

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

GULF COAST ITALIAN CULTURE SOCIETY, INC.

PO BOX 2591, SARASOTA, FL 34230

WWW.GCICS.ORG

May 2015

GCICS capped its successful season with a Scholarship Awards Brunch under the leadership of Sheryl Lazzarotti, Scholarship Chair. It was an outstanding success with over 75 attendees. All of our scholarship recipients are multi-talented with excellent academic achievements and a wide variety of talents in the performing arts and sports. They are a real credit to the young people of our community. Your Society is indebted to Sheryl and her committee for making this essential cornerstone of GCICS such a memorable event.

It is May, the end of the Society's active season, but we do not go into hibernation. Your Board will continue to work over the summer to assure a successful 2014/16 season. We are already putting the finishing touches on our October 25th Italian Heritage Brunch with our own Dr. Joseph Latona as guest speaker. I can only say, "Don't miss it!" as each of you will be entertained and enlightened by one of our own and an expert in his field. I am especially delighted because Dr. Latona is another example of talent, expertise, and knowledge lying quietly within our membership. We have a number of others whom we will be calling upon to share their extraordinary background, experiences and knowledge.

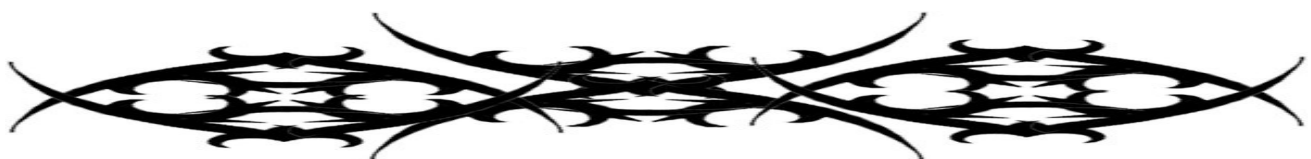
Our Society and Board have come a long way this season with the addition of a Bocce division, the election of a Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, and Marking Chair. These additions have expanded the Board of Directors from 11 to 15 very busy Board members.

Joe Moccia, Vice President, and I are most pleased with the Society's progress and eagerly look forward to building on the Society's firm foundation set this season in our Scholarship and Bocce programs as well as increased attention to our other cultural and entertainment programs. Additionally, Pat Novak and Frank and Pina Pergolizzi are working on reshaping and improving our Italian Language program.

You can see we are doing our best for your Society, but we need your continued and enthusiastic support. We promise that you will be rewarded with all the related pride that is deeply embedded in the great culture. Is that priceless or what?

We all look forward to seeing each of you in October!

Ciao for now, Anthony Esposito



ITALIAN HERITAGE BASEBALL NIGHT



*"Take me out to the ball game,
Take me out with the crowd.
Buy me some peanuts and crackerjack
I don't care if I never get back.
Let me root, root, root for the home team,
If they don't win it's a shame.
For its one, two, three strikes, you're out,
At the old ball game."*

- WHAT:** "Italian Heritage Night with the Rays"
- WHEN:** Thursday, May 14, 2015
- TIME:** Gates open 5:40 pm; First pitch 7:10 pm
- WHO:** Tampa Bay Rays vs. New York Yankees
- WHERE:** Tropicana Field, St. Pete; press level tickets behind 3rd base (5th level, Section 215)
- FOOD:** Special Italian food will be served in the section where the Italian clubs are seated.
- COST:** \$29.00 for group of 15 or more (a \$55 value); includes a Rays Italian Horn Key Chain
- HOW:** Send \$29.00 check made out to GCICS to Joe Moccia, 536 Ketch Lane, Longboat Key, FL 34228
- TRAVEL:** Joe will assist with forming carpools (941-387-2039); please indicate on your reservation if you are willing to drive others and how many you could take excluding yourself.
- DEADLINE:** Joe will set deadline later; for now, just get your check in and you'll have a ticket.

SAVE THE DATE

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>HOSTED BY</u>	<u>PLACE</u>
Italian Culture Heritage Brunch/ Welcome Back Brunch 	10/25/15	Anthony Esposito	Mattison's 41
Wine Tasting 	TBA	TBA	TBA
Christmas Party 	12/13/15	Linda Mercurio	Palm Aire Country Club
Town Hall Lunch/Meeting 	1/8/16	Ellen Roderick	Community Foundation
Valentine Dinner 	2/14/16	Vince Amoroso	His Home
St. Joseph's Catered Dinner 	3/19/16	Connie Campisi	Roskamp
Horse Racing in Tampa 	TBA	Anthony Esposito	Tampa
Scholarship Festa 	4/10/16	Sheryl Lazzaroti	Stoneybrook

Member Spotlight



This month your Board of Directors is shining the spotlight on **Frank and Pina Pergolizzi** of Venice, FL and Shelton, CT, for their years of volunteer service to GCICS. Frank and Pina have been members for over eight years with Pina serving on the Board for five years as Social Director. Since joining GCICS they have been active participants in many of our activities, supporting us financially as well as with their time and experience. In particular, we are most grateful for their conducting of the "Italian Conversation" classes during the past six years. This class along with Patricia Novak's "Basic Italian" classes are an integral part of our Society's mission. We are so grateful they have helped us attract new members as well as keeping the great Italian language and culture alive and well in our southwest Florida community.

It is interesting to note that Pina's father, an artist, came to America from Italy and had a successful career as a commercial artist for Bloomingdale's in New York. Born in New York, Frank became a marine and mechanical engineer while Pina worked as a real estate broker. They have two children and five grandchildren all living in CT. As devoted opera fans they have influenced our charitable interest in the Sarasota Opera. GCICS is truly indebted to the Pergolizzis and most grateful for the dedicated and consistent efforts they have made on our behalf.

