

LA VOCE DI GCICS

GULF COAST ITALIAN CULTURE SOCIETY, INC.

PO BOX 2591, SARASOTA, FL 34230

WWW.GCICS.ORG

February 2013

Dear GCICS Member,

Welcome to La Voce di GCICS!



It is a privilege to be the president of such an organization as ours! I feel it at our board meetings and events. Here I am a Northern European stern face, lighting up to Southern European culture. It's not important as to why I am president, but it is important as to how I view our Society. First of all, you may have noticed that over the months I have referred to us as a "Society" eschewing the term "Club". In my mind the word Society raises expectations of social involvement beyond the current status, involvement grounded on culture and tied closely to the past. On the other hand Club sounds to me like local get together with friends. There is certainly room for clubs, but to me Societies have the potential for great value and achievement.

My experience as president has been members pitching in, having a good time and giving time and money to assure the scholarship program's success. But, I think we're lacking in carrying out our Society's mission. I heartedly endorsed the suggestion by Tony Cagliostro to modify the essay requirement in our scholarship application to focus on contributions of Italian Americans in the development of our country (you can

read the winning essays on line). On the other hand, during my tenure we've been unsuccessful in recruiting significant numbers of local leaders of Italian Heritage, both men and women into our Society.

I don't believe we have a disconnect, but rather an "un-connect." Our members are by and large retired "northern migrants" that have left children and grandchildren behind. Our membership then, is two generations short of a real Society. Our potential membership is the people that make Sarasota County what it is day after day. They should take the place of the sons and daughters that our members left up north and supply our activities with the grandchildren that ought to run around and have fun at family events that at present we are unable to offer.

I have been president for a few months short of three years. At our February Board meeting the board will appoint the president for this year. While I am willing to serve another year, I will continue to give what I can to the Society if the Board decides to appoint a, how shall I say it, real Italian.

Ciao

Bill Korp

Valentine's Day Dance



On Friday, February 8, 2013 the GCICS will celebrate Valentine's Day at the Stoneybrook Golf and Country Club in Palmer Ranch. Dine and dance to the live music by the four piece band "Crossover."

Menu

Cocktail Hour – Cash Bar

Appetizer Station with Fruit and Cheese
Passed Hors d'oeuvres

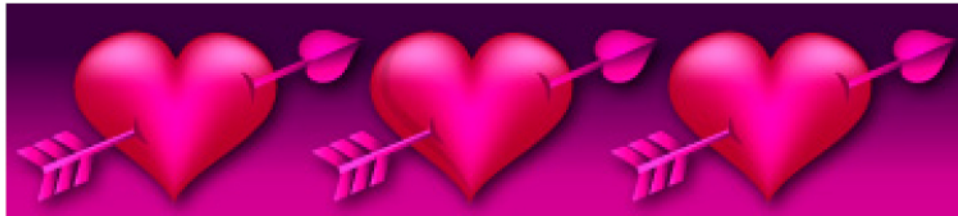
Dinner – Cash Bar

Surf and Turf

Desert

Coffee, Tea, and cakes

- Date:** Friday, February 8, 2013
Time: 6:00 PM Cocktail Hour
7:00 PM Dinner and Dancing
Place: Stoneybrook Golf & Country Club in Palmer Ranch
Cost: \$45 per person – Note: drinks not included in price
Reserve: Make checks payable to GCICS and mail to:
Connie Campisi, 739 Shadow Bay Way, Osprey, FL. 34229



UPCOMING EVENTS

Lecture Sieres

By Mary Rinaldi



On Friday, March 8, 2013, GCICS will hold its next lecture event. This year we will learn about the Island of Sicily. Our guest speaker will be Ambrogio Calderone (known as Gino to his friends and relatives), who is a native of Sicily. Gino came to the United States from Carini (outside of Palermo) when he was 15 years old. The family settled in the Canarsi section of Brooklyn. After attending junior high school and high school, Gino went on to earn his bachelors and masters degree from Brooklyn College where he majored in French and minored in Spanish. Professionally, Gino taught foreign languages in a junior high school and high school in Brooklyn. Retiring from the New York City Board of Education, he and two of his sisters migrated to Beverly Hills, Florida where he has resided for the last 15 years. He will be traveling from Beverly Hills, Florida (near Crystal River) to give his presentation. After speaking with him, I am sure that his presentation will be exciting and interesting. A light lunch will be served.

