visit, various GCAA members acted as interpreters, which greatly softened the cultural and linguistic differences!

According to our contact in the Xiamen Foreign Affairs Office, the delegation returned deeply impressed by the beauty of Sarasota, the warmth and enthusiasm of our welcome, and our seriousness of purpose in the Sister City relationship (Only about one-third of Chinese-American sister city relationships actually work out!) And sure enough, Mayor Pan followed up with a letter (not just an e-mail – but an actual hard-copy hand-signed letter – in China this is considered more respectful) expressing his sincere appreciation and wishes for the future flowering of our relationship. **We're off to a wonderful start! •**



**Xiamen delegation.** In front row, beginning at left with 2nd person, Dr. David Harrelson (SSCA and Mote Marine), Lance Burchette (Ringling College VP for Institutional Advancement), Xiamen mayor Pan Shijian, Dr. Carolyn Bloomer (SSCA City Director, Xiamen), and Jason Liu (GCAA) (2nd from left, back row). *Photo by Becky Prise*

*("Buon Giorno," continued from page 3)*

as Vice City Director for Treviso, assisted with communications and took the lead to assure Treviso representation at the event.

I am also working on a request from the province of Treviso to facilitate a visit by some of their college students. This may involve hosting the students in Sarasota and exploring opportunities that may exist for them to work locally in their field of interest. To promote this effort, I will be consulting with some local businesses.

Sarasota Sister Cities Association is developing an international cultural Prosecco festival for late spring of 2009. This festival is expected to feature opera, theatre, art, a fashion show, dinners, and social gatherings at each of the events, and, of course, the famous Treviso wine--light, bubbling Prosecco.

We will invite official representatives from all of Sarasota's Sister Cities as well as representatives from their "twinning" organizations.

We hope for the festival to become a true, whole community and international event that our city will be proud to host for years to come.

Treviso is preparing to welcome the Sarasota's Key Chorale in 2009 when it will be on tour in Geneva, Switzerland, then on to Chamonix and then Nice, France, and finally to Cremona, Treviso, Asolo, and Venezia, Italy.

If you're interested in any of these activities, the SSCA web site has contact information. I would appreciate support in any of the areas I have mentioned and am willing to listen to new ideas as well. I only ask cooperation and willingness to dedicate some of your valuable personal time to the great mission of the Sarasota Sister Cities Association. Please check the SSCA web site for pictures, newsletters, and more information about and links to Treviso and each of our Sister Cities.

*Grazie e a presto!*

## DON ' T MISS THE SEPTEMBER HAMILTON, ONTARIO ADVENTURE!

Join SSCA City Director, Hamilton, Gloria Grenier and Vice-City Director Terry Neuss for a wonderful learning adventure to our senior Sister City in Hamilton, Ontario September 17-24, 2008.

*(Please turn to "Hamilton Adventure," continued on page 10)*



### **Sarasota Sister Cities Association**

*2008/2009 Officers and Directors*

**Sarasota Sister Cities Association is happy to announce its May 7th, selection of officers and directors for 2008/2009. We congratulate them and look forward to working with them in the year ahead. Please welcome them aboard. (See page 2 for the full roster).**

*Photo by Gayle Maxey*

*("Cliff Roles," continued from page 4)*

and then we found Dunfermline and are so in love with it."

When Gerry presented Cliff with a copy of Fife's new DVD, the Croydon-born expatriate discovered another coincidence – for the sound track includes music by Dunfermline rock band, Nazareth, whom Cliff met during his 16 years in the music business in Germany. As head of promotion and international marketing manager of Mercury Records, Germany, he worked with such music icons as Elton John, Celine Dion, Bon Jovi, Metallica, Robert Plant, Lionel Richie, Donna Summer, Def Leppard and Dire Straits. "I also looked after Texas, Wet Wet Wet, and Dunfermline brands, Big Country and Nazareth. Nazareth were very, very big in Germany. My then boss was instrumental in making Nazareth superstars in Germany, which meant they came over on tour a lot and did a lot of gigs over there. We used to have great fun with Nazareth – they are a lovely bunch of guys." Around the turn of the millennium Cliff bade the "biz" farewell and became a professional German/English

translator.

