

LA VOCE DI GCICS

GULF COAST ITALIAN CULTURE SOCIETY, INC.

P.O. BOX 2591, SARASOTA, FL. 34230

WWW.GCICS.ORG

December 2018



Letter from the President

I am hopeful this note finds you all well and preparing your holiday plans for Thanksgiving. Such a wonderful holiday... There is something special about gathering around a table with family and friends with no other goal than to be together and enjoy everyone's company just for the sake of "Giving Thanks".

Many of us will travel some distances to be with loved ones...my destination is New Jersey where my Daughter, Son-in-Law and the three grandchildren are busy preparing the celebration.

Most of our membership has landed in the Sunshine State for the winter season. Soon we will be practicing in earnest for the Bocce showdown at the Cascades and hopeful the course will be kinder to us this year. In any event, the "after party" is worth attendance no matter what the outcome. In past years we have danced well into the evening and left, if not with the trophy, with great memories and new friendships. It's a fun event to attend!

The welcome back picnic was a great success...the food wonderful and the delight of seeing old friends...PRICELESS!!!

Another item covered in this Newsletter is the GCICS Annual Meeting on January 11, 2019...I can't believe I am writing that year...Wasn't it yesterday that we were celebrating the start of a new century...19 years ago. Whew!

For those of you who haven't ordered GCICS name badges yet...now is the time. It makes such a difference...do keep them in your car...that way they are always at hand for use.

For those who will arrive after the Thanksgiving Holiday...God Speed and be safe in your travels.

Thanks to Mary Rinaldi for the painstaking task of putting this Newsletter together and for subbing for Ellen as Recording Secretary in her absence.

Ciao for now,

Sheryl

HOLIDAY PARTY



Once again, the Holiday Party will be a “bring a dish” event where members will bring a bottle of wine and a dish. It will be a fundraiser for the Scholarship Fund (\$30 per person). It will be at the Lakewood Ranch residence of Mary Rinaldi and her husband Jack Norman. Here are the categories that we will follow:

- A – D: Main Course
- E – K: Dessert
- L – P: Vegetable dish (hot or cold; including salads)
- Q – Z: Appetizer

The hosts will provide ham as one main dish. Also, Mary and Jack are funding the live band for the entertainment of all party-goers.

DATE/TIME: Sunday, December 16, 2018; 5:30 - 9:30 PM

PLACE: 13982 Siena Loop, Lakewood Ranch, FL., 34202 (Phone: 941-907-9056)

DONATION: \$30 per person

BADGES: Please wear your name badge (I keep mine in my car at all times so I don't forget it.)

RAFFLES: Great restaurant gift cards will be raffled off; so bring some cash to become a winner.



RSVP: Make checks payable to GCICS Scholarship Fund and mail to Mary Rinaldi, 13982 Siena Loop, Lakewood Ranch, FL., 34202

GCICS ANNUAL MEETING/TOWN HALL/LUNCH/LECTURE



Each year GCICS holds its annual meeting that includes a "town hall style" feedback session, a no-cost luncheon, and either a film or lecture. This year, Leita Kaldi, one of our longstanding members, will deliver a fascinating lecture.

Event: GCICS Annual Meeting/Town Hall/Lunch/Lecture

Date/Time: Friday, January 11, 2019, 11:30-2:30 pm

Location: Community Foundation of Sarasota County, FL, 2635 Fruitville Rd, Sarasota, FL 34237 (near Tuttle)

Program: Lunch (no cost), Annual Meeting, Town Hall, Lecture

Lecture: *"Mama Mia! Women Rise Against the Mafia!"* Presented by Leita Kaldi.



RSVP: E-mail Ellen Roderick: itrain@erols.com or phone her: 301-775-1344; and provide name(s) of those attending.

Deadline: Call or e-mail Ellen by Sunday evening, **January 6th**; will need an exact count for the caterer.

Bring: Your appetite & thoughts on GCICS 2019-2020 programs/activities

Badge: Please wear your name badge.