- WHAT:** Lecture Series – A trip to Sicily
WHEN: March 8, 2013
TIME: 12 PM
FOOD: Light Lunch
COST: Free
WHERE: Community Foundation of Sarasota County
2635 Fruitville Road, Sarasota, FL. 34237 (near Tuttle)
RESERVE: Mary Rinaldi by March 4, 2013. 941-907-9056

LA FESTA DI SAN GIUSEPPI

MENU FOR ST. JOSEPH'S FEAST

APPETIZERS

Peperoni Arrostiti (Freshly Roasted Red Peppers)
Fungi Marinati con Olio e Limone (Mushrooms Marinated with Extra Virgin Olive Oil & Lemon)
Olive Cunzati (Marinated, Seasoned Olives)
Fresh Finocchio (Fresh Fennel Served with Seasoned Olive Oil)

PASTA

Linguine con Alici e Mollica (Linguine w/Anchovies and Toasted Bread-Crumbs)
Penne con Salsa Marinara (Penne with Marinara Sauce)

ENTRÉE & VEGETABLE

Pesce (Baked White Fish or Shrimp)
Melanzane al Forno (Baked Eggplant W/Mozzarella & Tomato Sauce)

SALAD

Mixed Salad Greens with Tomatoes and Italian Dressing (sugar free)

DESSERT & COFFEE

Sfinge di San Giuseppe (St. Joseph's Cream Puffs)
Coffee

Crusty, Country-style Italian Bread and Butter

Please note:

In order to keep costs to a minimum and have a greater participation of the membership, the Board of Directors has voted that at this event, GCICS will not provide wine. Therefore, **this is a BYOB event.**

Depending on the restaurant that is catering this event, the menu might change.

Festa Di San Giuseppe

Now a yearly tradition, beloved by all, we are celebrating the Feast of St. Joseph on Monday, March 18th at 6 PM. The authentic menu was adapted from Pina Pergolizzi and Mary Amabile Palmer's research and is sure to please. The event will be chaired by Kate and Bill Korp and Mary Palmer.



- WHAT:** *La Festa Di San Giuseppe* (The Feast of St. Joseph)
WHEN: Monday, March 18, 2013, at 6 PM
WHERE: Roskamp Center for the Arts, 1226 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, FL
TIME: 6:00 PM
COST: \$32 per person
RESERVE: Make checks payable to GCICS and mail to:
 Mary Palmer, 888 Blvd of the Arts #406, Sarasota, FL. 34236
 Please include names and phone numbers of all attending.

A table will hold a Statue of St. Joseph and three loaves of bread. A bouquet of flowers and candles will adorn the table. Three breads will be placed in front. A round loaf of bread is baked for Jesus and represents eternal life. This is placed in the center. A second loaf of bread shaped like a date palm baked for Mary, which symbolizes blossoming fruit, will be placed to the right. A third loaf of bread shaped like a staff is baked for St. Joseph. Mary Palmer will bake and donate the breads.

DINNER CLUB

On February 20, 2013 our dinner club, a GCICS favorite, Meets at Mona Lisa Restaurant. They give our paid members a 10% discount. Those who have attended these events have made it a point to report that they enjoy meeting new people in a friendly, informal setting. Come join the fun!

- WHAT:** Dinner Club
WHEN: February 20, 2013
WHERE: Mona Lisa Restaurant, 4989 Ringwood Meadow, Sarasota
COST: Individual Checks
RESERVE: Connie Campisi, 918-8969, at least a day in advance

ITALIAN CLASSES 2013 Schedule

Please be advised that both beginner and conversation classes will be held in the **Sarasota County Schools Administrative Building** located at 1950 Landings Boulevard, Sarasota beginning January 2013. Landings Boulevard is off RT.41 and behind "Sweet Tomato Restaurant". Take the first left off Landings Boulevard and look for building #1950 straight ahead with a blue awning. Ample parking is provided in front of the building. Enter building and take the elevator to the second floor. Classes will be held in room 218 or 219. Check the daily easel board near the elevator for the exact room # for that day.

Location: Sarasota County Schools Administrative Building
1950 Landings Boulevard, Sarasota

<u>Class Section:</u>	<i>Italian Converation</i>	<i>Beginner's Italian</i>
<u>Instructor:</u>	Frank & Pina Pergolizzi Cell: 203-583-2323	Patricia Novak Cell: 941-753-8357
<u>Day:</u>	Wednesday	Mondays
<u>Time:</u>	2:00 – 4:00 PM	2:00 -4:00 PM with one
<u>Dates:</u>	February 6, 13, 20, 27	February 4, 11, 25
	March 6, 13, 20, 27	March 4, 11, 18, 25
	April 3, 10, 17, 24	April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

FROM THE SUNSHINE LADY – ISABEL ISTORICO

Best wishes, for a complete and quick recovery from a recent operation were sent to Marie McEntree. Marie is an original member of the GCICS organization and a member of the Scholarship Committee.

GCICS TOWN HALL MEETING – ANOTHER GRAND SUCCESS!

