

# VOCE DI GCICS

GULF COAST ITALIAN CULTURE SOCIETY, INC.

P.O. BOX 2591, SARASOTA, FL. 34230 [WWW.GCICS](http://WWW.GCICS)

January 2022

Mary Rinaldi, Editor



## President's Message Julie Bondarenko

We should all feel a sense of enthusiasm as we embrace 2022. This past year has felt like a roller coaster ride as we rode the ups and downs of the pandemic. I would like to add how very appreciative I am for your support and understanding this year. Vaccine requirements for all participating members has allowed us to be with one another, bringing back in-person events that we previously had to shelve until Sept when we enjoyed our first in-person La Cena dinner.

As we welcome the New Year, check out our "Save the Dates" listing. This has been the goal of the Board--to work hard for our members. Your participation is critical to the success of our Society, and it is with heartfelt gratitude that I thank you for your support. Our Scholarship Program cannot be a success without your support. Just as important is the opportunity to form close bonds and new friendships. I believe this is your goal as well and the essence of who we are as a Society. Embrace 2022 with GCICS's calendar of events and support our mission.

It is my hope that you will avail yourself of these upcoming exciting events:

**\*Jan. 15:** Annual Meeting/Luncheon/Town Hall/Cultural Lecture. We would very much like to hear from our members as this will be the perfect venue to ask questions and hear your comments.

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**\*Jan 22: 19 Crimes Wine Tasting:** There will be several fundraising activities to support our scholarships. Imagine, wines with a story! Every wine label will tell one. I am intrigued!

**\*Feb 19: Bocce Invitational VI at the Cascades** is open to all members and guests, both experienced and non-experienced bocce players. I have participated for several years, and it is truly a fun day not to be missed. Come to play or cheer and enjoy the party afterwards. We need you.

**\*Feb 24: Cultural Lecture by Dr. Tanasi.** You will not want to miss this. His sought-after lectures have been extremely well attended. Please email your reservation in early Look for our emails with information/detailed instructions on how to register and pay using PayPal for those with a fee. Refer to our website [www.gcicis.org](http://www.gcicis.org) to view a list of our events. For those considering becoming members, please use PayPal to join. Yes, you can always mail us a check if you prefer, but please consider “NO envelope, NO stamp, and NO trip to the PO.” It is easy and you do not need to have a PayPal account.

Three other items of importance:

**\*Scholarship applications** have been mailed to all area high schools in the Sarasota/Manatee area. We await many viable candidates' applications by Feb 22. The Scholarship Committee will select finalists for interviews.

**\*I am pleased to announce that Linda Ahern will rejoin the Board.** She commences service on Jan 4, 2022. Thank you, Linda, for your willingness to serve. The Board is eager for your return and your future contributions.

**\*Special thanks to Patty & Mike DiMichele for the wonderful GCICS Holiday Party** they hosted in their beautiful home. It was nothing less than fabulous! Read more in this edition.

As we close 2021, I reflect on what was important. I always have many to thank; and now it is abundantly clear how grateful I am for the service of the Board. We strive to be one team having the same goals based on respect, honesty, and integrity. A special thank you goes out to Ellen Roderick, our secretary. She has worked diligently all year through significant health issues. Her responsibilities and what she accomplishes for the Board are too many to mention. Our Newsletter Editor, Mary Rinaldi, has been through the challenges of moving and facing significant health issues. Also, I am grateful for the work done by Gordon Bloom and his committee which brought us a new & fabulous website, a must see. We accomplished our goals, but only because of the support of our members. I thank each one of you. My final thought is that no matter what befalls us in 2022, we will work together as one team for the benefit of all.

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# 19 Crimes Wine Tasting & Raffle

## 19 CRIMES WINE TASTING

**When:** SATURDAY, January 22, 2022, 4:30 to 7:00 p.m.

**Where:** 4112 Pinar Drive, Bradenton, FL (941) 350-7006

**Committee:** Penny Thomas, Linda Mercurio, Judy Herman, Leita Davis, and some surprises.

**Tickets:** \$35.00 per person (includes wines and hors d'oeuvres)

**COME JOIN THE FUN AND LEARN ABOUT THE 19 CRIMES AND CRIMINALS. PULL OUT YOUR BLACK HATS AND SPATS AND COME DRESSED FOR THE PARTY IF YOU WISH. THERE MAY EVEN BE A PRIZE FOR THE "BEST."**