Presiding: Sheryl Lazzarotti, President

YOUTH OPERA AND DINNER



On Saturday, November 3rd, a group of GCICS members attended a lively, imaginative performance of “The Little Sweep” as part of Sarasota’s youth opera program. “The Little Sweep” is set in Boston in the early 19th century, the opera tells the story of a group of children who, with the help of a kind nursery maid, work to free a young apprentice chimney sweep from his cruel master. Written by Benjamin Britten in the 1940’s, “The Little Sweep”, is about a defenseless child who is treated unfairly in a situation beyond his control. Concerned with bullying and abuse, Britten weaves in the underlying message that we must not only protect children from exploitation and abuse; but, we must all, as the children in “The Little Sweep” do, care for and look after one another. After attending the performance, several of the GCICS members also enjoyed a delicious dinner at Beulah Restaurant on Main Street. Good food and good company helped add to the pleasure of joining in this evening get together. Attending this youth opera event was just one more opportunity to savor and enjoy the benefits of GCICS membership and comraderie.



BOCCE CORNER



The Conservation Foundation held its Fall Festival on November 3, at their park grounds on the Bay. We were asked to participate again by teaching bocce to those who stopped by the court. Over 1,000 people enjoy this day. Participants had to park on the church grounds on Highway 41 and were bused by trolley. Club members Pina and Gary Sampiere, President Sheryl, Mary Lou Ferrari and Doris and I were our good will ambassadors. This event gives our Club very good community exposure and does much for our relationship with the Foundation. Our Club also benefits by their leaving behind large tables and folding chairs for our use the next day. This is a big plus for us in that we do not have to rent or lug these around.

Our welcome back picnic held on November 4th was very successful. The food which members provided was excellent and leftovers were almost non-existent. The format of members bringing their own main course and a side dish to share works out very well. This is a far cry from setting up grills and purchasing and cooking meats on site. We have had only positive comments about this day. Having the bocce court we maintain

on the Land Conservation grounds has proven to be a big asset to the GCICS. New members have been attracted to our club and they have enjoyed the warm welcome we provide! Linda Mercurio did her usual great job in raffling dining certificates and raised \$510 towards our scholarship fund. Thank you all for participating so generously.

Efforts are usually made to have a similar picnic in spring before our snowbirds take off. Doris and I maintain supplies for our Club and would be willing to help, but we don't want to be in charge of a second picnic. Do we have any takers???

We continue to thank Jerry Hall for being the primary caretaker of the court. There are no current blackout dates where the Foundation is holding an event on a Sunday and do not want us to use the court. I will try to inform you if I hear of such. So, especially to the new members, please join us in a very informal game of bocce each Sunday afternoon from approximately 2-4 on the Conservation Foundation grounds, 400 Palmetto Ave., Osprey. I'm always available for your questions.

Tom Hurban 908 507 3048

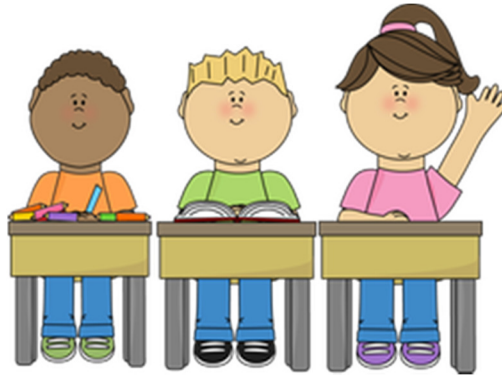
BOCCE PICNIC PICTURES

Photos by Jerry Hall

Our fall welcome back picnic at the Bay Preserve was a success. The weather was perfect for eating, socializing and bocce. Kudos to Jerry Hall for taking many photos of the day's activities.



ITALIAN CLASSES



The GCICS Italian for Beginners and Conversation Sessions resumed on **Wednesday November 14, 2018** thanks to the kind cooperation of fellow member Paola Tate. She is opening her home so we may enjoy a seamless transition in our efforts to become better speakers of the beautiful Italian language.

Paola, in her own words, "was born in Ethiopia, to a family from Bologna. I studied at the University of Urbino (Italy) and in Bologna. I taught Dow Chemical executives in Midland, MI, and later taught at Ohio State University; and wrote 7 books of Instructional Italian for McGraw Hill Publishing Company." She and her husband Robert (Bob) "have three grown children and nine grandchildren. We have lived in Sarasota for two years."

