

# LA VOCE DI GCICS

GULF COAST ITALIAN CULTURE SOCIETY, INC.

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

WWW.GCICS.ORG

Dear Members,

As I write this first "Message from the President" my thoughts about the coming year and its possibilities and challenges are exciting and daunting.

Our search for a teacher for the Italian classes, both conversational and language is a top priority. We will be pursuing all avenues for this. We may have to adjust the schedule depending on the availability of teachers who can accommodate us. We appreciate your input and patience...

For the first time in a number of years we are in fairly good financial shape. That is not to say we can be frivolous...but it does give some peace of mind. Our Treasurer, Dwight Pendola's monthly reports show a stability that is comforting. The money saved from putting the Newsletter on-line was a big help. We can be more nimble to change and add new member information in real time. We have also found new ways to enjoy new events at more moderate costs...Bocce and Happy Hours come to mind...Plus the advantage of scoping out new and interesting restaurants...Moving the Scholarship event to a morning Brunch has resulted in wonderful attendance...85 at our April 10<sup>th</sup> event at the Stoneybrook Country Club. Linda Mercurio's raffle netted us almost \$650 that day. I call her our "secret weapon" and oh...the wonderful restaurants she offers in the raffles.

The first full year of our Bocce Court at the Conservation Foundation near Spanish Point received and deserved raves. We realize some work needs to be done on the court...granite dust is not inexpensive but the pleasure our members derive from the court's use, the publicity from our name being on it, and the camaraderie it creates with the members (almost 50

at our final spring outing makes it very worthwhile to invest a little money there.

Our Charitable obligations...Now that we have our Scholarship "Festa" Brunch complete, it is time to revisit and revitalize our look at how we can help the "Youth Opera" and the Ballet. Some may not realize that for the last two years we have had a winner of one of our scholarships who were members of the "Youth Opera" 2015: Alex Koutelias of Sarasota HS, now attending New College here in Sarasota and 2016: Isabella Cibelli du Terroil of Venice HS hoping to attend McGill College in Canada in the fall. All of this is to say we do have an involvement with the arts albeit peripheral.

In closing we bid three of our Board Members a fond Farewell.

Connie Campisi has been on the GCICS Board for 10 years...Her great smile and warm sense of humor will be sorely missed.

Anthony Esposito ...retiring from the Board serving most recently as our President.

Frank Coppa who served for 6 years.

We wish them all God speed. We know they won't be strangers and we will miss them.

Please know we are here for you, the members. Without you we don't exist. Please write to me ([slazzarotti@gmail.com](mailto:slazzarotti@gmail.com)) or call me Mobile 908-803-4400 with your concerns and suggestions. Snowbirds be safe in your travels...see you in the fall.

Sheryl Lazzarotti

# *Wine Tasting Social*



The GCICS Board of Directors is pleased to announce its second 2015-2016 Wine Tasting Social on Tuesday, June 14, 2016. Here is the information:

***EVENT:*** Wine Tasting Social

***DATE:*** Tuesday, June 14, 2016

***TIME:*** 7:00 PM

***LOCATION:*** Butcher's Block  
3242 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Sarasota 34235 (near intersection of 17<sup>th</sup> & Lockwood  
Ridge Road) 941-955-2822

***COAST:*** \$10 per person covering appetizers and wine tasting

***PROGRAM:*** Socializing and Wine Tasting

***POC:*** Send check to Linda Mercurio: (941-400-1156)  
5770 Deer Hollow Lane W., Sarasota, Fl. 34232

***DEADLINE:*** RSVP by Tuesday, June 7<sup>th</sup>

***NOTE:*** Limited to the first 40 who send their check to Linda.

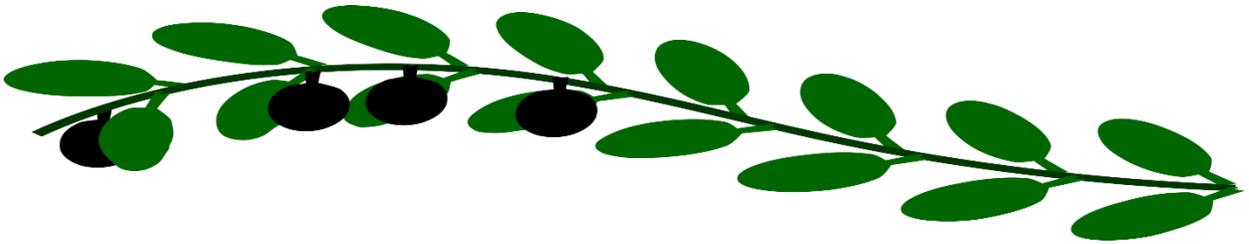
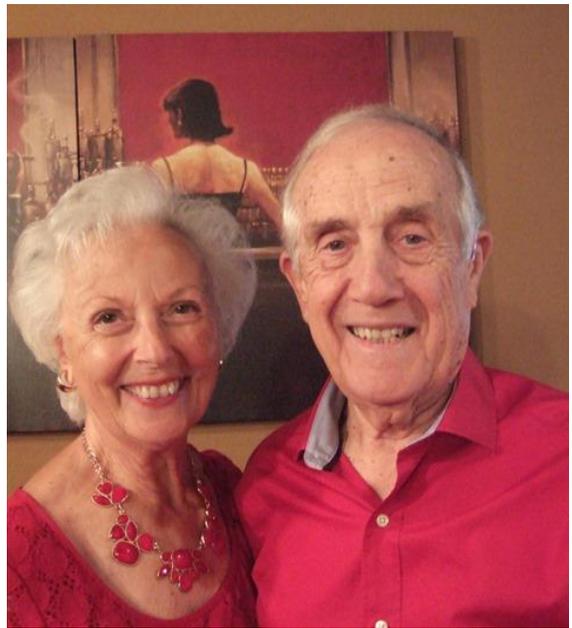
## ST. JOSEPH'S CELEBRATION