FROM THE SUNSHINE LADY – ISABEL ISTORICO



- 1) Warm thoughts and good wishes were sent to Arden Fowler and her husband Tony who are presently residing at the Sterling House in Gainesville to be closer to their daughter. She seems happy and well. Tony is recovering nicely from a recent illness.
- 2) A note expressing our warm thoughts and good wishes was sent to Linda Ahern for a speedy recovery from bronchitis and her husband Jack who is ill.
- 3) A card was sent to Bob Spencer wishing a quick recovery from a recent illness.

GCICS LANGUAGE AND CONVERSATION CLASSES MAKE FRESH RICOTTA

By: Patricia Novak

Participants of the Monday Beginning Italian Classes and the Wednesday Italian Conversation classes joined forces Wednesday, March 11 in Venice, FL, to learn how to make fresh ricotta. Pina Ferrera and Pina Pergolizzi were our mentors. Besides feasting on the freshly-made ricotta cheese (flavor was heavenly and no comparison to what you buy), participants enjoyed a great buffet. We shared a perfect Italian moment celebrating Italian heritage, great food and friendships.



Scholarship LUNCHEON

Text by: Mary Rinaldi

Photos by: Pat Astore

On Sunday, April 12, members and officers of the Gulf Coast Italian Cultural Society hosted a brunch at Stoneybrook Country Club to honor this year's recipients of our annual college scholarships. Six talented students from area high schools were recognized for their outstanding record of scholarship, character and service. The recipients were Alison Catena (Riverview HS); Collin Cristello (Venice HS); Alexander Koutelios (Sarasota HS); Nicole Mis (Lemon Bay HS); Maria Sheppard (Lemon Bay HS); and Mark Simat (Lakewood Ranch HS). Honorees were accompanied by family and invited guests. As part of the scholarship process, each candidate had to write an essay about the life and contributions of Enrico Fermi, Nobel Prize winner who worked in Chicago on the first nuclear reactor and the atomic bomb. The Sarasota Youth Opera and the Sarasota Ballet of Florida, Inc. youth program also were endowed with \$1000. The 76 attendees said that the luncheon was a great success with everyone enjoying great food, great libations and great fellowship. Bravo to Sheryl Lazzarotti and all involved in making this annual event so enjoyable and congratulations to all recipients and their families.



Nicole Mis **Alexander Koutelios** **Alison Catena** **Collin Cristello** **Maria Sheppard** **Mark Simat** **Sheryl Lazzarotti**
 Lemon Bay HS Sarasota HS Riverview HS Venice HS Lemon Bay HS Lakewood Ranch HS Scholarship Chair

GCICS 2015 Scholarship Recipients



BOCCE NEWS

Our club's spirited players have been enjoying playing bocce each Sunday, a few folks showing up at 12:30 with a steady stream of smiling players coming throughout the afternoon. Come whenever you can; we can accommodate you all. It has been a wonderful way for all of us to get to know each other.

Joe Moccia has built the benches for seating. He and Ace have installed them for our playing comfort at each end of the bocce court. The plaques stating our club has contributed the benches are newly installed. The newest addition is an information box attached to the score board, filled with bocce rules from the US Bocce Federation as well as Club Brochures, so anyone joining us on Sunday expressing an interest in joining the Club will have information immediately.

Remember to come play bocce on Sundays at 400 Palmetto Ave. in Osprey. No experience necessary! Call Doris Hurban, 941-966-2745, with any questions you may have or for directions. See you on the court!

In Sympathy . . .



Tony Fowler, husband of Adrian Fowler, passed away. He and his wife, Adrian, hosted several fund raising events in their home. They were members of GCICS for over 15 years. A letter of condolence was sent to her daughter and family.

OFFICERS/DIRECTORS**President**

Anthony Esposito
Anth.esposito@gmail.com

Vice President

Joe Moccia
marymoccia@verizon.net

Treasurer

Michael Strohbeck
Michael.strohbeck@53.com

Secretary

Ellen Roderick, PhD
itrain@erols.com

Bocce

Doris Hurban
dorismtom@gmail.com

Marketing

Linda Mercurio
lindascot@iname.com

Membership

Robert Amedeo
bobnatamedeo@comcast.net

Newsletter Editor

Mary F Rinaldi
maryfrinaldi@yahoo.com

Scholarship

Sheryl Lazzarotti
slazzarotti@gmail.com

Social & Cultural

Carmella Campisi
739carmella@comcast.net

Sunshine Lady

Isabel Istorico
Isabelistorico585@comcast.net

DIRECTORS AT LARGE**Photographer**

Pasqual Astore
pat@21stcenturyinternational.com

Frank Coppa

fcoppa50@gmail.com

Language Classes

Patricia Novak
principessaitalia@gmail.com

Immediate Past President

William Korp
wrkorp@comcast.net

COORDINATORS**Website**

Anthony Cagliostro
gcicscholar@gmail.com

Restaurants

Linda Ahern
lindalahern@aol.com

Assistant Treasurer
 Dwight Pendola
Dpendola@live.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

RESTAURANTS OFFERING 10% DISCOUNT TO MEMBERS
PLEASE PATRONIZE THESE RESTAURANTS

Café Americano	365-1026
Café Amici	951-6897
Café Baci	921-4848
D'Corato	330-1300
Mona Lisa	377-6562
Phila. Cheesesteaks & Hoagies	926-0441
Piatti Italian Bistro	923-5570
Primo Ristorante	359-3690
Valentino's	
Cooper Creek Blvd.	359-6400
Clark Road	921-9600

GCICS PATCHES

GCICS has patches with our logo for sale. These are attached to a garment with a safety pin which is on the back. These 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.

GCICS
PO Box 2591
Sarasota, FL 34230