Now here are the details:

WHAT: Italian for Beginners & Italian Conversation

WHEN: Resumed on Wed Nov 14, 2018: Beginners Session is 2-3 pm; Conversation Session is 3-4 pm.

WHERE: Paola Tate's home, 4583 Atwood Cay Circle, Sarasota FL 34233. This is a short distance west of Cattlemen Rd., east of Honore Rd., south of Bee Ridge Rd. and north of Proctor Rd.

QUESTIONS: George Arfield (917-658-9698) or arfield@yahoo.com

The Board of Directors look forward with pleasure to resuming this educational experience.

Did You Know?

The following article by Rosario Mariani was submitted by Doris Hurban.

Il Panettone



You can't celebrate Christmas in Italy without sharing a Panettone with your family and friends. Whether you choose to eat it at the end of "il Cenone di Natale" with espresso, sip a cappuccino in the morning or simply having a slice with your favorite liqueur, it puts you in the holiday spirit. It is uniquely Italian and a tradition that is spreading throughout the whole world.

For those of you who want to know the history of "Il Panettone" here it is:

The Panettone was created in Milan at the time of Lodovico IL Moro (1452-1508) and it is still produced in the city by bakers and confectioners according to the traditional recipes. One of the most popular legends of its origin is that a cook at the court had to prepare a sumptuous Christmas dinner to

which many aristocrats were invited, but the cake, forgotten in the oven, burned. On seeing the desperation of the cook, Toni, young kitchen boy, proposed a solution – with the leftovers in the pantry – a little flour, butter, eggs, lime zest and some raisins – he made this cake. The cook told him, after seeing the cake, if we have nothing else, you may bring it to the table.

The guests were all excited and to the Duke, who wanted to know the name of that delicacy, asked the chief who revealed the secret. This is "Pane di Toni" (Tony's bread) PANETTONE. Since then, many variations of the theme were created, but the original bread-pastry with candied fruits and raisins is the only version that counts.

Buon Natale a tutti!

GCICS SCHOLARSHIP DONATIONS

GCICS members can take great pride in their donations to support high school students of Italian heritage and organizations that uphold educational and cultural activities. Through 2017, close to \$160,000 has been directed to scholarships for local college-bound students of Italian heritage and contributions to the youth programs of the Sarasota Opera and the Sarasota Ballet.

Individual donations, raffles, and social activities to raise scholarship dollars (e.g., the Holiday Gala) fund these scholarships and financial contributions to the Youth Opera and Youth Ballet. We wish to remind members that there remains an excellent opportunity to enrich these valuable opportunities and save on taxes by making a

donation before December 31, 2018. At the same time, donations are accepted throughout the year.

We are proud to report our donors' contributions in our yearly GCICS Directory in these categories-- Booster: \$20-\$49; Donor: \$50-\$99; Patron: \$100-\$249; Sponsor: \$250-\$499; Angel: \$500-\$999; and Benefactor: \$1,000+.

It's really simple: just write a check in any amount you wish, make it out to "GCICS Scholarship Fund," slip it into an envelope and mail it to: GCICS, P.O. Box 2591, Sarasota, FL 34230. Penny Thomas, our hard-working Treasurer will make sure every penny (no pun) goes to one of the worthy causes supported by GCICS.

COURTESY

Dear GCICS Members

I am asking for your help so that I may better serve you as GCICS Courtesy Chair. If a member or a family member has passed, is ill or needs our support in some way, please email me. I will send out caring cards and notes to members who are grieving or who are ill. If you call please leave a short message with your name and a call back number. Provide a name and address to whom the cards should be sent. Thank you so much.

Nancy Schubert, GCICS Courtesy Chair
sunshine.gcics@gmail.com
941-400-1580

GIFT CERTIFICATES



The following restaurants have recently donated gift certificates. A * indicates that this restaurant has provided gift certificates in the past. Thank you, Linda Mercurio, for all your hard work in obtaining all these gift cards this past month. Remember, the monies obtained by raffling off these gift cards at our events helps to fund our scholarships.

