



*The Debutante Committee*

*The pleasure of your company  
is requested  
at an  
Orientation Tea  
on  
Sunday May Twenty-Fifth  
at  
Three O'clock  
Florida West Coast Symphony Music  
Center*

*R. S. V. P.                      Afternoon Dress  
Dr. Mary Davenport      Sport Jacket  
346-2924 After 5 P. M.      and tie*

*For the benefit of the Youth Orchestras of the Florida West Coast Symphony*



ROUND TOWN

The Debutante Committee will present the 1997-98 debutante program, June 19, at the Sarasota Municipal Auditorium. The Debutante Program benefits the Youth Orchestra of the Florida West Coast Symphony. Sandra Urban is the president of the Debutante Committee, and Ethel Pawley is the ball chairman.



**Alison Whitney Abbey**

Alison Whitney Abbey, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alan Richard Abbey of Sarasota, attends Cardinal Mooney High School and is active in tennis, yearbook, Key Club and Paws for the Planet. Her community activities include Peer Education, Peer Mentoring and Habitat for Humanity.



**Kathryn Turner Dabney**

Kathryn Turner Dabney, the daughter of Thomas Gregory Dabney II and the late Carolyn Turner Dabney of Sarasota, attends Riverview High School and is a member of the National Honor Society and the Spanish Honor Society. She is a principal dancer in the Kiltie Band Highland Dance and active on class boards.

Lorena Droba, the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Arthur Richard Droba of Sarasota, attends Cardinal Mooney High School and is a member of the National Honor Society.

She is active in Academic Olympics, Key Club and French Club. Her community activities include Florida West Coast Symphony Youth Orchestra, Tae Kwon Do, Youth Leadership of Sarasota County, YMCA Peer Educator Program,



**Lorena Droba**  
Antioch Teen Court and the Jewish Catholic Relations Committee.



**Megan Elizabeth Graper**

Megan Elizabeth Graper, the daughter of Dr. William Peter Graper and Grace A. Graper of Sarasota, attends Pine View School and is a member of the National Honor Society, the Spanish Honor Society, recipient of Who's Who Multiple Year Award and an Ambassador of the Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership.

She is treasurer of Mu Alpha Theta and active in the Pine View Chamber Orchestra, Key Club, Z Club, "Braggin Rights" volleyball, Interact and Sarasota Scullers Youth Rowing Program.

Her community activities include Habitat for Humanity, Youth Leadership Sarasota, Youth Group Church of the Palms and Teen Court.



**Susan Margaret McManus**

Susan Margaret McManus, the daughter of Robert E. McManus and the

late Mrs. McManus of Sarasota, attends Pine View School and is a member of the National Honor Society and the Spanish Honor Society. She is active in Interact and Youth Leadership of Sarasota County.

Her community activities include volunteering in Interact activities.



**Mercedes Campbell Mann**

Mercedes Campbell Mann, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Keith Alan Mann of Sarasota, attends Pine View School and is a National Merit Semi-Finalist.

She is a member of the National Honor Society, the Art Honor Society and Who's Who Among American High School Students.

She is active in the Z Club, Environmental Club, Spanish Club and is the accompanist for the Pine View Chamber Symphony and Chamber Orchestra.

Her community activities include Senior Cotillion, Humane Society volunteer, Community Music School, Ringling Museum Children's Art Festival volunteer and Adopt-a-Highway project volunteer.



**Katie Leigh Morris**

Katie Leigh Morris, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alan Earl Morris of Sarasota, attends Sarasota High School and is captain of the varsity cheerleaders, a member of Competition Cheerleading Squad, vice president of La Sertoma and Powder Puff.

Her community activities include Hi Y, SHS Academic Excellence and



**Megan Elizabeth Toale**

Megan Elizabeth Toale, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Henry Toale of Sarasota, attends Sarasota High School and is active in swimming, tennis, Tae Kwon Do, Yoga, Interact and Key Club.

Her community activities include Habitat for Humanity, Beach Cleanup and Shrine Hospital volunteer.



**Alexander Leigh Tucker**

Alexander Leigh Tucker, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Bullock Tucker Jr. of Bradenton, attends St. Stephen's Episcopal School and is active in volleyball and soccer.

Her community activities include Blake Medical Center volunteer and Youth Soccer volunteer.



**Eileen Grace Turalba**

Eileen Grace Turalba, the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Cornelius Turalba of Bradenton, attends Bradenton

Christian High School and is a member of the National Honor Society and the Spanish Honor Society.