### **PAYMENT OPTIONS:**

- (1) MAIL YOUR CHECK, MADE OUT TO "GCICS" FOR \$35 PER PERSON, TO PENNY THOMAS, GCICS TREASURER, 4112 PINAR DRIVE, BRADENTON, FL 34210 - - - OR
- (2) GO TO OUR WEBSITE, [www.gcics.org/payment](http://www.gcics.org/payment) ON 1<sup>st</sup> PAGE, CHECK "MEMBER", ENTER FIRST AND LAST NAME, EMAIL ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER, AND THEN CLICK ON THE BLUE BLOCK. ON THE 2<sup>nd</sup> PAGE, ENTER THE AMOUNT OF YOUR PAYMENT, THEN ENTER IN THE BLOCK DIRECTLY BELOW "19 CRIMES" AND LIST THE NAME(S) OF THE PERSON(S) YOU ARE PAYING FOR; THEN COMPLETE THAT PAGE, AND ADDITIONAL PAGES AS THEY COME UP. NOTE: YOU DO NOT NEED A PAYPAL ACCOUNT TO PAY FOR GCICS EVENTS. PAYPAL WILL ACCEPT YOUR CREDIT CARD DIRECTLY. YOU WILL RECEIVE A CONFIRMATION EMAIL ONCE YOU HAVE COMPLETED THE TRANSACTION.

**PAYMENT IS DUE BY 1/15/22. WE ARE LIMITING THIS EVENT TO 50 PERSONS SO GET YOUR RESERVATIONS IN EARLY. WE HAVE SEVERAL SURPRISES FOR ATTENDEES SO BRING YOUR BANKROLL FOR OUR SCHOLARSHIP FUND.**



**YOU ARE ASKED TO ATTEND ONLY IF YOU HAVE BEEN FULLY VACCINATED (BOOSTER NOT INCLUDED) AND REMAIN SYMPTON-FREE. YOUR COOPERATION IS APPRECIATED. WE WANT EVERYONE TO REMAIN HEALTHY IN THESE UNUSUAL TIMES AND BEYOND. UNDERSTAND THAT NEITHER GCICS NOR ITS DIRECTORS ARE LIABLE FOR HEALTH-RELATED EVENTS AT GCICS EVENTS OR FUNCTIONS.**

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**GCICS BOCCE INVITATIONAL VI  
At The Cascades, February 19, 2022**



**LOOKING FOR A GOOD TIME? HOPEFULLY, THIS GETS YOUR EYE.**

**Our GCICS has had an invitational bocce challenge with the Cascades Italian American organization for many years. The date of Saturday, February 19, 2022, has been confirmed. WE WANT YOU TO JOIN US! Those who are not familiar with bocce are strongly encouraged to play and others can come to cheer us on! For our many new members, just ask those who have participated in this day, and they will tell you that this a social event NOT TO BE MISSED!**

**You do not need to be a proficient player. The Cascades courts are different from ours and are QUITE easy rolling. Their members are friendly! There really exists a trophy which GCICS won one year. I was asked to form eight teams [32 players] and will help to set them up. On Feb 19<sup>th</sup> we will determine which teams will play each other by picking from a hat.**

**Most Sundays we have only 10-15 players come to our afternoon play. We will need YOU to step up and be on one of our teams. Come join us sometime to familiarize yourself with bocce. New faces are very welcomed! Our court is on the Gulf Coast Conservation Foundation grounds at 400 Palmetto Ave, Osprey, close to the Bay behind the Spanish Point Welcome Center. We play Sundays from approximately 2-4 pm.**

**The Cascades is a gated community with strict rules for entry located north of University Pkwy on Lockwood Ridge. I must know the names of all participants by Feb. 15. Party only guests are also welcome. This FUN DAY schedule runs as follows. We are allowed to arrive at 12 noon for practice. Bocce play is from 1-4 pm. At approximately 4 pm, we all go to the nearby social hall for antipasti salad, pizza, beer, wine, and soft drinks. There is music for dancing and enjoyment. Each of our couples is asked to bring a homemade dessert for all to share. They LOVE US for this. It is most likely the reason we are asked to return each year.**

***You are asked to attend ONLY if you have been fully vaccinated (booster not included) and remain symptom-free. Your cooperation is appreciated. We want everyone to remain healthy in these unusual times and beyond. Understand that neither GCICS nor its directors are liable for health-related events at GCICS events or functions.***

The cost per person is \$20.00, and all payments must be completed by Jan. 27. (Note: I must have your check in hand, or your transaction must be completed on PayPal by that date.) Mail check (made out to GCICS; and list names of attendees) to Tom Hurban, 931 Scherer Way, Osprey, FL 34229; or go to our website to use PayPal, following the steps below.

Tom Hurban  
GCICS Bocce Chair  
908-507-3048  
[dorisntom@gmail.com](mailto:dorisntom@gmail.com)

#### **STEPS FOR PAYING ONLINE**

\*Go to our website, [www.gcics.org/payment](http://www.gcics.org/payment)

\*On 1<sup>st</sup> page, check "Member", enter first & last name, email address, phone #, and click on the blue block.

