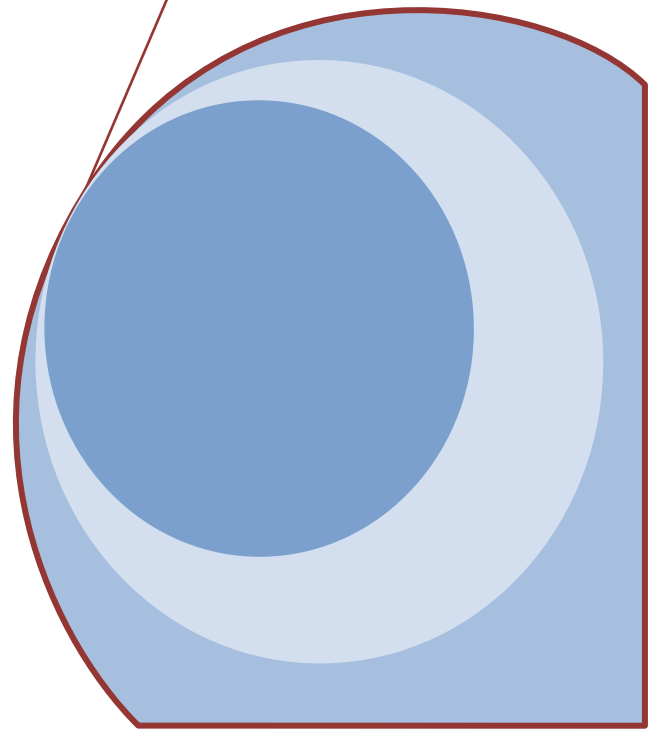


# **DIVERSITY DIRECTORY**

Groups, clubs and organizations in Sarasota that work to foster an inclusive community that values diversity

**Coalition for Inclusion & Diversity**

**February, 2009**





## Diversity Directory

The CID has compiled the Diversity Directory as a community resource. It seeks to document and provide access to all the different groups, clubs and organizations in our community that work to foster an inclusive community that values diversity. By publishing the directory, the CID intends to connect diversity-focused efforts in our community and provide access to residents.

The directory is a work in progress. Please let us know if you know of an organization that should be part of the next edition. Contact: April Doner, SCOPE (941) 266-9232 or [adoner@scopexcel.org](mailto:adoner@scopexcel.org).

## Overview

The directory has 14 categories: Ability, Advocacy, Black/African American, Economic, Gay & Lesbian (GLBTQ), Health, Hispanic/Latino, International, Law, Religious, Services, Women and Youth. Below is an index.

Category	Business Name
Ability	Easter Seals Southwest Florida
Advocacy	Florida Council of the Blind, Inc. - Sarasota Chapter
	Neighborhood Partnership Office
	Peace Education & Action Center
	Embracing Our Differences
	Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice
Black/African American	Rising Tide International
	Suncoast Network for Compassionate Communication
	WSLR Community Radio, Fogartyville Café
	Manasota BUDS
	Sarasota/Manatee farmworker supporters
	Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness
	Association For The Study of African American Life & History, Manasota Branch
	Black Business Professional Network
	Family Heritage House Museum at Manatee Community College
	Laurel Civic Association
Economic	Manasota ASALH, President
	NAACP, Sarasota Branch
	Newtown Front Porch Florida Community, community liaison
	West Coast Black Theatre Troupe
	Economic Development Corporation Of Sarasota
Education	Greater Newtown Community Redevelopment Corp.
	Gulf Coast Latin Chamber of Commerce
	Newtown Redevelopment Office
	Nuevo Punto Advertising
	Smith-Soeder Enterprises, Inc.
University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee	

Category	Business Name
GLBTQ	ALSO Out Youth, Inc.
Health	Dignity Sarasota
	FTTD Media
	Manasota GLBT Community Center, Inc.
Hispanic	PFLAG Sarasota [Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbian and Gays]
	Gulfcoast South AHEC
International	CultureLink Consulting, LLC
	Hispanic Latino Coalition
Law	Sarasota Sister Cities Association, Inc.
	City of Sarasota/Human Relations Board
Religious	Sarasota Bar Association, Diversity Committee
	American Jewish Committee
Services	Center for Religious Tolerance
	Congregation For Humanistic Judaism
	ECKANKAR
	Order of the Night Star Rising
	Sarasota Manatee Jewish Federation
Women	Sarasota United for Responsibility & Equity (SURE)
	St. Boniface Episcopal Church
Youth	The Mennonite Peace & Justice Group of Sarasota
	Habitat for Humanity
Youth	Girls Incorporated of Sarasota County
	League of Women Voters
	UNIFEM (President)
	Community Youth Development Project
	Tallevast Community Center
Young Professional's Group (YPG)	