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



We tried a new venue for honoring the Feast of St. Joseph, Patron Saint of Italy, and it was a grand success. So mark your calendars now for Sunday, March 19, 2017 from 2-5 pm at Chianti Ristorante Italiano. Forty-five (45) members and guests joined in the celebration. So many contributed to its success: Connie Campisi, Linda Mercurio and Sheryl Lazzarotti made arrangements with Chianti's; Connie handled the reservations; Sheryl and Linda Ahern surprised us with entertainment (2 mandolin players); Dr. Joe Polizzi prepared & provided us with booklets entitled "The St. Joseph's Table: An Age-Old Italian Tradition"; Linda M. led gift certificate raffles (\$540 made for scholarship fund); Ellen handled the payment with Chianti's and served as Master of Ceremonies; Sheryl sang for us; and everyone appeared to have a great afternoon. The food & service were outstanding with the veal piccata being the most popular entrée selection. The private party room was perfect for our group. When you looked out at the tables, it was a "sea of red" in St. Joseph's honor. Enjoy the photos below and plan to "be in the photos" on March 19, 2017.





# BOCCE CORNER NEWS

Photos by Pat Astore:



A fun and successful bocce picnic was held April 17 at “our” bocce court at The Bay Preserve in Osprey. We had about 51 participants attend, although over 60 had originally signed up. We feasted on special homemade dishes members shared, and our two chefs, Jerry Hall and Tom Hurban, kept the grills going to provide the burgers and hot dogs. Joe Barresi beautifully carved all the roasted chickens. Our members pitched in to help in various ways, but nothing would have been possible without Jerry Hall’s many trips with his truck, picking up the rented tables, grills, coolers, etc. Molto grazie to all, especially Jerry and Carol Hall and Nancy and Carl Schubert. We could not have had a better committee! The donation jar provided enough cash to cover the purchased food, paper products and rented tables. There are sufficient paper products left to have another picnic! Connie Campisi even found our club’s tablecloths, which fit the 8 foot tables perfectly. Linda Mecurio again sold her restaurant gift certificates to provide funds for the scholarship program. Joe Moccia provided music for our enjoyment, adding to the festive atmosphere. Can’t forget— people did also play bocce!

Suggestions were made to name our bocce team. If anyone has another suggestion for a name, please contact Tom Hurban and we will add your suggestion. When we resume this newsletter in the fall, we will list the proposed names and you can select the winner! Linda will provide a good gift certificate for the first place name.

The Board needs to know if you would like to have another picnic in the fall. If desired, we will need a volunteer to chair the event. Are you willing?

Tom and Doris Hurban    [dorisntom@gmail.com](mailto:dorisntom@gmail.com)    941-966-2745

Photos by Doris Hurban



## SCHOLARSHIP FESTA REVIEW

Text by: Mary Rinaldi

Photo by: Pasqual Astore



The Scholarship Festa hit a homerun out of the ball park! Reservations were limited and several members (those who sent their checks in late) had to be turned away due to the outstanding turnout. In total, Eighty-four members and guests attended this signature gala event. The mood was one of excitement and anticipation. After a scrumptious breakfast buffet, the awards ceremony began, with the presentation, this year, of seven \$1250 scholarships. The budding young scholars were welcomed and introduced, and they spoke to us about the college careers they were about to embark on. The topic for the essay that the awardees were required to address was Amedeo Pietro Giannini, the founder of the Bank of America. Katherine Salvatori was selected by the Scholarship Committee to read her essay to the assembled guests. To make the event even more memorable and pleasurable, Linda Mercurio had gift certificates to raffle, which resulted in GCICS garnering over \$500 additional money to be applied to next year's scholarship fund. What a great beginning! Kudo's to chairman, Sheryl Lazzarotti, and her entire committee for a job well done.



