

LA VOCE DI GCICS

GULF COAST ITALIAN CULTURE SOCIETY, INC.

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

WWW.GCICS.ORG

September 2020



Greetings to my fellow GCICS Members,

We sincerely hope that you are experiencing continued good health during this pandemic. We have stayed the course, faithfully wearing masks, doing frequent hand washing, and practicing social distancing. These COVID-19 precautions have helped lessen the spread of the virus amongst us. At the same time, we are missing our get togethers, happy hours, language classes and so many other interactions. We are saddened that we are not able to plan face-to-face events this fall. We will miss our “in person” October Welcome Back Luncheon, Bocce Picnic, Sarasota Youth Opera Evening, and Christmas/Holiday Celebration. How exciting it always was to be reunited with our GCICS friends as they returned to Sarasota for “the season.” We have had to reconcile this disappointment as we adjust to our new normal.

However, we are excited about uniting VIRTUALLY so that we may continue to foster our relationships despite the necessity to keep a safe distance. After all, we are a family and we have concern for one another. It allows us to rise to the occasion and continue our mission. We must continue to strengthen our bonds. We are of the same mindset. Our Society is built upon a true concern for all our members, the city in which we live, and all whom we have helped. This only happens because of your generosity, time, and energy that you have contributed to our GCICS community.

The GCICS Board has decided that we will conduct events and meetings virtually at least through Dec 31, 2020. We will use Zoom technology or other virtual solutions. Let us put on our thinking caps and plan perhaps a Zoom happy hour, or a Zoom demonstration by a member to exhibit a hobby or artistic talent, whether it be cooking, handicrafts, or

book of interest. I know many of you would enjoy an opportunity to share hobbies and other accomplishments with your fellow members. As we progress through the fall, the Board will look toward what is possible in the winter and spring.

Although it may be difficult to realize a silver lining, I believe it is there. Let us put our best foot forward and continue to weave the thread of friendship and sharing. We hope to hear your ideas. Thank you to all.

Julie Bondarenko
GCICS President

Dr. Davide Tanasi Presents First GCICS Zoom-Based Culture Lecture

The social gathering precautions mandated by the persistent COVID19 pandemic led GCICS to cancel scheduled cultural talks in Sarasota and transfer them, smoothly as it happened, to the Zoom social media platform. The results, fueled by the popularity of Dr. Davide Tanasi's past presentation, exceeded expectations

Fifty-two members signed up to tune into the June 26 talk "Bigger Fish to Fry: Fishing and Fish Consumption in Archaic Greek Sicily" and while we recorded 45 sign-ins, several were watched by more than one person.

Speaking from a location in Tampa, Dr. Tanasi captured the imagination of his audience with a fascinating illustrated combination of the very old (archaeology) and the very new (bio-molecular archeology).

We learned that fish, particularly that caught in waters off Sicily, spawned a "culinary culture [that] was recognized for having a significant impact on the palates of the Greeks" who populated much of the island. Dr. Tanasi and his team worked on sites with remnants dating back to the 6th and 5th centuries BC to "reconstruct dietary habits of hundreds of individuals."

As in the past, Dr. Tanasi generously further donated his know-how and time to a Q&A period following his presentation.

We are currently exploring additional Zoom-based cultural sessions, both originating live from Italy. You will be informed as soon as these can be firmed up.



Dr. Davide Tanasi at a dig in Sicily

BOCCE CORNER NEWS



The bocce court at the Conservation Foundation grounds recently had improvement work done by members Vin DeNicolas, Jerry Hall and Tom Hurban. Har-tru surfacing material was placed on the court and the extra unused material was placed in a storage shed on site. Players feel the surface is smoother and truer and are quite happy with the result.

Because of the corona virus, our Club is NOT sponsoring weekly play. However, “friends” are gathering each Sunday from 2-4 for unofficial games. We usually can finish a few rounds before the afternoon thunderstorms.

