

# LA VOCE DI GCICS

GULF COAST ITALIAN CULTURE SOCIETY, INC.

PO BOX 2591, SARASOTA, FL 34230

WWW.GCICS.ORG

May 2013



Dear GCICS Member,

With this edition of La Voce di GCICS we are introducing a new service to our members that some will be pleased to see implemented and put simply some won't. We expect this new service will save money and will make La Voce immediately available to members in glorious color. Yes, the new service is that La Voce will be e-mailed by VP Tony Cagliostro to each member at the e-mail address shown on the current membership list. In that e-mail each recipient shall be asked to send a reply that 1) henceforth I will accept e-mail of La Voce in place of a hard copy or 2) I want to continue receiving a hard copy. Since on occasion the Board sends notices between newsletters by e-mail we anticipate that those replying option 2) will receive an e-mail copy as well, at least for the time being. With the October La Voce those replying option 1) will no longer receive a hard copy. We expect this new service to both save money in printing and mailing costs and the newsletter editor's production time.

With the Scholarship Gala on April 7 the GCICS programs for the 2012-2013 year

Welcome to La Voce di GCICS!

ended. The Scholarship Committee consisting of Marie Corsentino, Marie McEntee, Joe Moccia and Chair Tony Cagliostro presented the Class of 2013 to a host of GCICS members as described on page 3. The end of the year means that the Italian Heritage Month Brunch is next on deck. This year the Heritage Brunch will be focused on the region of Calabria and will feature dishes typical of that area of Italy. It is scheduled for October 27 2013 at 11:00 AM at Mattison's Forty One. Details of the program and the menu will be printed in the October La Voce.

For those members who man the fort during the summer, let's get together for dinner sometime in July. And for all members I wish you a happy summer having fun with your loved ones, good health and a safe return in the fall. See you in October!

Ciao,

Bill Korp

## REVIEW OF PAST EVENTS

### EDITH ZARA MEMORIAL SERVICE

Text: Mary Palmer

Picture: Ellen Roderick



On Tuesday, March 26, the GCICS sponsored a Memorial Service for our dear departed board member and friend, Edith Zara. While her daughter Deborah and family had planned to come to Sarasota Easter week to be with their father, he became ill while in California. But Deborah, her husband, and 3 sons flew to Sarasota to attend our Service anyway.

It was a beautiful event. Most people rose to speak about Edith and her many contributions to the GCICS and also to Tony, who was by her side in all events. Edith was one of the original members of our Society and served it well in many ways. She and Tony hosted our Annual Picnic and Baseball event for years. Edith was open to new ideas and helpful in many ways. She and Tony were generous to our society,

giving of themselves and donating to scholarship year after year!

We were pleased that Edith's grandsons were there to hear people speak so highly of their grandparents. Coming from people outside the immediate family must have had a great impact on them.

Deborah would like to thank all members who attended the service.

It is the policy of the GCICS to honor all officers and board members, present and past, with a Memorial Service. On occasion, it is held in conjunction with the deceased's family. Several members brought cookies and cakes, adding to the light refreshments provided by GCICS. It was a beautiful, traditional event which we are proud to sponsor. Those who attended were glad to have shared in remembering our dear colleague and friend, Edith Zara.

### THE SCHOLARSHIP DINNER-DANCE GALA

Text: Tony Cagliostro

Photo: Pasqual Astore

At a festive Dinner-Dance Gala, held on Sunday April 7 at Mattison's Forty-one, seven local Italian American high school seniors were awarded \$1,000 merit scholarships by the Gulf Coast Italian Culture Society (GCICS). This event is the highlight of our annual season of activities. Everything was marvelous! The food was delicious and of gourmet quality while the service was efficient and smooth. Music by Bruce Shelly and vocalist Sharon brought everyone to the dance floor.

The society's scholarship awards will be paid jointly to the recipient and to the college or university at which each will be registered. GCICS' selection criteria, besides some Italian heritage, include the requirement for a minimum un-weighted GPA of 3.5 and an SAT combined score of 1200 or better or a composite ACT score of at least 25. Applicants must also submit an essay, not to exceed 500 words on the Society's specified topic, and

demonstrate significant extra-curricular school and community involvement.

Vice President Anthony Cagliostro awarded the scholarships. The recipients, in alphabetical order and the high schools each attends are: Zachary A. Carroll, Venice H.S.; Cristina A. Chiodi, Riverview H.S.; Kade P. Cicchella, Lemon Bay H.S.; Aeron DeGroat, North Port H.S.; Andrew C. Micciche, Venice H.S.; Alyssa G. Smith, Lakewood Ranch H.S.; and Zachary D. Zofrea, Bayshore H.S. After the award, Zachary D. Zoffrea read his winning essay about Francesco Vigo.

GCICS president, William R. Korp, Esq. in after dinner remarks to some sixty participants, both Society and student family members, noted that the objective of the Society's scholarship program is to support future leaders of our community. This objective is well on the path of being realized through the excellence of the award recipients.



