

# VOCE DI GCICS

GULF COAST ITALIAN CULTURE SOCIETY, INC.

P.O. BOX 2591, SARASOTA, FL. 34230 [WWW.GCICS](http://WWW.GCICS)

February 2022

Mary Rinaldi, Editor



## President's Message

By Julie Bondarenko

I will not permit my enthusiasm as expressed in last month's message to be hampered by recent events. I believe wholeheartedly that GCICS will persevere through all times. It will happen with a positive attitude, concern for all, and a willingness to hang in there. It seems these past few months have tested all of us. We were wishing and hoping for a solution but the solution has not been easily attained. I believe the appropriate course of action is patience. Whatever befalls us must be tempered by our good sense and judgement.

### Table of Contents

President's Message .....	1
GCICS BOCCE INVITATIONAL VI .....	3
Dr. Davide Tanasi Lecture .....	5
Dr. Harry Woske .....	6
ITALIAN BOOK SHELF .....	8
PHOTO GALLERY .....	9

The Scholarship Committee is looking forward to the submission of applications during late February. It's an exciting time especially for those of us who have worked on the committee in the past. I am honored to chair the committee. Linda Ahern, Mary Lou Ferrari, and Lucille Samartin have worked and/or chaired the committee during the past three to seven years, while our newest committee members are Mike DiMicele and Sandra Russell. I welcome each of you and am happy that you are giving your valuable time and expertise. Thank you!

It saddens me to share that Linda Ahern had a bad fall at home on January 12th. She was taken to Doctors Hospital where she underwent surgery for a spiral fracture of the right femur. She was transferred to Hawthorne Village Rehabilitation Center for a few days and will then be at home. Linda, we are all praying for your full recovery. I know Linda can count on all of us for support. Please send well wishes to her home: 4240 Presidential Ave Circle E, Bradenton, FL 3403. She is unable to take phone calls at this time.

**Do remember to sign up for our Bocce Tournament on February 19. It doesn't matter your level of experience or if you have never played before. This is a day for everyone. Come to cheer or come to play, but most of all come for fun and camaraderie. We party afterwards in the Cascades beautiful ballroom. We celebrate the winner with plenty of antipasto, pizza, wine, and desserts which are made by our very own GCICS members. The cost is only \$20.00. Please call Tom Hurban at 908-507-3048. Don't delay. WE NEED AND WANT YOU!**

**I wish to thank Linda Mercurio for her efforts in accommodating the Board's request to reserve Happy Hour restaurants with outside seating during this time of Omicron. Most restaurants have heaters. I do encourage all to bring a sweater and/or jacket. This is not forever but this is how we can socialize safely at this time.**

**"Around the Roman Table/Tidbits from Ancient Sicily" is the title of Dr. David Tanasi's upcoming lecture at Selby Library on February 24, 2-4 pm. Please do not let this opportunity slip by as it is a rare and special occasion when Dr. Tanasi is available to present one of his enthralling cultural lectures. Do sign up.**

**As always, I am heartened by the many members I have gotten to know on a more personal basis during the last two years. I thank you all for your friendships. May we move forward with understanding, respect, and acceptance. I wish to thank the Board for its continued support and recognize the Board for all that they do for our members. Finally, my good wishes go out to Linda Ahern in hopes that the healing process is a success and as swift as possible. We miss you.**

**Julie Bondarenko**

[RETURN](#)



## **GCICS BOCCE INVITATIONAL VI At the Cascades, February 19, 2022**



**LOOKING FOR A GOOD TIME? HOPEFULLY, THIS GETS YOUR EYE.**

**Our GCICS has had an invitational bocce challenge with the Cascades Italian American organization for many years. The date of Saturday, February 19, 2022, has been confirmed. WE WANT YOU TO JOIN US! Those who are not familiar with bocce are strongly encouraged to come to cheer us on! For our many new members, just ask those who have participated in this day, and they will tell you that this is a social event not to be missed.**

**You do not need to be a proficient player. The Cascades courts are different from ours and are QUITE easy rolling. Their members are friendly! There really exists a trophy which GCICS won one year. I was asked to form eight teams [32 players] and will help to set them up. On Feb 19<sup>th</sup> we will determine which teams will play each other by picking from a hat. Plans are completed for the bocce event at the Cascades and the pizza party following play. We have assembled eight teams. Anyone interested in playing would now be on a standby list. Additional spectators are encouraged to come and there IS room to attend the party. I MUST have your name and \$20.00 p.p. for the party. Security at the Cascades will only allow those REGISTERED to enter. Call me immediately at 908 507 3048 to make your arrangements to join us. Don't miss this FUN event!**

**Most Sundays we have only 10-15 players come to our afternoon play. We will need YOU to step up and be on one of our teams. Come join us sometime to familiarize yourself with bocce. New faces are very welcomed! Our court is on the Gulf Coast Conservation Foundation grounds at 400 Palmetto Ave, Osprey, close to the Bay behind the Spanish Point Welcome Center. We play Sundays from approximately 2-4 pm.**

