

LA VOCE DI GCICS

GULF COAST ITALIAN CULTURE SOCIETY, INC.

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

WWW.GCICS.ORG

OCTOBER 2015

Ladies and Gentlemen of our Gulf Coast Italian Culture Society:

Welcome to our 2015-2016 season! Your officers and Board members have continued working during the summer to make this a most memorable season. I will not reiterate all of our accomplishments of the past season, but will ask each of you to be ready for a wonderful season supported by our new and improved web site. You may access it anytime and read all about current GCICS news, events and activities. You can view photos taken during member events. You will receive an email each month with an embedded link to the newsletter. This will save GCICS costs in postage and printing fees.

Before I write another word, I want to express our gratitude for the exceptional work of our new web master, Marco Mazzone. He has been a God-send coming to us through our member Rabbi Barbara Aiello. Marco, who hails from Italy, manages e-commerce for a major FL company. Upon meeting us, Marco offered to take responsibility for improving our web site. We can now track who visits our site. To date, we have had visits from China, Italy, Russia, Germany, Spain, and France and around the

USA. Further, we know that visitors spend an average of 14-16 minutes on our site. In short, we now have in place all the elements of an outstanding organization with up-to-date marketing tools to communicate our message. Our programs -- Scholarships, Italian Classes, Bocce Teams, and Special Cultural Celebrations -- are all linked through a user friendly web site available to all.

Regarding administration of our Society, we appointed a new Treasurer, Dwight Pendola who joined the organization last year. We are fortunate to have a man of his ability willing to take on this responsibility. Dwight will work closely with Ellen Roderick and Mary Rinaldi in all financial aspects of the Society (i.e., billing, collecting, record keeping and State and Federal tax filings). On behalf of our membership I want Dwight to know how very

grateful we are to have him with us. Like Marco, Dwight cheerfully accepted these responsibilities at a time when we really needed him. I know he has his work cut out for him.

I need to mention that the following members of our Society recently passed on: Mario Mariani, Arden and Tony Fowler, Anthony Zara, and Jack Ahern. We express our Society's deepest sympathies to their families. Knowing them as many of us did gives me pause to consider our creator greeting them at the gates of paradise and assuring each rests comfortably in God's eternal peace.

We kick off the season with our Welcome Back/Italian Heritage Month Brunch at Mattison's 41 on Sunday, October 25. Our own Dr. Joseph Latona will present a lecture on some specific business expertise developed within our Italian culture. You see we are more than art, food and fashion. I urge you to attend. Also, we want to extend a warm welcome to our newest members Maria Spelleri and Fausto Catena. You will be seeing them at events so please take a moment to introduce yourselves.

In closing, you can see all that your Society is doing for the members. And now I must put on 'Monsignor Murphy's hat' and say "All this does not come without a cost." We ask you to give serious consideration to your Society's financial needs. We have done much to provide you with a distinct opportunity to point with pride to your Italian heritage. Think of your family members who have passed looking down on what GCICS has done for our heritage. For their sake perhaps you can give a little extra donation this year. We have benefited greatly from their efforts and sacrifice and we cannot ever forget them. This is a small opportunity to say "thank you" to a grand and blessed culture.

Ciao for now,
Anthony Esposito

ITALIAN HERITAGE CULTURAL MONTH MESSA DELLA CULTURA ITALIANO

President Anthony Esposito and members of the board of GCICS announce the upcoming Celebration of Italian Heritage, which commemorates Sicilian cuisine.



PROGRAM

“Italian Heritage Month, The Economy of Italy, An Italian Firm, World Leader in its Industry, A Sweet Story of Success”

Guest Speaker: Dr. Joseph Latona, GCICS Member



Dr. Latona received a BA, MA, and DBA in Business and Business Policy. He holds membership in four honor societies in his field. He taught Business Policy & Strategy, Micro/Macro Economics, and Money and Banking. Additionally, he is the founder and director of both the Center for Organizational Development and Research and the Small Business Institute at the University of Akron where he was the recipient of over \$100,000 in research grants. He has published extensively including the authorship of three textbooks. Dr. Latona held offices in many national organizations and has a national reputation as a scholar and consultant in areas of leadership, behavior and productivity. As a result, he has been invited to speak at many universities throughout the country.

