

LA VOCE DI GCICS

GULF COAST ITALIAN CULTURE SOCIETY, INC.

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

WWW.GCICS.ORG

May 2018



Letter from the President

As I begin writing this season's final "Letter from the President", I do so with a heavy heart. The passing of a loved one is never easy to accept. When it takes you by surprise, it leaves you even more vulnerable and devastated. In this time of sorrow, our thoughts and prayers go out to Ellen Roderick and the grieving family of Gene McLoone whose life was a testament to his strength of will and character and whose passing leaves us all diminished and saddened.

Now, let us turn our thoughts to matters pleasant and upbeat. We held our annual Scholarship Festa on Sunday April 22nd for the recipients of our Scholarship Awards for 2018. In all, six young people are now bound for College with a little help from GCICS in the form of \$1,500 scholarships. The sold out event at the Stoneybrook Country Club in Sarasota was a delightful way to celebrate the success of these young scholars while sending them on their way with hope for their future and a bit of financial aid to lighten their

load. Thanks to the Scholarship Committee, Linda Ahern, Chair, Julie Bondarenko, Vince DeNicolas, Marylou Ferrari and Linda Mercurio for their tireless efforts and discerning judgement in selecting these worthy young students.

Many of our members are beginning to head north for the summer and we wish them safe travels. A number of our members will be traveling on foreign soil and we all want to see pictures upon their return!!! Have a wonderful time.

For those of us who remain here in Florida, we will continue Happy Hours on Mondays at various restaurants and Bocce on Sundays at the Bocce Court at Bay Preserve.

Until we meet again.
ENJOY THE SUMMER!!!
Sheryl

La Cena

Photos by George Arfield

In April, members of GCICS joined together at La Scarpetta restaurant in Sarasota for dinner, drinks and friendship. What a great evening!



Nancy Schubert with GCICS name tags

Scholarship Festa

Article by Jack Norman

On Sunday morning, April 22, 2018, a sold-out crowd of GCICS members attended the club's annual breakfast brunch in honor of our 2018 scholarship recipients. The six scholars being honored came from a wide range of local high schools including Venice H.S., the Sarasota Military Academy and Imagine Academy. Each Scholarship winner will be awarded \$1500, this year, which we are proud to note, represents an increase of \$500 per scholarship over last year. One of the recipients, Frank Pucci, read his moving essay recognizing the achievement and impact of Mother Cabrini in the lives of immigrants at the turn of the 20th century. As usual, the event was a wonderful way to close out another productive year in which GCICS members partied together, shared wonderful food and fellowship, and celebrated a great heritage that binds us together and brings joy and culture to the world.



Chair, Linda Ahern and President Sheryl Lazzarotti with the 2018 scholarship recipients.

BOCCE CORNER NEWS



Hello all!

Not too much to report regarding bocce this month. April 1st was Easter and the 22nd was our Scholarship Brunch, so bocce participation was at a minimum.

Many new members are already aware of our Sunday bocce playing group and are planning to join us soon.

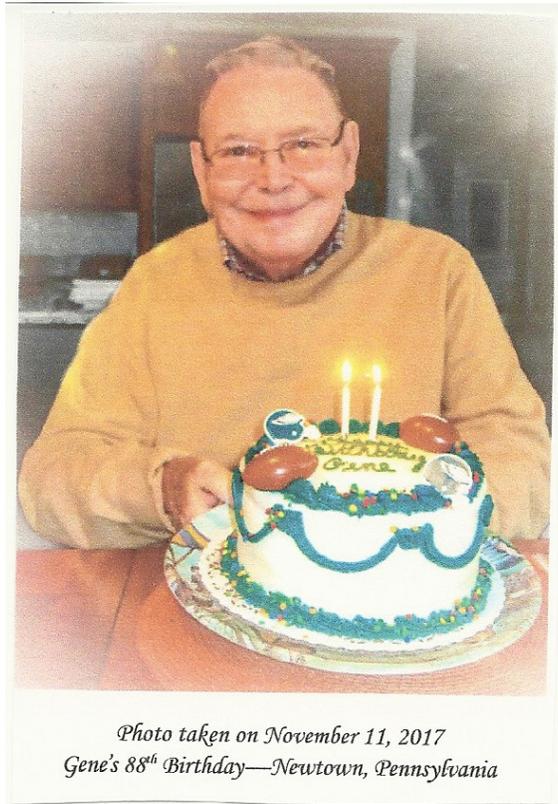
But for those who don't yet know about us, we gather, weather permitting of course, for unstructured bocce playing on Sundays from 2:00 PM to approximately 4:00 PM. The court is located at 400 Palmetto Ave., Osprey, at The Conservation Foundation of the Gulf Coast at The Bay Preserve, a beautiful setting

right on the bay. Bring a chair and anything you might want to drink/eat. Alcohol and dogs are both permitted at the park. The court adjoins a covered pavilion. Bathrooms are available as well. Both men and women play. Please know that no experience is necessary! All are most welcome to join our fun afternoon play.

