

# *VOCE DI GCICS*

GULF COAST ITALIAN CULTURE SOCIETY, INC.

1811 Englewood Rd., #317, Englewood, FL 34223 [WWW.GCICS.ORG](http://WWW.GCICS.ORG) October 2023

Mary Rinaldi, Editor



## President's Message

Please note that the president's message will be in a separate email this month.  
Thank you for your understanding.

## Italian Cultural Heritage Month Welcome Back Brunch



Your Board of Directors is excited to announce our *GCICS Italian Cultural Heritage Month Welcome Back Luncheon* on **Sat, Oct 14, 2023**, from 11:30-2:30 pm at Mattison's 41. Guests are welcome.

GCICS will honor **Dr. Davide Tanasi**, Professor, Department of History, University of South Florida, Tampa. The Society will declare him "GCICS 2023 Italian American of the Year" during

the luncheon. Dr. Tanasi will deliver the keynote address prior to presentation of the honor. We hope that you will honor Dr. Tanasi with your presence and meet a scholar, a student of history, an archaeologist, and most of all a teacher, a husband, and father. As many of you know, Dr. Tanasi is a friend of our GCICS community, having delivered several outstanding lectures on his diggings in Sicily and Malta.



Here are the details:

**Event:** “GCICS Italian Cultural Heritage Month Welcome Back Luncheon”

**Date/Time:** Saturday, **Oct. 14, 2023**, 11:30 am-2:30 pm

**Location:** Mattison’s 41 Restaurant, 7275 So. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, FL 34231

**Cost:** \$47 all inclusive

**Registration:** Please use GCICS website to register/pay (instructions appear at end of this email)

**If Unable to Register Online:** Mail check to Josephine Fontana, 8347 Canary Palm Ct., Sarasota, FL 34238; payable to GCICS; include each person’s name and entrée selection, by name.

**Deadline:** **Online by October 4;** or in Josephine’s mailbox by **Oct 4.**

**Point of Contact:** Ellen Roderick, 301-775-1344 ([train@erols.com](mailto:train@erols.com))

**Program:** “GCICS 2023 Italian American of the Year” Ceremony, with Dr. Tanasi providing the keynote.



\*Bruschetta

\*Mattison's Caesar Salad

\*Penne ala Vodka

\*Entrée (select one)

(1) Chicken Chevre topped with wilted spinach, roasted tomatoes and herbed goat cheese finished with a basil beurre blanc.

(2) Rosemary & Lemon Honey Glazed Salmon with a citrus beurre blanc.

(3) Grilled Vegetable Paella with Tofu: traditional Spanish saffron rice with tofu, garlic, onions, green olives, peas, red peppers, artichoke hearts & tomatoes; topped with grilled asparagus, artichokes, and zucchini (Vegan, DF, GF); served as is, no additional sides.

\*Accompanying entrees (1) & (2) above: Roasted Veggie Risotto

\*Dessert: assorted mini desserts

\*Beverages & Coffee included.

CASH BAR

## STEPS FOR PAYING ONLINE

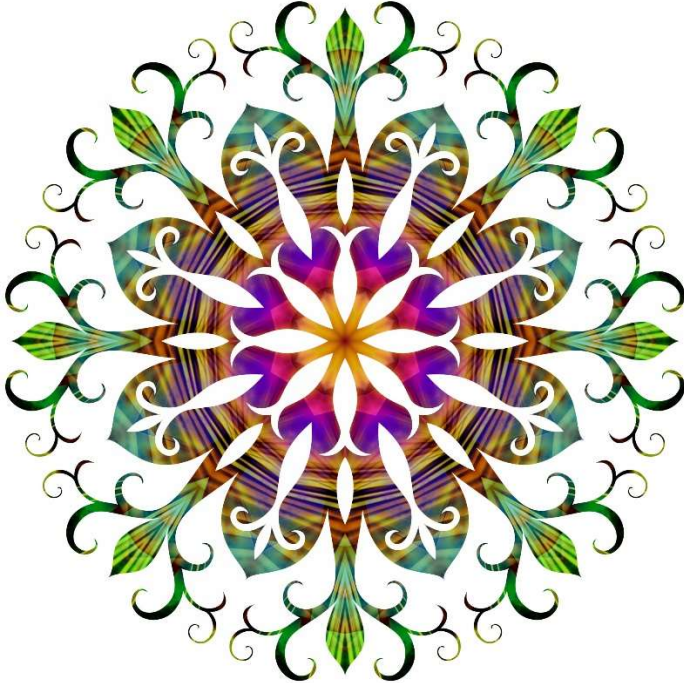
\*Go to this GCICS address: [www.gcics.org/payment](http://www.gcics.org/payment)