Dr. Ellen Roderick, GCICS Secretary & Town Hall Facilitator

Pato may have vanished, but our members did not! Instead, they were “front and center” on January 11, 2013 for the GCICS Annual Meeting as prescribed by the GCICS Bylaws. Forty-six faithful members, including 10 of our 13 Board members, spent their afternoon dining, socializing, providing thoughtful feedback, and viewing a comedy entitled “The Vanishing of Pato” (released in 2010 and set in the 1890s in Sicily; Italian with English subtitles).

The Board extends warm thanks to everyone for coming to the meeting. We increased attendance by 6 over last year. We thank Connie Campisi and Joe Moccia for lunch. And we thank Bill Korp for providing his leadership. What did we learn from our members? As the facilitator, my notes reflect the following:

- Members with email are generally supportive of receiving the newsletter via email in the future. We will check with each one of you personally.
- Members are supportive of the dues renewal notice sent in December.
- Continue to encourage the language classes (thanks extended to Pat Novak & Frank & Pina Pergolizzi for their service as “teachers”).

- Convene a gathering to teach two Italian card games: Briscola & Scopu.
- Use a variety of venues for our functions (e.g., Bird Key Yacht Club, Café Baci, Heritage Oaks, Salute).
- Conduct a fundraiser, selling used Italian books, DVDs, etc.
- Work on membership: bring friends to functions; share the excitement of GCICS through word-of-mouth; publicize at the YMCAs.

These are just a few ideas from the members. Let’s keep the dialogue going at future events. We did a little business also. Bill Korp, Tony Cagliostro, Anthony Esposito and Pat Novak were elected to 3-year terms on the Board. Bill discussed the dues increase, the revamped website (www.gcics.org) which is really shaping up, the renewal of membership notice, home dining fundraisers, and recruiting YOUNGER folks. The Board is committed to continuing the successful October brunches and free cultural events. And finally, we continue to support the students of Sarasota and Manatee counties with scholarships. Call any Board member with your questions or comments. We welcome the opportunity to chat and secure your ideas on future programs for this wonderful organization.

New Board Member: Patricia Novak

Patricia earned a BA and MA in the field of languages and the humanities. Her career with the Department of Defense Schools, took her to various points in Turkey and Italy. She had the opportunity to visit much of the Middle East and Europe and lived in Italy for 34 years before retiring to Sarasota. Her passion is the Italian language and all things Italian.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

New members invited by Mary Rinaldi are Mary Ann Fischetti and Pravat Mazumdar. Pravat came from India to study at the University of Rochester for his master's degree. They met in Rochester and lived their raising their son Jonathan who is working for an American company in Mumbai. Both Mary Ann and Pravat worked for the Xerox Corporation for many years. The couple plan to be snow birds and to divide their time between Lakewood Ranch and Rochester, New York.



Joni and Robert were married in NYC, and lived in Chappaqua, NY (Westchester County). However, they both grew up as part of an extended Italian family in Brooklyn, New York. They moved down to FL in 2006 with 3 of our 6 children who were still living at home. Bob is an I/T consultant (and in Joni's opinion the best in the business for mainframe support), and Joni is an attorney who practices civil and mostly family law. She was admitted to the NY, NJ and FL Bar. She belongs to the Columbian Lawyers association in NY (Italian NY lawyers group). They both do a ton of volunteer work at their children's schools and other organizations such as Sarasota Crew and Legal Aid. They moved down to Florida because it was always one of their favorite vacation spots and they thought it would be a great place to live as well. They are enjoying the wonderful Florida weather and are happy to have found new friends in the area.

OFFICERS/DIRECTORS**President:**

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Joseph Raffaele, PhD

Gabriella Thurston

Patrick Corsentino

Arthur Castraberti

Marie Corsentino

Mary Amabile Palmer

*Scholarship Corner***GREBE – ACHIEVEMENT NOTED**

By Tony Cagliostro



ANTHONY V. GREBE
PINE VIEW HS

Anthony Grebe, a 2012 GCICS merit scholarship recipient, who traces his Italian ancestry through his maternal grandparents, was acknowledged, in December, by the National College Board as one of only 17 students in the world, who earned every possible point of the Macroeconomics Advanced Placement (AP) exam that he, along with almost 100,000 other students, took last May.

The College Board also reported that last year more than 2 million students took one or more AP exams on a variety of college level courses. Only 88 of the test takers, including Anthony, earned every possible points on any exam. The College Board labeled the result an "extraordinary academic achievement".

Anthony is no stranger to perfect scores. His application for the GCICS scholarship disclosed a 1600 score on his composite SAT exam. A graduate of Pine View High School he carried a perfect 4.0 unweighted GPA into his senior year. He has just completed his first semester at Washington University in St. Louis, with a not unexpected 4.0 GPA. Asked to comment on the difference between life in St. Louis and Sarasota he replied "they say its been a mild winter so far, but not for me!"