

LA VOCE DI GCICS

GULF COAST ITALIAN CULTURE SOCIETY, INC.

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

WWW.GCICS.ORG

May 2019



President's Message

As I write this message GCICS is finishing one of its most successful seasons in our history.

Our membership has grown now to 182 members. Our events are well attended. The Scholarship Luncheon at Tara Country Club included our members and scholarship recipients and their families and honored guests totaling almost 90 people.

Dr. Tanasi filled the room at the Community Foundation with a standing ovation for his lecture. Board members hosted Dr. Tanasi for dinner following the presentation at Season's 52. Great discussion was held about the work he is doing at USF. As an archaeologist specializing in ancient Sicily,

he had the audience spellbound and received a standing ovation from the 90 some members attending the lecture. Dr. Tanasi promised us he will return for future presentations. Thanks again to Bill Korp, a member of "Time Sifters" for introducing us to Dr. Tanasi and to George Arfield for setting up this wonderful presentation.

I am so proud of the progress we have made and look forward to the 2019-2020 season with great anticipation and pride.

Until next time...

Ciao...

Sheryl Lazzarotti, President



2019-2020 GCICS EVENTS
By: Ellen Roderick, GCICS Secretary

The GCICS Board of Directors continues to make plans for the next program year. Let me ask you to take out your 2019 & 2020 calendars and mark the following dates for some very exciting activities.

*** *Sunday, Oct 27, 2019:***

Italian Cultural Heritage Month Welcome Back Luncheon: time and location to be determined (TBD).

*** *Sunday, Nov 3, 2019:***

Welcome Back Bocce Picnic (1:00 pm): @ Bocce Court, Osprey. (CONFIRMED)

*** *Sat, Nov 16, 2019:***

Sarasota Youth Opera Performance (*Brundibar*) (5:30 pm) @ Opera House followed by dinner: location to be announced. (CONFIRMED)

*** *Sunday, Dec 15, 2019:***

Holiday Dinner Party & Scholarship Fundraiser (5:30-9:00 pm) @ home of Dr. Noel & Ms. Eileen Chiantella, No. Venice (\$30+bring a dish & wine). (CONFIRMED)

*** *Friday, Jan 10, 2020:***

Annual Meeting/Lunch/Town Hall/Film (11:30-2:30 pm); location TBD.

*** *Saturday, Feb 8, 2020:***

Bocce Invitational V (1:00 pm); @ The Cascades (Lockwood Ridge Rd); Bocce competition followed by pizza/salad/dessert dining and music for your entertainment (including dancing). (CONFIRMED)

*** *Tuesday, Feb 25, 2020:***

Mardi Gras/Carnevale Party & Scholarship Fundraiser (5:30-9:00 pm); location TBD, (\$30+bring a dish & wine).

*** *Sunday, March 15, 2020:***

St. Joseph's Feast Day Celebration (12-3 pm) @ Cafe Baci. (CONFIRMED)

*** *Palm Sunday, April 5, 2020:***

Scholarship Awards Brunch (10:30 – 1:00 pm) @ Tara Golf & Country Club. (CONFIRMED)

Dr. Tanasi Lecture



Dr. Davide Tanasi shares with a roomful of GCICS members and guests on April 12, 2019 at the Community Foundation of Sarasota County his latest findings on the ancient origins of the “Mediterranean Diet” and winemaking in Sicily. Dr. Tanasi, a native of Noto, Sicily, teaches at the University of South Florida and divides his time between the Tampa campus and several archaeological digs in the Mediterranean Sea.

BOCCE CORNER NEWS

We wish everyone, especially our bocce snowbirds, a safe journey to and from their summertime destinations. The overhead ceiling fans at the pavilion are not working. Discussions are taking place with The Conservation Foundation concerning our help with their replacement. Having the fans in working condition is vital to those utilizing the court over the summer. Last Sunday we had a dozen members come out for play. Come join us all you new members! Play will continue each Sunday, weather permitting. There are no conflicts for our use of the court until October 20th. I again thank Jerry Hall for going over each Sunday morning to prep the court and surrounding area.

**Have a great summer!
Tom Hurban, Bocce Chair**

La Cena



Please mark your calendars for the next GCICS fine dining event and, if planning to attend, e-mail George Arfield directly. By popular demand it will be held at "Chef Rolf's New Florida Kitchen," a destination with a reputation for serving delicious seafood specialties prepared by its Swiss-American owner-chef.

WHAT: La Cena Event

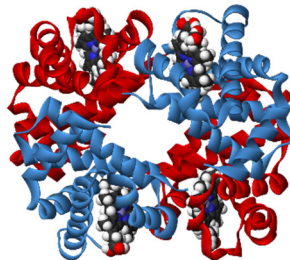
WHEN: Thursday May 30th, 2019 at 7:00 pm EDT

WHERE "Chef Rolf's New Florida Kitchen": 2001 Siesta Drive, Sarasota, FL 34236
(Just north of the intersection of US 41 and Siesta Drive, adjacent to Fleming's).

PARKING: Parking lot; valet available.

SEATING: Limited to 30 guests so if you plan to attend please email your reservation to George Arfield (arfield@yahoo.com) as soon as possible.

DETAILS: <https://www.chefrolf.us/>



2019 Scholarship Awards Luncheon

April 14, 2019



The 2019 Scholarship Brunch was held at The Tara Golf and Country Club located in Bradenton. This was a new location for our annual Awards Brunch since we had outgrown our previous location at Stoneybrook Golf and Country Club. Our attendance at this event, I am happy to say, has increased this year which reflects our growth, as our club has acquired many new members. So I can say that we had a great turnout, 91 persons in attendance which consisted of 63 members and 28 awardees and guests.

