

# LA VOCE DI GCICS

GULF COAST ITALIAN CULTURE SOCIETY, INC.

PO BOX 2591, SARASOTA, FL 34230

WWW.GCICS.ORG

February 2014



Baseball fans know that “Tony C” denotes Tony Conigilero, the early 60’s Red Sox outfielder; here in GCICS it denotes Tony Cagliostro board member, vice-president and scholarship chair. At a special meeting, on January 22, the Board accepted Tony’s resignation as vice-president and unanimously elected Anthony Esposito to fill the vacancy. More of that later.

Tony’s not ill. He is just slowing down a bit. He will continue to serve on the Board and remain as Scholarship Chairman through Fiscal Year 2014. Every president should have a vice-president like Tony. He does the work and I get the credit. Over the three years or so we that have served GCICS together, he has worked to improve not only the scholarship program but other events as well. His knowledge of Italian has enabled our responses to letters, such as from the Italian Consulate, to be grammatically correct. Some members do, however, chafe at his disdain for dialect on our event menus. Tony is a good person, good friend

and our hardest working member and I hate to see him cutting back.

At the January 22<sup>nd</sup> Board meeting, the GCICS Bylaws were amended to call for the election of officers in October rather than January or February. This will result in stability of the executive officers during the entire fiscal year. As a consequence, the Board decided to retain the other current officers until their successors are elected in October.

As we proceed with our activities in 2014, the Board hopes, and expects, to recruit both current and new members to become more involved in the Society’s operations and events. A Board planning meeting will be scheduled during February. If anyone is interested in attending, please e-mail our secretary, Ellen Roderick ([itrain@erols.com](mailto:itrain@erols.com)) to let her know.

Bill Korp



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Valentine's Day Dinner Dance



On Friday, February 14, 2014 the GCICS will celebrate Valentine's Day at the Lido Beach Holiday Inn. Dine and dance to live music. Please make every effort to come and enjoy yourself with your fellow members!

### MENU

#### APPETIZERS

*CHEESE AND FRUIT TRAY*

#### SALAD

*Garden Salad With Choice of Dressing*

#### ENTRÉE

*(Choose One)*

Served With Chef's Selections of Accompaniments

1. Roasted Sliced Tenderloin of Beef with Bordelaise Sauce
2. Baked Tilapia Filet with Artichokes, Basil, and Fresh Tomatoes

#### DESSERTS

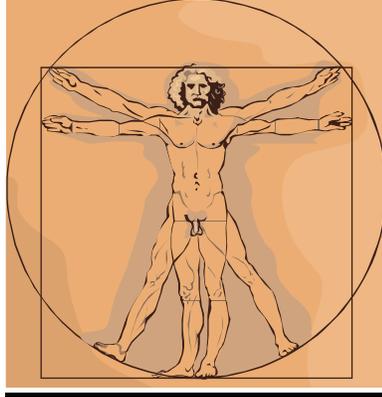
*Assorted Desserts and Holiday Cookies*

*Non-Alcoholic Beverages Include: Hot Coffee, Hot Tea, and Iced Tea*

*CASH BAR*

**WHAT:** Valentine's Day Dinner Dance  
**When:** Friday, February 14, 2014  
**WHERE:** Holiday Inn on Lido Beach  
**TIME:** 6:00 pm  
**COST:** \$45 per person  
**RESERVE:** Connie Campisi, 739 Shadow Bay Way, Osprey, FL. 34229 (phone: 918-8969)  
 Note: Write choice of entrée on check.

## DaVinci Machines Exhibiton



On Tuesday, February 25, 2014, the CGICS will sponsor a tour of the DaVinci Machines Exhibition located at the Bradenton Auditorium. In front of the auditorium is street level parking which has easy access from the car into the exhibit. We will assemble at 2:00 PM for a docent-led tour followed by a movie. For those who would like lunch, there is an excellent restaurant, "Pier 22," on the water just blocks from the exhibit. They will do separate checks. Reservations for lunch is 12:15 PM.

### OPTIONAL LUNCH

**WHERE:** Pier 22 Restaurant  
**LOCATION:** 1200 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue West, Bradenton, Fl. 34205  
**TIME:** 12:15 pm  
**COST:** Individual Checks  
**RESERVE:** Indicate lunch on check

### PROGRAM

**WHAT:** The DaVinci Machines Exhibition  
**WHERE:** The Bradenton Auditorium, 1005 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue West, Bradenton, FL. 34205  
**TIME:** 2:00 PM  
**COST:** \$11 PER PERSON  
**RESERVE:** Make checks payable to GCICS and mail to:  
 Joe Moccia, 536 Ketch Lane, Longboat Key, FL. 34228, 941-387-2039  
**DEADLINE:** Friday, February 21, 2014