She is vice president of the senior class, she is a peer tutor. She is active in SERVE, Rhema, and the Shepherd's staff and choir.

Her community activities include playing the violin in Florida West Coast Symphony's youth program, concertmaster of the MCC Symphony Orchestra, and membership in First Baptist Church of Bradenton's Youth Group, choir, and girls ensemble.



**Malloy Ella Wood**

Malloy Ella Wood, the daughter of John Gregg Wood Jr. of Winter Haven and Vera P. Wood of Sarasota, attends Pine View School and is a member of the National Honor Society.

She is active in the Peer Mentoring Program and is Student Council historian.

Her community activities include pre-school aide at St. Boniface, Z Club and Peer Mentor.



**Leslie Victoria Wooten**

Leslie Victoria Wooten, the daughter of Samuel Richard Wooten and Mary Ann Rhines of Bradenton, attends St. Stephen's Episcopal School and is active in soccer, volleyball and French Club.

Her community activities include volunteering at the Art League of Manatee County and Blake Medical Center.

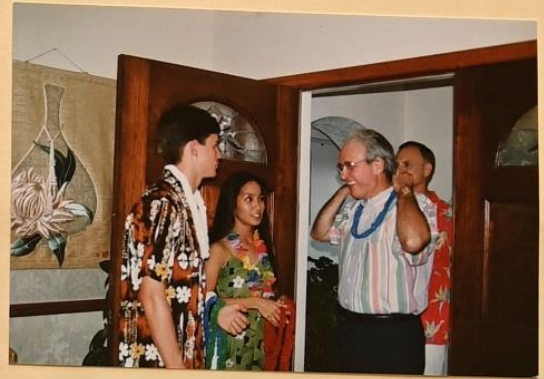


Please join  
 Stephen, Susan and Malloy  
 for a  
**Great Gatsby Dance Buffet**  
 Saturday, September 20th  
 7:30 to 11:30 p.m.  
 The Field Club  
 1400 Field Road  
 Sarasota, Florida

Peter Graper      John Wood  
 Grace Graper     Vera Wood  
 Bob McManus

R.S.V.P. by September 13th







# ON THE SCENE



*Debut Las Bingham takes a group of debutantes on a tour to four young musicians practice during a Saturday morning rehearsal.*



STAFF PHOTOS

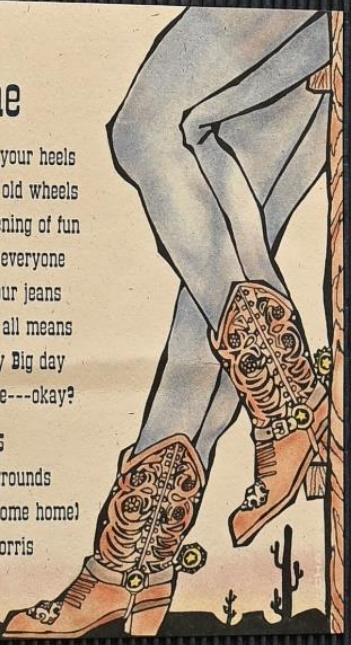
**Deb escorts and dads** A night for the escorts and fathers of the 1997-98 debutantes was conducted recently at the Morris home in Sarasota. This year's debs will be formally introduced in December. Above, from left, are Keith Mann, Kurt Scherer and Evan Feinberg. Below from left, Tom Dabney, Mike Peterson, Justin Niemann and John Tucker also attended the event. In the bottom photo are Alan Abbey, Nick Solicetto, Todd Henderson and Bob McManus.



## Y-All Come

Put on your boots and kick up your heels  
 Come to the fairgrounds in any old wheels  
 We promise to show you an evening of fun  
 With country line dancing for everyone  
 Wear your ruffles or wear your jeans  
 And a western hat (a must) by all means  
 We're celebratin Katie's Really Big day  
 So we'll all eat, drink and dance---okay?

Saturday, November 15  
 Potter Bldg. - Sarasota Fairgrounds  
 7:30 'till 11:30 (or 'till the cows come home)  
 Given by Pam and Alan Morris





# ON THE SCENE



*Dioree Lee Bingham takes a group of debutants on a tour to hear young musicians practice during a Saturday morning rehearsal.*



STAFF PHOTOS

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Saturday, November 15

Potter Bldg. - Sarasota Fairgrounds

7:30 'till 11:30 (or 'till the cows come home)

Given by Pam and Alan Morris



Mr. and Mrs. Keith Mann  
 request the pleasure of your company  
 for an evening of Japanese splendor  
 in honour of their daughter  
**Miss Mercedes Mann**

Dinner and Dance  
 Saturday evening, November twenty-second  
 7:30 to 11:30 p.m.

