

LA VOCE DI GCICS

GULF COAST ITALIAN CULTURE SOCIETY, INC.

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

WWW.GCICS.ORG

DECEMBER 2015



Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

Here we are in December, already amidst the Holy Season for many of our members. On behalf of your officers and Board of Directors, please accept our most sincere wishes for a healthy enjoyable holiday season.

I need to take a moment to again thank our own Joe Latona for delivering his thoughtful program at our Italian Heritage Month Brunch back in October at Mattison's 41. Dr. Latona showed us that the culture of Italy is much more than just food, art, music and entertainment. It is also about business based economics and Joe thoughtfully and extensively supported his comments with hard facts. The presentation was both educational and entertaining for members and was also eye opening for many who found these facts fresh and new.

Looking forward, we have our annual holiday party, (on Dec.13th), at Palm Aire Country Club; our important January Town Hall Meeting spearheaded by Ellen Roderick; and our St. Valentine's Day Party at Vince Amoroso's home. Additionally, Sheryl Lazzarotti's Scholarship committee is in full swing preparing to process worthy applicants for our annual scholarship awards. Sheryl's chairing of this committee is a cornerstone of our organization and is a

difficult and challenging task that she quietly performs in a most professional manner. We all are very grateful for the work that she and her committee put in to make this program effective and meaningful.

In addition, our bocce program, headed by Doris Hurban, is also alive and well. Plans for a St. Joseph's Day celebration on March 19 also demonstrate the vibrancy of our Society in the greater Sarasota/Venice/Manatee area.

Clearly you can see that operating a meaningful Cultural Society takes member participation and often hard work, so please consider stepping up to offer your help. Remember the profound words of my good friend, Sister Ascenza Tizzano, Provincial Superior of Religious Teachers Filippini, based in Morristown, NJ, "a busy soul holds a clean mind and, of course, our Lord loves a cheerful giver!" Accordingly, do not be afraid to step up and offer your talents and skills to assist our Society. You will likely discover a joy that will be yours to cherish forever.

Ciao for now and May God Bless Each of You!

Anthony Esposito

CHRISTMAS GALA/HOLIDAY PARTY

Merry Christmas



The Christmas Gala/Holiday Party is the only event featured for December, and it is a big one. The event has always been festive, friendly and fun-filled and this year promises to be more of the same. However, the venue has changed. This year, we will be going to the Palm Aire Country Club to enjoy dining and dancing to celebrate the season.

MENU

FIRST COURSE

Soup: Cacquacotta alla Toscana

SECOND COURSE

(Choice Pre-Selected)

Porchetta

Pork Tenderloin with fontina risotto, green beans and porcini mushroom sauce

OR

Lobster Ravioli with Sherry Sauce

OR

Spinach Ravioli

(Vegetarian Option)

THIRD COURSE

DESSERT

Chocolate Ricotta Torte

BEVERAGE

Coffee, Iced Tea, Hot Tea

CASH BAR



WHAT: Christmas Gala
WHEN: Sunday, December 13, 2015
TIME: 5:30 – 9:00 PM
WHERE: Palm Aire Golf and Country Club
5601 Country Club Way (off Whitfield Ave in Palm Aire)
COST: \$45/person, make check payable to GCICS and note main dish choice on Memo line
RESERVE: By December 7, 2015
POINT OF CONTACT: Mail check to:
Linda Mercurio, 5770 Deer Hollow Lane W., Sarasota, FL. 34232
Phone: 941-400-1156



ANNUAL MEETING AND LECTURE

The annual meeting will be in a Town Hall format. First a light lunch will be served. Then the meeting will begin. At this time, GCICS' vision and new initiatives will be presented by our President Anthony Esposito. Then the floor will be open to members so that they can discuss their future vision and program preferences. Finally, a presentation about Italian Americans in World War II will be delivered.



This year our guest speaker will be one of our own, Leita Kaldi Davis, (nee Bevacqua) who worked at UNESCO in Paris, the UN in New York, and Tufts and Harvard Universities. She was a Peace Corps Volunteer in Senegal, and a hospital administrator in Haiti. She has written two books on those experiences, Roller Skating in the Desert and In the Valley of Atibon. She contributes a "Lettera dall' America to Il Grillo Parlante" in Calabria. Leita's interest in Italian American history stems from her own family background, from years in Italy, and from a constant interest in, and love of, Italians. Leita teaches courses at the Lifelong Learning Academy of USF Sarasota-Manatee on "La Storia: Five Centuries of the Italian American Experience".

- Title:*** Lecture: **"G.I. Giuseppe: Italians during World War II"**
- Date/Time:*** Friday Jan 8, 2016 11:30 - 2:00 pm
- Location:*** Community Foundation of Sarasota Florida
2635 Fruitville Road., Sarasota, FL. 34237 (near Tuttle)
- Contact Person:*** Ellen Roderick itrain@erols.com 941-366-6756 (after Dec 8)
- What You Should Bring:*** Appetite and your thoughts on GCICS programs/activities for 2016-2017
- Presiding:*** Anthony Esposito, President

FOWLER TRIBUTE



Between 15 and 20 GCICS members came out on Saturday, November 7th, to attend the "Celebration of Life Service" for fellow members Arden and Tony Fowler at All Angels Episcopal Church, Longboat Key. Arden planned a beautiful service prior to her passing that included several soloists, violinists and a wonderful choir performing musical pieces chosen by both Tony and Arden. The Pastor, as well as some of their friends and relatives, spoke fondly of both of them. After 64 years of marriage, Tony and Arden passed within months of one another. It was the ending of the service that clearly announced the passing of Arden and Tony into our Creator's arms with the dual *Trumpets of Vivaldi* blasting clearly into the heavens as the service concluded. From all of us in the Gulf Coast Italian Culture Society, "May Arden and Tony rest comfortably in God's eternal peace."