**Kade P. Cicchella**  
Lemon Bay HS



**Zachary D. Zofrea**  
Bayshore HS



**Andrew C. Micciche**  
Venice HS



**Alyssa G. Smith**  
Lakewood Ranch HS



**Cristina A. Chiodi**  
Riverview HS



**Aeron C. DeGroat**  
North Port HS



**Zachary A. Carroll**  
Venice HS

## **GCICS Scholarship Gala, 7 Scholarship Recipients**

Mattison's 41, April 7, 2013, Photos by Pat Astore

# WELCOME

## NEW MEMBERS

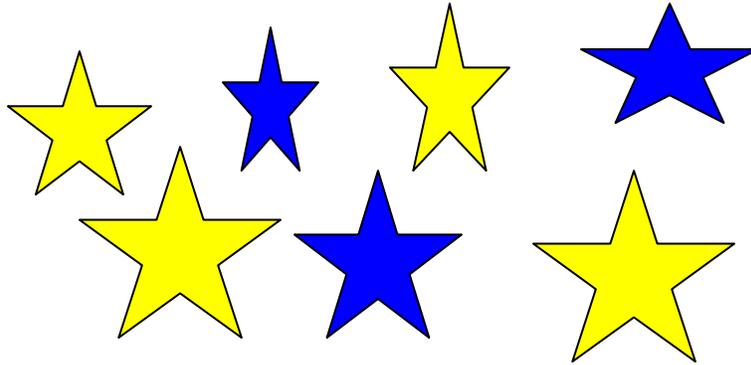
Joan Fontana Schwartz loves her Italian heritage. Both her maternal and paternal grandparents were born in Italy and immigrated to the United States at the turn of the previous century. She moved to Sarasota from Annapolis, MD where her husband and she lived for 35 years. She has an M. F. A. in Acting from Catholic University, Washington, D.C. . Both her graduate and undergraduate degrees are in theatre. She acted, taught traditional school, and built and administrated a Montessori school. She worked beside her husband in his medical office in Annapolis. Joan has one child, a daughter, who is planning a wedding next spring. Joan loves languages and has studied French extensively and within the last 5 years has been studying Italian. She and her husband lived in London for a year during which time Joan became certified to teach English as a Foreign Language and at the same time fulfilled a dream to study Italian in Italy (in Siena). She has travel to Italy frequently and would like to become a fluent speaker and continue her studies in both Italian and French here in Sarasota.



Deborah Zara Kobylt grew up Italian in New Jersey. Deborah is the daughter of the late Edith Zara, a former board member of GCICS. Currently her father, Tony, is staying with her in her home. She married her husband John and together they have three wonderful sons. The boys are still in school, and their names are Justin, Jordan, and James. The family is currently living in Los Angeles, California.

# Mark Your Calendars

## 2013 - 2014 Planned Events



- October 27, 2013: Italian Heritage Celebration Welcome Back Brunch  
Mattison's 41 at 11:00 AM
- November 16, 2013: Picnic at Spicola's home on Casey Key
- November 20, 2013: Dinner Club
- December 14, 2013: Christmas Party at the home of Mary Rinaldi and Jack Norman
- January 10, 2014: Town Hall Meeting and a Movie
- January 15, 2014: Dinner Club
- January 25, 2014: Bring A Dish at the home of Connie Campisi
- February 2014: Valentine's Dinner Dance: Date and Place **TBA**
- February 19, 2014: Dinner Club
- February 21, 2014: 20<sup>th</sup> Century Italian Art Lecture by Kate Korp
- March 4, 2014: Culture Trip and Lunch
- March 7, 2014: Woman's History Month Lecture by Dr. Joe Polizzi on famous Italian Woman
- March 19, 2014: St. Joseph Day Dinner: Place **TBA**
- April 6, 2014: Scholarship Dinner-Dance Gala: Place **TBA**
- April 16, 2014: Dinner Club

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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



I am deeply moved and humbled by the wonderful, warm and special memorial you all put together for mom. It was a beautiful day and I am honored to have been there with my family. We were so touched to see how much mom meant to each and every friend and member there, and while it made me proud, it also made me sad that she is gone from here.

But she is clearly remembered by everyone for her hard work and sweetness, and I will always carry that with me.

Please keep me posted on everything that is going on with the club, particularly information on the scholarship again. You all do wonderful work there and in my own way I would like to stay connected with all of you. Also, dad is improving and we showed him the video of your wonderful memorial when we arrived home yesterday. He was so pleased and felt very happy.

Thank you again. Please feel free to give my sincere "thanks" in your bulletin. I want everyone to know how much we all truly appreciate the time and love that went into such a special day for my dear mom, Edith.

With love and gratitude,

Deborah Zara Kobylt and family (John, Justin, Jordan, James Kobylt and Tony Zara, too!)

**From the Sunshine Lady – Isabel Istorico**

A note expressing our best wishes for a quick and speedy recovery from a recent operation were sent to Ellen Roderick, GCICS Secretary.

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