## Member Organizations

ALSO Out Youth  
Alta Vista Neighborhood Association  
American Assn. of University Women  
American Jewish Committee  
Art Center Sarasota  
Bella Concepts  
Brothers and Sisters Doing the Right Thing  
Center for Religious Tolerance  
Church of the Trinity  
City of Sarasota Human Relations Board  
Cody Hart Live WTMV 12.80 AM  
COLLAGE (Coalition for Laity for Lesbian and Gay Equality)  
Community Counsel Project  
Community Youth Development  
Congregation for Humanistic Judaism  
Covenant Mennonite Fellowship  
Embracing Our Differences  
Family Heritage House Museum  
First Congregational United Church of Christ  
Florida Academy of African-American Culture  
Friendship Volunteer Center  
Ferri Things To Do Media Group  
Gentle Storm Productions  
Greater Sarasota's Great Kids, Inc.  
Gulfcoast Legal Services  
Healthy Start Coalition of Sarasota County  
Hispanic Latino Coalition  
Jewish Family and Children's Services  
Joel May Architecture  
Kevin F. Sanderson, Chartered  
Legal Aid of Manasota  
Lowery Communications  
Manasota GLBT Community Center, Inc.  
Microtraining Associates, Inc.  
NAACP  
New College of Florida  
Nupur Saj School of Performing Arts (India)  
PFLAG [Parents, Families, & Friends of Lesbians & Gays]  
Planned Parenthood of SW & Cent. FL  
Project: Return to Work  
Richardson, Kleiber, Walter Realty  
Ringling College of Art & Design  
Rising Tide International  
Ruden, McCloskey, Smith, Schuster & Russell  
Russian-American Association  
Sarasota Bar Association Diversity Committee  
Sarasota County Public Schools  
Sarasota County School Board  
Sarasota Manatee Jewish Federation  
Sarasota Partnership for Children's Mental Health  
SCOPE  
Second Thought Productions  
Smith Soeder Enterprises, Inc.  
Soul Speak / Soul Moves  
SPARCC [Safe Place and Rape Crisis Center]  
St. Boniface Episcopal Church  
Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness  
Suncoast Stonewall Democrats  
Take Stock in Children of Sarasota County  
Teens for Change  
The Better World Foundation  
Tidewell Hospice and Palliative Care  
United Way of Sarasota County  
USF- Sarasota-Manatee Diversity Committee  
Venice Gardens Civic Association  
Virtually Unanimous  
Westcoast Black Theatre  
Williams, Parker, Harrison, Dietz & Getzen  
WSLR-LP 96.5 FM Community Radio  
Young Professionals Group  
United Way of Sarasota County  
USF Sarasota- Manatee, Diversity Committee  
Virtually Unanimous  
Westcoast Black Theatre  
Williams, Parker, Harrison, Dietz & Getzen  
WSLR LP FM 96.5  
Young Professionals Group of Sarasota



## Why CID?

### What is the CID?

The Coalition for Inclusion & Diversity (CID) is a partnership of local groups, organizations, and businesses that seeks to be a catalyst for the community to connect, learn and act together to create an inclusive and diverse place to live.

This is the dream behind CID – if all community members took action in their day-to-day lives that reflected their hopes and concerns about having an inclusive and diverse community; if all groups and individuals already doing great things to make the vision a reality, Sarasota County would be transformed.

The CID is currently engaging retired seniors, working moms, lawyers, teachers, nonprofits, businesses, governments and a wide array of other types of community members. It takes everyone—including you. Visit SCOPE's website or call to learn more and add your name to the list of Sarasotans who want to be a part of this group. Through our regular newsletters and e-updates, you'll learn of multiple opportunities to connect and collaborate with fellow community members, discuss your hopes and concerns, and develop relationships and trust. Together, we can transform our community.