McKenzie Lane  
Northport High School

Nicoletta Freer  
Lakewood Ranch  
High School

Isabella Cibelli  
Du Terroil  
Venice High School

Katherine Salvatori  
Pineview High School  
(Osprey)

Marina Pezzella  
Riverview  
High School

Paige Levanti  
Riverview  
High School

Briana Topp  
Northport High School

Sheryl Lazzarotti  
Chair, Scholarship  
Committee

**GCICS Scholarship Awardees 2016**

## A Sincere and Heartfelt “Thank You”



For a combined 12 years these three members have worked diligently on keeping the word “Cultural” alive in the GCICS! Once a week for 8 years, you could hear Italian being spoken in the conversation class run by **Frank & Pina Pergolizzi**. Theirs was a class designed to foster conversation in our clubs’ native Italian language, where one could come to hone their speaking and comprehension skills, and spend two hours hearing the melodious language of Italy. Conversations ran the gamut from everything from airplanes to zebras...as long as it was spoken in Italian and, as long as you took turns speaking! Talk over each other (a common ‘Italian’ thing) and Pina would raise her plastic clapper and shake it back and forth, until order was once again restored! As many as 15 to 20 people would make it out for this two hour taste of our heritage. The conversation class was also attended by students who were just learning to speak Italian from **Patricia Novak**, who ran two hour Italian language class each week for four

years. Week after week Patricia would teach her students, grammar and pronunciation, along with a little bit of the history of Italy, sharing her knowledge of the country she had lived in for over 35 years. She would drill her students on verbs, adjectives, and especially the proper way to pronounce the words “Bocce” and “Bruschetta!” With great patience and knowledge she brought her class to the point where, some of her 12 or more students needed an advanced course which she offered this past year, preparing for 2 different classes for each meeting, one beginners and one intermediate. These students would stay on to join the conversation class just for the excitement of seeing how many words they could actually pick up. These three members have contributed greatly to the Gulf Coast Cultural Society. Their classes brought in new members and was a great weekly way to keep our heritage alive for those that attended. Grazie mille, Frank, Pina e Patrizia, per tutto il vostro duro lavoro e dedizione!

## GIFT CERIFICATES FOR APRIL



Bellacino's  
Beulah  
Blue Jasper  
Breakfast Cottage  
Café Evergreen  
Capital Grill  
Casa Maya  
Cody's Original Roadhouse  
Cosimos\*\*  
Dickey's\*\*  
Drago  
Goodfellas\*\*  
Hurricane Grill & Wings

Italian Grill  
Mattison's\*\*  
Rib City  
R J Gators  
Robins Downtown  
Rusty Bucket  
Scarpetta  
Texas Roadhouse  
The Original Egg  
Tom & Chee  
Trattoria  
Truman's  
White Horse Pub\*\*\*\*\*

Note: Each \* represents a gift certificate given to the Society to raffle.

# SAVE THE DATE

10/23/16 (SUN): Italian Cultural Heritage Month Welcome Back Luncheon



12/11/16 (SUN): Christmas/Holiday Dinner Gala



1/13/17 (FRI): Annual Town Hall Meeting



2/4/17 (FRI): Annual Bocce Tournament



3/19/17 (SUN): St. Joseph's Festa



4/23/17 Scholarship Festa



## OFFICERS/DIRECTORS

### President

Sheryl Lazzarotti  
[slazzarotti@gmail.com](mailto:slazzarotti@gmail.com)

### Vice President

Joe Moccia  
[marymoccia@verizon.net](mailto:marymoccia@verizon.net)

### Secretary

Ellen Roderick, PhD  
[itrain@erols.com](mailto:itrain@erols.com)

### Treasurer

Dwight Pendola  
[dpendola@live.com](mailto:dpendola@live.com)

### Bocce

Thomas Hurban, DDS  
[dorisntom@gmail.com](mailto:dorisntom@gmail.com)

### Courtesy

Isabel Istorico  
[Isabelistorico585@comcast.net](mailto:Isabelistorico585@comcast.net)

### Marketing

Linda Mercurio  
[lindascot@iname.com](mailto:lindascot@iname.com)

### Membership

Robert Amedeo  
[bobnatamedeo@comcast.net](mailto:bobnatamedeo@comcast.net)

### Newsletter Editor

Mary F Rinaldi  
[maryfrinaldi@yahoo.com](mailto:maryfrinaldi@yahoo.com)

### Photographer

Pasqual Astore  
[pat@21stcenturyinternational.com](mailto:pat@21stcenturyinternational.com)

### Scholarship

Linda Ahern  
[lindalahern@aol.com](mailto:lindalahern@aol.com)

### DIRECTOR AT LARGE

William Korp  
[wrkorp@comcast.net](mailto:wrkorp@comcast.net)

### COORDINATORS

#### Website

Marco Mazzoni  
[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
Anthony Esposito	2014-2016

## RESTAURANTS OFFERING 10% DISCOUNT TO MEMBERS

### PLEASE PATRONIZE THESE RESTAURANTS

Café Americano 1409 Main St., Sarasota	365-1026
Café Amici 1371 Main St., Sarasota	951-6897
Café Baci 4001 Tamiami Tr., Sarasota	921-4848
D'Corato 322 So. Washington Blvd., Sarasota	330-1300
Mona Lisa 4989 Ringwood Meadow, Sarasota	377-6562
Philadelphia Cheesesteaks & Hoagies 7523 S. Tamiami Tr., Sarasota	926-0441
Piatti Italian Bistro 6630 Gateway Ave., Sarasota	923-5570
Primo Restaurante 8076 Tamiami Tr., Sarasota	359-3690
Valentino's Cooper Creek Blvd. Clark Road	359-6400 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.