The Field Club  
 1400 Field Road  
 Sarasota, Florida

R.S.V.P. by November 10

Semi-formal or  
 Japanese attire





*"Puttin' on the Ritz"*

*Mr. and Mrs. Alan Richard Abbey  
Dr. and Mrs. Arthur Richard Droba  
Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Henry Toale  
request the pleasure of your company  
for a Dinner and Dance  
in honour of their daughters  
Miss Alison Whitney Abbey  
Miss Lorena Droba  
Miss Megan Elizabeth Toale  
on Saturday, the eighth of November  
at seven o'clock until eleven o'clock  
The Oaks Country Club  
Sarasota, Florida*

*Formal Attire  
Black, White, Silver*





*In honour of  
Miss Kathryn Turner Dabney  
Mr. Thomas Gregory Dabney  
requests the pleasure of your company  
at a Holiday Party  
Saturday, the sixth of December  
at seven o'clock in the evening  
The Field Club*





The Debutante Committee

requests the pleasure of your company

at

The Debutante Ball

Friday evening, the nineteenth of December

Nineteen hundred and ninety seven

City of Sarasota

Municipal Auditorium

In Honor of the  
1997-1998 Debutantes

- Miss Alison Whitney Abbey
- Miss Kathryn Turner Dabney
- Miss Lorena Droba
- Miss Meghan Elizabeth Graper
- Miss Mercedes Campbell Mann
- Miss Susan Margaret McManus
- Miss Katie Leigh Morris
- Miss Megan Elizabeth Toale
- Miss Alexandra Leigh Tucker
- Miss Eileen Grace Turalba
- Miss Malloy Ella Wood
- Miss Leslie Victoria Wooten

The Debutante Ball organization, an affiliate of the Florida West Coast Symphony, fosters the cultural and social commitment of a select number of young women of Sarasota and Manatee counties, their families, and their extended families.

The further purpose of the Debutante Ball is to encourage each young woman to discover her own cultural and social identity and to develop a sense of responsibility for the growth of artistic and cultural awareness in this and other communities in which she may reside.

The Debutante selection process will not deny any young woman the opportunity to participate based on social, religious or economic background.

For the benefit of The Youth Orchestras  
of the Florida West Coast Symphony

The Debutante Ball



Friday evening, the nineteenth of December  
Nineteen hundred and ninety seven

Program of the Evening

Cocktails

Hors D'Oeuvres

Music Provided by  
Chamber Ensembles of the  
Florida West Coast Youth Orchestra

Welcome

- Master of Ceremonies . . . . . Colonel Rodell L. Urban, U.S.M.C.
- Florida West Coast Symphony . . . . . President, Mr. Laurence R. Saslaw
- Debutante Committee . . . . . President, Mrs. Rodell L. Urban
- Debutante Ball . . . . . Chairman, Mrs. Stephen E. Pawley

Presentation

Chamber Ensembles of the Florida West Coast Youth Orchestra  
Leanne Darling, Chamber Music Coordinator

Introduction of Post Debutantes

Brass Fanfare - Trombone Choir

Debutante Presentation

Grand Waltz

Debutante Promenade

Dinner

Catered by Michaels on East

Dancing

Music by the Jerry Jerome Orchestra

In Honor of ...

Miss Alison Whitney Abbey

daughter of  
Mr. and Mrs. Alan Richard Abbey  
of  
Sarasota



Escorted by:  
Mr. Stephen Brenton Keyser  
Mr. George Washington Veale VI

In Honor of ...

Miss Kathryn Turner Dabney

daughter of  
Mr. Thomas Gregory Dabney II  
and the late  
Carolyn Turner Dabney  
of  
Sarasota



Escorted by:  
Mr. Michael Barr Peterson  
Mr. Jared Joseph Sweetser

In Honor of ...

Miss Lorena Droba

daughter of  
Dr. and Mrs. Arthur Richard Droba  
of  
Sarasota



Escorted by:  
Mr. Erik Alexander Scherer  
Mr. Thomas Russell Yaegers

In Honor of ...