REVIEW OF BBQ AND BOCCE EVENT

On Sunday, November 8th, GCICS held its annual Italian BBQ and Bocce event at the Conservation Foundation of the Gulf Coast, 400 Palmetto Avenue in Osprey. The event was very well attended, with nearly 50 people present to savor delicious barbecued sausage, courtesy of “chef” Anthony Esposito, President, and delicious tangy tricolored peppers prepared by Joe Moccia, GCICS’s vice-president and maestro of the grill. The menu was amply supplemented by sides, salads and desserts graciously provided by participants. One of the highlights of the event was a raffle conducted by Linda Mercurio and aided by Sheryl Lazzarotti. Gift certificates to a wide variety of local eateries and business were “raffled” off to add to the day’s excitement and pleasure. It should be noted that the success of the raffle was due in no small part, to the outstanding efforts of Linda Mercurio who worked diligently to secure the multitude of gift certificates that were offered as prizes. Several spirited games of bocce were also played, as members cheered on the players and delighted in the comradeship. All in all, a wonderful day of fine friendship, delicious food, and family fun was enjoyed by all.







BOCCE CORNER NEWS

The court at The Bay Preserve is back in action, although we have missed many of you recently. It is recommended to bring folding chairs for comfortable seating and any snacks or liquids you wish to consume. We have been asked not to park inside the iron gates of the Preserve grounds. Access is easy from the left side of the brick building where there is a cement walkway and some handicap parking exists.

Lee Amos, the gentleman in charge at the Conservation Foundation at Bay Preserve asked if we would participate in their Fall Festival held on Nov. 7. Sheryl Lazzarotti, and grandson Brandon, Carol and Jerry Hall and Doris and Tom Hurban volunteered to be at the court for the day to teach the game of bocce to youngsters and their parents. These volunteers wore the new Clubs logo shirts to proudly represent the GCICS. Over 1,000 people attended, and club brochures were given to many interested attendees. The Foundation personnel very much appreciated our efforts which were well received and we have been asked to participate next year.

Linda Ahern, a Club member who lives at the Cascades, is setting up a bocce challenge against them. It is to be a FUN day, and open to ALL levels of players. We have been invited to come with as many two person teams as we can gather up, so find a partner and plan to join us! Three courts will be utilized, so every team will play at least twice in a double elimination format. We need cheerleaders as well, so plan to be there! Because of the conflict with Super Bowl, our date is now Feb. 6. A small fee will be charged for the light refreshments to follow. Can we count on your participation? Please contact Doris and Tom Hurban at either 941 966 2745 or cell 908 507 3048.

RECENT GIFT CARD DONATIONS



Breakfast House
Pattigeorge
Cafe Epicure
Ortygia
Caragiulos
Eggstraordinary
62 Bistro
Pino's
Clasico
Gold Rush BBQ
Francesco
Family Pet Center

Barnes & Noble
Paisano
Heinrichs
Mama Leones
Michaels on East
Fratello's
Walt's Fish Market
Harrys
City
Pizza
Hyde Park
El Toro Bravo

Half Shell Seafood
Curry
Station
Isabella
Old Packinghouse Cafe
Bearded Clam
Casey Key Fish
House
Antoinies
Old School
Morton's Gourmet Market
White Horse Pub

WELCOME TO GCICS

MARY HARTMANN-DEMPSEY learned about GCICS from a fellow student in an Italian class she was taking through the Sarasota adult education program. That other student is not a member of our organization. Mary started taking the Italian classes with Pat Novak beginning in November. Mary has a daughter living on Bird Key and two sons living in Santa Barbara. Having a maiden name of Scardo and hailing from Maplewood, New Jersey, she is first generation Italian.



JOHN MERCURIO was born in Sarasota and is a CPA with a firm on Orange Avenue. Also, he serves as Treasurer on the Board of Directors of Spanish Point. He is the brother of Linda Mercurio of our Board of Directors.



2015-2016 GCICS ITALIAN CLASSES



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

Conditions of usage: Guests must park below, immediately to the left of the gate upon entry. Either walk up the stairs or the road to the main entrance. Participants must sign in at reception and wear a name tag the entire time in the building. Absolutely forbidden, food or any beverage including bottled water brought into the meeting room.

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.

Textbook information: Book may be purchased on line. Barnes and Noble sometimes has this book in stock. It is appreciated that students have the book for the start of these sessions.

Book information: Italian: A Self-Teaching Guide by Edoardo A. Lèbano, Publisher John Wiley & Sons, Inc. , copyright 2000, ISBN 978-0-471-35961-6

Note: Conversation classes will start in October, but the language classes will NOT start until November.

Monday class times are:

Beginning Italian 12:00-1:00

Intermediate Italian 1:00-2:00

Conversation Class 2:00-4:00

Dates:

NO CLASSES in December.

January 11, *18, 25 ***Deadline for any new members in Beginning Italian is January 18**

February 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

March 7, 14, 21, 28

April 4, 11, 18, 25

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Past Presidents

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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 RESTAURANTS

Café Americano 365-1026
1409 Main St., Sarasota

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.