Sadly, I have to announce that we are not having our fall welcome back picnic. This has always been a Club highlight held the first Sunday in November. I’m certain you can understand the Board’s decision not to place anyone in jeopardy from this darn virus!! Making our decision easier was the canceling of the Fall Festival the Conservation Foundation held the day before. Although our Club participated in this event by teaching bocce to children, we also benefited by being able to use tables and chairs left there for our use on Sunday. This was a HUGE help to us. All of our lives have been greatly affected! We must be diligent in protecting ourselves and others. Sorry about this cancellation!

Tom Hurban
Bocce Chair

SCHOLARSHIP CORNER



GCICS 2020 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Hannah Ford

Sarasota Military Academy; attending Xavier University, Cincinnati, OH

Robert Imperiale

Venice High School; attending University of South Florida, Tampa, FL

Graham Lewis

Southeast High School; attending Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA

Isabella Sanchez

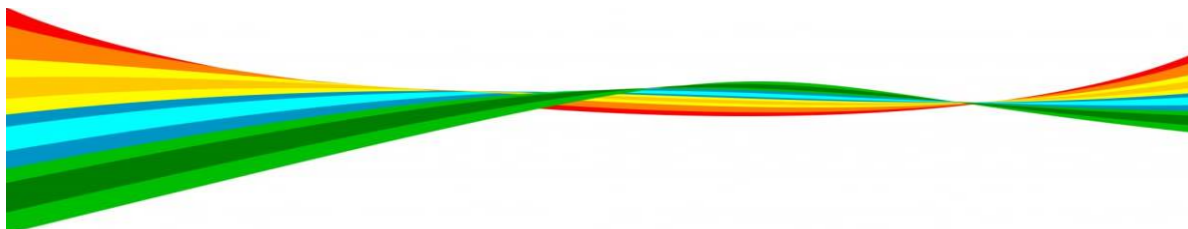
Manatee High School; attending University of Florida, Gainesville, FL

Daniel Staas

Venice High School; attending Georgetown University, Washington, DC

Nina Volpe

Pine View School; attending High Point University, High Point, NC



Thank You Letters from the Sarasota Opera and Sarasota Ballet



SARASOTA OPERA

VICTOR DeRENZI, Artistic Director
RICHARD RUSSELL, Executive Director

June 10, 2020

Gulf Coast Italian Culture Society, Inc.
PO Box 2591
Sarasota, FL 34230-2591

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you so very much for your contribution of \$1,000.00 at the Youth Opera Sponsor level to our nationally recognized Sarasota Youth Opera Program! Your gift supports our unique youth programming including our after-school choruses, Opera Summer Camp, and especially our annual Youth Opera production - the only one of its kind in the US. The program makes a profound difference in the lives of over 150 young people each year. You make it possible with your support.

We are proud that the Sarasota Youth Opera Program offers all interested students, regardless of musical experience or financial need, the opportunity to immerse themselves in the world of opera and the joy of singing. Thanks to your generosity, the experience these students take away from the program benefits them for the rest of their lives.

If you have any questions regarding your support or benefits, please feel free to contact Brenda Tamm, Individual Giving Officer at (941) 366-8450 ext. 250 or btamm@sarasotaopera.org.

Most sincerely yours,

Stacy Ridenour
Director of Development

Your contribution receipt is included on the back of this letter.



June 25, 2020

Ms. Sheryl Lazzarotti
Gulf Coast Italian Culture Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 2591
Sarasota, FL 34230

"The company [The Sarasota Ballet] confirms further the extraordinary trajectory they have been on over the past ten years, ten years which have witnessed nothing less than the Sarasota Miracle." – Gerald Dowler, Ballet 2000

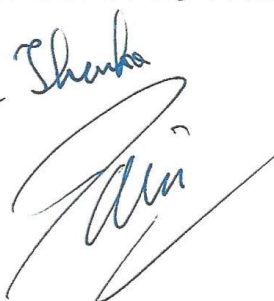
Dear Ms. Lazzarotti:

I want to take this opportunity to personally thank the Gulf Coast Italian Culture Society, Inc. for their support of The Sarasota Ballet's *Dance – The Next Generation* Program through the gift of \$1,000.00, received 6/24/2020.