**The Cascades is a gated community with strict rules for entry located north of University Pkwy on Lockwood Ridge. I must know the names of all participants by Feb. 15. Party only guests are also welcome. This FUN DAY schedule runs as follows. We are allowed to arrive at 12 noon for practice. Bocce play is from 1-4 pm. At approximately 4 pm, we all go to the nearby social hall for antipasti salad, pizza, beer, wine, and soft drinks. There is music for dancing and enjoyment. Each of our couples is asked to bring a homemade dessert for all to share. They LOVE US for this. It is most likely the reason we are asked to return each year.**

***You are asked to attend ONLY if you have been fully vaccinated (booster not included) and remain symptom-free. Your cooperation is appreciated. We want everyone to remain healthy in these unusual times and beyond. Understand that neither GCICS nor its directors are liable for health-related events at GCICS events or functions.***

The cost per person is \$20.00, and all payments must be completed by Jan. 30. Go to our website to use PayPal, following the steps below.

Tom Hurban  
GCICS Bocce Chair  
908-507-3048  
[doristom@gmail.com](mailto:doristom@gmail.com)

#### **STEPS FOR PAYING ONLINE**

\*Go to our website, [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 amount of your payment, then enter in the block directly below "Bocce Invitational" and list the name(s) of the person(s) for whom you are paying. Please make sure you do this step.

\*Complete that page, and additional pages as they come up.

\*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.

[RETURN](#)



## Dr. Davide Tanasi Lecture

We are delighted to announce the return of Professor Davide Tanasi to Sarasota for an in person/live presentation to GCICS members on his recent findings in ancient Sicily and Italy.

At the University of South Florida, Tampa, Dr. Tanasi holds the following positions: Director of the Institute for Digital Exploration - IDEX ([www.usfidex.com](http://www.usfidex.com)); Professor of Digital Humanities, Department of History; and Affiliate Faculty, Department of Anthropology. This will be the first 2-hour IN-PERSON presentation held since the pandemic forced the closure of Sarasota's enclosed public meeting places.

Prof. Tanasi's groundbreaking (pun intended) research, blending archaeology and digital technology, informed and delighted dozens of members when, two years ago, he presented some of his discoveries on (a) the ancient trade of wine and (b) the diet of the population in Sicily of yore.

He will return to share with us some of his latest findings. If you enjoyed his previous talks you won't want to miss these new discoveries. If you have not attended a previous talk, here is your chance to get to know the work of a talented, highly motivated Italian-born explorer of the past.

To summarize:

**\*TITLE:** "Around the Roman Table: Tidbits from Ancient Sicily": a presentation by Prof. Davide Tanasi, Ph.D. See full description below.

**\*WHEN:** Thursday, February 24, 2:00-4:00 pm.

**\*WHERE:** Auditorium, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, Selby Public Library, 1331 First St., Sarasota.

**\*HOW:** No cost. Vaccinated guests are welcome.

**\*REGISTRATION:** Email Ellen Roderick ([itrain@erols.org](mailto:itrain@erols.org)) with names of all attendees.

You are asked to attend ONLY if you have been fully vaccinated (booster not included) and remain symptom-free. Your cooperation is appreciated. We want everyone to remain healthy in these unusual times and beyond. Understand that neither GCICS nor its directors are liable for health-related events at GCICS events or functions.

**George Arfield**  
GCICS Social and Cultural Chair

### Dr. Tanasi's Presentation Summary

"From prehistory through the information age, food has been the foundation of economies. Dating back to 100 CE, Roman poet Juvenal measured popular support for the emperor by his ability to provide "bread and circuses", and now even in 2021, debate rages in the U.S. about who is impoverished enough to receive food stamps. The consumption of food is an unbroken reality of human history. It has touched everyone regardless of age, gender, race, class, or nationality. Despite this continuity of consumption, much has changed from how the ancient Romans baked their bread to how we purchase ours at the nearest Publix. Using written, iconographic and archaeological sources combined with contributions from biomolecular chemistry, this presentation will focus on the material culture of food in Roman Sicily."

[RETURN](#)



## Dr. Harry Woske

The GCICS Board of Directors is saddened to report that one of our faithful members, Dr. Harry Woske, died on 1/5/22 at his home in New Jersey. Notes of condolences may be sent to his loving wife, Patricia McKiernan, 7 Partridge Rd., Flemington, NJ 08822.

**OBITUARY: Dr. Harry Woske, 2/26/24-1/5/22**

“Harry M. Woske, MD, age 97 years, of Readington Township, NJ, died Wed, January 5, 2022, at his home. Born in Reading, PA., February 26, 1924, son of the late Max and Helene Dieterich Woske, he had resided in the Flemington area since 1959. Dr. Woske, a cardiologist, was the founder and head of Hunterdon Cardiovascular Associates, Hunterdon Medical Center, Flemington, NJ for many years and retired from his practice in 2000.

Dr. Woske was a graduate of Columbia University, received his medical degree from the University of New York Downstate, interned at Kings County Hospital, Brooklyn, NY, served his residency at University of Pennsylvania Hospital, where he served his cardiology fellowship, and started as a cardiologist at the Hunterdon Medical Center in the 1950’s. He was a Captain in the US Army Medical Corps serving on active duty 1953-1955 during the Korean War.