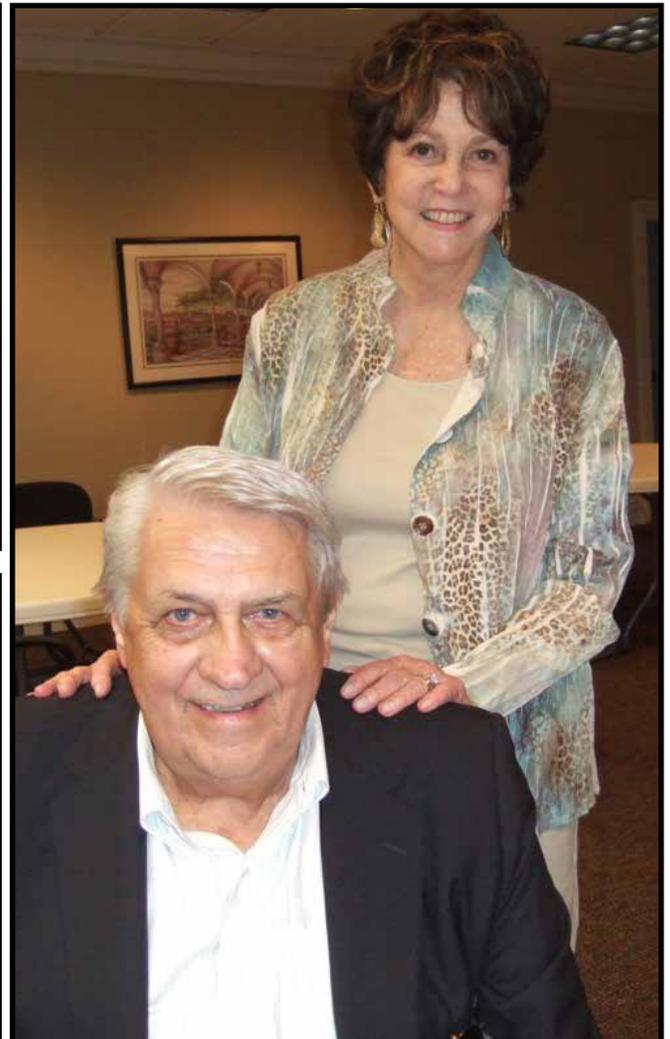
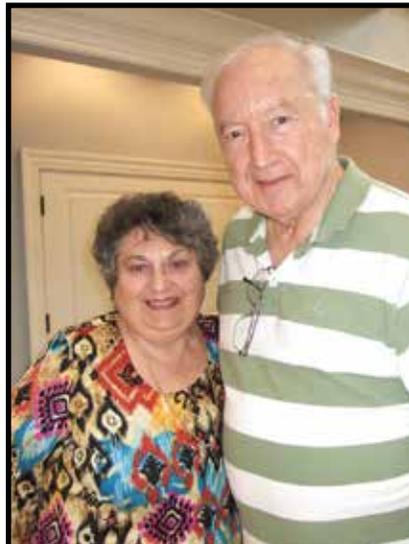
### **NOTE:**

Joe needs a COUNT FOR LUNCH so he can make the reservation. Please remember to indicate the number of people for lunch on your check.

### GCICS TOWN HALL MEETING REVIEW: JANUARY 10, 2014

By: Ellen Roderick, GCICS Secretary

We laughed and laughed. We were so very amused by the film Bill Korp (GCICS President) selected for us. The movie was **“Pranzo di Ferragosto” (“Mid-August Lunch”)**, a **2002 sunny comedy from Italy**. We dined and chatted, enjoying a catered luncheon of pulled pork, rolls, coleslaw, baked beans, iced tea, lemonade, coffee, and cookies – selected by Mary Rinaldi, Anthony Esposito and myself. Thirty-nine (39) members and three (3) guests had a grand time visiting, dining, sharing their input and enjoying the movie. Nine of twelve Board members were present to LISTEN to input from our members.



# WELCOME

## NEW MEMBERS

Leita Kaldi Davis (nee Bevacqua) worked at UNESCO in Paris, the UN in New York, and Tufts and Harvard Universities. She was a Peace Corps Volunteer in Senegal, and a hospital administrator in Haiti. She has written two books on those experiences, Roller Skating in the Desert and In the Valley of Atibon. She contributes a “Lettera dall’America” to Il Grillo Parlante in Calabria. Leita’s interest in Italian American history stems from her own family background, from years in Italy, and from a constant interest in and love of Italians.

Leita will be conducting a course at USF’S Lifelong Learning Academy beginning March 4 on “La Storia: Five Hundred Years of Italian American Experience.” Please see [www.LLA-SM.org](http://www.LLA-SM.org) for further information.) Mary Amabile Palmer was a guest speaker at the last course, and member of GCICS are cordially invited to the upcoming class.

