

### **From The Desk Of The President**

**Barbara Jacob** 561-573-6868

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As the holiday season has drawn to a close, we – the Friends of The Sarasota Ballet (FSB) – are excited to be moving ahead with some new and returning events.

New plans include a special **Valentine's Cocktail Party – Love in Bloom**, that will be held on Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup> at Michael's Wine Cellar. Since it's from 6-8 p.m., you can come after work! The event is being spearheaded by our fabulous former president, **Donna Maytham**.

You will not want to miss the upcoming **FSB Showcase Luncheons**, and the return of the **On Pointe Luncheon**.

On Monday January 15, 2018 at 11:30 a.m. at Michael's On East we will feature **Margaret Barbieri**, Assistant Director of The Sarasota Ballet and former ballerina with The Royal Ballet. She will reveal *The Blood, Sweat and Tears that go into Staging a Production*.

The **On Pointe Luncheon** will be held on Tuesday, February 6, 2018 from 11:30-1:30 at Michael's on East. This luncheon supports **DNG - Dance the Next Generation**, the Ballet's award-winning program for at-risk children in our community. While there is **no charge** to attend the luncheon, we hope guests will be inspired to make a generous donation.

If you have not already reserved, please do so immediately by calling Marjorie Floyd or Ngoc Phan at The Sarasota Ballet, 941-359-0099.

In March, Sarasota Ballet **Director Iain Webb** will present *Ballet 101 – Everything You Always Wanted to Ask - Answered*. Monday, March 12, 2018 at 11:30 at Michael's On East.

The Friends of the Sarasota Ballet will host the final luncheon of the season on Wednesday, April 18, 2018. This is our opportunity to recognize the outstanding volunteers who work throughout the year to support The Sarasota Ballet.

Our first luncheon, which was an outstanding success, featured none other than **Logan Learned**, a Principal now dancing his 10<sup>th</sup> Season with The Sarasota Ballet. Former Met dancer **Jean Volpe** interviewed Logan who talked about his training and varied roles and experiences.

We also have some exciting news concerning your ongoing support of FSB. We are coordinating with The Sarasota Ballet to make sure that **donations to the Friends are included in the total amount a patron gives to the Ballet**.

As FSB is a committee of the Board of Directors of The Sarasota Ballet, all donations are covered by the same 501(c)(3) non-profit designation. Going forward, contribution acknowledgement letters will be sent by the Ballet, rather than by the Friends.

Looking forward to meeting you all at these upcoming events, as well as at the Ballet.

### **Membership Badges**

Your membership badge is a conversation starter. When you wear it to the Ballet, people may ask you about FSB – hopefully leading to new Friends! At an event, it helps new members associate names and faces. You should always wear yours when volunteering. To order a new one, please contact Sarasota Trophy and Awards. Details are in the Source Book.

**Sarasota Ballet**  
**2017/2018 Performance Schedule**

***Program 4 – Moving Identities***

TAYLOR, GRAZIANO & NORTH

26 - 29 January 2018

FSU Center for the Performing Arts

***Program 5 – Sarasota Ballet Presents***  
***Ballet Hispánico***

23 - 25 February 2018

FSU Center for the Performing Arts

***Program 6 – Dreams of Nature***  
**ASHTON & BINTLEY**

2 - 3 March 2018

Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall\*

***Program 7 – Great Masters of Dance***  
**TUDOR, BALANCHINE & ASHTON**

27 - 28 April 2018

Sarasota Opera House\*

\* All programs at the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall and the Sarasota Opera House include live music.

Further program information is available at [www.sarasotaballet.org](http://www.sarasotaballet.org).

**From the Desk of the Special Events**  
**Coordinator**

**Donna Maytham** 941-351-5361

[pavlova03@comcast.net](mailto:pavlova03@comcast.net)

**Margaret Barbieri at The January Showcase Luncheon**

As noted in the President's Report, the next FSB Showcase Luncheon will be held Monday, January 15, 2018 at Michael's On East beginning at 11:30 a.m. Our guest speaker will be **Margaret Barbieri, Assistant Director & former Ballarina**. She will answer questions on how she approaches staging of some of the ballets and the importance of coaching and developing the dancers in various roles.