Always active in the Flemington community, he was a trustee of Hunterdon Healthcare and also of the Hunterdon Healthcare Foundation. In addition, he was a member of the Ethics Institutional Review Board for New Jersey; was a former board member of the Hunterdon YMCA, member of the Flemington Rotary and the Hunterdon County Medical Society.

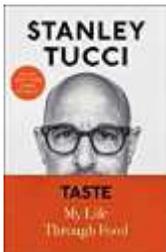
Surviving are his wife of thirty-six years, Patricia McKiernan; a son, Thomas (Joanie) Woske of Bradenton, FL; four daughters, Leni (Bryant Welch) Miller of Sausalito, CA, Shirley Woske of Taos, New Mexico, Betsy (Timothy) Bragg of Flemington, NJ and Lisa Woske of San Luis Obispo, CA. Also surviving are six grandchildren, Justin Woske (Tanisha) of High Bridge NJ, Sunnie Woske of Bradenton FL, Abby Tollefson of Sausalito CA, Marcia Woske (Josh Klein) of Albuquerque NM, Timothy Bragg of Easton, PA, Christopher Stevens of San Luis Obispo, CA, and ten great-grandchildren.

Private family services will be held under the direction of the Holcombe-Fisher Funeral Home, 147 Main Street, Flemington, NJ. Interment will also be private. Due to the pandemic, there will be a public memorial service to be scheduled in the Spring at a place, date and time to be announced. Memorial contributions may be made to the Hunterdon Healthcare Foundation, 9100 Wescott Drive, Flemington, NJ 08822.

[RETURN](#)



# ITALIAN BOOK SHELF



## Taste, My Life Through Food by Stanley Tucci Review by Aida L. La Brutte

This book is simply delicious. Unlike most memoirs or biographies, the true voice of Stanley Tucci seems to shine through. It is full of his favorite recipes, simply presented, and easily made (the fact is he does love to cook), and additionally includes many happy episodes in his life. There are stories of his childhood, raised by Italian American parents in Katonah, New York, near New York City, and descriptions of his meeting and marrying Felicity Blunt, his second wife. There are, of course, the sad times in a full life: the death of his first beloved wife, the mother of his three eldest children, and the terrible, debilitating cancer of the mouth that almost ended his acting career. For a while, and we Stanley Tucci fans are grateful for the relative brevity of this episode, the cancer took away his taste and the ability to eat. (He had to be fed through a tube in his stomach.)

He brings up many of the customs and habits of Italian American households through everyday routines and well-known rituals. For example, there are eight pages of how good-bye is bid after visiting grandparents or other family. There are also traditional ways of eating certain pasta, and if not adhered to you are bound to end up on a watch list. He points out that almost all these households have a second kitchen in their basements, for the purpose of cooking huge holiday and birthday dinners, and herding the families to the basement and away from the clean, neat, and perfect living and/or dining room area.

There are, of course, many hilarious episodes. Among my favorites were the one about his hero worship dinner with Marcello Mastroianni. And, one where Ryan Reynolds accompanies him to the hospital and ends up with tears in his eyes, as did the nurses and female doctors. Tucci is convinced those female tears were only due to their proximity to Reynolds.

Tucci also writes beautiful histories and “obituaries” for famous New York restaurants and delicatessens, such as the Carnegie Deli, which have closed due the Covid-19 pandemic. This book is easy to read, and a fun companion to his popular CNN tv- show on Italy and its foods. I understand that a 2<sup>nd</sup> series is being taped.

If you want a giggle and a reminder of what growing up in an American-Italian household is like, this is the book to read.

[RETURN](#)



## PHOTO GALLERY



**New Members Diane & David Johnson**



**Members Ann Waller & Joan Del Giudice**



**Past President ('93-'01) Gabriella Thurston  
& Member Kate Korp**

[RETURN](#)

## OFFICERS/DIRECTORS

### President

Julie Bondarenko

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

### Vice President

Linda Mercurio

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

### Secretary

Ellen Roderick, PhD

[itrain@erols.com](mailto:itrain@erols.com)

### Assistant Secretary

Judy Herman

[taxmadam@msn.com](mailto:taxmadam@msn.com)

### Treasurer

Penny Thomas

[dafyddpen@AOL.com](mailto:dafyddpen@AOL.com)

### Bocce

Tom Hurban, DDS

[dorisntom@gmail.com](mailto:dorisntom@gmail.com)

### Membership

Mary Lou Ferrari

[MLFFLYME@yahoo.com](mailto:MLFFLYME@yahoo.com)

### Scholarship

Linda Ahern

[lindalahern@aol.com](mailto:lindalahern@aol.com)

### Newsletter Editor

Mary Faith Rinaldi

[maryfaithrinaldi@gmail.com](mailto:maryfaithrinaldi@gmail.com)

### Social and Cultural

George Arfield

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

### Website Coordinator

Jerry Hall

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

### Director At Large

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

Happy  
Valentine's  
Day

We wanted to send this Valentine's Day message to make sure you know that we value you as a member. We look forward to seeing you at future events. Happy Valentine's Day.

The Board of Directors