## CID INITIATIVES

### • Youth Initiative

Thanks to the work of the CID Youth Leadership Committee, in the summer of 2006 seven Sarasota County high school students completed Anytown, a nationally recognized youth leadership and diversity awareness program run by Community Tampa Bay. CID volunteers will partner with them to bring what they learned back to the community in the form of Unity Days and other diversity activities in Sarasota County schools, churches, and youth organizations.

### • Community Forums

Held regularly around timely topics such as Hate Crimes and Youth, these forums create opportunities to tackle touch subjects and forge new partnerships within the diversity community.



## Ability

### Easter Seals Southwest Florida

Easter Seals Southwest Florida began in 1946 offering help and hope to disabled children and their families. Today, the mission of our organization has grown along with the communities we serve, and we have expanded the services we deliver to reach across the age spectrum from birth through adulthood. Whether we call it a delay, a special need, or a disability; whether it's named polio, cerebral palsy, Down Syndrome, or autism; the reality is that many children and adults experience challenges that compromise their ability to participate fully in the activities they would choose in their lives. These challenges also impact the loved ones who care and provide for them. Easter Seals Southwest Florida is committed to remaining a leader in special needs services - where individuals and families can turn for resources and support.

#### Contact:

MaryAnn Zyla-Smith  
(941) 355-7637 ext. 104 maz@easterseal.org  
350 Braden Ave  
Sarasota, FL 34243-2001

### Florida Council of the Blind, Inc. - Sarasota Chapter

#### Contact:

Barbara H. Grill gbhgirl@aol.com  
2030 Preymore Street  
Osprey, FL 34229

### Manasota BUDS

Directed towards families and friends of people with Down's syndrome, Manasota BUDS offers monthly meetings, workshops, scholarships, seminars, educational information, networking, encouragement and support. BUDDY Walk, the annual fundraiser will be held October 27, 2007.

#### Contact:

Betsy Kennedy info@manasotabuds.com  
8374 Market Street #113  
Bradenton, FL 34202

## Advocacy

### Neighborhood Partnership Office

NPO links the Sarasota City Departments with over 50 neighborhoods and business associations through the creation and

administration of neighborhood associations. The NPO offers a leadership academy targeted towards neighborhood formation and managerial skills. The Organization also holds the Manasota Regional Neighborhoods Summit and "City Hall at the Market," a forum for citizens to meet with City Staff.

#### Contact:

Michele Mician michele\_mician@sarasotagov.com  
1565 First Street  
Sarasota, FL 34236

### Peace Education & Action Center

In developing relationships and partnerships of peace between local schools, colleges, and organizations, the Peace Education & Action Center supports a culture of nonviolence. The Center hosts public events, workshops and teacher trainings.

#### Contact:

ttj@comcast.net  
P.O. Box 974  
Nokomis, FL 34274

### University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee

In the pursuit of knowledge and furthered education, USF Sarasota-Manatee promotes university-community partnerships and collaborations to strengthen the economy, community, and culture of the area. In hosting forums, workshops, seminars, information sessions and other meetings, USF provides services on a wide variety of topics – ranging from "Diversity Film and Discussion" to "Dine & Discover" Information Sessions for prospective students. USF primarily serves upper division students: juniors, seniors and graduate students, in bachelor's, master's and certificate programs.

#### Contact:

Hillary Bardwell bardwell@sar.usf.edu  
8350 N. Tamiami Trail, SMC C107  
Sarasota, FL 34243

### Embracing Our Differences

Coexistence, Inc. proudly presents Embracing Our Differences®, an international outdoor art exhibit intended to demonstrate in a positive way that diversity enriches our lives. The mission of Embracing Our Differences® is to use art as a catalyst for creating awareness and

promoting, throughout our community, the value of diversity, the benefits of inclusion and the significance of the active rejection of hatred and prejudice. The Embracing Our Differences® exhibit features 39 billboard size images created by professional artists, art students, and school children from Florida and around the world. Their creations reflect their interpretation of our message: "enriching lives through diversity."

**Contact:**

Michael Shelton  
(941) 928-0567 info@embracingourdifferences.org  
P.O. Box 2559  
Sarasota, FL 34230

**Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice**

Serving as Florida's largest community foundation, the Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice provides leadership, partnership and endowed philanthropy through grants and technical assistance for nonprofit organizations. The Foundation also hosts programs, speaker series, scholarships and initiatives, including "Better Together" and "Because it Matters." Volunteers are always needed. Call (941) 486-4600 to request an application.

