

LA VOCE DI GCICS

GULF COAST ITALIAN CULTURE SOCIETY, INC.

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

WWW.GCICS.ORG

December 2019



Letter from the President

The new season for GCICS is well underway...This past weekend we celebrated the Youth Opera opening at the Opera house preceded by dinner at Cafe Bijou 30 plus people attended dinner before. The performance was wonderful...These young people sang their hearts out to a standing ovation.

Our welcome back Bocce Picnic was held on November 3rd. Not everyone is back yet but those attending had a great time and spectacular food and we made some money with raffles for the Scholarship.Thanks to Tom Hurban and his committee for a wonderful afternoon.

Next up will be our annual Holiday Dinner Party hosted by Dr. Noel and Ms Eileen Chiantella in North Venice...This bring a dish and wine event is always delightful...cost \$30.

Hard to believe we are just around the corner from Thanksgiving and Christmas....Let me take this opportunity to wish you Happy Holidays...I look forward to seeing all of you at various events in the new year...If you are traveling...take care...

Sheryl Lazzarotti

HOLIDAY DINNER PARTY FUNDRAISER



This year our GCICS Holiday Dinner Party will be at the home of Noel & Eileen Chiantella. As in previous years, it will be a “Bring a Dish” and “Scholarship Fundraiser”. We sincerely hope that you will join us in welcoming in the season. Noel and Eileen have planned a delightful get-together and are providing a main course & entertainment. The type of dish you bring is based on the first letter of your last name:

A-D: Dessert
E-K: Main Course
L-P: Appetizer
Q-Z: Vegetable/Salad

Date/Time: Sunday, Dec 15, 5:30 – 9:30 pm

Place: 242 Pesaro Dr., No. Venice, FL 34275

Donation: \$30 per person; make check payable to GCICS Scholarship Fund; deadline-12/10; mail to Pam Parodi, 4081 Prairie View Drive N, Sarasota, FL 34232

Bring: Your dish, wine to share, your badge and your grand holiday spirit.

Questions: Call Ellen Roderick (301-775-1344)

FILM PRESENTATION



We are delighted to announce that **Professor Scott Perry** has kindly agreed to lead another presentation of an Italian masterpiece of cinematography, the 1977 film “*A Special Day*” featuring the incomparable **Marcello Mastroianni and Sophia Loren** in the lead roles and directed by the great Ettore Scola. The film was met with great acclaim. For further information about the film visit Wikipedia at en.wikipedia.org.

Seating is limited (80) so if you plan to attend please RSVP via email to George Arfield (arfield@yahoo.com) typing "GCICS Film" in the subject line, including in the email the name/s you're reserving for.

WHAT: Screening/Discussion of Italian Film Classic “*A Special Day*”, led by Dr. Jonathan Scott Perry, USFSM.

WHEN: Friday, January 31, 2020, 2:00 pm - 4:45 pm.

WHERE: Community Foundation of Sarasota County, 2635 Fruitville Rd., Sarasota FL 34237 (west of Tuttle).

RSVP: arfield@yahoo.com writing "GCICS Film" in the subject line and your name/s in the body of the email.

DEADLINE: Friday, January 24, 2020

BOCCE CORNER NEWS

The welcome back picnic went very well on Nov. 3. For whatever reason, our numbers were only about 25, half of previous years. Participants enjoyed the day and format. They were enthusiastic about repeating this event next year. It will continue be held the first Sunday in November because the Conservation Foundation holds their Fall Festival the day before. It was promoted as Wild About Nature, an event to teach youngsters about nature. It drew over 1200 people this year. We man a booth and teach bocce to all those interested. GCICS volunteers were Penny Thomas, Mary Lou Ferrari, Tom Hurban, Doris Hurban, George Arfield, and Vin DiNicholas. Photo of three volunteers with OUR shirts below! Because of our participation they provide us with all the tables and chairs we request. The rental company does not gather them up until Monday. This works out to be a great deal for

us because when we had our picnic on a different day the rentals were very expensive!

We were asked not to use the bocce court on November 17, as they were using the grounds for another of their infrequent events, Shakespeare in the Park.