Event: "The Italian Heritage Month Brunch"
Date/Time: Sunday, Oct 25, 2015, 11:30 - 2:00 pm
Location: Mattison's 41 Restaurant: 7275 So. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, FL 34231
Cost: \$35.00 all inclusive; make check payable to GCICS **and write entree choice on Check memo line.**
Mail Check To: Mr. Anthony Esposito, 50 Central Ave, #1602, Sarasota, FL 34236
Reserve By: Oct 20, 2015
Point of Contact: Anthony Esposito (941-383-4236): anth.esposito@gmail.com



MENU

SICILIAN THEME



SHARING PLATTER HORS d'OEUVRES ON TABLE

Marinated Olives
Housemade Eggplant Caponata
Rosemary Focaccia, Flatbreads & Bread Sticks
With olive oil, vinegar & spice dipping sauce on tables

FIRST COURSE

Cauliflower Salad
Served Individually

SECOND COURSE

Entrée, preselected

Braciolo with Bucatini Pasta
Or
Sardines with Orcchiette Pasta

Vegetable: Eggplant & Roasted Peppers served family style

THIRD COURSE

Lemon Sorbet
Over fresh strawberries, topped with slice of fresh lemon

BOCCE NEWS

Second Season Starts October 18, 2015



With the long, hot, wet summer behind us, we'll be gathering again to play bocce each Sunday at 1:30 at The Conservation Foundation of the Gulf Coast, located at 400 Palmetto Ave., Osprey. Come join us for our second season of fun at this beautiful location right on the Bay. Remember to bring chairs to sit and something to drink, alcohol is allowed, as are dogs.

The Conservation Foundation is having a Fall Festival at its location on Saturday, November 7, from 11:00 to 3:00. About 1000 participants are expected. Our Club is honored to have been asked to participate by teaching kids and adults how to play the game of bocce. Shuttle trolleys will be transporting attendees from the 2 churches located on Highway 41 to the park, as there is not enough parking to accommodate all those expected. Why not come by that day to check out all the activities and see how the bocce students are doing? We could use some encouragement! This will be great exposure for our club as well, helping folks to know we exist. Club tee shirts are being planned. More info will be forthcoming.

If you need information about bocce, call Doris or Tom Hurban at 941-966-2745, or Tom's cell 908-507-3048. We look forward to enjoying another great season of bocce!

FROM THE SUNSHINE LADY: ISABEL ISTORICO



Congratulations were sent to President Anthony and his wife Mabel who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with family and friends over a long weekend in Chicago, IL.

NOVEMBER ITALIAN BARBECUE AND BOCCE EVENT

We promised that we would reschedule the "Italian Barbecue & Bocce Event" since so many members are not here in the summertime and some members felt it would be too hot in July.



Menu: President Anthony will be grilling homemade Italian sausages while VP Joe will be handling the peppers and onions; GCICS will provide the paper products Italian rolls and condiments (e.g., ketchup, salt/pepper). Anthony and Joe will be serving up these goodies.

What You Should Bring: A side dish to serve 6-8; and whatever you wish to drink. Also bring chairs, hats for the sun and sunscreen.

Title: Italian Barbecue & Bocce Event

Date/Time: Sunday Nov 8, 2015 1:00-5:00 pm

Location: Bocce Court at Spanish Point

Point of Contact: Joe Moccia: marymoccia@verizon.net

Donation: The event is a fundraiser for our Scholarship Program, therefore we are requesting a voluntary contribution of \$15.00 per adult which you would send to Joe Moccia as your RSVP (Joe has moved; his new address is: 705 Whitfield Ave., Sarasota, FL 34243)



"GIFT CERTIFICATES DONATED FOR SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISING"

One of our Board members, Linda Mercurio, has been busy visiting Sarasota merchants and requesting gift certificates for our Scholarship Fundraising initiatives. She has been most successful and we want to acknowledge the merchants who have provided certificates to date.

