

LA **VOCE** *DI* **GCICS**

GULF COAST ITALIAN CULTURE SOCIETY, INC.

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

WWW.GCICS.ORG

April 2016



Ladies and Gentlemen of GCICS:

I write this newsletter looking back on a season of great accomplishment for GCICS from improving our structure and financial strength to expanding our base of member activities. All of us can be most pleased with our 2015/16 season as we close it out with a celebration of our crowning mission, the Scholarship Brunch! Sheryl Lazzarotti has very successfully chaired this function of our Society by increasing the number and dollar amount of our scholarship awards which really puts a spring in our steps. Her efforts have made it possible for all of us to look to Scholarship with a great feeling of charitable pride and accomplishment.

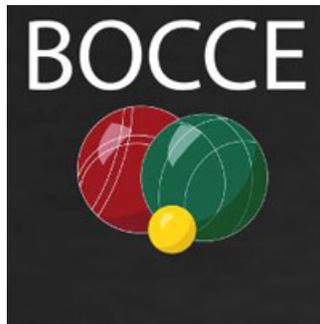
Also, we express our sincere appreciation for Connie Campisi's efforts toward our greatly improved St. Joseph's Day celebration, as well as Vince & Tam Amoroso's work in hosting our St. Valentine's Day dinner at their home and remitting all funds received to our Scholarship Program. Please join me in remembering their contributions toward the success and core values of GCICS.

Additionally, we have witnessed unprecedented control of expenses with the help of several members under the supervision of our Treasurer, Dwight Pendola. So each of you may be assured that your contributions are used efficiently. I have always cherished a good Treasurer! I have asked for member support of our overall efforts to further the development of GCICS and members are stepping up to the challenge for which I am most grateful.

We have come a long way but no successful group lives on their press clippings alone. I urge each of you to continue to look ahead to see where your GCICS can offer benefit to our greater Sarasota/Manatee communities. Looking forward to our 2016/17 season I say, "Ciao for now."

Anthony Esposito,
President

BOCCE CORNER NEWS



You are all invited to participate in our *GCICS Spring Bocce Picnic*:

When: Sunday, April 17th, 1:00 – 4:00

Where: Bay Preserve, 400 Palmetto Ave., Osprey, FL

Contact: Tom Hurban, 941-966-2745, cell 908-507-3048
e-mail: dorisntom@gmail.com

Cost: No charge but bring a food item to share on the buffet table; also bring your beverage of choice (alcohol is permitted); GCICS is providing chicken, hamburgers, paper goods.

Seating: You must bring your own chairs; none are provided.

Come join us for another fun day at “our” bocce court to eat, drink, play bocce and socialize. The Conservation Foundation has us listed on their calendar for April 17th. We are reminded to keep the area spotless and ask that we do not use too many parking spaces, keeping some for regular Sunday guests. Also we must NOT park inside the gates. Please car pool if possible.

Although we are not charging, we will have a donation jar available to help defray costs. Linda will again be selling raffles for dining out. As in the past, all these monies will benefit our scholarship fund.

In order to have enough food, we MUST know if you are attending. Call Tom or Doris at the numbers above, or e-mail us, also letting us know what food category you will be contributing for the picnic (appetizer, salad, vegetable, dessert, etc.), so we don't end up with all the same items.

Come see our bocce trophy won versus CIAO at The Cascades. Also, a contest is planned: “Name Our Bocce Team”. The winner will be rewarded with some of Linda Mercurio's dining certificates!

Hope to hear from many of you soon! Tom Hurban

VERDI EXHIBIT TOUR & LUNCH

Article & Photos by Dr. Ellen Roderick, GCICS Secretary

TEAMWORK was the real key to the success of this GCICS event on March 9, 2016 at the Sarasota Opera House & First Watch. Here is how it all came down. In late Feb, I informed members about a new Verdi Exhibit at the Sarasota Opera to commemorate the 28-years of Verdi operas. One member, Millie Bennett, quickly emailed me back, suggesting that perhaps one of our members might give us a tour of the exhibit – a member who is familiar with the Verdi operas. I then emailed everyone and asked if there was a volunteer. Linda Mercurio picked up the ball, contacted the Opera staff, and arranged a tour for GCICS which I then announced. Linda also made our First Watch luncheon arrangements. It was great fun working with Millie and Linda – together we were able to provide a delightful event for our members. Teamwork is what it is all about in GCICS. We need more and more of it.

We were honored to have the Sarasota Opera's Executive Director, Richard Russell, as our tour

guide. Sam Lowry, Director of Audience Development, initially welcomed us and then introduced Mr. Russell. He spent about 30 minutes with us, talking about the reason for the exhibit and then describing the exhibit's major components. He was kind enough to answer a number of our questions. We learned that AIDA was the Opera's largest and most costly production in the company's history (\$1m). We saw beautiful costumes, fascinating sketches, set designs, scenic models and a collection of photographs from Verdi stage productions and concerts. Following the exhibit we walked next door to First Watch for a delicious meal and socializing. While there, we met Carlos Vicente, the Opera's Director of Marketing (see photo below). Photos accompany this article. The group was comprised of: Richard Russell, Ellen Roderick, Michael Kean, Linda Mercurio, Linda Ahern, Millie Bennett, Frank Pergolizzi, Mary Rinaldi, Terri Maze, Pina Pergolizzi, Pat Novak, and Mary Balestrieri (Pina's guest).



VALENTINE PARTY REVIEW



Photos and Text by Mary Rinaldi

Approximately 40 members and friends attended the Valentine Party at the home of Vince and Tam Amoroso. Speaking for the Board, we would like to thank you so much for coming to the Valentine Party. An enormous thanks goes out to Vince and Tam who opened their beautiful home for the occasion. For our dancing pleasure we had Pam Jefferies who furnished the wonderful music. And what a treat to listen to the magnificent voice of Sheryl Lazzarotti. Of course, we had a turnout of red apparel. Everyone had such a good time. The atmosphere was just so joyous. Linda did her thing and raffled off gift cards. Almost everyone won something! Lastly, what can we say about the food. Vince did such a great job with the pork roast and pasta dishes. He is a wonderful chef. Your generosity in cooking or baking such delicious dishes is unsurpassed. Thank you!





GIFT CERTIFICATES FOR MARCH



Baltimore Snowball Pub*
Barefoot Grill
Blaze Pizza Pub
Blue Dolphin
Brassiere 41
British Open
Burritos Mexican Grill
Captain Curts
Cassariano
Clalytons
Crow's Nest
Denise's
Dickeys Barbeque Pit Tavern
Edelweiss
Erbelli's
Fandango
Freddys
Harrys*
Il Panficio

Longhorn
Marcello
Meadows Village Pub
New Pass Grill
Palermo
P.F. Changs
Puccini Café
San Remo
Serving Spoon
Silver Star
Soda Fountain
Sweetberries
Sweet Tomatoes
The Fudge Factory Beachway Café
The Heritage
The Jager
Turtle Beach Grill
White Horse

*Second gift certificate

2015 – 2016 GCICS Italian Classes



Mondays in April:

April 11 and 25

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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 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.