

# *LA VOCE DI GCICS*

GULF COAST ITALIAN CULTURE SOCIETY, INC.

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

[WWW.GCICS.ORG](http://WWW.GCICS.ORG)

February 2019



## Message from the President

What a wonderful gathering at the Community Foundation. The room was filled to capacity. The food was delicious and the fellowship...PRICELESS!!!

We are in full swing now that the "Season" is upon us. Next up is the Bocce Tournament at the Cascades. The tournament is so much fun whether you are a player or a spectator. The Cascades group is so welcoming and the courts offer us a challenge to be sure.

We are once again soliciting restaurants to participate in the 10% discount to our members. We ask you for your patience as

we recruit our past restaurants and add new ones. The discount, when in place will run through the end of December 2020. Also...if you know restaurants you'd like to see on the list please let Linda Mercurio or me know and we will contact them.

Last but not least the rate of growth in our club is very exciting. Our events and Happy hours are filled. The joyous noise of conversations fill the air...Thanks to all of you!

Ciao for now,  
Sheryl Lazzarotti, President

## BOCCE CORNER NEWS



The day of reckoning is almost here! E-mail blasts concerning our Bocce Invitational IV have been sent and Doris made our pitch for your involvement at the Town Hall meeting on Jan. 11. At this point the deadlines for signing up have passed. Because last minute cancellations MAY occur, please call me if you have a last minute change of heart. We can TRY to accommodate you. Thank you all who have signed up to either play, cheer, or come to the fun after party. Linda Ahern has to be thanked for doing the arranging with her other Italian Club [CIAO] at The Cascades. Linda also mentioned to bring baggies or containers for any possible food leftovers. Not only is this a great social event for everyone, but they VERY much enjoy the homemade desserts which we are asked to bring to share with everyone.

For new members, we encourage you to come play bocce with us in a very informal manner each Sunday afternoon from approximately 2-4. No experience nor reservations are necessary, but you should bring a chair and something to drink. Our single court is located at the Bay Preserve at the Conservation Foundation. The address is 400 Palmetto Avenue, Osprey. This road runs parallel to Hwy. 41 along the bay behind the Spanish Point Museum. There are bathrooms and a covered terrace. We are a welcoming group and are proud to boast that we are the source for many new members joining our club. As always, if you have any questions, please call me: 908 507 3048

Thanks, Tom Hurban

# MARDI GRAS



Penny Thomas, our GCICS Treasurer, has graciously offered her home for our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Mardi Gras/Carnevale Dinner Gala/Scholarship Fundraiser. You won't want to miss it. Mary Lou Ferrari hosted our 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Gala and it was a grand success. Most came in Mardi Gras adorned clothes (e.g., masks, beads, boas, colorful attire, and in one case costumes). Simply use your imagination. **Because it is in a member's home, we have some space limitations; Penny feels she can accommodate 60 comfortably for socializing and dining. So I would encourage you to sign up early since we now have over 160 GCICS members.** Here is the information:

**EVENT:** GCICS Mardi Grass/Carnevale Dinner Gala and Scholarship Fundraiser

**DATE:/TIME:** Shrove Tuesday, March 5, 2019, 5:30 – 9:00 PM

**LOCATION:** Penny's home: 4112 Pinar Drive, Bradenton, FL. 34210 (941-755-9385)

**COST:** \$30 per person donation to the GCICS Scholarship Fund

**ATTENDANCE:** Limited to first 60 whose checks arrive

**RESERVE:** Make check payable to GCICS Scholarship and mail to Penny. (See address above)

**BRING:** Wine/Beer/other beverage of your choosing and a food contribution based on the listing below and the first letter of your last name:

A – D: Vegetable/side dish (hot or cold), including salads

E – K: Appetizer

L – P: Dessert

Q – Z: Main Course

**TWO OTHER MATTERS:** Restaurant Gift Cards will be raffled off (bring cash to buy chances) & wear your badges please.

**QUESTIONS:** Call (941-755-9385) or email (dafyddpen@aol.com) Penny Thomas

**DEADLINE:** RSVP with a check to Penny by Saturday, Feb 23, 2019 unless Ellen Roderick notifies members before then that the function is full.