We are honored that Margaret will take time from her busy schedule to be with us and share insights into the intricacies of staging successful ballet productions. This is something our members and guests will not want to miss.

To make your reservation, please send a check made payable to Friends Of The Sarasota Ballet and mail to:

Donna Maytham

201 South Palm Avenue, Apartment #400,  
Sarasota, FL 34236.

The cost is \$35 per person.

*Please include the names of guests with whom you wish to be seated.*

The **menu** for this luncheon will be Moroccan glazed pork tenderloin with chutney, basmati rice, asparagus and carrots, as well as warm brownie pie for dessert. The vegetarian option is stuffed Portobello mushrooms. When you make your reservation, please note if you prefer to select the vegetarian (a lighter) meal.

**October Showcase Luncheon**  
**Jane Sheridan**

What a start to this Season's Showcase Luncheons! Over 100 guests enjoyed the ambiance and more at the Bird Key Yacht Club. In addition to a wonderful meal and lovely table decorations (courtesy of **Lauren Walsh** and **Bobbye Schott**), we were treated to a very special "dessert" – **Jean Volpe** interviewing **Logan Learned**.

Jean's insightful questions took Logan back to his days with the San Francisco Ballet School. From there, **Fernando Bujones** offered him a trainee position with the Orlando Ballet. **Director Iain Webb** saw him perform there and invited him to Sarasota to take class. The rest is history!

Now in his 10<sup>th</sup> Season, Logan reminisced about some of his performances with The Sarasota Ballet, including his first major role as the Blue Boy in *Les Patineurs*. Another favorite was dancing an almost 3-minute solo in the Bugle Boy from *Company B*. He also discussed his roles in *Two Pigeons*, *Tarantella*, *Prodigal Son* and *Man with a Rope*.

Attendees were excited to hear him describe the artistic process of working with **Marcelo Gomes** as he choreographed the world premiere of **Dear Life...** The collaborative process of having a work created on him was something special. Although Gomes arrived with some steps planned out, Logan noted how the choreographer modified the steps as he saw what suited the individual dancer.

He also discussed working with the choreographer, **Will Tuckett**, on *The Secret Garden*. In Act 1, there is not a lot of movement, as his character was either in bed or in a chair. Therefore, facial expressions are what made the character believable. Tuckett's clear vision allowed him to portray feeling with limited physical movement.

Jean finally had to end the questions from the audience who would gladly have spent the rest of the afternoon listening to the delightful conversation.

### **Friends of The Sarasota Ballet II Donna Maytham**

This fresh young group of enthusiasts (ages 21-49) enjoy socializing and networking, while sharing their interest in dance. Founding members of Friends of The Sarasota Ballet II include **Nick and Abigail Altier, Sandi Seaman Casey, Maddie Deme, Dave Ford, Todi Gary, Kristal Hall, Angela Hillesheim** and **Tomi Rodgers**.

On Wednesday, December 13, the group sponsored a "Friend Raising" event at the One Palm Holiday Bazaar held at in downtown Sarasota. Shoppers were invited to become Friends and had an opportunity to enter a special drawing in which winners could select among attendance at a performance of The Sarasota Ballet, a special Backstage Tour or tickets to the Friends Valentine Party *Love in Bloom* on February 13th.

This event exceeded our expectations. We welcomed **11 new members** to Friends of The Sarasota Ballet – 5 couples and 6 individuals.

### **From The Desk Of The Membership Director**

**Betty Ferguson** 917-885-4699  
bcamarest@yahoo.com

In order to achieve our mission, we will be undertaking a membership drive to grow our numbers. We've added approximately 15 new members in the past month and would like to recruit more. After all, Friends "act as the **lifeblood of The Sarasota Ballet community**, forming close bonds through a mutual love of the art form and play a vital part in the continued success of The Sarasota Ballet."

### **From The Desk Of The Dancers' Suppers Coordinator**

**Peggy Sweeney** 941-242-2554  
peggysweeney@verizon.net

After seven seasons at the helm of this venture, I'm beginning to think about stepping down. It's been an incredibly rewarding experience, giving me the opportunity to connect with both the artistic and administrative teams of The Sarasota Ballet, as well as to provide the dancers with an important "perk" that is apparently unique in the ballet world.