Miss Meghan Elizabeth Graper

daughter of  
Dr. William Peter Graper  
and  
Mrs. Grace Arnold Graper  
of  
Sarasota



Escorted by:  
Mr. Thomas Paul Cinquegrano  
Mr. Trudo Theodorius Letschert II

In Honor of ...

Miss Mercedes Campbell Mann

daughter of  
Mr. and Mrs. Keith Alan Mann  
of Sarasota



Escorted by:  
Mr. Evan Harriman Feinberg  
Mr. Kurt Friedrich Scherer

In Honor of ...

Miss Susan Margaret McManus

daughter of  
Mr. Robert Emmett McManus  
and the late  
Joanne Stoerger McManus



Escorted by:  
Mr. Michael Andrew Charland  
Mr. Nicholas Paul Sollecito

In Honor of ...

Miss Katie Leigh Morris

daughter of  
Mr. and Mrs. Alan Earl Morris  
of  
Sarasota



Escorted by:  
Mr. Ryan Allen Kosla  
Mr. Aaron Todd Pembleton

In Honor of ...

Miss Megan Elizabeth Toale

daughter of  
Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Henry Toale  
of  
Sarasota



Escorted by:  
Mr. Erik Franklyn Bass  
Mr. Michael Steven Tucci

In Honor of ...

Miss Alexandra Leigh Tucker

daughter of  
Mr. and Mrs. John Bullock Tucker, Jr.  
of  
Bradenton



Escorted by:  
Mr. Justin Kyle Niemann  
Mr. Donald Thomas Regan III

In Honor of ...

Miss Eileen Grace Turalba

daughter of  
Dr. and Mrs. Cornelius Turalba  
of  
Bradenton



Escorted by:  
Mr. Todd Kenneth Henderson  
Mr. Randle Mathes McSwain

In Honor of ...

Miss Malloy Ella Wood

daughter of  
Mr. John Gregg Wood, Jr.  
of  
Winter Haven  
and  
Mrs. Vera Peel Wood  
of  
Sarasota



Escorted by:  
Mr. James Gerald Gultridge II  
Mr. Ira John Sites III

In Honor of ...

Miss Leslie Victoria Wooten

daughter of  
Mr. Samuel Richard Wooten  
and  
Mrs. Roger Rhines  
of  
Bradenton



Escorted by:  
Mr. Derek James Huss  
Mr. Zachary Lewis Ross

THE CIRCUIT

# DEBUTANTES COME OUT AT

Story by L. Victor / Photos by Dana Bowden



Photo-session time with deb Meghan Graper and her parents, Dr. Peter and Grace Graper.

**T**he Debutante Ball seems like an anachronism better suited to the pretentious social structure of the Gilded Age than to a Florida resort community in the '90s. And, in truth, the ball does have an aura of financial privilege and by-gone "right family" artificiality about it — long white gloves, stiff posture, the deep curtsey, white roses, dads in tuxedos enjoying the grand waltz ("Edelweiss," in this case) with their darling daughters in fluffy white gowns, the grand promenade and brass fanfare, etc. The Deb Ball is something between a formal society wedding and a royal court ceremony, and it's definitely from another era. What makes it treasured and fun in this community is that it's a viable fund-raiser for the youth

education programs of the Florida West Coast Symphony.

Committee chair **Sandy Urban**, was everywhere at once — charming in the receiving line with husband **Rodell** (a colonel in the Marine Corp so he knows about good posture), backstage with the girls before their grand entrance, and she table-hopped all night making sure everything was running smoothly. In her soft Virginia accent, she praised **Phil Mancini** to the skies for being so nice to work with in planning the menu and serving the crowd so efficiently at the Municipal Auditorium. And, here they are ... the Debs: **Allison Abbey, Kathryn Dabney, Lorena Droba, Meghan Graper, Susan McManus, Mercedes Mann, Katie Morris, Megan Toale, Alexandra Tucker, Eileen Turalba, Malloy Wood, Leslie Wooten.**

# FABULOUS BALL



Mercedes Mann and other belles of the deb ball.

## Laughter, tears mark debs' celebration week

**T**he report on the recent Debutante Ball was pulled from "Let's Talk," since it was due to run the day after the tragic death of beautiful participant **Alexandra Tucker**, but it serves no purpose, really, to omit it entirely.

So, in memory of **Alexi** and in tribute to the other young women who made their bows to society over the Christmas holiday, it's being run as originally planned.

### MARJORIE NORTH

Let's Talk



#### Holiday highlight

"An enchanted evening" was the way **Ethel Pawley**, chairwoman, described the Debutante Ball held recently at the Sarasota Municipal Auditorium. And, indeed, it was for the dozen area women presented, as well as their families and friends.