# St. JOSEPH'S DAY



The Board is delighted to announce our annual St. Joseph's Feast Day Celebration Luncheon. Don't delay in sending in your check with your luncheon order. As I mentioned at the Annual Meeting, membership has increased tremendously (now at 162) over the past year and so it is imperative that you register early if you plan to attend. The information is below. I realize it is more than two months from now but I believe in doing things early. Mark your calendar, write your check, specify your entree and dessert order and send off. Then you can rest assured that you have a seat for the celebration.

- \*Event:** GCICS St. Joseph's Feast Day Celebration Luncheon
- \*Date/Time:** Sunday, March 24, 2019, 12:00-3:00 pm
- \*Location:** Cafe Baci, 4001 So. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, FL 34231
- \*Cost:** \$36 (includes gratuity; no tax needed) (same cost as the past 3 years)
- \*Payment:** Check payable to GCICS; mail to Dr. Ellen Roderick, 770 So. Palm Ave, #1003, Sarasota, FL 34236
- \*Deadline:** Must have your check by Tuesday, March 19, 2019
- \*Raffles:** Restaurant gift cards will be raffled for the Scholarship Fund (bring cash/check book)
- \*Wear:** Red in honor of St. Joseph; and badge for getting to know one another.
- \*Order:** Specify on a piece of paper with check: (1) Entree choice and (2) Dessert choice **for each person by name.**
- \*Questions:** Call Ellen Roderick (941-366-6756) or email her ([itrain@erols.com](mailto:itrain@erols.com)). Each attendee will receive a color coded card to represent his/her entree choice.  
**Reminder to specify entree and dessert choice for each person.**



\*Pasta with Marinara Sauce

\*Baci Harvest Salad

\*Italian Bread with Dipping Sauce

\*One Glass of Wine (red or white); soda if you prefer

\*Entree Choices (select one) (all entrees served with roasted potatoes & green beans)

Flounder Alla Francese: dipped in egg batter, lemon and capers

or

--Chicken Marsala with marsala (wine) sauce & mushrooms

or

--Eggplant Parmigiana

\*Dessert (select one)

Homemade Tiramisu

Panna Cotta

\*Beverages: Coffee or Tea

\*Cash bar available.

**GCICS ANNUAL MEETING: 1/11/19**  
**Article & Photos: Dr. Ellen Roderick, GCICS Secretary**

**LUNCHEON:** Ellen Roderick welcomed 76 attendees (70 members/6 guests), thanking them for coming. She asked new members (since 3/1/18) to introduce themselves. Ellen acknowledged Joe Raia's 77<sup>th</sup> birthday and the members sang Happy Birthday to him. She presented him with a bottle of wine made in Verona, Italy. Joe Barresi gave the blessing and then asked for a moment of silence for four members who have passed away since the 1/8/18 meeting: Gene McLoone, Micki Moccia, Gayle Zingerman and Frank Coppa. Ellen then called the tables for the buffet line. The meal was catered by MarLyssa's Catering Company. Mary Lou Ferrari arranged for the caterer. Mary Lou and Julie Bondarenko assisted with the set up and serving.