It has been nice to see many of our new members playing bocce on Sundays with us and look forward to seeing returning snowbirds. We gather most every Sunday afternoon from approx. 2-4. Friendly pick-up games. No experience required! In case you are unfamiliar with the location, it is at 400 Palmetto Ave. in Osprey, which runs parallel to 41 behind Spanish Point in Osprey. See you there!

Tom Hurban
Bocce chairman
dorisntom@gmail.com
908 507 3048



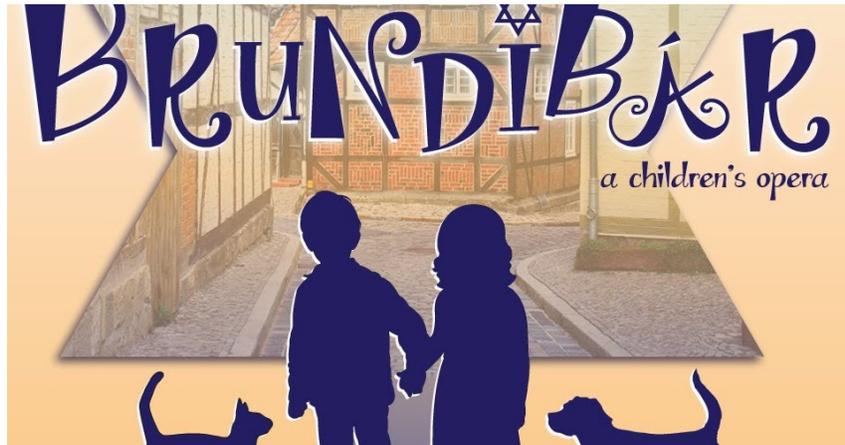


The following restaurants have recently donated gift certificates. All of them have donated before. Thank you, Linda Mercurio, for all your hard work in obtaining all these gift cards this past month. Remember, the monies obtained by raffling off these gift cards at our events help to fund our scholarships.

1. Blaze Pizza: 355-8400
2. Salute: 3651020
3. Plaza Mexico: 702-5003
4. MacAllisters Grill & Tavern: 359-2424
5. La Mucca Ballerina: 366-7610
6. Seasons 52: 702-9652
7. Le Colonne: 388-4348
8. Stottlemeyer's Smokehouse: 312-5969
9. Valentino (Cooper Creek): 359-6400
10. Carrabba's Italian Grill (Stickney Point): 925-7407
11. Longhorn (Gulf Gate): 926-0544
12. Ophelia on the Bay: 349-2212
13. Venue (was 15 South): 388-1555
14. Goodfella's Cafe & Winery: 922-9470
15. Boatyard Waterfront Bar & Grill: 921-6200

REVIEW OF THE SARASOTA YOUTH OPERA

DINNER & PERFORMANCE



On Saturday November 16, a group of GCICS members attended a touching and moving performance of “Brundibar” as part of the Sarasota’s youth opera program. “Brundibar” is a story about bullying. The musical presentation featured 88 children ages 8 to 18. The original Hans Krasa’s opera was performed by Jewish children held in the Theresienstadt camp ghetto that was also known as Terezin. Prior to attending the performance, 36 GCICS members also enjoyed a delicious dinner at the Bijou Café, just a “stone’s throw” from the Sarasota Opera House. Good food and good company helped add to the pleasure of joining in this evening get together.

2019-2020 GCICS EVENTS

By: Ellen Roderick, GCICS Secretary

The GCICS Board of Directors continues to make plans for the 2019-2020 program year.

*** *Sunday, Dec 15, 2019:*** Holiday Dinner Party & Scholarship Fundraiser (5:30-9:00 pm) @ home of Dr. Noel & Ms. Eileen Chiantella, No. Venice (\$30+bring a dish & wine) – announced on 10/10/19 and 11/7/19.

*** *Friday, Jan 10, 2020:*** Annual Meeting/Lunch/Town Hall/Lecture (11:30-2:30 pm); no cost; Community Foundation of Sarasota County (CFSC); announced on 11/9/19; it is FULL but I (itrain@erols.com) will take names for the Wait List.