Certificates raffled off during Scholarship Brunch in April 2015:

- * Mona Lisa
- * Casa Italia
- * Tin Fish
- * Kacey's Seafood & More
- * McCurdy's Comedy Theatre

Certificates to be raffled off during our 2015-2016 functions:

- | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| * Primo's | * Miguel's | *Bonefish Grill |
| * Valentino's | * Andrea's | *The Melting Pot |
| * Patrick's | * Blase Cafe | *Dolce Italia |
| * Sardinia | * Apollonia Grill | *E'Carato |
| * Corner Grill | * El Greco | *Italian Grill |
| * Saltwater Cafe | * Cafe Amici | *Demetrios |
| * Giuseppe's | * Chianti Ristorante | *Flavio's Brick Oven |
| * Carrabba's | Italiano | *Schnitzel Kitchen |
| * Rev-el-ry Pub & Grill | * Oil & Vinegar (retail | *Ophelia's On the Bay |
| * Captain Brian's | store) | *Blue Rooster |
| * Cafe Baci | * Big Cat Habitat | |
| * Cafe Gabbiano | (sightseeing venue) | |

IN MEMORIUM



Four of the Society's long-standing and dedicated members passed away during the recent months.

- 1) Anthony Zara passed away on June 22, 2015. A memorial service was held on July 30, 2015 at St. Martha's Catholic Church, Sarasota.
- 2) Tony and Arden Fowler recently passed away. Arden Fowler passed away on July 1, 2015 in High Springs, Florida. Her husband, Tony, preceded her in death in April. A memorial service will be held in November on Longboat Key. Arden, with the help of Ann Stephenson and George Bledsoe, founded the Gloria Musicae Singers in 1979. She loved Italy and wrote a book entitled "Italy, My Beautiful Obsession".
- 3) Mario Mariani's "Celebration of Life" will be held on October 10, 2015 from 2-4 pm at the home of Jerry and Lee Ross, 3640 Longmeadow Drive, Sarasota, FL 34235 (941-388-1188). To quote Mario's wife, "It is said that his tenor voice was beautiful and heard all over the USA." Please RSVP to Mario's wife, Cathy @ 941-735-0798.



Additionally, we would like to acknowledge the passing of the following persons:

- 1) Jack Ahern, husband of Linda Ahern who is our Restaurant Coordinator. Services were held in August in Illinois.
- 2) Thomas Spero, companion of Mary Lou Ferrari, a GCICS member. He passed away after a long illness. Services were held in Broomall, Pennsylvania at St. Luke's Orthodox Church.

Welcome *New Member*

MARCO MAZZONI: I'm a native Italian born in 1985 in Bologna, located in the Emilia-Romagna region. During the years spent in Italy, immediately after graduating from high school, Marco attended the University of Bologna, studying Education while working in the fashion retail business. He was able to build his way up after working for several fashion brands including Prada, and eventually he became the store manager for one of the local luxury boutiques. His interest in business grew little by little through those years while the Italian economy started drowning. In 2010, Marco decided to leave Italy to begin a new career and a new path in the USA. Arriving alone in the USA was not easy but with time Marco managed to live, work and study in NYC. While studying Business Administration at the City University of NY, he had the honor of working for YOOX, one of the largest emerging companies in the e-commerce sector, managing the websites of Alexander Wang and Armani. Marco relocated to Sarasota in March 2015 and now an exciting new chapter has begun!