As a result, I'm looking for someone who would like to work with me for the remainder of this season with an eye to eventually assuming full responsibility for this venture. The role involves coordinating volunteers to cook and deliver food to the dancers when they are performing at The FSU Center and Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall.

In the meantime, a huge thank-you to everyone who has supported the program with both food and monetary contributions – support that I hope will continue throughout the rest of this season.

### **Save The Dates**

Mark your calendar for **Tuesday, February 13, 2018** for the Friends Valentine Party, ***Love In Bloom*** to be held at Michael's Wine Cellar from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Cost per person is \$70, \$140 per couple or \$250 per sponsor. Special guest, **harpist Olivia Swan**, will provide musical entertainment. There will be a silent auction that includes creative Valentine floral arrangements and other exciting items. Underwriters to date include Donna Maytham and Caroline Amory of Coldwell Banker Longboat Key. Call Donna to become an Underwriter. Opportunities start at \$1,000.

For reservations, please make your check payable to Friends Of The Sarasota Ballet and mail to Donna Maytham at 201 South Palm Avenue, Apartment #400, Sarasota, FL 34236.

### **Inside The Studio**

On **Wednesday, January 17, 2018** at 6:00 pm, in Studio One, there will be a unique behind-the-scenes presentation about the ballet, "Troy Games." **Julian Moss**, one of the original members of the distinguished London

Contemporary Dance Company, will be the guest speaker. Tickets are \$35 per person and may be purchased through the Ballet's web site or through the box office at 941-359-0099.

#### **From The Info Desk Coordinator**

**Virginia Tashian** 941-966-2515  
veetash@comcast.net

With performances at FSU Center on January 26-29 and February 23-25, there are several opportunities to staff the FSB Information Desk in the lobby before performances and during intermission. All that is needed is a **warm smile** and a **willingness to help** ballet goers with news of upcoming Friends' events, FSB membership, or Backstage Tour details, and to try to respond to any miscellaneous questions.

If you have an interest, and enjoy engaging with other ballet lovers, please email me as shown above. Thank you!

#### **From The Desk Of The Volunteer Coordinator**

**Barbara Fischer Long** 941-228-9899  
bflong@comcast.net

Welcome to the Friends who have recently joined our dedicated corps of volunteers who work diligently in a variety of capacities. A total of 803.9 volunteer hours were recorded in the months of September and October. Volunteers worked an additional 516.5 hours in November. Using the \$22 per hour grant rate, this is the **equivalent of more than \$29,000** during this 3-month period. Thank you all for your dedication and enthusiastic support of The Sarasota Ballet.

Exciting Volunteer Openings:

- Volunteer Backstage Tour Promoter
- Coordinator of the Info Desk
- Box Office Volunteer
- Dancers' Suppers Coordinator

Thank you again for your greatly appreciated contributions to the success of our magnificent Ballet.

#### **From The Desk Of The Backstage Tour Coordinators**

**Andi Lieberman, Virginia Tashian**  
friends@sarasotaballet.org  
941-228-9899

The tours are up and running! Reports from recent attendees have been **enthusiastic**. Share information with those you know or encounter about this **free opportunity** to go behind the scenes and see what a workday is like for The Sarasota Ballet.

With an FSB member as a guide, you can attend a tour on select Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. Highlights include:

- Watching the dancers in **morning class**
- Visiting the fascinating **Wardrobe** and **Education** departments
- Gaining insight from Ballet staff

Your suggestions as to groups that might enjoy the experience are encouraged. Many groups are already planning their programs for the 2018/2019 season. So, they need to hear about **our** behind the scenes tours now.

Reservations are essential as space is limited. Please call 941-228-9899 or email **friends@sarasotaballet.org** for reservations, or to request further information.

We look forward to hearing from you and seeing you "on tour"!

#### **Outreach Request from The Sarasota Ballet Marketing and Education Staff**

If you are a member of a local college club, interest group or neighborhood association that might enjoy a speaker or demonstration from The Sarasota Ballet, please contact Marjorie Floyd 225-6504 or Christopher Hird 225-6524. Staff offer a variety of topics from upcoming performances, British Ballet History and appearances by students or Studio Company as available. Help The Sarasota Ballet make new Friends!