\*On 1<sup>st</sup> page, check "Member", enter first & last name, email address, phone #, and click on the blue block.

\*On 2<sup>nd</sup> page, enter the total amount of your payment, **then enter in the block directly below "10/14/23" and list the name(s) of the person(s) for whom you are paying & their entrée choice by person's name. Please make sure you take this step.**

\*Click PayPal checkout and the next page will come up. Complete what is needed.

\*Note: You do not need a PayPal account to pay for GCICS events. PayPal will accept your credit card directly. You will receive a confirmation email once you have completed the transaction.



# Italian Bookshelf

By Leita Daves



*Forbidden Notebook* by Alba de Cespedes

Astra House 2023, 265 pages

Review by Leita Kaldi Davis

Jhumpa Lahiri, renowned Indian author, wrote the introduction to *Quaderno Proibito*, a novel by the Italian-Cuban feminist writer Alba de Céspedes, whose work is translated by Ann Goldstein, Elena Ferrante's translator.

*The Forbidden Notebook* centers on the inner life of a dissatisfied middle-aged housewife living in postwar Rome. Valeria Cossati begins to realize how unhappy she has become with the shabby gentility of her bourgeois life when she begins to jot down her thoughts and feelings in a little black book she keeps hidden in a closet. Her secret writing reveals new insights and a sense that her being has been stifled by her dutiful devotion to her husband, daughter, and son. The grown children choose paths that are abhorrent to Valeria, and her husband seems oblivious to her presence. Their stories unfold and collide, eventually tearing the family's fragile fabric apart.

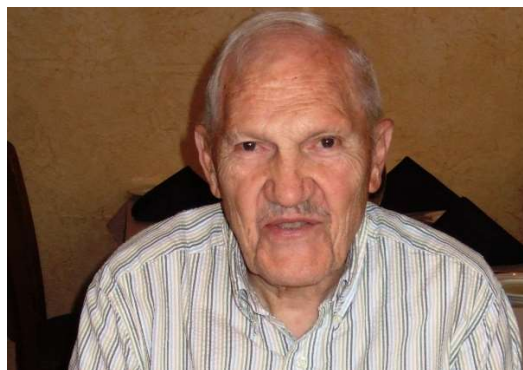
I found the book fascinating at first, its cover reminiscent of a soft old notebook. But Valeria's paranoia about the diary being discovered as she hides it night after night in various places, and her distress over each of her family members becomes redundant. The book reaches an arc only towards the end when Valeria must decide about an erstwhile lover.

I was more interested in the author than the book and will try to learn more about her. Alba de Céspedes (1911–1997) was a bestselling Italian-Cuban feminist writer greatly influenced by the cultural developments that led to and resulted from World War II. In 1935, she was jailed for her anti-fascist activities in Italy. Two of her novels were also banned—*Nessuno Torna Indietro* (1938) and *La Fuga* (1940). In 1943, she was again imprisoned for her assistance with Radio Partigiana in Bari, where she was a Resistance radio personality known as Clorinda. After the war, she moved to Paris, where she lived until her death in 1997.



Sorry to share sad news. Just recently, we lost two dear members, one of whom has been “retired” from GCICS for a while, Pat Astore; and a very active member, Barbara Scalise. I am sending condolences to both families on behalf of GCICS.

