

LA VOCE DI GCICS

GULF COAST ITALIAN CULTURE SOCIETY, INC.

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

WWW.GCICS.ORG

October 2020

President's Message:

By the time you read this newsletter, we will have experienced and enjoyed several Zoom programs. Those programs have included virtual Social get togethers and our first-ever transatlantic zoom presentation by author, Rosalie Gallinaro, describing her idyllic life lived in the hills of Tuscany. We have also launched a "Reaching Out Initiative" addressed below.

Rosalie's book "Adventures in Slow Living. Spring in Tuscany" is an inspiring account of the author's life spent with family, friends and townspeople sharing everything from good food to great wine while surrounded by beautiful vistas such as hilltops laden with florals and vegetable gardens. Our visit with Rosalie in Tuscany was possible because of Pam and George Arfield's personal friendship with her. We are very thankful to George for making this possible.

Some of us continue to shelter at home and maintain limited interaction with others. Considering this, I felt the "Reaching Out Initiative" would help remedy this situation for some members. To that end, over the past several weeks, Board members have made personal calls to you. As of now, many of you have been called, but a small number have yet to be reached. Where contact could not be made, a message was left. It is our intent to continue until we have spoken with every member. Interestingly, what might have seemed like a chore turned out to be a very satisfying experience. I thoroughly enjoyed speaking with those I contacted and have come to understand that all my fellow Board members felt they too had a rewarding experience. I learned during one of my calls that a fellow member and I grew up near one another. We had a very enjoyable conversation.

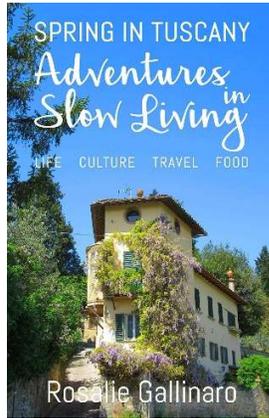
We will continue this initiative and we encourage members to reach out to any of us should they feel the need to do so. As each day passes, it means we are one day closer to the end of this pandemic. We have no idea when this will happen. In the meantime, we will continue to be good GCICS citizens.

Given the challenges we have faced these past months, it is no small accomplishment that our events have been successful. Board members have worked together closely to plan activities that keep our members connected while we are physically separated. I extend my appreciation to Ellen Roderick who is responsible for the success of our Zoom Social Hours. She is the reason why this event ran smoothly and was enjoyed by the participants. Thank you, Ellen. Kudos to George Arfield for organizing our first transatlantic interview with Rosalie Gallinaro. It was evident that members really enjoyed this event from the many comments made and questions asked following Rosalie's formal presentation. Thank you, George. As always, we are grateful to Jerry Hall who is our web master and our Zoom master. Thank you, Jerry.

And on a final note, sadly we have recently lost two fine citizens and dedicated members of GCICS--Paula Holleran and Bob Menegaz. They both loved their Italian ancestry and contributed greatly to our spirit of friendship and camaraderie. Our sincerest condolences to their spouses, Brian Holleran and Donna Menegaz. We shall miss them terribly. May they rest in peace.

Julie Bondarenko
GCICS President

GCICS HOLDS FIRST TRANSATLANTIC ZOOM EVENT



The enduring allure of life lived in modern Italy was vividly described by guest speaker Rosalie Gallinaro during the first GCICS Transatlantic Zoom meeting held September 17.

Speaking from her home, a remodeled ancient stone farmhouse in Impruneta, Rosalie described her experiences as a Boston-born Italian-American who has found happiness in her home in the rolling hills of Tuscany, a short distance west of Florence. Rosalie told an audience of 28 GCICS members and 4 guests (for a grand total of 32 participants) how among the main elements that add to the appeal of “vivere a l’italiana” are “the Italians’ cult of beauty” and the strong bonds that generate love of family and friends.

Having lived two decades or so in Tuscany, Rosalie decided to use her skills as a writer and photographer in a Kindle book: “Adventures in Slow Living.” Her experiences and impressions are divided by seasons and the first installment, “Spring in Tuscany,” is already available via the Kindle app.

In a simple yet evocative prose, she echoed many of her documented experiences, such as her interactions with locals in the countryside, flower and vegetable growing and gastronomy. The latter was described as an important ingredient of life in Italy, since meals are not just feeding events but occasions to enjoy lively conversations and discussions while enjoying the bounties of an endlessly seductive environment.

The Zoom meeting was opened by GCICS President Julie Bondarenko and facilitated by Jerry Hall’s tech know-how. George Arfield hosted the conversation.

During these unusual times, GCICS is working to organize similar culture-oriented Zoom meetings, the next one planned for October. Watch your emails for further announcements.