**Contact:**

Marjorie Floyd mflloyd@gulfcoastcf.org  
601 Tamiami Trail South  
Venice, FL 34285

**Rising Tide International**

Rising Tide, a not-for-profit organization, supports the sustenance of the local and global community through universal unity and inner spirituality. Rising Tide International frequently hold seminars, celebrations, classes and universal worship services at their international center. Rising Tide is not affiliated with a particular religion.

**Contact:**

Ann Ferrier  
(941) 924-9259 anferrier@comcast.net  
6253 Weymouth Dr.  
Sarasota, FL 34238

**Suncoast Network for Compassionate Communication**

In promoting peace through effective and nonviolent communication, the Suncoast Network for Compassionate Communication offers facilitated learning using Dr. Marshall Rosenberg's four-part language process. Previous clientele includes diversity groups, peaceworkers, church organizations, business, public and private schools and individuals.

**Contact:**

Mercedes Frace  
(941) 539-7603 compassionflower@msn.com  
PO Box 1221  
Venice, FL 34284

**WSLR Community Radio, Fogartyville Café**

Serving the Sarasota Community, WSLR Community Radio targets cultural, artistic and political angles often overlooked by the media. Broadcasting programs of equality, democracy, social and economic justice, peace and sustainability, WSLR informs and empowers listeners of their responsibility to maintain an active role in the community.

**Contact:**

Arlene Sweeting  
(941) 741-9755 agsweeting@yahoo.com  
800 17th Avenue W.  
Sarasota, FL 34205

**Sarasota/Manatee farmworker supporters**

SMFWS advocates support for farmworkers, migrant and non-migrant, by hosting public meetings to inform the public on issues facing farm labor. If you wish to become involved, there are four forums held annually and a Cesar Chavez Memorial dinner. Go online at <http://www.smfws.com/#welcome> for the newsletter and more information.

**Contact:**

Marvin Mills  
4517 Ascot Circle South  
Sarasota, FL 34235

**Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness**

Through awareness, advocacy and community engagement, the Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness works to prevent and reduce homelessness. The Partnership collaborates with service providers, advocacy groups,

foundations, government agencies, and homeless themselves to provide grants, support, educational services and develop initiatives on behalf of the homeless. Meetings are held monthly.

**Contact:**

Richard Martin  
(941) 955-8987  
1445 2nd St.  
Sarasota, FL 34236

**Black/African American**

**Association For The Study of African American Life & History, Manasota Branch**

The mission of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) is to promote, research, preserve, interpret and disseminate information about Black life, history and culture to the global community.

**Contact:**

**Black Business Professional Network**

Black Business Professionals Network engages its members in sharing ideas and experiences while providing support. Black Business Professionals Network is interested in those willing to support professional development and economic empowerment in the Black Business Community. Meetings are held the third Thursday of the month. See [www.blackbusinesspro.com](http://www.blackbusinesspro.com) for details.

**Contact:**

[info@Blackbusinesspro.com](mailto:info@Blackbusinesspro.com)  
15 Paradise Plaze, #335  
Sarasota, FL 34239

**Family Heritage House Museum at Manatee Community College**

The Family Heritage House Museum at Manatee Community College focuses sustaining respect for black culture and its heritage in both youth and families. Through education and service, the Manatee Community College community and students in Sarasota and Manatee County are able to embrace this heritage. The museum is located on the MCC campus in Bradenton, building 8. Hours are 11 AM to 6 PM, Tuesday through Thursday. A special showing of "Summer Hill" will run from

July 12 to August 30. It will be shown every Thursday at 2 PM.

**Contact:**

Fredi Brown  
(941) 747-2879 (h) / (941) 752-5319  
[rogersam@mccfl.edu](mailto:rogersam@mccfl.edu)  
5840 26th Street West  
Bradenton, FL 34207

**West Coast Black Theatre Troupe**

The West Coast Black Theatre Troupe promotes the works and accomplishments of Black artists. Through the endorsement of the youth and young adults, the Troupe exposes the community to multicultural arts. An exhibit highlighting the achievements of the gifted youth is held at the Asolo. Seasonal events are held year-round.