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| 1) The Lobster Pot: 349-2323 * | 21) Barbosso: 922-7999 * |
| 2) Cafe Evergreen: 412-4334 * | 22) Mr. Tequila's: 312-5110 * |
| 3) 15 South Ristorante Enoteca: 388-1555 * | 23) Cafe Baci: 921-4848 * |
| 4) Longhorn: 926-0344 * | 24) Stonewood Grill & Tavern: 355-3315 * |
| 5) Goodfella's Café: 922-9470 * | 25) JPan: 954-5726 * |
| 6) Silver Star: 312-4566 * | 16) Swordfish Grill & Tiki Bar: 798-2035 * |
| 7) Audrey's Jamaican Cuisine: 928-3309 * | 17) Three Dog Bakery: 355-0399 * |
| 8) Casey Key Fish House: 966-1901 * | 18) JR's Old Packinghouse Café: 371-9358 * |
| 9) Tasty Home Cookin: 921-4969 * | 19) Sardinia: 702-8582 * |
| 10) Le Colonne Ristorante: 388-1555 * | 20) Seafood Shack Marina Bar Grill 794-1285* |
| 11) Mandeville Beer Garden: 954-8888 * | 21) Ancient Olive: 388-1414 |
| 12) Flemings: 358-9463 * | 22) Napole: 556-9639 |
| 13) Cassariano: 786-1000 * | 23) Blaze Pizza: 355-8400 * |
| 14) Lucky Pelican: 907-0589 * | 24) Village Café: 349-2822 * |
| 15) Scarpino's: 756-8100 * | 25) Acropolis Greek Taverna: 355-4134 * |
| 16) Marcello Ristorante Italiano: 921-6794 * | 26) Captain Curt's: 349-3885 * |
| 17) Stottlemeyer's Smokehouse: 312-5969 * | 27) Miguel's: 349-4024 * |
| 18) Sun Garden Café: 346-7170 * | 28) Giorgio's: 365-3300 * |
| 19) Valentino Pizzeria Trattoria: 359-6400 * | 29) Melting Pot: 365-2628 |
| 20) Blu Kouzina: 388-2619 * | |

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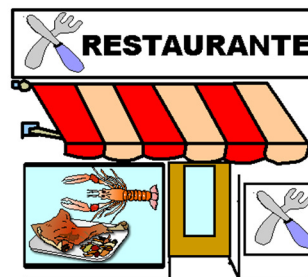
Past Presidents

| | |
|----------------------|-----------|
| Joseph Raffaele, PhD | 1988-1992 |
| Gabriella Thurston | 1993-2001 |
| Patrick Corsentino | 2001-2004 |
| Arthur Castraberti | 2004-2006 |
| Marie Corsentino | 2007 |
| Mary Amabile Palmer | 2008-2010 |
| William Korp | 2010-2014 |
| Anthony Esposito | 2015-2016 |

RESTAURANTS OFFERING 10% DISCOUNT TO MEMBERS

PLEASE PATRONIZE THESE RESTAURANTS

2018-2019



| | |
|--|----------------------|
| Beulah Restaurant @ 1766 Main St. | 960-2305 |
| Café Amici @1371 Main St. | 951-6896 |
| Café Baci @ 4001 S. Tamiami Trail | 921- 4848 |
| Café Barbosso @ 5501 Palmer Circle | 922-7999 |
| Chianti Ristorante @ 3900 Clark Road | 952-3186 |
| Flavio's 5239 Ocean Blvd., Siesta Key | 349-0995 |
| Good Fellas @ 4571 Clark Road | 922-9470 |
| Mona Lisa @ 4989 Ringwood Meadows | 377-6562 |
| Salute @ 1 st Street and N. Lemon | 365-1020 |
| San Marco @ 505 W. Venice Ave. | 254-6565 |
| Opa Opa @ 6525 Superior Ave. | 927-1672 |
| Valentino's @ 8203 Cooper Creek Blvd. 4045 Clark Road | 359-6400 921-9600 |