Making their bows were **Alison Abbey, Kathryn Dabney, Lorena Droba, Meghan Graper, Mercedes Mann, Susan McManus, Katie Morris, Megan Toale, Alexandra Tucker, Eileen Turalba, Malloy Wood, and Leslie Wooten.**

The debs, dressed in traditional floor-length white gowns, were radiant as they were escorted down the center aisle by their dads, followed by two escorts from their own circle of friends, and enjoyed the first waltz with their dads before the dance floor was opened to all.

Started in 1982, the ball is a fund-raising benefit for the symphony's Youth Orchestras, which returned the favor with a pre-dinner musical performance by the youth group chamber ensemble, with **Leanne Darling** as coordinator.

Col. **Rodell Urban** served as emcee, while his wife, **Sandy**, headed the deb committee. Late-night dance music featured the **Jerry Jerome Orchestra**.

A postscript to the evening commiseration among the debs and subsequent mourning of **Alexi** is that a memorial art fund has been established — and contributed to by the debutantes — in her name at St. Stephen's, where she was a senior.

#### Family ties

For **Alan and Pam Morris**, the ball was a grand finale as Number 4 daughter, **Katie**, made her bow to society. The family cheering squad included sisters **Julie, Laurie and Jennifer**, and **Alan's** brother and his wife, all in town for the special occasion. . . . More sister acts as **Curtis and Syndi Toale** brought along **Tiffany and Stephanie**, possible future debs. . . . About 17 post-debs were introduced, including **Ingrid Scherer**, a familiar name in local music circles. Two of her brothers, **Erik and Kurt**, were escorts for two of this year's debs.



The  
**MANATEE SYMPHONY ASSOCIATION**  
 and the  
**FLORIDA WEST COAST SYMPHONY**  
 Leif Bjaland, Artistic Director & Conductor

PROUDLY PRESENT

**SALUTE to the MOVIES**

*Technicolor  
 Romance*

THE THIRTEENTH ANNUAL  
**Valentine Pops**

Manatee Civic Center  
 February 14, 1998



The Valentine Pops is a Project of  
**THE MANATEE SYMPHONY ASSOCIATION**

*Fanfares For . . .*

Valentine Pops Co-Hosts:  
**Vernon & Peggy DeSear & The Weinkle Family**

Pops Committee: Robin Carter, Kim Choate, Hannah Donovan, Elliott Falcione,  
 Julie Galvano, Dawn Lengel, Linda Novoy-White, Doug Wagner, and Carl Zwinnck.

Manatee Convention & Civic Center Staff

Manatee Symphony Association President:

Hope Leuchter

and all the members of the Manatee Symphony Association.  
 Their time and talents have helped make the 13th Annual Valentine Pops '98 another  
 wonderful success. You can join the Association and enjoy monthly meetings and entertainment  
 by calling membership chairman, Ellie Hogan at 755-4436.

Chefs of Manatee Memorial Hospital

Josey's Posey's; Vann Presentations; Affairs in the Air

Hostesses: **The Debutantes of the 1996-97 Season**

Miss Alison Whitney Abbey

Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alan Richard Abbey.

Miss Kathryn Turner Dabney

Daughter of Mr. Thomas Gregory Dabney II

Miss Lorena Droba

Daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Arthur Richard Droba

Miss Meghan Elizabeth Graper

Daughter of Mrs. Grace Arnold Graper & Dr. William Peter Graper

Miss Mercedes Campbell Mann

Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Keith Alan Mann

Miss Susan Margaret McManus

Daughter of Mr. Robert E. McManus

Miss Katie Leigh Morris

Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alan Earl Morris

Miss Megan Elizabeth Toale

Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Henry Toale

Miss Eileen Grace Turalba

Daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Cornelius Turalba

Miss Malloy Ella Wood

Daughter of Mrs. Vera P. Wood & Mr. John Gregg Wood, Jr.

Miss Leslie Victoria Wooten

Daughter of Mr. Samuel Richard Wooten & Mrs. Roger Rhines

The Debutantes mourn  
 the loss of their friend and  
 sister Debutante,  
 Miss *Alexandra Leigh Tucker*,  
 who was tragically killed in  
 an auto accident on  
 December 30, 1997.



Miss *Alexandra Leigh Tucker*  
 Daughter of  
 Mr. & Mrs. John Bullock Tucker, Jr.