**ANNUAL MEETING:** President Sheryl Lazzarotti called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm. She asked Board members to stand and introduce themselves, sharing their role on the Board. She asked Past Presidents to introduce themselves. She thanked both groups for their service. Sheryl indicated that the Board has one piece of official business, asking Ellen to assume the chair. Ellen moved and Mary Rinaldi seconded the following motion: That six (6) GCICS members be elected to 3-year terms on the Board of Directors: three (3) renewals: Linda Mercurio (VP), Tom Hurban (Bocce Chair) and Bill Korp (Director at Large); and three (3) new Directors: Penny Thomas (Treasurer), Julie Bondarenko (Scholarship Chair) and Pam Parodi (Director at Large) effective immediately. The motion passed unanimously. Doris Hurban spoke about Bocce Invitational IV scheduled for 2/9/19 at the Cascades. She explained the forms on the tables. Ellen then facilitated the Town Hall, generating discussion and securing suggestions for future GCICS activities. She spoke about the increase in membership (108 to 161) and the need to RSVP for all functions; and to do so in a timely manner because spaces are at a premium. The Board needs to identify larger venues for functions due to the increase in membership.

**LECTURE:** Ellen Roderick then introduced our speaker, Leita Kaldi whose topic was "*Mama Mia! Women Rise Against the Mafia!*" The presentation was based on a book by Alex Perry entitled *The Good Mothers: The True Story of the Women Who Took on the World's Most Powerful Mafia* (published 6/5/18). Leita captured the members' attention as she told the story of the deadly and obscenely wealthy branch of the Italian mafia (the Calabrian Mafia known as the 'Ndrangheta) and the tale of the women who risked everything to bring them down. Questions followed. Leita also shared her publications with members. The GCICS Annual Meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm.



Vern & Noni St. Amand  
New Members



Eileen & Ira Lisook  
New Members



Laura & Charles Maniglia  
New Members



Jim & Matti Santagata  
New Members



Lucille & Larry Samartin  
New Members



Mick Santostasi & Daughter Carrie  
New Member



Bob Davis & Leita Kaldi,  
Speaker



Carol and Jerry Hall,  
Website Coordinator



Pam Parodi  
Director at Large



Kate & Bill Korp  
Past President & Director at Large



Lucille & Joe Raia,  
Birthday Celebrant



Carl and Nancy Schubert,  
Courtesy Chair



Mary Rinaldi  
Newsletter Editor



Mary Palmer  
Past President



Ann Waller  
New Member



Ellen Roderick  
Secretary & MC

Photos by George Arfield



Linda Ahern, Sheryl Lazzarotti & Rich Potts



Ann Waller, Sheryl Lazzarotti, & Eileen Lisook



Connie Campisi & Joan and Jack Ferrante



The Food was so yummy that hardly any was left.

## OBITUARY: GAYLE ZINGERMAN

December 9, 1939 – December 30, 2018



Gayle E. Zingerman (79) passed away on 12/30/18 in Sarasota, FL. She had lived in Des Moines, IA, New York, NY, Minneapolis, MN, and Venice and Nokomis, FL. Gayle was born in Des Moines to Isadore & Rose Friedman on 12/9/39, graduating from Roosevelt High School. She held degrees from Brooklyn College (BA in History) and the College of Staten Island (BS '87 in Nursing). She married Dr. David Cohen at the age of 18 and had three children, Steven, Wendy and Jeffrey. Having been widowed, Gayle reconnected with her high school sweetheart and married Jerry Zingerman in 1992. She gained two stepsons, Neil and Mark Zingerman. She was a grandmother and great grandmother. In 1994, Jerry and Gayle moved from MN to Venice, FL. They enjoyed traveling to such spots as New Zealand, Tahiti, Israel, Russia, Italy and the Baltic States. They took cruises to the Caribbean, as well as to South and Central America.

Gayle was instrumental in establishing the "House of Art" museum in her home and was well known for her Art and Antiquities knowledge as well as her art collection that included works by Dali, Picasso and Chagall. During her career, Gayle worked as a Psychiatric Nurse, specializing in helping schizophrenic patients and those needing psychiatric services. In retirement, Gayle spent several years volunteering at Venice Regional Hospital in the ER as well as other locations within the hospital. Gayle and Jerry were active members of the Chabad, helping to support the temple financially. She had a great love of plants and flowers and was a "people person" with superb networking skills. Two members of GCICS, Cathy Mariani and Pina Pergolizzi, have been close friends of Gayle's for 20 years. Cathy delivered a beautiful tribute to Gayle during her funeral at the Venice Chabad on January 3, 2019. Gayle was interred at Venice Memorial Gardens that same afternoon. GCICS extends its sincerest condolences to Jerry and the family on their great loss.