MEET OUR NEWEST GCICS MEMBER

Rosemarie ("Rosie") Lumetta

Article by Ellen Roderick, GCICS Secretary



Rosie Lumetta of Lakewood Ranch recently joined GCICS, having found us on the Internet. She had been a member of an Italian club in Denver, CO where she had lived for the past 20 years prior to her arrival in Sarasota last year where she had a home built in LWR's Del Webb community. Rosie continues to furnish her home and told me that she enjoys entertaining. I suspect that when the pandemic is over, we may invite her to host a GCICS function in her residence.

Originally from St. Louis, MO, Rosie began her Federal government career as a clerk stenographer (as I did in Washington, DC). After she acquired a degree in Accounting and a Master's in Business Administration, she worked for several Federal agencies including the IRS, the Department of the Army, and the Defense Logistics Agency. She spent 11 years of her government career in Heidelberg, Germany where she traveled extensively in Europe and became an avid skier. From there, she moved to Denver, again to ski and continue with her career. In 1995, she traveled to Sicily where she found her relatives. Her roots are in the Palermo area. Rosie is one-half Italian and one-half Czech.

In retirement, Rosie spent three winters in FL, visiting Venice, the Sarasota area, and Orlando. She adores the performing arts, loves golf, and no longer cares for frigid winters. And so, Sarasota "called out to her." Welcome to GCICS, Rosie! We hope you will have a long history with us, making new friends, sharing your Italian roots with members, participating in Happy Hours, perhaps taking Language courses, and playing bocce on Sunday afternoons.

IN MEMORIUM: PAULA HOLLERAN
Prepared by Ellen Roderick, GCICS Secretary
Obituary (modified) written by Holleran Family



Dr. Paula Holleran, 82, of Oneonta, NY and Sarasota, FL, died on 8/25/20 surrounded by her family. The SUNY Oneonta Professor Emeritus fought a difficult 16-month battle with a bone marrow disorder which progressed into acute myeloid leukemia. Born on 11/7/37 in Brooklyn, to Angelo & Jean Rizzo, Paula spent a happy childhood playing stoop ball and stick ball with her neighborhood friends and beloved pink Spalding ball. She loved her roller skates and Columbia bicycle and never parted with either.

Paula attended Brooklyn's Bay Ridge HS where she served as school president. She graduated from Brooklyn College with honors in English, completed a master's degree at U CONN, and earned a PhD at U MASS. In 1964, she joined the faculty at SUNY Oneonta where she taught Psychology for 3 decades, retiring in 1995. Paula enjoyed teaching and conducting research. She authored several publications and served as department chair.

In 1970, she married Dr. Brian Holleran, also on the SUNY Oneonta faculty. On 8/22/20 they celebrated their 50th anniversary. Paula loved adventure and spent over 60 years traveling the world. She visited all 50 states and travelled throughout Europe, Canada, South and Central America, Russia, and Africa. Her favorite trips were to Italy, especially Sicily. She was immensely proud of her Italian heritage and became near-fluent in the Italian language, which she loved speaking at every opportunity.

She also loved sports and the outdoors: hiking, canoeing, kayaking, skiing, golf, biking, and above all, tennis, her favorite life-long activity, which she played several times a week until last year. Paula is survived by husband, Brian; her two children and their spouses, Tracy (Steve Mattus) of Fairfield, CT, and Brett (Mica) Holleran of Oneonta, and four grandchildren, who were the lights of her life. May she rest in peace.

GCICS PAYS TRIBUTE TO PAULA

Members were kind enough to share their remembrances of Paula who, with husband Brian, was a faithful member of the Society for over 20 years.

* “Paula, it will be so hard to do the things we did without you with us. Your wonderful wit and always speaking your fluent Italian to me to see if I could pick it up. The happy hours that you and Brian and Gene and I have shared together will leave a void. In our conversations with you and cheering you up, I remember your saying ‘I wish I could be there having Apps with you’. My dear Paula I will miss you always.” **BARBARA & GENE BARATTINI**



Blanch Barresi

Lucille Raia

Barbara Barattini

Paula Holleran

* “My heart is so sad. Paula was one of the finest ladies I have ever known. She was kind, generous, smart, and likable. She worked diligently in various capacities in several Italian organizations to which we both belonged and where I first met her. I was so fond of her and shall miss her always. My deepest sympathies to Brian, her devoted husband, and to their family.”

