

LA VOCE DI GCICS

GULF COAST ITALIAN CULTURE SOCIETY, INC.

PO BOX 2591, SARASOTA, FL 34230

WWW.GCICS.ORG

December 2013

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear GCICS Member:

Our 2013-2014 season is well underway with two sold events. The Italian Heritage Month Brunch was a colossal success that was directly responsible for the recruitment of five new members, including the speaker, Rabbi Barbara Aiello. An account of the event is on page 5 and bios of some of our new members on page 8.

On November 16 a capacity crowd of sixty was on hand for the Maialetto Arrostito at the Spicola's on Casey Key. The menu included appetizers by Connie Campisi, Mary Rinaldi, the Newmanns and Shelia Spicola. A suckling pig, provided by Bill and Kate Korp, was cooked by our own rosticciere Vince Amoroso. Side dishes were prepared by Monika Cagliostro, Patricia Novak, Kate Korp, A.G. Spicola, and Marie Corsentino. The red and white

Welcome to *La Voce di GCICS*

wine was contributed by members Tony Cagliostro, Bob Amedeo and Pat Astore. Table and chair rental and tablecloths were the contribution of Joe and Micki Moccia; bread and ice by the La Bruttes; and dolce by the Spicolas and Lorraine Dunn. The evening ended with the singing of some old standby Italian songs with sheet music provided by Aida La Brutte. For those that missed the fun, there may be a pig opportunity in your future. Stay tuned!

Everyone should mark their calendars for January 10, 2014 at 12:00 PM, the day of our annual meeting and an Italian movie. We will be serving a light lunch.

Bill Korp



CHRISTMAS PARTY FUNDRAISER



Once again, the Christmas Party will be a “bring a dish event” where members will bring a bottle of wine and a dish. It will be a fundraiser for the scholarship fund. It will be at the Lakewood Ranch residence of Mary Rinaldi and her husband Jack Norman. The type of dish that you will bring will be according to the first letter of your last name. Here are the categories that we will follow:

- A – D: Appetizer
- E – K: Vegetable dish (hot or cold; including salads)
- L – P: Main Course
- R – Z: Dessert

The host and hostess of this event will provide ham as a main dish. Also, Mary and Jack will fund the cost of the live band for the entertainment of all party-goers.

Date: Saturday, December 14, 2013
 Time: 5:30 – 9:30 PM
 Place: 13982 Siena Loop, Lakewood Ranch, FL., 34202 (Phone: 907-9056)
 Cost: \$35 per person
 Reserve: Make Checks payable to GCICS Scholarship Fund and mail to:
 Mary Rinaldi, 13982 Siena Loop, Lakewood Ranch, FL., 34202; 907-9056

DINING CLUB

On Friday, December 6, 2013, our dining club meets at Divino Restaurant. They give our paid members a 10% discount. Come join the fun, and meet people in a friendly informal setting.

Date: December 6, 2013
 Where: Divino Restaurant, 1766 Main Street, Sarasota, Fl.
 Time: Luncheon at 12:30 PM
 Cost: Individual Checks
 Reserve: Frank Cerullo, 953-7534, by December 5, 2013

UPCOMING EVENTS

Annual Meeting and Film



The annual meeting will be in a Town Hall format. During this meeting, the GCICS's visions and new initiatives will be presented by our President Bill Korp. Then the meeting will be open to members to discuss their future vision and program preferences. The meeting will be followed by an Italian movie.

- WHAT:** Annual Meeting
WHEN: Friday, January 10, 2014
TIME: 12:00 PM
FOOD: Lite Lunch
COST: Free
WHERE: Community Foundation of Sarasota County
 2635 Fruitville Road, Sarasota, FL. 34237 (near Tuttle)
RESERVE: Ellen Roderick, 366-6756, by January 7, 2014

DINNER SOCIAL FUNDRAISER

On January 25, 2014, there will be a scholarship fundraiser event. A bring-a-dish party will be hosted by Connie Campisi at her Osprey condo.