\*On 2<sup>nd</sup> page, enter the amount of your payment, then enter in the block directly below "Bocce Invitational" and list the name(s) of the person(s) for whom you are paying. Please make sure you do this step. In early payments for 19 Crimes, not everyone is indicating what function they are paying for or who is attending in addition to the one making the payment.

\*Complete that page, and additional pages as they come up.

\*Note: You do not need a PayPal account to pay for GCICS events. PayPal will accept your credit card directly. You will receive a confirmation email within an hour or so once you have completed the transaction.

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**GCICS ANNUAL MEETING/TOWN HALL/LUNCH/LECTURE**

January 15,2022



**SOLD OUT**

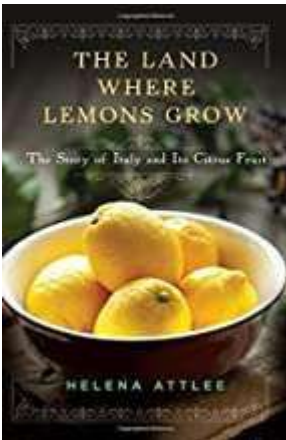
**La Cena**  
January 29,2021

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**SOLD OUT**

## ITALIAN BOOKSHELF BY Leita Davis



### **The Land Where Lemons Grow: The Story of Italy and Its Citrus Fruit** by Helena Attlee Penguin Books, 2014 Review by Leita Kaldi Davis

Shopping for tea recently I came across Earl Grey's black tea "with bergamot from Calabria." I couldn't imagine why my Calabrese homeland would be cited on a tea package. I had no idea what bergamot was. Then a friend gave me this book.

The Land Where Lemons Grow tells the sweeping story of Italy's cultural history through the history of its citrus crops. I learned about bergamot and its place not only in tea, but in the perfume and cosmetics industries. It is the most valuable citrus fruit in the world, the product of a natural cross-pollination between a lemon tree and a sour orange that occurred in Calabria in the mid-seventeenth century. Though many attempts to grow bergamot have been tried in many countries, 90 percent of the world's supply comes from Calabria. Its essential oil is extracted from the fruit, which is bitter and inedible, but the beautiful, aromatic tree is planted around villas in Reggio Calabria. The best bergamot is found on a tiny point of Italy's toe between Villa San Giovanni and Brancaleone. Earl Grey tea is made from a blend of dark China teas treated with bergamot oil or peel. In order to circumvent the marketing of inferior citrus, the Denominazione di Origine Protetta, was established in 1999, like the Denominazione di Origine Controllata protects wines from certain Italian regions.

In 1685 Giovanni Maria Farina, whose family had been masters of the art of distilling alcohol to carry the fragrance of perfume, emigrated to Germany and in 1708 he invented a bergamot-based perfume which he named Eau de Cologne in honor of the city where he lived.

Another famed citrus is Calabria's unique Diamante citrons used in the Jewish celebration of Sukkoth.

Whether the Battle of Oranges in Ivrea, the gardens of Tuscany, or the story of the Mafia and Sicily's citrus groves and marmalade kitchens, Attlee transports readers on a journey unlike any other. Attlee's book won Food Book of the Year 2015 from the Guild of Food Writers. She is the author of four books about Italian gardens, and others on the cultural history of gardens around the world. She is a Fellow of the Royal Literary Fund and has worked in Italy for nearly thirty years. [BACK](#)



## **HOLIDAY/CHRISTMAS DINNER & FUNDRAISER REVIEW**

**Article by: Ellen Roderick**

**Photos by: George Arfield & Ellen Roderick**

As we entered Patty & Mike DiMichele's Misty Creek home on the evening of Sunday, Dec. 12, 2021, we were greeted by creative decorations on the patio from enormous poinsettias, to sleds with ice skates attached to unending twinkling lights. Stepping inside, the beautiful decorations never stopped: two decorated trees, wreaths, classic Santa's dressed in white, mini trees, angels in all shapes and sizes, and you guessed it. . .more twinkling lights. It truly was a winter wonderland. And Mike wants you to know that he decorated the living room tree. You no sooner arrived than you began feasting on delicious hors d'oeuvres and sampling different wines brought by members. There was ample seating for everyone – in the family room, in the kitchen nook, and on the lanai around the pool. The talented Joe Cerrito provided accordion music. When Joe Barresi mentioned that there was an Irish member in the group. .

.Joe Cerrito launched into “Danny Boy” and “When Irish Eyes Are Smiling” (I felt right at home!). In fact, our Immediate Past GCICS President Sheryl Lazzarotti, provided the lyrics for those two Irish favorites.