**Pasqual “Pat” Astore** (99) served on the Board of Directors as a “Director at Large” for several years and took most of the photos during our events. Pat was on the Board when I joined the Board in Jan. 2011, but no matter how many years prior to that time he served I am sorry to say I have no record. He retired from the Board in Oct. 2016. His terrific photos appeared in our newsletters until his retirement. Pat was born in 1924 and had just recently celebrated his 99<sup>th</sup> birthday. Frank Cerullo notified me of Pat’s passing. There was a noticeably short obituary on the web. His graveside service was held on June 30, 2023, at 10am: Skyway Memorial Gardens, 5200 US19, Palmetto, FL 34221 Condolences may be sent to Jon Anthony Astore, 8374 Market St., Lakewood Ranch, FL 34202.



**Barbara Scalise** (79) and her husband, David, joined GCICS on 4/1/2019 and were such faithful members, attending most of our major events. They really enjoyed the weekly Happy Hours and the yearly Bocce Invitationals at The Cascades (see 3<sup>rd</sup> photo). We shall all miss their delightful company. Condolences may be sent to David Scalise, 972 Chickadee Drive, Venice, FL 34285



From her obituary: *Barbara died peacefully on June 7, 2023, in the comfort of her family's presence. She developed her love of fishing, sailing, and all things water while growing up in Gull Lake, MI. She met her husband, David, there and they were married in 1962. She was active in her church and had a successful career in residential real estate. She is survived by David (61 years of marriage), 3 daughters and their spouses, seven grandchildren, and four great grandchildren. Her funeral mass will be at St. Ann's Catholic Church in Cassopolis, MI on June 13, 2023.*



We will pay tribute during our Annual Meeting on January 13, 2024, at Peridia G&CC. May our resolute members, Pasqual and Barbara, rest in peace.



# SARASOTA YOUTH OPERA PERFORMANCE & DINNER

**Event:** Sarasota Youth Opera (SYO) Performance & Dinner

**Performance:** “*The Little Sweep*”, Sarasota Opera House, 61 N. Pineapple Ave., Sarasota, FL 34236.

*The SYO will perform Benjamin Britten’s “The Little Sweep”, a fully staged production with sets, costumes and orchestra with our Youth Opera singing most of the lead roles and chorus. Through beautiful music, the opera tells the heartwarming story of little Sammy who has been apprenticed to a cruel Chimney Sweep. All the children of the house join together to save Sammy and safely send him back to his family!*

**Date:** Saturday, Nov 4, 2023

**Time:** Performance: 5:00 pm; Dinner following.

**Location:** Dinner at Café Amici, 1371 Main St. Sarasota, FL 34236 (walking distance from Opera House)

**Cost:** Performance: **\$30**; Dinner cost: varies depending on what you order.

**Registration:** Please use GCICS website to register/pay (instructions appear at end of this email); you must indicate who is dining as well.

**If Unable to Register Online:** Mail check to Linda Mercurio, 5770 Deer Hollow Ln. W., Sarasota, FL 34232; payable to GCICS; include each person’s name; **indicate if person(s) plan to attend the dinner.**

**Deadline:** Online by October 21; or in Linda’s mailbox by Oct 21. **No tickets will be sold after this date; this is a FIRM deadline.**

**Point of Contact:** Linda Mercurio, 941-400-1156 ([lindascot5770@gmail.com](mailto:lindascot5770@gmail.com)) OR Ellen Roderick, 301-775-1344 ([itrain@erols.com](mailto:itrain@erols.com))

## STEPS FOR PAYING ONLINE

\*Go to this GCICS address: [www.gcics.org/payment](http://www.gcics.org/payment)

\*On 1<sup>st</sup> page, check “Member”, enter first & last name, email address, phone #, and click on the blue block.

\*On 2<sup>nd</sup> page, enter the total amount of your payment, **then enter in the block directly below “11/4/23” and list the name(s) of the person(s) for whom you are paying. Also, indicate if you are attending the dinner. Please make sure you take this step.**

\*Click PayPal checkout and the next page will come up. Complete what is needed.