*** *Friday, Jan 31, 2020:*** Cultural Event: Classic Italian Film "A Special Day" screened by Dr. Scott Perry, USFSM; 2:00-4:45 pm @ CFSC; no cost; announced on 11/12/19.

*** *Saturday, Feb 8, 2020:*** Bocce Invitational V (1:00 pm); @ The Cascades (Lockwood Ridge Rd); Bocce competition followed by pizza/salad/dessert dining and music for your entertainment (including dancing); details to be announced.

*** *Tuesday, Feb 25, 2020:*** Mardi Gras/Carnevale Party & Scholarship Fundraiser (5:30-9:00 pm); Penny Thomas's home, near IMG Academy, (\$30+bring a dish & wine); details to be announced.

*** *Monday, March 9, 2020:*** La Cena: Marina Jack II Dinner Cruise "Full Moon Evening"; details to be announced.

*** *Sunday, March 15, 2020:*** St. Joseph's Feast Day Celebration (12-3 pm) @ Cafe Baci; details to be announced.

*** *Friday, March 27, 2020:*** Wine Tasting Scholarship Fundraiser & Silent Auction @ Penny Thomas's home; details to be announced.

*** *Palm Sunday, April 5, 2020:*** Scholarship Awards Brunch (10:30 – 1:00 pm) @ Tara Golf & Country Club; details to be announced.

Call with questions: Ellen Roderick, GCICS Secretary: 301-775-1344

HELP CREATE GIFT BASKETS



The GCICS Board is presenting you with a new challenge – ***HELP US CREATE RAFFLE BASKETS*** in support of our Scholarship Fund. Mark your calendars now for Friday, March 27, 2020 when we will hold a unique event, combining wine tasting and the raffling off of gift baskets to raise \$\$\$ for deserving high school seniors and two youth performing arts groups (Sarasota Youth Opera and Sarasota Ballet’s “Dance, the Next Generation”).

We are appealing to your generous spirit to raise funds through a fun event that will take place at Penny Thomas’s home. You will have the opportunity to bid on gift baskets. We are asking you to supply either by yourself or with fellow members, the items for one specific basket. It can be anything your imagination works up. One example is an "Italian Basket," holding olive oil, pasta, sauce...anything needed for a dinner. Others are wine and cheese baskets, bath baskets and kitchen supplies/linens baskets.

If you have never made one and want to participate by supplying the items for the basket, you need only supply the contents and we will take care of the baskets and wrapping supplies. If you have a completed basket by the time of the Annual Meeting (both Barbara Barattini and I will have done one) we ask that you bring it to the meeting. We will display them at that function as samples to show others the possibilities. If you would like some ideas please contact either Barbara at Barbarabarattini@aol.com or myself at lindalahern@aol.com

REMEMBER, ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTABLE! We can supply you with a letter to give to donors who contribute to your basket. If you are interested in helping us with this project, please contact me at lindalahern@aol.com. Let me know your ideas so I can keep track and give you the details of where and when we can pick up your donation. Thank you so very much!

Linda Ahern, GCICS Board Member

EMBRACING OUR 2020 SCHOLARSHIP YEAR: PART 2

By Julie Bondarenko



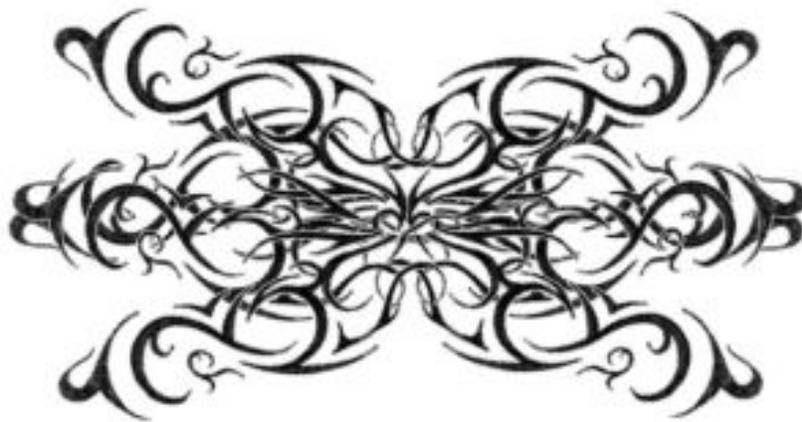
I mentioned in my Oct. article, "Embracing Our 2020 Scholarship Year: Part 1" how enthusiasm from all our members has proven to be vital in order to make our scholarships for graduating seniors, for the youth opera and for the youth ballet both a reality and a success. We are truly fulfilling our goals and achieving our mission. Since all of you are responsible for and should be credited with the Scholarship Program's success, I thought you would like to know how our scholarship committee goes about selecting our awardees.

