

From The Desk Of The President

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I am honored and excited to serve as president of Friends of The Sarasota Ballet (FSB). The upcoming year will find me greeting old Friends and welcoming new ones! As The Sarasota Ballet has evolved over the years, so has the FSB.

During this Season, I want our members to be fully involved with the organization. You can help by volunteering to support the Ballet and by introducing new members. I welcome and need your input. Please reach out to me or other Board Members with your ideas and suggestions. This input will help achieve the mission of FSB – to support the performances and programs of The Sarasota Ballet through advocacy and fundraising.

An ideal opportunity to reconnect with The Sarasota Ballet and FSB is at our first event, Meet Me At the Barre, planned by **Donna Maytham**. It will be held on Monday, October 16, 2017 from 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm at the FSU Center. **Director Iain Webb** will introduce our 2017-2018 Company. Along with the dancers and staff, you will enjoy libations and appetizers on the mezzanine level of the Mertz Theatre. Invite your friends and let them enjoy the fun of meeting this fabulous ballet company – up close and personal.

I am delighted with our upcoming Showcase Luncheons and think our members will really enjoy the topics and speakers.

To celebrate the new Season, the first luncheon will be held at the Bird Key Yacht Club on Monday, November 13, 2017 at

11:30 am. Personable and talented **Principal Dancer Logan Learned** will reflect on 10 years of his roles with the Company. I am certain that everyone will enjoy this special event.

The next luncheon features **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. This will be held on Monday January 15, 2018 at 11:30 at Michaels on East.

We are thrilled that **Director Iain Webb** and his guests will present “Ballet 101- Everything You Always Wanted to Ask, Answered” on Monday March 12, 2018 at 11:30 am at Michaels’ on East.

Our final showcase luncheon will also be held at Michaels on East at 11:30 am on **Wednesday, April 18, 2018**. Please note that this is a departure from our normal Monday luncheons. At this time, we recognize and thank the outstanding volunteers from the FSB.

Last but definitely not least, we are launching a new event. **A Valentine Cocktail Party, Love in Bloom**, will be held at Michael’s Wine Cellar on Tuesday, February 13, 2018 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. This will be an elegant evening event with a silent auction and very special surprise guests.

Thank you all for continuing to be such great supporters of the Friends of The Sarasota Ballet and I look forward to seeing you often in the coming Season.

Sarasota Ballet
2017/2018 Performance Schedule

Program 1 – The Secret Garden
WILL TUCKETT
27 - 29 October 2017
FSU Center for the Performing Arts

Program 2 – Metropolitan
ASHTON, GOMES & BALANCHINE
1 - 2 December 2017
*Sarasota Opera House**

Program 3 – John Ringling’s
Circus Nutcracker
MATTHEW HART
15 - 16 December 2017
*Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall**

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.

From the Desk of the Special Events
Coordinator

Donna Maytham 941-351-5361
pavlova03@comcast.net

We are excited to announce the first special event of the year, **Meet Me At the Barre**. It will be held on Monday, October 16, 2017 from 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm at the FSU Center. Invitations are in the mail and I have already received confirmations from many Friends – and am looking forward to more!

Join me as **Director Iain Webb** introduces our 2017-2018 Company. Complimentary wine will be served in the lobby before the program that starts promptly at 6:00. Afterwards, we will adjourn to the mezzanine level of the Mertz Theatre for drinks and appetizers. Your participation is needed to make this **fundraising event** a success. There are 4 levels of support:

- Event Sponsors \$150 per person
- Patron Level \$100 per person
- Attendees \$50 per person
- Sponsor a Dancer \$40

Please RSVP to me either by email or phone. I look forward to “meeting **you** at the Barre.”

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.

From The Desk Of The Membership Director

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

Membership renewals have been coming in and I look forward to receiving more as Friends begin returning to Sarasota. As you know, the membership year runs through May 31, 2018. We are reaching out by email blasts and phone to those who have not yet renewed.

To quote from the Ballet's website, "The Friends of The Sarasota Ballet is an amazing group of individuals, who champion the Company throughout the region. Through their wonderful events and volunteer work they act as the **lifblood 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."

Remember, your dues can be tax deductible as the Friends of The Sarasota Ballet is a committee of the Board of Directors of The Sarasota Ballet and therefore, a 501(c)(3), non-profit corporation. As always, check with your tax advisor.