Your support of our *Dance – The Next Generation* Program is so appreciated. Your gift will directly support all facets of our DNG program including, but not limited to classroom supplies, dance uniforms and shoes, staff salaries, and student transportation.

We are honored to have earned your support of this important program. Thank you for sharing our passion as we continue to shape the lives of our students through the beauty and discipline of dance.

Kind regards,

With My Sincere Thanks


Iain Webb
Director

Please consider this letter a permanent receipt for your contribution. Year-end notices will be sent only upon request. No goods or services were given in exchange for this contribution to The Sarasota Ballet of Florida. The Sarasota Ballet of Florida, Inc. (SC #02649), meets all requirements specified by the Florida Solicitation of Contribution Act. The Sarasota Ballet of Florida does not contract professional solicitors, 100% of each contribution is received by The Sarasota Ballet of Florida.

A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE (800-435-7352) WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.

GCICS Membership Renewal: A Call for 2020-2021 Dues



Dear GCICS Members,

It is time to renew your GCICS membership. Because our Fiscal Year begins on Oct 1, 2020, we are collecting dues now. Individual membership is \$35, while family membership is \$60. The GCICS Membership Renewal Form is on the next page for sending dues and perhaps a scholarship donation. Please print the form and send it with your check to the address shown on the form. *We do welcome scholarship donations.* If you are unable to print the form, simply put the information on a piece of paper. Deadline for dues submission is **Nov 30, 2020.**

Do's & Don'ts:

1. Do send your dues/scholarship donation to: GCICS, P.O. Box 2591, Sarasota, FL 34230.
2. Don't give your dues/scholarship donation to another member and ask him/her to include it in their check. This creates problems.
3. Do honor the date of Nov 30, 2020.
4. If you decide NOT TO RENEW, please let me know so that I will no longer send reminders to you. Thank you.

Heads-Up: Due to the virus and our goal of protecting your safety and well-being, we will have virtual programs/events ONLY through Dec 31, 2020 and possibly beyond. President Julie addresses the matter in her "President's Message". Soon, we will be announcing new virtual events. We welcome your continued support of GCICS. Thank you.

Ellen Roderick
GCICS Secretary

10/1/2020 - 9/30/2021 RENEWAL FORM

DEAR MEMBERS,

Membership covers the fiscal year that begins on October 1 of one year and ends on September 30 of the next year. If you initially joined GCICS on or after March 1, 2020, your membership is automatically extended through September 30, 2021. Dues must be received no later than November 30, 2020.

☐ Individual Membership (\$35) ☐ Family Membership (\$60)

☐ Donation to Scholarship Fund

Select One: BOOSTER ☐ \$20-\$49 DONOR ☐ \$50-\$99

PATRON ☐ \$100-\$249 SPONSOR ☐ \$250-\$499 ANGEL ☐ \$500-\$999

BENEFACTOR ☐ \$1000+

Membership Amount \$ _____

Scholarship Amount \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Name(s)

Street Address

City, State, Zip

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

Areas of special interest and personal talents you would like to share with the group

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

**Please write "Membership" in lower left corner of your envelope & mail completed form
and check to GCICS, PO Box 2591, Sarasota, FL 34230**

The Gulf Coast Italian Culture Society, Inc. (GCICS) is an IRS recognized Sec. 501(c) (3) tax exempt organization and a FL. registered charity. A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING 1-800-435-7352 TOLL FREE WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. The registration number of GCICS is: CH7166. It receives 100% of each contribution.

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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

Sheryl Lazzarotti 2016-2020



You won't want to miss the first GCICS virtual trans-Atlantic cultural event -- an illustrated conversation with Rosalie Gallinaro, author of a collection of impressions as a full-time resident in the hills of Tuscany.

WHEN: Thursday, September 17, 2020, 2:00 – 4:00 pm EDT

WHERE: Wherever you are with your computer, tablet or smartphone and connected to wi-fi.

The next announcement will provide details along with the reservation process. Stay well and stay tuned!

George Arfield
GCICS Social & Cultural Chair