- DATE:** Saturday, January 25, 2014
TIME: 6:00 -10:00 PM
PLACE: 739 Shadow Bay Way, Osprey, FL.
COST: \$20 per person
RESERVE: Limited to first 30 people
 Make checks payable to GCICS SCHOLARSHIP FUND and mail to:
 Connie Campisi, 739 Shadow Bay Way, FL. 34229 (phone: 918-8969)

SAVE THE DATE:

1. February 14, 2014 Valentine's Day Party at the Holiday Inn on Lido Beach
2. March 7, 2014 Lecture Series on Italian Painters in Paris presented by Dr. Joseph Polizzi
3. March 19, 2014 St. Joseph's Day dinner at Roskamp
4. April 6, 2014 Scholarship Dinner

REVIEW OF PAST EVENTS**ITALIAN CULTURAL HERITAGE WELCOME BACK BRUNCH**

The brunch, on Sunday, October 27, 2013 at Mattison's 41 South, a five item spread of delectable Calabrian inspired main and side dishes prepared by Chef Jeff Gladky was superb. The recipes used by Chef Gladky were created and contributed by Mary Palmer. In addition, Mary handled the 145 reservations that required numerous calls to make certain that each attendee was served the correct entrée. Paul Mattison extended himself beyond cooperation in suggesting we all eat in the restaurant and then all go into the back room for the program. John Scalzi, the emcee, did a great job and praised the GCICS about the work that we do. Rabbi Barbara Aiello was a bright and endearing guest speaker. She was interesting and informed the group of many facts about the Jewish Italian people that was unknown to the audience. In attendance were 145 people. 50% were members, 25% Italian non-members, and 25% non-members who were interested in Rabbi Aiello's speech. The event was greatly enjoyed by all who attended.


GCICS

Italian Heritage Brunch
Rabbi Barbara Aiello's talk on Calabria, Italy

Mattison's 41
Oct. 27, 2013

THE PIG ROAST

November 16, 2013 was an auspicious evening at the home of A.G. and Shelia Spicola. The weather was great even though the forecast predicted rain. Our hosts entertained 59 of us in their home on Casey Key to benefit our scholarship fund. The evening began with an open bar and Italian appetizers. Then the cooked pig was driven onto the grounds by Vince Amoroso. The buffet had many delicious side dishes made by members of the club. All in all, it was a delightful evening.



MY PORKIO ADVENTURE

By Vince Amoroso



“We went to a pig roast sponsored by an Italian social/cultural club Tam and I belong to. We had roasted Porkio, an Italian pig, for the occasion. The setting was a member’s house on the beach at one of Sarasota’s barrier islands. About 60 members drank wine and beer at tables set up by the beach for a happy hour before dinner-the more wine we consumed the happier we got-funny thing about that. At our Prez’ suggestion we had a short telling of how Porkio had been roasted: with many Q’s asked amid an atmosphere of high spirits-refer to the wine and beer above.

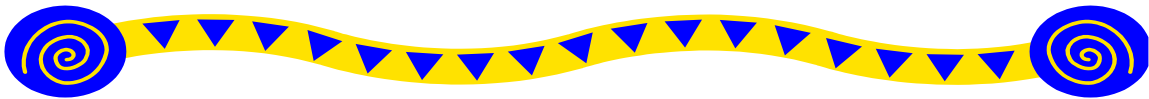
Finally, the one hour carving job began, made much easier by another member’s coming to the cooker to help with the taking apart. Within minutes, more than a few of the diners crowded around and wondered if they might sample the goods. It was interesting to this reporter how varied preferences were: just some crackling skin:

just a morsel of meat: some skin with a little meat and fat attached and so on. It wasn’t a surprise, merely interesting to see this process repeated again and its universality confirmed.

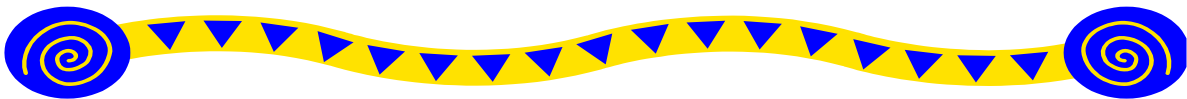
After the meat, cleaned of most of the fat that hadn’t melted off, was taken off the skeleton and put onto serving plates, the serious biz of tucking in began. This was our second roast where virtually all of the meat was consumed-bravo! As the sun came down, with appetites sated and the wine having done its magic, the singing and carousing got underway. That a good time was had was apparent by noting the ebullient goings on and ubiquitous smiles and laughter. All that was left to do was to close the roaster and drive it back home. And, so endith Pig Roast the Italian Job. Alas, no Mini Coopers (the movie’s versions had special, souped-up engines) had buzzed by us during the meal.”