**OBITUARY: FRANK COPPA**  
**February 28, 1935 – January 2, 20**



Frank Coppa (83) died peacefully on 1/2/19 in Sarasota, FL. Born in Providence, RI to Frank and Conchetta Coppa, he is survived by his beloved wife of 55 years, Eleanor, one daughter Christine Halliwell (husband Bruce), grandchildren Grace and Johnathan Halliwell of Petaluma, CA; son Frank Coppa II of Kansas City, MO and grandson Frank Coppa III; son Brian J. Coppa of Tempe, AZ; along with many nieces and nephews. He was a 1955 graduate of LaSalle Academy in Providence, RI and a 1960 alumnus of Providence College. In 1965 he moved to Cumberland, MD where he eventually became Director of Urban Renewal. After completion of the project, he went on to join the state of MD in the Real Estate Division as Land Acquisition Officer. In addition to his career, he opened a family-operated Mr. Donut with a gas business before retiring to Sarasota in the late 90's.

Frank was a member of St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Sarasota and a lifetime member of the Knights of Columbus. In addition, he was a past Director of the Gulf Coast Italian Culture Society, Inc. in Sarasota. He and his wife, Eleanor, attended practically all events and loved the organization. A mass of Christian Burial is scheduled for mid to late January at St. Pius Catholic Church in Providence with his ashes interred at St. Anne's Cemetery in Cranston, RI. Donations in his name may be made to Parkinson Place, 5969 Cattleridge Blvd #100, Sarasota, FL 34232. Condolences to the family may be sent to Mrs. Eleanor Coppa, 3907 Center Gate Circle, Sarasota, FL 34233 or to [www.toalebrothers.com](http://www.toalebrothers.com).



## OFFICERS/DIRECTORS

### President

Sheryl Lazzarotti  
[slazzarotti@gmail.com](mailto:slazzarotti@gmail.com)

### Vice President

Linda Mercurio  
[lindascot@iname.com](mailto:lindascot@iname.com)

### Secretary

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

### Treasurer

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

### Bocce

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

### Courtesy

Nancy Schubert  
[Sunshine.gcics@gmail.com](mailto:Sunshine.gcics@gmail.com)

### Membership

Mary Lou Ferrari  
[MLFFLYME@yahoo.com](mailto:MLFFLYME@yahoo.com)

### Newsletter Editor

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

### Scholarship

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

### Social and Cultural

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

### DIRECTORS AT LARGE

William Korp  
[wrkorp@comcast.net](mailto:wrkorp@comcast.net)

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

Pam Parodi  
[Chez.parodi@verizon.net](mailto:Chez.parodi@verizon.net)

### Website Coordinator

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

## 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.

- 1) Eggs-Traordinary (Sarasota): 346-6931 \*
- 2) Southside Deli: 330-9302 \*
- 3) McCurdy's Comedy Theater: 255-3869 \*
- 4) Social Eatery: 447-7072
- 5) Off The Hook: 923-5570 \*
- 6) Angelo's Restaurant: 312-4747 \*
- 7) Blue Moon Grill: 260-8597
- 8) La Mucca Ballerina: 366-7600
- 9) Tsunami: 366-1033
- 10) The Terrace At Surf Shack: 260-1151
- 11) Cody's Original Roadhouse: 727-6700 \*
- 12) Seasons 52: 702-9652 \*
- 13) MeLange: 953-7111 \*
- 14) Pizza Chef: 378-1126
- 15) Brasa & Pisco: 870-4992 \*
- 16) Mediterraneo: 365-4122 \*
- 17) Apollonia Mediterranean Grill: 359-4816 \*
- 18) The Wine To Buy: 926-9463 \*