Marco tells us that his favorite hobbies are cooking (having the chance to get to know Marcella Hazan was one of the most enriching experiences of his life) and musical theatre. Since he was very young he cultivated his passion for singing from being a member of the Antoniano Choir in Bologna to playing several roles in the college production of a few Broadway musicals. Marco wishes to thank each member of the GCICS for welcoming him into our Society with open arms and helping him since the first day – a special thanks to Mr. & Mrs. Esposito, Mr. Moccia, Dr. Roderick and Rabbi Aiello. Marco will do his best to update and maximize all the potential of our website!

SCHOLARSHIP CORNER

The following is an excerpt from an email that was sent to Past President Bill Korp.

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Korp,

April 18, 2015

Thank you so much for the very special opportunity to participate in the *Gulf Coast Italian Culture Society* (GCICS) scholarship program. I am so grateful to have been selected as a recipient of a 2015 college scholarship from such a wonderful organization. The Scholarship "Festa" Brunch with the members of GCICS at the *Stoneybrook Golf and Country Club* was a wonderful experience and a momentous occasion which I will cherish and remember forever.

When I began the process of applying for the *Gulf Coast Italian Culture Society* (GCICS) scholarship, little did I know that the experience would develop into a journey of discovery deep into my Italian roots? For that, I am grateful to you – for opening my eyes to my Italian heritage. I truly AM proud to be an Italian-American!

Again, thank you so much for impacting my world in so many positive and memorable ways.

With much appreciation,

Mark J. Simat

2015 – 2016 GCICS Italian Classes



Location: Bay Village, 8400 Vamo Road, Sarasota, FL 34231, Telephone: 941 966 5611

Conditions of usage: Guests must park below, immediately to the left of the gate upon entry. Either walk up the stairs or the road to the main entrance. Participants must sign in at reception and wear a name tag the entire time in the building. Absolutely forbidden, food or any beverage including bottled water brought into the meeting room.

Directions to the room location: After sign-in at reception, proceed to the left. Just after the elevators, (in front of the gift shop) turn left and proceed half-way down the hall. The room we meet in is on the right (just past the computer room and just before the mailroom). The room is almost directly across from the restroom.

Textbook information: Book may be purchased on line. Barnes and Noble sometimes has this book in stock. It is appreciated that students have the book for the start of these sessions.

Book information: Italian: A Self-Teaching Guide by Edoardo A. Lèbano, Publisher John Wiley & Sons, Inc. , copyright 2000, ISBN 978-0-471-35961-6

Note: Conversation classes will start in October. Language classes will NOT start until November.

Monday class times are:

Beginning Italian 12:00-1:00

Intermediate Italian 1:00-2:00

Conversation Class 2:00-4:00

Dates:

October 19, 26 (Conversation classes only this month; 2:00-4:00 pm)

November 2, 9, 16, 23

NO CLASSES in December.

January 11, *18, 25 ***Deadline for any new members in Beginning Italian is January 18**

February 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

March 7, 14, 21, 28

April 4, 11, 18, 25

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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

RESTAURANTS OFFERING 10% DISCOUNT TO MEMBERS
PLEASE PATRONIZE THESE RESTAURANTS

Café Americano	365-1026
1409 Main St., Sarasota	
Café Amici	951-6897
1371 Main St., Sarasota	
Café Baci	921-4848
4001 Tamiami Tr., Sarasota	
D'Corato	330-1300
322 So. Washington Blvd., Sarasota	
Mona Lisa	377-6562
4989 Ringwood Meadow, Sarasota	
Phila. Cheesesteaks & Hoagies	926-0441
7523 S. Tamiami Tr., Sarasota	
Piatti Italian Bistro	923-5570
6630 Gateway Ave., Sarasota	
Primo Ristorante	359-3690
8076 N. Tamiami Tr., Sarasota	
Valentino's	
Cooper Creek Blvd.	359-6400
Clark Road	921-9600

GCICS PATCHES

GCICS has patches with our logo for sale. These logos have a safety pin attached on the back. Therefore, they can be attached to any garment. The patches will be great to wear at our events and bocce tournaments. Please contact Joe Moccia at 387-2039 if you are interested in purchasing one for \$7.