GCICS scholarships are awarded to a selective few. Last year, six high school seniors each received \$1,500. They possessed certain qualities that demonstrated not only their scholastic achievements but also their Italian heritage. Although there is no set percent of how much Italian heritage they must possess, it is important for them to be aware of and understand their own unique heritage and how it affects their lives -- in other words their own personal story.

Once the applicants have met the Italian heritage criteria, they must then show that they have achieved minimum grades and SAT and/or ACT scores. They will remit grade transcripts as well as recommendation letters from those who can provide their personal opinions and knowledge of the student's abilities and worthiness to receive this award. Students are asked to write an essay on a subject that is determined by our committee. This year's essay will be on Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia. We are excited and look forward to reading these essays on such an esteemed Associate Justice of Italian heritage. These students are among a few that are held in high esteem by their teachers, fellow students and others in their community, individuals who give their time as contributors of good will and always demonstrating good citizenship. GCICS applications are sent to Sarasota and Manatee high schools. This year's scholarship application deadline is 2/15/20. Completed applications will be reviewed by the scholarship committee. They will then score the applications based on set criteria. Once this has been achieved,

several will be chosen to move onto the next phrase, the interview. Interviews will take place on March 7, 2020 at the Gulf Gate Public Library. After the interviews, the committee will confer and select our final five to seven awardees. These very fortunate applicants will be notified that they have been selected to receive a Gulf Coast Italian Culture Society Scholarship. These awards will be presented at our Scholarship Brunch at the Tara Golf and Country Club, Bradenton on April 5, 2020. This is an elaborate brunch, an exciting time in which GCICS members hear from the scholarship recipients and meet their families. We welcome all to come and join in the celebration.

As our committee decides which students will receive a scholarship, I must impress upon all of you how hard these students worked to achieve their successes and how deserving they all are to receive such an award. Our funds are limited and therefore we must decide who will receive the scholarships, but as I have mentioned before we wish we could give more to these worthy students facing what will no doubt be financial challenges. I thank all our members for their generosity and with great expectation that we will fulfill our goals for this worthy cause. I hope all of you have enjoyed being a part of this endeavor, meeting and making new friends and being involved.



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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
Anthony Esposito	2015-2016

GCICS Italian Language Classes

Led by Prof. Paola Tate, GCICS offers its members two levels of instruction in the Italian language:

1. Italian for Beginners
2. Italian Conversation for those having basic to advanced command of the language and who are willing to actively participate in the conversation to the best of their ability to communicate in Italian. Full fluency is not required but participation is. This is not a class for silent auditors.

Both of these classes are for GCICS members only. Please do not bring guests, friends or visitors. Space issues require us to request that those wishing to join either class FOR THE FIRST TIME contact either Prof. Tate (rstvideo@aol.com) or George Arfield (arfield@yahoo.com) to insure that there is space available.

The classes are held every Wednesday during "season" at the home of the Tate family: Italian for Beginners from 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm and Italian Conversation from 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm. The address is 4583 Atwood Cay Circle, Sarasota FL 34233.

Members in "Italian for Beginners" are asked to leave the Tate residence promptly before the "Italian Conversation" hour begins. Conversely, those attending the "Italian Conversation" hour are asked to not attend the "Italian for Beginners" class. In other words: attend one class or the other but not both.