We were 44 members and 3 guests strong. Unfortunately, three had to cancel last minute due to illness in the family or their own malady. We raised \$1,715 free and clear for our Scholarship Fund. Thank you everyone. What a feast we had before us. The entrees ranged from ham to pulled pork (with rolls to make sliders) to meatballs to chicken cacciatore to sausage & peppers to pork loin to salmon to chicken tortellini in alfredo sauce. Am I making you hungry yet? Sides included scalloped potatoes, corn pudding, baked ziti, Caesar, and garden salads, and on and on. The desserts were incredible including cannoli's, tiramisu, Christmas cookies, Russian tea cookies, a trifle that was scrumptious, cranberry cobbler and the red velvet cake in the photo below. If I left your dish out, please forgive me. We truly thank the cooks and bakers; and a special thanks to Pam Arfield who coordinated the menu sign-ups so that we would have the greatest variety possible.

President Julie gave remarks with lots of thanks to go around: to Mike and Patty as superb hosts; to Mary Rinaldi and Jack Norman who hosted past parties in their Lakewood Ranch home; to Noel & Eileen Chiantella who hosted in their No. Venice home in 2019; to our splendid entertainer, Joe Cerrito; to Ellen Roderick for managing the affair; and most of all to everyone who came, brought dishes and wine,

donated, and most of all shared themselves with one another in the true spirit of the holidays as well as the genuine Italian tradition. We all join in thanking Julie as well for her dedicated leadership of our Society. Let me close with the message written on the cake, "Merry Christmas & Buon Natale!"



Mike & Patty DiMichele



Julie Bondarenko, Patty DiMichele, & Mary Lou Ferrari



Buffet Line



Ellen Roderick



Joe & Blanch Barresi



Accordion Player Joe Cerrito



Doris Hurban & Pam Arfield



Edna & Tony Di Bianca



Dessert

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## GULF COAST ITALIAN CULTURE SOCIETY, INC.

### SAVE THE DATES

12/18/21

**\*1/15/22 (Sat) “GCICS Annual Meeting/Luncheon/Town Hall/Cultural Lecture” @ Peridia Golf & CC Club Restaurant, Bradenton; 11:30-2:30 pm; members-no cost; guests-\$26; lecture by member Gordon Bloom on Italian American Enrico Fermi (1901-1954); 70 seats are filled; you may contact Ellen Roderick, [itrain@erols.com](mailto:itrain@erols.com) to get on the Wait List.**

**\*1/22/22 (Sat) “19 Crimes Wine Tasting” @ Penny Thomas’s home, Bradenton; 4:30-7:00 pm; \$35 covers cost of wine & appetizers; fundraising activities will take place to raise money for our Scholarship & Grants Program; has been announced; reservations required; payment due by 1/15/22.**

**\*2/19/22 (Sat) “GCICS Bocce Invitational VI” @ The Cascades, Sarasota; \$20 covers food cost; also, GCICS members are asked to bring a dessert to share; practice time: 12 noon; tournament: 1:00-4:00pm; party: 4:00 pm on; has been announced; reservations required; payment due by 1/27/22.**

**\*2/24/22 (Thurs) GCICS Cultural Lecture: “Around the Roman Table: Tidbits from Ancient Sicily” by Dr. Davide Tanasi @ Selby Library, Sarasota (1<sup>st</sup> floor meeting room), 2:00-4:00 pm; no cost; has been announced; reservations required.**

**\*3/1/22 (Shrove Tues) “GCICS Mardi Gras & Scholarship Fundraiser” @ Linda Ahern & Rich Potts’ home, Peridia Golf & CC, Bradenton; 5:30-9:00 pm; potluck along with fundraiser; (\$35 pp for the Scholarship Fund); reservations required; has NOT been announced.**

**\*3/20/22 (Sun) “St. Joseph’s Feast Day Celebration Luncheon” @ Café Baci; 11:30-2:00 pm; reservations required; has NOT been announced.**

**\*4/9/22 (Sat) “GCICS Scholarship Festa Luncheon” @ Stoneybrook Golf & CC; 11:30-2:30 pm; \$36 per person all inclusive; choice of two entrees or vegetarian; reservations required; has NOT been announced.**

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Patrick Corsentino 2001-2004

Arthur Castraberti 2004-2006

Marie Corsentino 2007

Mary Amabile Palmer 2008-2010

William Korp 2010-2014

Anthony Esposito 2015-2016

Sheryl Lazzarotti 2016-2020



The Board of Directors would like to thank the members of GCICS for a successful year and the cooperation of all who participated in our 2021 activities. We will meet again in the New Year with a lot of new ideas and new energy. For all the members of GCICS, we send heartiest wishes on new year and wish you a marvelous New Year celebration filled with fun moments of joy. Have a Happy New Year!