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

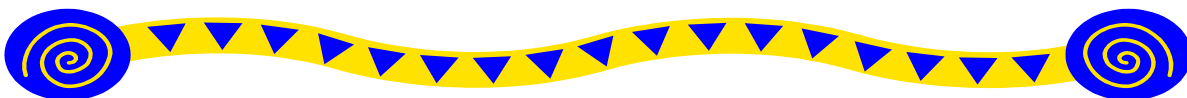
Judy Giannotti moved to Sarasota in 2007 from Washington, D.C., where she taught deaf students for twenty years at Gallaudet University. Previously, she lived in Manhattan and was a publicist for Doubleday & Company. Judy was born and raised New Jersey. Her parents emigrated to the U.S. from the Calabria region.



Barbara and Gene Barattini are married 49 years and originally lived in Staten Island, New York. They have two married children (a son and a daughter) and four wonderful grandchildren which are their hobbies and interests. Both being of Italian decent, they are interested in the country that their grandparents are from and are happy to be a part of the Italian culture. Formerly Barbara was employed by Verizon as a manager and Gene was a New York City Detective. Currently they divide their time between Sarasota and Easton, PA.

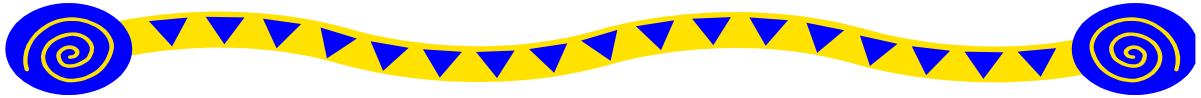


Al Dominguez and Nancy Baird enjoy Italian culture, i.e. wine, music, culinary delicacies, and most of all people of Italian decent. Though neither is Italian, they share this passion of Italian culture. Al is retired and grew up in northern New Jersey, and he enjoys playing bass drum along with listening to jazz and songs of the great American song book. Nancy is a prominent psychologist in Sarasota and enjoys painting and collecting wines. Both frequent their favorite Italian restaurant “Dolce Italia” here in Sarasota.



Rabbi Barbara Aiello who can trace her roots back to Calabria was first in her family to be born in America. She is a graduate of Indiana University of PA and George Washington University. Rabbi Aiello was ordained by the Rabbinical Seminary

International and the Rabbinical Academy in New York City. She created the acclaimed Kids on the Block education puppet program, founded the Jewish Cultural Center of Calabria and has helped many Italian Jews.



Linda Allegretti Ahern's maternal grandparents emigrated from Abruzzo and her paternal family is from Bailicata. She grew up in the Italian section of Chicago where her father had an Italian bakery. She has always loved things Italian and just recently returned from a wonderful trip to Italy where she was able to meet the family members that stayed in Abruzzo. Since there was no contact for 43 years, it took Linda almost one year to find them. For her, it was an unbelievable reunion. Linda recently retired from the Illinois Secretary of State's office and can now spend more time in Sarasota where she can devote her time to finally learn how to speak Italian, learn to play the piano and work on her ancestry genealogy.

PROUD GRANDPARENTS

Mabel and Tony Esposito's grandson, David Jr., who is thirteen years old has been invited to play piano, trombone and guitar by Michigan State University for two weeks in late June and early July. This experience will take him to Germany, Poland and Finland. Tony claims that like his father, David Jr. is "something else". You know where Mabel and Tony will be during the summer.

THANK YOU



I would like to thank all the members who sent get well cards and called me during my twelve day stay at Sarasota Memorial Hospital. I would like to give a special thanks to Tony Cagliostro for stepping up to the plate and finishing the November newsletter for me.

Mary Rinaldi

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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

Nov. 4, 11, 18, 25

No classes in December

Jan. 6, 13, 20, 27

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

Nov. 6, 13, 20, 27

No Classes in December

Jan. 8, 15, 22, 29

Feb. 5, 12, 19, 16

Mar. 5, 12, 19, 26

Apr. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

NEW PARTICIPATING RESTAURANT

Divino Restaurant will offer a 10% discount to members of The Gulf Coast Italian Cultural Society. They are located at 1766 Main Street, Sarasota, FL. The phone number is 941-330-9393

GCICS
PO Box 2591
Sarasota, FL. 34230

<<First Name>> <<Last Name>>
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