**Contact:**

Nate Jacobs  
358-9228, cell 780-2198  
[jacobsnate@hotmail.com](mailto:jacobsnate@hotmail.com), [wbtth@hotmail.com](mailto:wbtth@hotmail.com)  
P O Box 1086  
Sarasota, FL 34230

**Manasota ASALH, President**

ASALH endorses research, education and the dissemination of information to the communities of Manatee and Sarasota of Black achievements, history and culture. ASALH provides scholarships, guest lecturers, and hosts the annual Black Muse Art Show and Black Heritage Tour. Membership is \$50.00 a person. Meetings are held the fourth Friday of every month from September to April.

**Contact:**

Lois Watson [asalh@earthlink.net](mailto:asalh@earthlink.net)  
PO Box 2356  
Sarasota, FL 34230

**NAACP, Sarasota Branch**

The mission of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate racial hatred and racial discrimination.

**Contact:**

Trevor Harvey  
(941) 355-2097 [sarasotanaacp@msn.com](mailto:sarasotanaacp@msn.com)  
P.O. Box 1024  
Sarasota, FL 34230-1024

## Economic

### **Newtown Front Porch Florida Community,**

The Newtown Front Porch Neighborhood Revitalization Council, Inc. was designated in October of 2002 and was formally established as a neighborhood council on February 13, 2003 when the first officers were elected. Since that time the council has been a major role player in the redevelopment of the designated Front Porch Neighborhood and the broader Newtown Community.

#### **Contact:**

Lakieffa Williams  
(941) 373-7886 lakieffa\_williams@sarasotagov.com  
1782 Dr. M. L. King Jr. Way  
Sarasota, FL 34234

### **Economic Development Corporation Of Sarasota**

The EDC mission is to foster a strong and sustainable local economy that works for all. Their Diversity sub-committee helps the community learn about economic development through the lense of diversity.

#### **Contact:**

Diane Andrews  
(941) 309-1200 ext.101  
dandrews@edcsarasotacounty.com  
2601 Cattleman Road, Ste. 201  
Sarasota, FL 34232

### **Greater Newtown Community Redevelopment Corp.**

The Greater Newtown Community Redevelopment Corporation facilitates in improving social and economic opportunities. Through housing and economic development initiatives, the Corporation is able to serve low to moderate-income families. One program aimed at leadership development and construction skills training is ecoLODGical: YouthBuild Sarasota.

#### **Contact:**

Che Barnett  
(941) 358-7860 gncrc@verizon.net  
1751 Dr. ML King, Jr. Way  
Sarasota, FL 34234

### **Gulf Coast Latin Chamber of Commerce**

The Gulf Coast Latin Chamber of Commerce upholds the development and sustainability of

businesses and entrepreneurship. In working towards social and cultural betterment of the community, the Chamber of Commerce welcomes any association, corporation, partnership, estate or individual who is in agreement with the mission of the organization. There are many opportunities to become involved, including network meetings, job fairs, the monthly newsletter, and national conventions.

#### **Contact:**

Cesar Gomez  
(941) 358-7065 info@latinchamber.org  
8051 North Tamiami Trail Suite 37  
Sarasota, FL 34243

### **Newtown Redevelopment Office**

The Office supports all revitalization efforts in the Newtown community. The Office is aligned with other community organizations, including the Newtown Front Porch Neighborhood Revitalization Council, Inc.

#### **Contact:**

Lori Benton  
941-373-7764  
lori\_benton@sarasotagov.com  
1782 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Way  
Sarasota, FL 34234

### **Nuevo Punto Advertising**

Nuevo Punto Advertising Group offers effective, creative techniques for marketing, advertising, public relations and Spanish/English translation to the Hispanic Community.

#### **Contact:**

Pedro Perez  
(941) 752-4433  
pedro@nuevoadvertising.com  
6211 45th Street West  
Bradenton, FL 34210

### **Smith-Soeder Enterprises, Inc.**

Smith-Soeder Enterprises, Inc. uses both consultants and trainers in assisting with diversity management and organizational development. Consulting is not limited to groups or individuals.

