

# LA VOCE DI GCICS

GULF COAST ITALIAN CULTURE, INC.

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

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

MARCH 2016

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Your Society is active and full of promise but we need more folks involved in the effective execution of our planned initiatives. It is my duty to keep encouraging our members to consider additional challenges during their FL years.

There will be and often is conflict but that can be expected in diverse groups. This causes me to reflect on a reading from 1 Corinthians (from Old/New Testament) where we are taught to "rejoice in the gifts, successes and efforts of others, especially when they help enrich those they serve." Is that not what your Society and our culture is all about? Essentially, our attitude toward others' gifts, successes, accomplishments and, in our case, 'efforts' are to be viewed positively. We must look ahead to our meaningful impact on our greater Sarasota/Manatee community. Negativity and begrudging attitudes are a fool's game and accomplish nothing. May God bless those among us who are not afraid to be bold in their efforts to serve and benefit others.

Enough said and now it is back to work. We need to formalize the suggestions made at our February 19th planning meeting. We will be hearing from

our Secretary on those thoughts, so we can start to see "who wants to step up and be bold!" Any vibrant organization is a reflection of its members! Therein we have it. We owe it to our founders and their vision. I am trying to encourage each of you to participate in our Society -- not for me but for you. My term as President is coming to an end. I am certain that one of you can step up and do a fine job! Let your Board of Directors know who you are and we will help you to further fulfill our mission of service to our community.

Lastly, I would be remiss if I did not express the Society's gratitude to Linda Mercurio for her remarkable energy in her fundraising efforts. She has been an unselfish and creative breath of fresh air which has greatly benefited GCICS. I also wish to thank Linda Ahern and Doris and Tom Hurban for their successful Bocce activities including a Bocce Invitational where we took home the trophy. Kudos to one and all who participated in the Invitational.

That's it for now, Ciao!  
Anthony Esposito

**SAINT JOSEPH'S DAY**  
**SUNDAY, MARCH 20, 2016**

Joseph was chosen by God as the trustworthy guardian and protector of his greatest treasures, namely, his divine Son and Mary, Joseph's wife. He is celebrated in the Italian Community and the patron Saint of Sicily. Breadcrumbs are usually incorporated into dishes. They represent the sawdust, which commemorates Joseph's job as a carpenter. It is an Italian tradition to wear red on this day. Saint Joseph's Day is celebrated on March 19 because that is believed to be his birthday.

This year we are trying a different venue since Roskamp is too small to accommodate our numbers. We hope that you will enjoy having our celebration at Chianti's.

**MENU**

**FIRST COURSE**

*Individual Antipasto Misto*

**SECOND COURSE**

*Penne Pomodoro*

**THIRD COURSE - CHOOSE ONE**

*Veal Piccata*

*Salmon Livornee*

*Lamb Shank*

*Chicken Marsala*

*Eggplant Parmigiana*

**AFTER DINNER APERATIF**

*Limoncello*

**DESSERT**

*Zeppole di San Giuseppe*

Note: There will be a cash bar.



**WHAT:** La Festa Di San Giuseppe (The Feast of St. Joseph)

**WHEN:** Sunday, March 20, 2016

**WHERE:** Chianti Ristorante Italiano  
3900 Clark Road, Sarasota

**TIME:** 2 – 5 PM

**COST:** \$36/PER PERSON

**RESERVE:** List Entrée on your check.  
Make checks payable to GCICS and mail to:  
Connie Campisi  
739 Shadow Bay Way  
Sarasota, Florida 34229  
Phone: 918-8969

P.S. Don't forget to wear red!

## GCICS SCHOLARSHIP FESTA



You are cordially invited to the GCICS Scholarship Festa where up to seven high school seniors will be awarded \$1,250 scholarships as they begin their college education. For a 2nd year, the Scholarship Committee has planned a Sunday Brunch at the Stoneybrook Country Club on **April 10, 2016 at 10:30 am**. We have seating for 80 and with your participation we hope to fill every seat. We think "the price is right" -- \$23.50 all inclusive. We will be welcoming the student scholarship awardees and their guests. The GCICS Scholarship Committee is hard at work reviewing applications and making selections. You will have the opportunity to meet and hear from these college bound local Italian American high school graduates who will be receiving our 2016 merit scholarships. If you would like to sponsor one of the students for the brunch (\$23.50) then include that in your check along with your own fee and indicate that in a note to Linda Ahern who is accepting the checks. The student you sponsor along with his/her parent or guest will be seated with you. Details follow.