During summer some of our regular participants head back north, but the group continues to play. I can be reached for any information, directions or questions at 908-507-3048, or at dorisntom@gmail.com. Looking forward to having you join us!

Tom Hurban

In Loving Memory

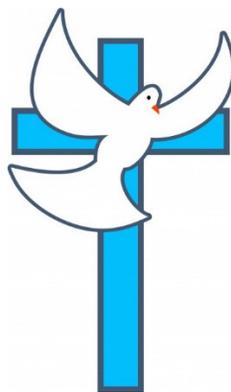


“A GENTLEMAN & A SCHOLAR”

By: Ellen Mary Roderick

Eugene Peter McLoone died suddenly yet peacefully in Silver Spring, MD on Friday, April 20, 2018, having just returned north after wintering in Sarasota, FL. Gene McLoone was born in Philadelphia, PA, to Peter and Bridget Agnes McLoone on November 11, 1929. He commuted by bus to LaSalle College High School ('47) and LaSalle University ('51) where he majored in English

and was the college newspaper editor. He received a Master's in Public Policy from the University of Denver ('52) and a Ph.D. in Economics and School Finance from the University of IL ('61). He married Dr. Kathleen Amershek of Johnstown, PA in May 1973, retiring to Johnstown in 1996. He was preceded in death by his wife Kathleen, his sister-in-law Rose Marie Amershek, his brother-in-law Pat Moran, and his nephew, Eric Zimmer. Gene is survived by his sister, Mary Moran; brother-in-law, Dick Amershek; sister-in-law, Posie Amershek Zimmer and husband Ed; his godchild, Ayda Dorian; 2 nieces, Mary Pat Steinmetz (John) & Polly Amershek Ariano; and 13 nephews: Jim (Kathy), Pete (Tracey), Patrick (Karen), John (Tricia) Moran; Richard, Bruce, Keith (Sherri), Neil (Jeanette), Shawn (Melissa), Tim (Rene), Tom (Melissa) Amershek; and Tom (Leslie) and Art Zimmer. He is also survived by 30 grandnieces & nephews. Last but not least, Gene is survived by his loving companion of 11 years, Dr. Ellen Roderick of Silver Spring, MD and Sarasota, FL as well as two devoted families, the Dorians and the McQuillans of Johnstown, PA. Gene served in the U.S. Dept of Health, Education and Welfare, and assisted with the establishment of the new U.S. Dept of Education. Following 10 years of Federal service, Dr. McLoone received a joint appointment in the Colleges of Business (Economics) and Education (Educational Leadership) at the University of MD, College Park. He retired as Professor Emeritus in 1995 after 27 years of teaching and consulting. During his research, Dr. McLoone developed the "McLoone Index" which is used in the field of School Finance. He served as a major advisor to Master's and Ph.D. candidates in both colleges. His interests included gardening, sporting events, the performing arts, traveling, all things Irish, and supporting over 100 non-profits both financially and with volunteer service. He was proud of his Irish heritage and made 25 trips to the Emerald Isle to visit relatives in Donegal and Mayo. He worked for 10 years as a volunteer with his church, assisting with the school's finances. Gene was a gentle soul, a man of great modesty, a person with gifted intelligence, a caring and generous human being who took great joy in helping others to succeed. He never sought the spotlight yet everyone was drawn to him because of his kindness, his sincere interest in others and his ever present smile. Flowers or donations to the Alzheimer's Association are most welcome. Friends will be received at Duca Funeral Home, 1622 Menoher Blvd, Johnstown, PA 15905 on April 26 from 5-8 pm. Mass of Christian Burial will be at Our Mother of Sorrows Catholic Church, 407 Tioga St., Johnstown, PA 15905 on April 27 at 10 am. Interment at Grandview Cemetery immediately following the mass.