#### **Contact:**

DeWanda Smith-Soeder  
(941) 366-8403 dss3@verizon.net  
1750 Wisconsin Lane  
Sarasota, FL 34239

## Gay & Lesbian (GLBTQ)

### ALSO Out Youth, Inc.

ALSO Out Youth, Inc. promotes the health, safety and personal growth of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, intersex and questioning youth, ages thirteen to twenty-one. ALSO supports an environment of acceptance in seeking to end all forms of violence, harassment and discrimination against sexual orientation or gender identity. A center, open Monday through Friday, is available for youth.

#### Contact:

Candace Sorensen  
(941) 951-2576 Executive.Director@alsoyouth.org  
P.O. Box 7382  
Sarasota, FL 34278-7382

### Dignity Sarasota

DignityUSA strives for justice and respect for all GLBTQ within the Catholic Church. Services are held Saturdays at 4:00 PM at the Unitarian Universalist Church.

#### Contact:

Bart Coyle dignitysarasota@verizon.net  
7578 Tori Way  
Bradenton, FL 34202

### Ferri Things To Do

Ferri Things To Do ("Your exclusive resource guide to the Sarasota GLBTQ Community") provides information regarding upcoming events in the GLBTQ community. For more information visit the website or sign-up for the weekly e-newsletter.

#### Contact:

Jim Ferri www.FerriThingsToDo.com  
2111 S. Brink Ave info@FerriThingsToDo.com  
Sarasota, FL 34239-4204

### Manasota GLBT Community Center, Inc.

Manasota GLBT Community Center, Inc. is a virtual community center that serves to connect and support organizations, people and events within the GLBT community. To find out about upcoming events, visit [www.gaysarasota.com](http://www.gaysarasota.com) under the "events page" or sign up for e-list to receive e-mails.

#### Contact:

Misty Smeltzer m.smeltzer@comcast.net  
PO Box 3674  
Sarasota, FL 34230

### PFLAG Sarasota [Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbian and Gays]

The PFLAG encourages open communication and dialogue in the promotion of health and wellbeing of GLBTQ. PFLAG provides support to cope with an adverse society, education to fight ignorance, and advocacy to promote equal civic rights. Meetings are held monthly.

#### Contact:

Judy Weinstein  
(941) 378-3536 judyleon@comcast.net  
4618 Trails Dr.  
Sarasota, FL 34232

## Health

### Gulfcoast South AHEC

GSAHEC establishes a connection between academic partnerships and the community by promoting a betterment in the health of the underserved. In targeting the underrepresented minority students interested in the healthcare profession, the Center offers appropriate health education. GSAHEC also provides services, including educational programs, training, support and funding for health professionals and Community Health Worker programs.

#### Contact:

Ansley Mora  
(941) 361-6602 amora@hsc.usf.edu  
2201 Cantu Court, Ste. 117  
Sarasota, FL 34232

## Hispanic/Latino

### CultureLink Consulting, LLC

CultureLinks Consulting, LLC bridges the cultural gap between the Hispanic community and employers and fosters an environment of inclusion and diversity. CultureLinks Consulting services are directed towards effective communication in the workplace, marketing strategies aimed at the Hispanic population and an emphasis on stronger relations between the Hispanic community and business.

#### Contact:

Mariale Uria  
(941) 706-1876 mariale@culturelinkscsco.com  
6579 S. Tamiami Trail PMB# 236

Sarasota, FL 34231

### **Hispanic Latino Coalition**

The Hispanic Latino Coalition offers the only bilingual resource directory, providing access to educational, social, and health-related resources in Sarasota County. The Coalition also offers meetings, health fairs and courses in cultural competency.

**Contact:**

Elsie Morales  
(941) 955-5834  
elsie.morales@hispaniclatinocoalition.org  
1750 17th Street, Suite K-3  
Sarasota, FL 34234

## **International**

### **Sarasota Sister Cities Association, Inc.**

Sarasota Sister Cities facilitates better understanding and cultural acceptance through exchanges in cities similar to Sarasota. Using culture, education, tourism, business and government as indicators, Sister Cities believes all citizens can engage themselves in citizen diplomacy. Other sister cities include Hamilton, Ontario, Dunfermline, Scotland, and Treviso, Italy.

