

Dear GCICS Members,

As you know, our Newsletter Editor, Mary Rinaldi, is recovering from spinal surgery. She spent 2 weeks at Moffitt Cancer Center followed by 4 weeks in a Sarasota rehab center where PTs (along with Mary's determination) worked magic with Mary made tremendous progress. Mary is home now under her husband's loving care. Her PT continues at home. Consequently, I am sending messages to you periodically since we do not have a back up Editor and I do not have a software package to "attempt" a newsletter. Sorry about that.

I have some matters to write you about. But first, allow me to brief you on our dear member, Joan DelGiudice, who took a bad fall at Church of the Palms on 2/25/19. She broke her shoulder in three places, had surgery and then went to Hawthorne rehab center. Joan & Jack Ferrante, long time GCICS members, have devoted hours to helping Joan (Joan rents for 3 months in The Meadows quite near the Ferrante home). Joan is making good progress and, upon her release, will fly to her NJ home. I give you this detail so you may better appreciate how we value one another's friendships in GCICS. When a member is widowed, we check in with that member during the grieving period; when a member needs a ride (as he/she ages), we pick that member up so that he/she can enjoy our wonderful activities; and when a member needs special support, we are there for him/her. What an incredible Society we have the privilege of belonging to!!

Also, a HUGE thank you to our Treasurer, Penny Thomas, for hosting a most successful (and fun) Mardi Gras/Carnevale celebration last week. We raised \$610 in the restaurant gift card raffles. And 50 folks attended @ \$30 each totaling \$1,500. And all of that money went into our Scholarship Fund. Penny and a "selected team" worked extremely hard to provide us all with a wonderful evening of socializing and dining. And thanks to all the great cooks who brought such yummy food.

And now our items:

1. The 1st attachment is a **listing of restaurants that have recently provided us with gift cards** for our raffles to raise Scholarship dollars. Thank you Linda Mercurio for securing these cards. Don't we love winning them!!
2. The 2nd attachment is the **2nd Announcement for the April 12th Culture Lecture**. Guests are welcome. George Arfield is taking the RSVPs and he needs the names of all who are planning to attend; at least half of our 100 seats are now filled.
3. The 3rd attachment describes our **GCICS Program Planning Meeting for April 5 at Cafe Baci**. All members are welcome. But an RSVP is required. Consider joining the Board to help us plan for 2019-2020. If you cannot attend, email me with your ideas for programs, being as specific as possible.
4. Finally, if you have your membership card, please add Cafe Roma to the list for the 10% discount: 1944 Hillview St., Sarasota (941-706-2354). (Note: Sheryl Lazzarotti, President, or Linda Mercurio, Vice President, brings the 2019 Membership Cards to every GCICS function for distribution; do ask them for a card at the next function you attend.)

Questions, Thoughts. . .

Call or email me with your questions, thoughts, etc. Two final requests:

1. If you would like to volunteer your home or HOA/condo party room for a Scholarship Fundraising Social in 2019-2020, let me know before our April 5 planning meeting. The Board would work with you to bring off a successful event. We have had terrific events at the homes of Penny Thomas; Mary Rinaldi & Jack Norman; Mary Lou Ferrari; Connie Campisi; Vince & Tam Amoroso; and Kate & Bill Korp over the past few years.
2. If you have ideas for Cultural Lectures or you have contacts with great presenters on topics of interest, contact George Arfield (917-658-9698).
3. And finally, we have at least 15 scholarship applicants at this moment. The committee will be convening soon to interview the candidates and select the recipients. We will award a number of scholarships as well as award \$1,000 each to the *Sarasota Youth Opera* and the *Sarasota Ballet's Dance: The Next Generation*. That is how your Scholarship donations are dispersed.

Ellen Roderick
GCICS Secretary

GCICS ITALIAN CULTURE LECTURE

Friday, April 12, 2019, 2:30 - 4:00 pm

Community Foundation of Sarasota County

2nd Announcement

- Event:** *"Sicily: Cradle of the Mediterranean Diet--Grape Wine and Olive Oil in European Prehistory"*
- Presenter:** Dr. Davide Tanasi, Asst Professor, Digital Humanities, University of South Florida (USF), Tampa
- Date/Time:** Friday, April 12, 2019, 2:30 - 4:00 pm
- Location:** Community Foundation of Sarasota County, 2635 Fruitville Rd, Sarasota 34237
- RSVP:** George Arfield (arfield@yahoo.com) -- number of attendees AND first & last names.
- Deadline:** Monday, April 8, 2019
- Attendees:** Family/friends welcome. RSVP first & last names to George.
- Questions:** George Arfield @ 917-658-9698
- Bio/Photo:** Dr. Tanasi's bio appears below.

Dr. Davide Tanasi is an archaeologist specializing in Mediterranean archaeology with specific interest on Sicily and Malta, where he has been directing archaeological excavations since 1990. He is currently Assistant Professor of Digital Humanities, Department of History, University of South Florida, where he had founded the Institute for Digital Exploration (IDEx). His research interests includes application of digital technologies and analytical techniques for the study of archaeological heritage, archaeology of food, cultural interrelations between Sicily, Malta and the Aegean in prehistory, mortuary archaeology of

Greek and Roman Sicily. He has authored several books, hundreds of articles and curated miscellaneous volumes on those subjects such as 'Topical Issue on Portable XRF in Archaeology and Museum Studies' (De Gruyter, 2017) and 'Politics and Performance in Western Greece' (Parnassos Press 2017). Since 2018, he is Co-Principal Investigator of the excavation project of the Roman Imperial domus of Rabat at Malta.

Abstract: A description (abstract) of the presentation appears below.