This was my first year as a member of the board acting as Scholarship Chairperson. I have served on the scholarship committee under Linda Ahern's direction for the previous two years. I am honored to serve in this position and very grateful to Linda for suggesting me as a candidate. She has been a valuable mentor and I am so appreciative that she was able to share her insights and her experiences. So, Linda thank you for all your help. I am so appreciative.

The scholarship committee consisted of six terrific members, all of whom contributed to choosing our extraordinary six recipients. It's so important to have many minds reading the same applications. Sometimes it is obvious as to whom we would choose right from the beginning, and then it happens that it's a toss-up between two, and often becomes a difficult choice. However, even when it appears that a difficult choice has to be made, it turns out to be the right one. Just think about it, we gave a scholarship to a future chemical engineer, a future teacher, a future computer engineer, a future politician, a future veterinarian and a writer. It doesn't get much better than that. And OH! Massimo and the bagpipes, what a treat!

I would like to say thank you to all of them for doing a great job and lending their time, expertise and knowledge. The six this year are Linda Ahern, Vin DeNicolas, Christina Failla, MaryLou Ferrari, Lucille Samartin and myself. I would also like to include Carol Hall for her work in enhancing our Scholarship Award Certificate and producing our program. They were magnificent! Thank you, Carol.

Now a little about Tara. I was delighted with Tara, and I hope all who attended felt the same. There was a vast variety of brunch foods to choose from, including caviar (for the more

discriminating palette) and of course possibly no different than Stoneybrook, a choice between a Bloody Mary, Mimosa or Champagne. The drive into the complex was surrounded with beautiful red flowers; it was glorious!

Now for the event itself! We were able to give six scholarships to six very deserving seniors representing six area high schools. The students along with their respective schools are as follows:

Catherine Alvaro - Pine View School

Angela Baldino - Lakewood Ranch High School

Wyatt Ehrhardt - Venice High School

Massimo Giannini - Riverview High School

Sydney Hill - Cardinal Mooney High School

Seth Morano - Booker High School

Mark Finley, who was an award recipient last year, had agreed to speak at our brunch. He advised our soon to be graduating recipients that they would be on their own, and would not have anyone making sure they got to class or worked as they should - no more parents pushing them along to do the right thing. He also said that those that made it here are most likely dedicated and committed to doing well and most likely would not be skipping classes or doing anything that would jeopardize their future. We thank Mark for his wise words.

Massimo Giannini entertained all of us with his bagpiping. This was an enormous surprise to our audience and I believe everyone enjoyed it immensely. They were forewarned, that although bagpipes weren't necessarily about Italian culture, however, when your name is Massimo Giannini and you happened to be one of this year's 2019 recipients, well, bring on the bagpipes!!!!!!

We enjoyed a wonderful and satisfying brunch which was followed by the award ceremony. It was an opportunity to be introduced to our award winners along with meeting their family members and friends that were present to celebrate their children's accomplishments. These six students are quite extraordinary. They are not only scholastically remarkable but are the epitome of what we all hope our children will become.

Linda Mercurio along with Pam Arfield sold raffle tickets and as always it was a huge success. Everyone seemed to enjoy it. We were able to add over \$800.00 toward next year's scholarships. Thank you Linda and Pam!

George Arfield was our photographer for this event and took group photos. Thank you, George!

Penny Thomas initiated the Pledge of Allegiance and Tom Hurban gave the blessing.

Sheryl Lazzarotti, our GCICS President, addressed our members and guests to give us her many words of encouragement and entertained us with one of her favorite songs. We all thank her not only for her talents but helping in making decisions; she is the voice of reason while always keeping in mind our mission.

I owe a special thank you to Ellen Roderick who helped in so many ways. She volunteered her expertise and agreed to collect all the money and did the difficult job of organizing the seating.

She worked closely with Tara's events manager to ensure a successful event. Ellen also helped with the organization of the program. Well what else can I say, except that Ellen is a pro!

Finally, I would like to thank all the members that came and supported this event, which of course is the core of the GCICS mission. We look forward to an even more successful event in 2020!

Julie Bondarenko
Scholarship Chair



Julie Bondarenko greets members and guests at the 2019 GCICS Scholarship Awards Ceremony held April 14, 2019 at Tara Golf and Country Club.



Scholarship winner Massimo Giannini delighted the guests by opening the proceedings as he marched into the dining area playing the bagpipe



Julie Bondarenko, 2019 Scholarship Committee Chair; Catherine Alvaro (Pine View School); Angela Baldino (Lakewood Ranch HS); Sydney Hill (Cardinal Mooney HS); Seth Morano (Booker HS); Wyatt Ehrhardt (Venice HS); Massimo Giannini (Riverview HS) and Sheryl Lazzarotti, GCICS President.



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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

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.

- 1) Shaner's at Gulf Gate: 927-2708*
- 2) Minnie's Beach Café: 778-4140
- 3) Birdrock Taco Shackzz: 545-9966 *
- 4) Bridge Tender: 778-4849*
- 5) Francesco's New York Pizzeria & Ristorante: 929-7600 *
- 6) The Italian Grill: 966-6565 *
- 7) Brancato: 896-6922
- 8) Verona's: 753-7008
- 9) Sugar Cubed (new location): 251-4092 *
- 10) Lucarelli's: 445-7755*
- 11) San Remo: 749-0105*
- 12) Cafe Roma (new): 706-2354
- 13) Casa Di Pizza: 359-2300?*
- 14) Fratello's Chicago Pizzeria: 794-0300 *
- 15) Umbrellas 1296 (next to the opera): 500-4810
- 16) Scarpino's: 756-8100 *
- 17) Ruth Chris: 924-9442 *