**Contact:**

William Wallace  
(941) 366-4224                      walljb@comcast.net  
1565 First St.  
Sarasota, FL 34236

## **Law**

### **City of Sarasota/Human Relations Board**

The Board provides both education and outreach about Sarasota's nondiscrimination ordinance. For those who have submitted a claim for employment, housing or public accommodation under \*ten protected classes, the Board offers conciliation and public hearings. \* age, color, disability, gender, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sexual orientation, and veteran status

**Contact:**

Beth Gonyea  
(941) 365 2200 ext. 3747  
beth\_gonyea@sarasotagov.com  
111 South Orange Avenue - Room 204  
Sarasota, FL 34236

### **Sarasota Bar Association, Diversity Committee**

Encourages a diverse legal community by promoting dialogue among members concerning benefits of inclusion, educating lawyers and public about diversity policies and practices, and by creating programs to foster cooperation between members of the local legal community and people of diverse race, ethnicity, religion and culture.

**Contact:**

Louis Ursini, III  
(941) 316-7600                      louis.ursini@ruden.com  
1515 Ringling Blvd., Suite 700  
Sarasota, FL 34236

## **Neighborhood and Community**

### **Laurel Civic Association**

The Laurel Civic Association is a private nonprofit formed in 1969 by a group of dedicated volunteers in the Laurel Community. They serve the needs of low income and at risk children and their families through activities that educate, provide positive social interaction, and lead to self-sufficiency. They also meet the needs of the community through other activities such as: An Affordable Housing, Homework Assistance, Earning By Learning, Kid's Café, USDA Food Distribution, Red Ribbon Celebration, Black History Week, Annual Easter Egg Hunt, Laurel Community Clean Up, No Fee Summer Camp, and a Summer Reading Program. Even though our main focus is on Laurel and Nokomis, this partnership has allowed us to grow and serve children and families from Newtown to North Port.

**Contact:**

Sandra Terry  
(941) 483-3338                      laurelcivic@aol.com  
509 Collins Rd.  
Laurel, FL 34272

### **Habitat for Humanity**

**Contact:**

Mike Jacobson  
(941) 365-0700                      mjacobson@sarasotahabitat.com  
1757 N. East Avenue  
Sarasota, FL 34234

## Religious

### American Jewish Committee

In an environment of cohesion and unity, the American Jewish Committee aims at increasing the bond between American and Israeli Jews, strengthening the Jewish community both domestically and globally and fighting all forms of intolerance through pluralism and civic achievement. In serving the West Coast of Florida, the Committee holds lecture series and celebrates those in the community who have positively impacted the community.

**Contact:**

Brian Lipton  
(941) 365-4955                      poste@ajc.org  
2055 Wood St. Ste #218  
Sarasota, FL 34237

### Center for Religious Tolerance

The Center for Religious Tolerance encourages dialogue in pursuit of peace and harmony, both locally and internationally. Through increased interactions, heightened knowledge, and interactive spiritual practices, the Center demonstrates that peace is possible between divergent religious backgrounds.

**Contact:**

Andrea Blanche  
info@centerforreligiousolerance.org  
520 Ralph St  
Sarasota, FL 34242

### Congregation For Humanistic Judaism

Humanistic Judaism celebrates Jewish culture, history and identity. All are invited to participate who share a desire to either learn or identify with the Jewish culture. Meetings are held the first Saturday morning and third Friday night of every month at Unity. A conference on "The Middle East Jews" will be held January 18-20, 2008 – reservations required.

**Contact:**

Arlene Pearlman  
(941) 377-1003                      chjsarasota@hotmail.com  
3023 Proctor  
Sarasota, FL 34235

### ECKANKAR

Through enhanced awareness and spirituality, Echankar offers a spiritual haven and guide for

peace, both individually and among each other. Meetings and services are held weekly.

**Contact:**

Mary Cetan                      marycetan@verizon.net  
2344 Bee Ridge Road  
Sarasota, FL 34232

### Order of the Night Star Rising

Order of the Night Star Rising is an earth-based spiritual community. With emphasis on improving the environment and increasing tolerance of all religious backgrounds, the organization promotes spiritual growth and awareness. Informational and celebrational gatherings are open to the public. Meetings are held bi-monthly. For more information, visit the website at

<http://endorasemporium.com/OOTNSR.html>.