"I had always loved visiting the States, and maintained an on-off love affair with Florida for the next two years before eventually arriving in Sarasota in 2001, while touring Florida on my Harley," he recalls. "I knew the second I saw St. Armand's Circle that I wanted to settle on the Sun Coast. And when I met my wife Maria shortly afterwards, the decision to move out of my Hamburg apartment was an easy one."

In 2003 Cliff discovered his love of acting, and he is not only an award-winning actor in community theatre – he was voted in the top three for the Best Local Actor 2008 by readers of Sarasota Magazine – but a board member of the Players of Sarasota. "I've been on the stage of the Asolo (home of the transplanted Dunfermline Opera House) many times but never acted there and it's my dream to do so," he said.

After a recent 10-month stint at Sarasota's Community Radio WSLR, Cliff now broadcasts on 1220 AM WSRQ and writes a monthly column in *Scene* magazine. •

## International Art Exchange 2008

*Submitted by Gundula Coleman*

Manatee Community College (MCC) and Sarasota Sister Cities Association (SSCA) celebrated the opening of the sixth annual international digital art exchange on Thursday, June 5th, in the Radiography Lab and Dental Hygiene Clinic, building number 2, at MCC Bradenton. The opening of the permanent display of graphics and fine art by students from *Liceo Artistico Statale di Treviso*, Italy, is the result of an Internet and digital exchange of artwork by MCC and Italian students, accomplished with technical help and expertise of art directors and faculty at both schools. MCC Assistant Professor Drew Webster, who is co-manager of the Studio Art Program, and Professor Giovanni Lenti coordinated the exchange. Art Gallery Manager Joseph Loccisano, designed the art installation and prepared the artworks using contemporary museum conservation standards. The artwork becomes part of both schools' permanent collections.

Prior digital art exchanges sponsored by MCC and SSCA were conducted with schools in Israel, Canada, France, Russia and Scotland. Participating MCC faculty in the 2008 exchange include Webster, James Alexander, Sherri Hill, David Kinsey, Joseph Loccisano and Sue Wyar. MCC administrators to be recognized for their efforts include Dr. Sarah H. Pappas; Dr. John F. Rosen; Darlene Wedler-Johnson; Dr. Charles Turon and Dr. Bonnie Hesselberg. MCC wishes to thank Mirco Chiodi, SSCA City Director for Treviso, Italy; Carla Rayman, SSCA President, and the SSCA board for its continued support. The art exchanges can be viewed on the Web at: [mccfl.edu/pages/432.asp](http://mccfl.edu/pages/432.asp)

*("Hamilton Adventure," continued from page 9)*

The visit includes the Hamilton Art Museum, The Royal Botanical Gardens, Westfield Village, Parks Canada Discovery Center, the War Plane Heritage Museum, Niagara Falls, a day in Toronto, the Shaw Festival at Niagara-On-The-Lake, champagne brunch, wine tastings and more...

For more information, contact the co-chairs: **Gloria Grenier @ (941) 358-1383** or

("Young Playwrights," continued from page 5)

and Vice-City Director, respectively, for Tel Mond, and **Larisa Trexler** and **Tatiana Baumsteyhn**, City Director and Vice-City Director, respectively, for Vladimir, with assistance from President **Carla Rayman** and past president, **Bill Wallace**. •



**Clockwise from above (from left),** SSCA member and Vice-City Director for Tel Mond, Betty Greenspan, Anat Strul, Tohar Strul, Linda Rosenbluth, SSCA City Director, Tel Mond

Above, Ian Krouse, SSCA Community Youth Director, pictured with young Israeli winners



Above, The Dunfermline Delegation



At left, teacher, **Marina Trubitsyna**, with young winners from Vladimir, Russia

***WATCH FOR THESE LUNCHEON PRESENTATIONS AND EVENTS IN SEASON  
2008-2009***

October 15, 2008 —*Presentation by delegation to Israel, led by Mayor Palmer and Commissioner Shelin*

November 19, 2008—*Presentation on Perpignan, France*

January 21, 2009— *Presentation about Hamilton, Ontario, Canada*

February 18— *Presentation with visiting artists from Xiamen, China*

March 18— *Presentation about trip to Treviso by Key Chorale in July 2009.*



**Sarasota Sister Cities Association  
1565 First Street  
Sarasota, FL 34236**