Also, Leita is coordinator of the UN Women Gulf Coast Chapter Book Club.



Sheryl King Lazzarotti was born in Sterling, Colorado. Her husband Salvatore Lazzarotti was born in his parents’ dining room in Brooklyn, New York. They met in Sarasota, Florida in 1971 when Sheryl was singing with the Turnau Opera Company (the predecessor of the Sarasota Opera Company). That year she was chosen winner of the Metropolitan Opera Southeast region and represented Sarasota in the Metropolitan Opera Auditions in New York.

Sal served as Art Director and Design Director at Guideposts Magazine in New York from the mid 50’s through 1980 winning many awards from the New York Art Directors Club and the Society of Illustrators. In 1980, Sal’s company, The New York Editors and Artists Group, was born in our kitchen in Montclair, New Jersey.

Sheryl’s singing career had many high points. Among them, being a finalist in the first Luciano Pavarotti International Voice competition in Philadelphia in 1980. As family responsibilities grew, and children needed more attention, her career took 2<sup>nd</sup> chair. Thirty years ago Sheryl entered into a new career in real estate management and consulting, working for the “National Realty Trust” (NRT) and the Cendant Corporation. Cendant owns the real estate brands Coldwell Banker, Century 21, ERA, Sothebys, and the Corcoran Group in New York City.

Sheryl lives in Lakewood Ranch, sings in church and volunteers for the Alzheimer’s Foundation. Sal, her husband of 41 years, has Alzheimers Disease and resides at the Springwood Care Center in Sarasota.



New member Joan (Giavanna Simi) DeChellis would like to project a vision of the future instead of giving her history.

“She’s been around for a long time...Long ENUF to know what is truly important in this lifetime on this earth. She would humbly appreciate the opportunity to meet those of Italian Heritage who are intensely proud of that fact. This Tuscana has no favorites. We all, of the many regions of Italy, have contributed to the riches of the world; be it music, literature, science or cuisine. Her hand is outstretched in friendship in the desire to gather together and to bring an Italian flavored peace to God’s glorious creation.”

## **SCHOLARSHIP CORNER**



Amid the holiday season, GCICS received an unsolicited, heart-felt letter of appreciation from one of last year’s scholarship recipients, Andrew Micciche. Andrew’s letter was written to express “thanks” during the season of thanksgiving and to acknowledge GCICS’s generosity in awarding him a scholarship. As Andrew writes, “during the season when gifts are exchanged, I am reminded of the gift you gave me. A chance for success.” Andrew updated us about his progress at USF. He stated, “I currently have 54 credit hours, with DE and AP credits from high school and I currently have a 3.96 GPA with all A’s and one A-.” Andrew also explained that his original major was medical technology but as he indicates “the degree has changed to microbiology to allow me to have a career as a researcher which is what I have wanted to do with my life for so many years.” GCICS is pleased to have received this kind thoughtful letter of gratitude from Andrew and wishes him well. We join him in hoping that, as he puts it, “with a few other gift givers, my career goals can be feasible. Good luck Andrew!

## **THE SUNSHINE LADY – ISABEL ISTORICO**

Get well wishes for a speedy recovery were sent to Pat Corsentino, a past president of GCICS.

**OFFICERS/DIRECTORS****President**

William Korp

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Anthony Esposito

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Anthony Esposito

[AE1943@yahoo.com](mailto:AE1943@yahoo.com)**Secretary:**

Ellen Roderick, PhD

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Frank Coppa

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Patricia Novak

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Aida LaBrutte

[steveaida@aol.com](mailto:steveaida@aol.com)**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

**ITALIAN CLASSES  
2013-2014 SCHEDULE**

Both the language classes and the conversation classes will be held at The Landings in the Sarasota County Schools Administrative Building located at 1950 Landing Boulevard (behind "Sweet Tomato Restaurant").

Basic Italian: Mondays 2:00-4:00 pm

Instructor: Patricia Novak – 941-753-8357

Feb. 2, 10, 17, 24

Mar. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

Apr. 7, 14, 21, 28

Italian Conversation: Wednesdays 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Instructor: Frank & Pina Pergolizzi

Cell: 203-583-2323

Phone: 941-497-5678

Feb. 5, 12, 19, 16

Mar. 5, 12, 19, 26

Apr. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

# SAVE THE

# DATE

**March 7, 2014:**

Art Lecture  
The guest speaker is Dr. Joseph Polizzi  
Sarasota Community Foundation - afternoon

**March 19, 2014:**

Saint Joseph's Day Dinner  
Roskamp - Evening

GCICS  
PO Box 2591  
Sarasota, FL. 34230

<<First Name>> <<Last Name>>  
<<Address>>  
<<City>>, <<State>> <<Zip>>