**Contact:**

Vincent Pareti                      virmodus@aol.com  
4245 Bee Ridge Road  
Sarasota, FL 34233

### Sarasota Manatee Jewish Federation

The Sarasota-Manatee Jewish Federation serves to strengthen and unify the Jewish Community. In promoting a strong Jewish identity locally and abroad, the Federation provides services, programs and publications.

**Contact:**

Sharon Kunkel  
(941) 371-4546 +101                      info@smjf.org  
580 McIntosh Road  
Sarasota, FL 34232

### Sarasota United for Responsibility & Equity (SURE)

SURE addresses issues of systematic injustice through organized networks of congregations in Sarasota County. SURE serves all people of Sarasota County.

**Contact:**

Patrick Rostock  
(941) 954-6553                      suresarasota@verizon.net  
104 South Pineapple Avenue  
Sarasota, FL 34236

### St. Boniface Episcopal Church

With the adage of "think globally, act locally," the Peace and Justice Committee of St. Boniface seeks to identify issues of concern, including

matters of justice and inequality, and find strategies to address them.

**Contact:**

Robert Thacker                      rthacker@boniface.cc  
207 Lookout Point Dr.  
Sarasota, FL 34229

**The Mennonite Peace & Justice Group of Sarasota**

Mennonite Peace & Justice Group of Sarasota is committed to peacemaking in and throughout the community. In advocating for the marginalized and unrepresented, the group promotes nonviolence through the teachings and life of Jesus of Nazareth.

**Contact:**

Randall Spaulding  
covenantmennonite@comcast.net  
3205 South Gate Circle  
Sarasota, FL 34239

**Women**

**Girls Incorporated of Sarasota County**

Serving the Sarasota Community for over 30 years, Girls Incorporated provides after school and summer programs for girls, ages 6 to 18. By “inspiring all girls to be strong, smart and bold,” Girls Inc. endorses self-confidence, responsibility, and well-roundedness.

**Contact:**

Angel Stringer  
(941) 366-6646                      angela@girlsincsrq.org  
201 S. Tuttle Ave.  
Sarasota, FL 34237

**League of Women Voters**

The League of Women Voters endorses political responsibility and active participation for all citizens. The League hosts many events during the year, including presentations of local interest and non-partisan forums during elections.

**Contact:**

Cindy Guest  
861-1230                                      lwwsc@comcast.net  
6120 S. Lockwood Ridge  
Sarasota, FL 34231

**UNIFEM (President)**

UNIFEM works to empower women politically, economically and socially. There are many

opportunities to get involved, such as becoming a member, joining a committee or attending monthly events – including book clubs, Coffee Chat, Out to Lunch Day and much more.

Contact Joyce Locklear at (941) 803-0600 for membership information.

**Contact:**

Francine Brown  
923-4429                                      fbrown311@comcast.net  
8807 Wild Dunes Dr.  
Sarasota, FL 34241

**Youth/Younger Adults**

**Community Youth Development Project**

With the power of positive choices, CYD believes Sarasota County’s teens are the source of community solutions. Through a partnership between adults and teens, CYD supports strong decision-making skills, leading to more positive choices.

**Contact:**

Karen Bogues  
(941) 922-5126                              karen@cydonline.org  
4409 Sawyer Road  
Sarasota, FL 34233

**Tallevast Community Center**

Tallevast Community Center encourages a positive social and academic environment for children, ages 5 to 17. Meetings are held on the second and fourth Monday of each month. The Annual Arthur & Ruth Bryant Memorial Scholarship Fund Banquet will be held on September 8, 2007. Tickets are \$50.00

**Contact:**

Williams-Robinson Williams-Robinson  
simplyred2001@yahoo.com  
P.O. Box 15 - 7727 78th St. Ct. E.  
Tallevast, FL 34270

**Young Professional's Group (YPG)**

Young Professionals Group (YPG) is a meaningful networking organization of dedicated, talented young professionals ranging in age from 21-40 in Sarasota County. YPG began with an explosive launch in May 2003 and a simple agenda: To enrich our community by uniting and developing our young professionals. Its mission is to create a platform for our members to build relationships, develop professionally, become politically and

Coalition for Inclusion & Diversity: Diversity Directory for Sarasota County

philanthropically active, and contribute to the economic development and high quality living of our community.

**Contact:**

Michele Anderson  
941-416-1244 manderson@sarasotachamber.com  
1767 5th Street  
Sarasota, FL 34236