A NOTE FROM LEITA DAVIS

I just came across this book that I think would be of great interest to our members, especially Mary Palmer. The author is Karen Haid.

A Book About Calabria, Italy



ONCE THE HUB OF THE MEDITERRANEAN, Calabria now dangles, largely ignored, at the bottom of the Italian boot, struggling for survival, acceptance and a place in modern Italy and the world. Little-known even to Italians outside the nefarious activities of its 'Ndrangheta mafia organization, Calabria allures with its simplicity and rewards with an underlying complexity, as in the savoring of an artisanal cheese, appreciating an ancient Greek masterwork or interpreting a particularly expressive phrase in the local dialect.

Based on the author's experiences, living, working and traveling throughout the region, as well as on extensive research, *Calabria: The Other Italy* paints a compelling picture of contemporary Calabria. The book intertwines observation, personal anecdote, salient historical information and social commentary into a nonfiction narrative that combines travelogue with an exploration of everyday life and culture. At times humorous, at others poignant, this fascinating work shares the joys and challenges of the "other Italy."

From colorful tales of encounters with the *Calabrese* people to those of a windsurfing saint, from the unparalleled pair of 2,500-year-old Riace Bronzes to a couple of dancing giants, from ancient castles and towers to pristine beaches and mountains, from the unique bergamot fruit to an exceptional culinary tradition, *Calabria: The Other Italy* embraces daily life, culture, history, the arts, food, society and tourism of this beautiful, southern Italian region. Excursions to Sicily and Basilicata are also included!

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.

*Café Baci	921-4848
*El Greco	365-2234
*Old School	363-7744
*Paradise Grill	786-1524
Pazzo South Side	260-8831
*Ruth Chris	924-9442
Sabrosa	284-0640 (was Word of Mouth on Osprey Ave)
*Stonewood Grill	355-3315



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CHANGE OF EMAIL:

Please note that Mary Rinaldi, newsletter editor, has a new email address. It is:
maryfaithrinaldi@gmail.com



GCICS “SAVE THE DATES”: 2018-2019

Your GCICS Board has been busy with the initial 2018-2019 program planning. We have some confirmed dates for you. Do take out your 2018-2019 calendar and mark these events NOW. That way you will not purchase opera, symphony or ballet tickets for those dates! You'll be free to participate in a number of wonderful GCICS events. Please note that you will not see an event for Oct 2018 yet. We are still collecting survey data from you. If you have not yet replied to Ellen Roderick's email asking if you will be “in town” during the last two weeks in Oct, please email her YES or NO. Thank you. Now here are the firm plans:

***11/3/18: Sarasota Youth Opera Performance** (5:30pm) at Opera House followed by dinner downtown (performance: \$30; dinner: based on what you order). (First announcement has been issued.)

***11/4/18: Welcome Back Bocce Picnic** (1-4pm) at the Bay Preserve, Osprey (To be announced.)

***12/16/18: Holiday Dinner Gala/Fundraiser** (5:30-9:30pm) at Mary Rinaldi/Jack Norman's home, Lakewood Ranch (\$25 Scholarship Donation+bring a dish/wine) (To be announced.)

***1/11/19: Annual Meeting, Lunch, Town Hall and Cultural Lecture** (11:30-2:30pm) at Community Foundation of Sarasota County (no cost) (NOTE: Cannot confirm the date with the Foundation until the fall but we are targeting for the 2nd Friday in Jan 2019.) (To be announced.)

***2/9/19: Bocce Invitational IV** (1:30pm) at The Cascades. Teams will be formed. Tournament followed by dinner and dancing. (To be announced.)

***3/5/19: Mardi Gras-Carnevale/Fundraiser** (5:30-9:00pm) at Penny Thomas's home, Bradenton (\$30 Scholarship Donation+bring a dish/wine) (To be announced.)

***3/24/19: St. Joseph's Feast Day Celebration Dinner** (2-5pm) at Mama Leone's, Nokomis (To be announced.)

There will be additional activities: Scholarship Festa, Happy Hours, Sunday Bocce, Italian Language Instruction, Italian Culture Lectures and La Cena events (dinners-socials).

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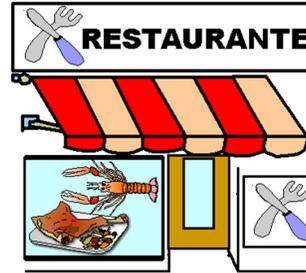
Past Presidents

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

2017 – 2018



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