**WHAT:** GCICS SCHOLARSHIP FESTA – a Breakfast Buffet honoring our Scholarship Awardees

**WHEN:** Sunday, April 10, 2016 at 10:30 am

**WHERE:** Stoneybrook Country Club, 8801 Stoneybrook Blvd., Sarasota, FL 34238

**MENU:** Omelet station; waffle and fresh fruit bars; Eggs Benedict; other egg dishes with bacon, sausage; hash brown potatoes and grits; hot cereal dish; toast, English muffins, pastries; coffee, tea; one Mimosa or Bloody Mary included in cost.

**COST:** \$23.50 all inclusive (brunch, gratuity and one alcoholic beverage: Mimosa or Bloody Mary)

**RESERVE:** By Monday, April 4. Make checks payable to “GCICS” and mail to Linda Ahern, 4238 65th Place East, Sarasota, FL 34243 (941-309-3390)

## CASA ITALIA WINE TASTING SOCIAL

*Article & Photos by Dr. Ellen Roderick, GCICS Secretary*



Combine 39 GCICS members and guests, an Italian gourmet market and Masciarelli Wines – and you have a party! Thanks to Board member Linda Mercurio, GCICS enjoyed a fantastic evening of fellowship, delicious appetizers and wine tastings. Linda worked closely with Casa Italia owners, Raj and Nita Mathur, to plan a fun event for our members. Attendees included 31 GCICS members and 8 guests. Ten wines were offered for tasting, with Sarah Lansky serving for Casa Italia and Kelly Fried serving for Masciarelli Wines. The wines originated in a variety of Italian settings: Tuscany, Abruzzo, Sicily and Veneto. Our hosts, Raj and Nita, could not have been more gracious and accommodating. The appetizers prepared by Nita were simply scrumptious as well as abundant. Raj and Nita bought the Italian market in 2002 from the original owners who started the store in 1984. The present owners have expanded it into an International specialty foods market. We were able to examine the extensive food offerings as we sipped our wine, noshed on the appetizers and socialized with our fellow members. Many guests were spotted leaving the social with a bag full of wines. Who could resist the 10% discount if one purchased four bottles? Thank you, Linda, for suggesting and arranging this special event for our society.



## NEW MEMBERS EXPERIENCE THEIR FIRST GCICS EVENT

*Article & Photos by Dr. Ellen Roderick, GCICS Secretary*



The GCICS Wine Tasting Social was the perfect venue for newer members to experience their first GCICS event and get to know our longstanding members in a relaxed and informal setting. Casa Italia hosted 31 GCICS members and 8 guests. Of the 31 members, 10 had joined either in 2014 or in the Fall/Winter of 2015. For most of them, it was their first opportunity to experience GCICS hospitality. The venue worked out so well – plenty of room for socializing and eating delicious appetizers and tasting those wines. We met John Mercurio, brother of Board member Linda, and a native of Sarasota who is a CPA in downtown Sarasota. Linda also recruited her friends Ben and Susan Gaboury, with Ben having a French ancestry. This was the 2<sup>nd</sup> GCICS event for Gordon Bloom but this time he brought his wife Joyce. They live in Venice and will soon be off cruising to the South Pacific, Australia and New Zealand. This was also Terri Maze's 2<sup>nd</sup> event, having attended the Annual Meeting. She is a neighbor of Linda Ahern's at the Cascades and is of Irish ancestry. Jim and Susan Cavanaugh have been members since 2014. They are a very busy couple raising two children and owning/operating the Super-Sensitive Musical String Company here in Sarasota that manufactures bowed instrument strings. And finally, we have a couple who are recently engaged, Carlla Juffo and Brett Branning. Linda recruited them as well. Carlla is from Brazil while Brett is of Irish heritage (with red hair). Having joined in 2013, Al and Nancy Dominguez are newlyweds. Warm congratulations to them. We extend a gracious welcome to one and all – may you enjoy our society for many years to come. Let us know what kinds of functions you would find of interest, perhaps consider volunteering for a committee or simply be an ACTIVE member of the organization.