MARY PALMER

* “I met Paula in an Italian class. She always had a smile on her face and was friendly to everyone. Paula and Brian came to GCICS happy hours when they were able, and they seemed to have a wonderful time. My thoughts and prayers are with them.” **LINDA MERCURIO**

* "I'm so sorry to hear this ♡ what a lovely lady; always enjoyed her company." **CONNIE CAMPISI**

* "Paula was one of our favorite people. Steve loved to tease and flirt with her, and I have always enjoyed her wit and her friendship, especially our bantering in both Italian and Spanish. Our hearts are especially sad for Brian." **STEVE & AIDA LABRUTTE**

* "Jack has attended the Italian conversation class for about 20 years, as did Paula. He often returned home with a "chuckle". Paula was a most reliable participant in the first hour, which was basically "instruction" time. However, she regularly stayed for the 2nd hour - conversation time - listening intently to the chatter and always joining in when comfortable with full encouragement from the other yakking Italians!! No small feat, but she was totally determined. Just truly dedicated to her heritage AND to her friends. Our lives have indeed been enriched and blessed with so many caring and loving relationships. Rest in Peace dear Paula and our love to Brian." **JOAN & JACK FERRANTE**

* "I first met Paula in the 1960's at SUNY Oneonta where I was a student and she was a Psychology instructor. I can still recall Paula back then, with a striking appearance marked by long, silky black hair. Of greater note and still more striking was her manner as a teacher. She demonstrated full command of her subject matter and a generosity of spirit which was reflected by giving freely of her time and talent as she reached out to her students in an open and accessible way. Subsequently, Paula and I reconnected through our mutual membership in GCICS. I recall our conversation when I explained that I had attended Oneonta, learning that she taught psychology there. I then said that I did not have her but that "Ms. Rizzo" had been my teacher. She replied, " I'm Ms. Rizzo". And, so began a renewed and cherished relationship as friends and fellow lovers of Italian culture and heritage. It was a fine blessing to reconnect with such a vibrant and giving human being. May she rest in peace! **MARY RINALDI**

NOTE: Donations may be made in memory of Paula Holleran to the GCICS Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 2591, Sarasota, FL 34230



Brian and Paula Holleran

IN MEMORIUM: ROBERT J. MENEGAZ, M.D.
July 10, 1936 – September 11, 2020
Prepared by Ellen Roderick, GCICS Secretary
Obituary Written by Menegaz Family



 *In Memoriam*

Robert J. Menegaz, M.D., 84, passed away peacefully at his home in Sarasota on September 11, 2020. "Doctor Bob" was a retired Naval Medical Officer who spent most of his career at Lenox Hill Hospital in Manhattan.

He was born in Weehawken, N.J., in the shadow of the Statute of Liberty and Ellis Island, through whose gates his father, Enrico, had passed. Dr. Menegaz, a graduate of Georgetown and Georgetown University Medical School, is survived by his loving wife, Donna, and his three children: Michelle and her husband Michael; Gregory and his wife Virginia; and Glenn and his partner Anna Herceg. He was beloved Nonno to Serena, Margaree, and Hilary. He is also survived by his brother-in-law Donald Torello, his sister-in-law Christine Santarsiero, and his nephew Gregg Santarsiero.

Doctor Bob, son of Enrico Menegaz and Mary Moglia Menegaz, is predeceased by his sister, Eileen Chicketano, sisters-in-law Ann Marie Santarsiero and Judith Torello, and

brother-in-law, Frank Santarsiero. He practiced internal medicine and cardiology until the age of 79, making house calls on foot or by folding bike until his later years. Doctor Bob gave the utmost care and comfort to his patients, many of whom donated generously to Lenox Hill in his name.

Doctor Bob lived the American dream, working hard to pay his way through college and medical school yet always mindful of his humble roots. He was very bright with great humane instincts, had a simple way of communicating, whether it be medical advice to patients, training residents, or teaching life lessons to close family and friends. We who survive him are eternally grateful and profoundly influenced by his presence in our lives.

A funeral service was held on September 21, 2020 at Church of the Redeemer, Sarasota, FL. A graveside service followed with Military Honors at Sarasota National Cemetery. Donations may be made to: Doctors Without Borders (<https://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/>); St. Francis' Poor, 135 W. 31st Street, New York, New York 10001 (212-736-8500); or a charity of your choice.

Addendum: Bob and his wife, Donna Santarsiero-Menegaz, joined GCICS about 13 years ago, having become friends with Bob & Natalie Amedeo and Joe & Micki Moccia. They were active when residing in their Sarasota home. Bob experienced a challenging several months health wise. May he rest in peace. Donations may be made in memory of Bob Menegaz to the GCICS Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 2591, Sarasota, FL 34230



Donna and Bob Menegaz

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. 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

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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



As I am sure we are all well aware, October is Italian-American Heritage and Culture Month. At this time, we often take the opportunity to come together and reflect on our storied past and take pride in the great artists, musicians, and creative geniuses whose lives we honor and whose accomplishments we treasure. Opera singers, composers, sculptors, master painters and scientists – all of these men and women give us reason to celebrate and cherish our history. Italian culture is both glorious and wonderful. No less glorious is the great American experiment that we are thankful to live each and every day: our democracy. Let it shine forever! Let it be kept safe and protected! However you do it, let us do our part to maintain it by exercising our greatest privilege: the right to vote and allow our voice to be heard.