From The Desk Of The Dancers' Suppers Coordinator

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

There will be a few tweaks to the Dancers' Suppers program this season. I'm still counting on the amazing generosity and creativity that the Friends have shown in the past to make sure our dancers are well nourished!

We will be providing food for four of the seven performance weekends this season. **Ed Levesque**, Company Manager, has graciously offered to handle the food requirements for **Ballet Hispánico** in February.

Since so many dancers take advantage of the downtown food purveyors when performing at the Opera House, we're going to limit our largesse to performances at the FSU Center and the Van Wezel.

The first performance weekend is fast approaching and I'll be sending out a detailed request for food very soon. Thank you all so much for your phenomenal support in the past. It is truly reassuring to know I can count on the Friends!

From The Info Desk Coordinator

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

Do you have a warm smile and like to talk with people? Then **volunteering** at the **Information Desk** is a great way to support The Sarasota Ballet.

Members of the Friends of The Sarasota Ballet (FSB) staff the desk before Ballet performances and during intermission. Attendees may not be familiar with FSB. So, this is a way to reach out to potential new members and to encourage attendance at upcoming Friends events, such as the **November 13 Showcase Luncheon featuring Logan Learned**.

With five performances of *The Secret Garden*, help is needed, especially for **Sunday, October 29** (matinee at 2:00 and evening at 7:30.) While no special skills are required, "to learn the ropes" new volunteers can work alongside or rotate with experienced staffers on Friday and Saturday. There will be further opportunities in December at Sarasota Opera House and on future dates.

If you can spare a couple of hours and are willing to engage with other ballet lovers, please **email me** at the above address. Thank you in advance!

From The Desk Of The Volunteer Coordinator

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

Thank you to the many dedicated volunteers who worked diligently throughout the summer to support The Sarasota Ballet. From May through August, there were a total of 637 recorded volunteer hours. Using the \$22 per hour grant rate, this is the **equivalent of \$14,014.**

Did you know that the Friends of The Sarasota Ballet (FSB) now has a webpage? Log onto **www.sarasotaballet.org** and click on the **Friends link**. You can check out the many ways that volunteers can match their interests and availability to support our magnificent Company. You can also learn about upcoming events as well!

Backstage at the Ballet is a signature program of FSB that has given hundreds of guests a “peak behind the curtain” at the inner workings of The Sarasota Ballet (TSB). It takes a team of three people to ensure its success. We have an exciting opportunity for a volunteer **Backstage Tour Promoter** to spread the word in the community about these free and informative guided tours. This individual will work closely with **Virginia Tashian**, the enthusiastic person who both schedules the tours and liaises with **Andi Lieberman** who organizes the guides.

TSB also needs volunteers to distribute rack cards/promotional materials to businesses and buildings around town. This is a way to become involved with TSB and the Friends. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming the **Backstage Tour Promoter** or **distributing materials**, please contact me.

All Officers and **Standing Committee Chairs** should email me the number of hours worked for FSB by the first of each month. These volunteer hours represent significant dollars when the Ballet applies for grants.

Thank you again to our former volunteer coordinator, **Pat Golemme**, who did an outstanding job and was tremendously helpful during the transition process.

I look forward to seeing you at the various Friends events and at the Ballet.

From The Desk Of The Backstage Tour Coordinators

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

Share the magic! The 2017-18 Season of The Sarasota Ballet (TSB) promises to be extremely exciting. The best way to see what is going on behind the scenes is to take a tour led by the Friends of The Sarasota Ballet. All groups and individuals are welcome. There is no charge for the tour but space is limited. Prior reservations are required.

So, tell your friends, suggest a group, or join us yourself on select Tuesday and Thursday mornings during the Season. On the tour guests will:

- Watch the dancers in **morning class**
- Visit the fascinating **Wardrobe** and **Education** departments
- Explore the **Mertz Theatre** and other interesting spaces
- Gain insight from Ballet staff

Prior participants have shared glowing reviews of this experience. The backstage tour will give you insight into the workings of TSB and let you share what goes on during a normal workday for both dancers and staff.

For reservations, please email **friends@sarasotaballet.org** or call 941-228-9899. We look forward to hearing from you and seeing you “on tour”!