## Bocce Corner News

### WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS!!!!

A cold, rainy dank day it was for our first bocce invitational on February 6, but our hearty bocce players and cheering squad arrived at The Cascades to do our best. What a great team we had! Our club had 49 people participate! The bocce courts became rain soaked, but determined we were and our group prevailed. There were whistles, horns, pom poms, umbrellas, cold hands and pride. Our hosts, Cascades CIAO club, were most gracious and accommodating. The after party was so well organized, thanks to Linda Ahern, and we all ate our fill. Italian music really added to make it a fun party. The Tarantella dancers weren't tired at all from the bocce playing, enjoying all types of dancing. Both clubs mingled well and had a grand time. Captain Tom Hurban proudly accepted the traveling winner's trophy on behalf of our club, which will be on display at our various functions throughout the year. We have a suspicion CIAO will invite us back next year to attempt to have the trophy return to their courts. There were many of our members who expressed gratitude for having a bocce group and how much it has brought the members together to know each other. We thank them for their most kind words. Unless there is inclement weather, we are playing at our Bay Preserve court each Sunday at 1:30.



## 2015 – 2016 GCICS Italian Classes



**Location:** Bay Village, 8400 Vamo Road, Sarasota, FL 34231, Telephone: 941 966 5611

**Directions to the room location:** After sign-in at reception, proceed to the left. Just after the elevators, (in front of the gift shop) turn left and proceed half-way down the hall. The room we meet in is on the right (just past the computer room and just before the mailroom). The room is almost directly across from the restroom.

**Monday class times are:**

Beginning Italian 12:00-1:00

Intermediate Italian 1:00-2:00

Conversation Class 2:00-4:00

**Dates:**

March: 15 and 28

April: 11 and 25

## GIFT CERTIFICATES FOR THIS MONTH



5 O'Clock Club  
Bob's Train  
Blu Kouzina  
Café Venice  
Casa Di Pizza  
CasAntica  
First Watch  
Grasshopper  
Hana Sushj  
Italianno's  
Lobster Pot  
Lucky Pelican  
Mama Onesti's Italian Restaurant  
Napoli's  
Norma Jeans  
Pastry Art  
Pomona Bistro & Wine Bar  
Roni's Café  
Ruth Chris Steak House  
Shore Diner  
Sonny's BBQ  
Sun Garden  
Venezia  
Wheat & Water Italian Kitchen  
White Hourse Pub (3<sup>rd</sup> card)

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[Marco\\_mazzoni@outlook.com](mailto:Marco_mazzoni@outlook.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

William Korp 2010-2014

**RESTAURANTS OFFERING 10% DISCOUNT TO  
MEMBERS**  
**PLEASE PATRONIZE THESE RESTAURANT**

Café Amici 951-6897  
1371 Main St., Sarasota

Café Baci 921-4848  
4001 Tamiami Tr., Sarasota

D'Corato 330-1300  
322 So. Washington Blvd., Sarasota

Mona Lisa 377-6562  
4989 Ringwood Meadow, Sarasota

Phila. Cheesesteaks & Hoagies 926-0441  
7523 S. Tamiami Tr., Sarasota

Piatti Italian Bistro 923-5570  
6630 Gateway Ave., Sarasota

Primo Restaurante 359-3690  
8076 Tamiami Tr., Sarasota

Valentino's  
Cooper Creek Blvd. 359-6400  
Clark Road 921-9600

**GCICS PATCHES**

GCICS has patches with our logo for sale. These logos have a safety pin attached on the back. Therefore, they can be attached to any garment. The patches will be great to wear at our events and bocce tournaments. Please contact Joe Moccia at 387-2039 if you are interested in purchasing one for \$7.