In recent decades, chemical residue analysis has proven to be very important to answering archaeological questions. Many aspects of daily life in the past that remain unknown can now be investigated using advanced analytical techniques. Such analytical approach becomes extremely effective when applied to the archaeology of food in prehistoric times, where the lack of written sources makes extremely complicated the reconstruction of cultural practices and their impact on ancient societies. Food habits are constructed in accordance with a broad range of cultural, ideological, and interpersonal factors such as status, religion, gender, age, wealth, and more. An emblematic case study is represented by the discovery of the chemical signature of the oldest grape wine in European history and older olive oil in Italian history in Sicily, a discovery with tremendous archaeological implications and which shed light on previous unknown aspects of pre-Greek Sicily.

Dear GCICS Members,

In light of the fact that we do not have a newsletter at present, I am sending periodic emails to you with information we would normally share in the newsletter.

A. State of Members' Health

1. Mary Rinaldi: I emailed you her message of gratitude this morning in which she told us she is making good progress.
2. Joan DelGiudice: I visited her again this afternoon; she has made excellent progress with her repaired shoulder from her fall. On March 28 she will fly back to her home in NJ (she rents down here for 3 months). Joan Ferrante, a GCICS member, has been a tremendous help to Joan especially in the last few days when all of Joan's possessions needed to be packed up and then her car packed for car shipment on Tues of this coming week. So we wish Joan DelGiudice continued progress up north.
3. Frank Piccolo: George Arfield, a GCICS member, has been keeping in contact with Frank and here is what George reports:

"I'm doing decently," is how our fellow member, Frank Piccolo, described his situation during a telephone conversation today.

He is being treated at Moffitt in Tampa and during the first week in April will undergo a pet scan to further determine his condition. Oncological treatment targeted at the location of the disease will follow. In the meantime, he is resting at his Bradenton home. He remains in good spirits, misses the GCICS events and asked me to thank everyone who contacted him with well wishes. He's especially grateful to Penny Thomas for having delivered the GCICS membership roster to his home; he can't

receive or send email as his computer is not working at the moment. If you'd like to contact Frank by phone or in person (remember, he's off email for the time being), here are his address and phone number: 3404 41st W, Bradenton, FL 34205; 941-756-1033.

B. Success of LaCena: Full-Moon Dinner Cruise (Marina Jack II)

George Arfield, GCICS Culture Chair, arranged a most unusual LaCena for St. Joseph's Feast Day (3/17/19). Here is what he reported:

"Well, the moon did not cast its glow upon our merry band of hungry sailors but fortunately the rain held off and we did catch a sliver of sunset reds. We had 43 aboard, members and guests, and the Marina Jack land and yacht crew performed admirably. We were given the entire upper deck, which put everyone in close proximity to the nicely stocked bar."

C. New Members

Since March 1, we have acquired 6 new members so we continue to grow:

**Paul Anthony & Joanne Ritacco (Sponsored by Ellen Roderick) (3/1/19)*

**Samira & Peter Easton (Sponsored by Eli & Enzo Anzellini) (3/1/19)*

**Carol Hirschburg (Sponsored by Judy Herman) (3/1/19)*

**Sally Rogind (Sponsored by Ellen Roderick) (3/22/19)*

D. Save the Dates

There is still time to sign up for the following:

1. April 5, 2019, 11:30-2:30pm: Lunch & Planning Session for 2019-2020 GCICS Program Year (Cafe Baci, 1st floor, back room; Dutch treat): contact Ellen Roderick @ 301-775-1344 if you would like to help the Board with its planning.
2. April 12, 2019, 2:30-4:00pm: Lecture at Community Foundation (just west of Tuttle on Fruitville): ***Sicily: Cradle of the Mediterranean Diet--Grape Wine and Olive Oil in European Prehistory***; Contact George Arfield @ 917-658-9698 or arfield@yahoo.com by April 8, 2019.
3. April 14, 2019, 10:30am: Scholarship Brunch at Tara Country Club (\$25pp); mail check to Ellen Roderick, 770 So. Palm Avenue #1003, Sarasota, FL 34236 by April 1, 2019.

Ellen Roderick
GCICS Secretary

GCICS BOARD OF DIRECTORS PROGRAM PLANNING MEETING

Friday, April 5, 2019: 11:30-2:30 pm

Cafe Baci – 1st Floor, Private Room

Annually, your Board of Directors holds a Program Planning Meeting for the upcoming Program Year (2019-2020). We begin with lunch (the restaurant provides individual checks & our 10% discount) followed by an intensive planning meeting that moves quickly. We first establish tentative dates/locations for the annual functions [i.e., Welcome Back Italian Cultural Month Luncheon (Oct), Bocce Picnic (Nov), Holiday Party (Dec), Annual Meeting/Luncheon (Jan), Bocce Invitational (Feb), St. Joseph's Celebration (March) and Scholarship Festa (April)].

We then look at options for other suggested or past successful functions such as the Sarasota Youth Opera/Dinner event, an Opera House Tour, a Wine Tasting, etc. We discuss members' suggestions and discuss who might initiate coordination and when best to schedule such events.

We will discuss the Society's regularly scheduled activities (e.g., Happy Hours, Language Instruction, Sunday Bocce) and discuss if any improvements or changes need to be made.

There is a great deal to accomplish in this 3 hour period; and our goal is to walk out of the session with a plan and a tentative schedule for the major activities.

So that gives you a "taste" of what transpires at our planning meeting. We welcome you to join us. Please call (941-366-6756) or email me (itrain@erols.com) and reserve a space if you would like to help us plan. The restaurant is located on 41 just south of Bee Ridge Road on the left. Thank you.
Ellen Roderick, GCICS Secretary