\*Note: You do not need a PayPal account to pay for GCICS events. PayPal will accept your credit card directly. You will receive a confirmation email within an hour or so once you have completed the transaction.



## BOCCE NEWS



Fall is here and many of our members are returning from visits to the north, including me. Many stalwarts have played bocce through the hot summer months. We thank Jerry Hall for maintaining the court.

For new members, we gather in an informal manner to play bocce on most Sundays from 2-4 pm. Our Club maintains a single court on the Conservation Foundation grounds located at 400 Palmetto Ave. in Osprey. This road runs parallel to Rt. 41 behind the Spanish Point visitor center. Experience is NOT necessary and we welcome new players!

Our Club maintains the bocce court there. Occasionally the Conservation Foundation has a function on a Sunday and we are asked not to play when the function is in progress. We formerly held our upcoming Nov.12 welcome back picnic next to this bocce court but found that renting a larger site at the North Jetty Park in Nokomis worked better for us. Because the last couple of year's events went so well, we will return there again at 1PM. Watch for a future email blast detailing this. This picnic is one of our most fun filled events! Do not miss it!

Questions?

Tom Hurban  
bocce and this event chairman  
908 507 3048  
[doristom@gmail.com](mailto:doristom@gmail.com)

Please Note: There is a conflict because the Conservation Foundation has a function on October 8, 2023. We are asked to not utilize the bocce court on that day, October 8.

## **OFFICERS/DIRECTORS**

### **President**

Julie Bondarenko  
[juliebondy@yahoo.com](mailto:juliebondy@yahoo.com)

### **Vice President for Membership**

Linda Mercurio  
[Lindascot5770@gmail.com](mailto:Lindascot5770@gmail.com)

### **Secretary**

Ellen Roderick, PhD  
[itrain@erols.com](mailto:itrain@erols.com)

### **Treasurer**

Josephine Fontana  
[Fontana.Josephine@gmail.com](mailto:Fontana.Josephine@gmail.com)

### **Bocce Chair**

Tom Hurban, DDS  
[dorisntom@gmail.com](mailto:dorisntom@gmail.com)

### **Scholarship Chair**

Sandra Russell  
[russellsandra062@gmail.com](mailto:russellsandra062@gmail.com)

### **Newsletter Editor**

Mary Faith Rinaldi  
[maryfaithrinaldi@gmail.com](mailto:maryfaithrinaldi@gmail.com)

### **Social and Cultural Chair**

George Arfield  
[arfield@yahoo.com](mailto:arfield@yahoo.com)

### **Language Instruction Chair**

Jerry Hall  
[CZHalls@verizon.net](mailto:CZHalls@verizon.net)

### **Technology Chair**

Gordon Bloom  
[Gordon.bloom@att.net](mailto:Gordon.bloom@att.net)

### **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

## **New College history professor, recent GCICS speaker, wins \$150,000 research grant.**

New College of Florida history professor Carrie Beneš and her research team have been awarded a \$150,000 grant as part of the National Endowment for the Humanities Scholarly Editions and Translations program. Professor Benes was the featured speaker at a March 10 GCICS cultural event held at the New College of Florida auditorium.

The grant supports the La Sfera Project, an open-access multimedia edition of Goro Dati's 15th-century poem 'La Sfera' (The Globe). Beneš is leading a research team that includes Amanda Madden of George Mason University, Laura Ingallinella of the University of Toronto, and scholar Laura Morreale.

Beneš, a cultural historian of late medieval Italy whose research focuses on landscape, urban identity, and the classical tradition, will spend the 2023-24 year in Rome as Co-Principal Investigator and Director of Spatial Analysis for the Sfera Project. 'Goro Dati's work reveals fascinating webs of premodern intercultural trade and exchange, and I am glad we will have the opportunity to share it in a more accessible way through this work,' Beneš said.

Herald Tribune and George Arfield

