

LA VOCE DI GCICS

GULF COAST ITALIAN CULTURE SOCIETY, INC.

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

WWW.GCICS.ORG

March 2017



President's Message

It is hard to believe March is here!!! The days are warm yet evenings cool and NO humidity. Enjoy it to the fullest.

Sadly, we lost the Bocce Trophy this year, but we had a wonderful time at the Cascades, meeting new friends and renewing old acquaintances. Music, dancing, delicious food (desserts supplied by GCICS members) and "JUST PLAIN FUN"! Thanks to all who participated and attended as our cheering squad!

On February 22nd, Mary Lou Ferrari, Linda Mercurio and I attended a SICE event at the Sarasota Yacht Club for a great lecture and photography exhibit "Riflessi Di Venezia – Reflections of

Venice" with Professor Cristina Madeyski of Treviso Italy. We may have garnered some new members as well. Marylou will keep us informed.

March is a very important month, be sure to get your reservations in to Ellen Roderick for St. Joseph's Day Celebration held at Chianti Ristorante on March 19th. Don't forget to don your best "RED" outfit.

Mark your calendar also for Leita Davis' lecture at the Community Foundation on March 9th in honor of Women's History Month at 2 pm.

All for now, Ciao

Sheryl Lazzarotti, President

Lecture Series

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH LECTURE & SOCIAL



Leita Davis is a well-known speaker and professor. She is an author, traveler, public servant, Peace Corps volunteer and GCICS member. Her talk will be about Italian American women writers and the immigrant experience. Family and friends are welcome. Light refreshments will be served.



EVENT: Women's History Month Lecture and Social
DATE: Thursday, March 9, 2017
TIME: 2:00-3:30 PM
PROGRAM: Lecture on Italian American Women Writers
LOCATION: Community Foundation of Sarasota County, FL, 2635 Fruitville Rd, Sarasota, FL 34237 (near Tuttle)
RSVP: Ellen Roderick: itrain@erols.com or 941-366-6756
President: Sheryl Lazzarotti, President

Festa de San Giuseppe



Customs of St. Joseph's Day

St. Joseph's Day is a big Feast for Italians because in the Middle Ages, God, through St. Joseph's intercessions, saved the Sicilians from a very serious drought. So in his honor, the custom is for all to wear red, in the same way that green is worn on St. Patrick's Day.

Today, after Mass (at least in parishes with large Italian populations), a big altar ("la tavola di San Giuseppe" or "St. Joseph's Table") is laden with food contributed by everyone (note that all these St. Joseph celebrations might take place on the nearest, most convenient weekend). Different Italian regions celebrate this day differently, but all involve special meatless foods: minestrone, pasta with breadcrumbs (the breadcrumbs symbolize the sawdust that would have covered St. Joseph's floor), seafood, Sfinge di San Giuseppe, and, always, fava beans, which are considered "lucky" because during the drought, the fava thrived while other crops failed.

The table -- which is always blessed by a priest -- will be in three tiers, symbolizing the Most Holy Trinity. The top tier will hold a statue of St. Joseph surrounded by flowers and greenery. The other tiers might hold, in addition to the food: flowers (especially lilies); candles; figurines and symbolic breads and pastries

shaped like a monstrance, chalices, fishes, doves, baskets, St. Joseph's staff, lilies, the Sacred and Immaculate Hearts, carpentry tools, etc.; 12 fishes symbolizing the 12 Apostles; wine symbolizing the miracle at Cana; pineapple symbolizing hospitality; lemons for "luck"; bread and wine (symbolizing the Last Supper); and pictures of the dead. There will also be a basket in which the faithful place petitions.

The cry "Viva la tavola di San Giuseppe!" begins the feasting and is heard throughout the day. When the eating is done, the St. Joseph's altar is smashed, and then three children dressed as the Holy Family will knock on three doors, asking for shelter. They will be refused at the first two, and welcomed at the third, in memory of the Holy Family's seeking of hospitality just before Christ was born. This re-enactment is called "Tupa Tupa," meaning "Knock Knock."

The day ends with each participant taking home a bag that might be filled with bread, fruit, pastries, cookies, and a medal of St. Joseph, a Holy Card and/or a blessed fava bean. Keep your "lucky bean," and let it remind you to pray to St. Joseph.

GCICS St. Joseph's Celebration Dinner



- WHEN:** Sunday, March 19, 2017
TIME: 2:00 – 5:00 PM
WHERE: Chianti Ristorante Italiano, 3900 Clark Rd., Sarasota, FL., 34233
COST: \$36/person all inclusive
RESERVE: Mail Checks payable to GCICS with salad choice and entrée choice on check to:
Ellen Roderick, 770 So. Palm Ave. #1003, Sarasota, FL., 34236 (941-366-6756)
Deadline for reservations is: Wednesday, March 15, 2017.
WEAR: **RED** in honor of St. Joseph.
RAFFLES: Restaurant gift certificates will be raffled for the Scholarship Fund.

MENU

SALAD (Select One)

Caesar or Italian Mixed Greens

2nd Course

Penne Pomodoro

Entrée (Select One)

Veal Piccata

Chicken Marsala

Salmon Livornese

Eggplant Parmigiana with Rigatoni Pasta

Dessert

Tiramisu

Wine

Accompanying the meal will be a complimentary glass of Chianti or Pino Grigio

Cash Bar

Opera Tour



The GCICS Board of Directors is pleased to announce a **Sarasota Opera House Tour** on Monday, March 13, 2017. Linda Mercurio, GCICS Vice President, has made the arrangements.

Here is the information:

- Event:** Brunch (optional) & Sarasota Opera House Tour
Date: Monday, March 13, 2017
Time: Brunch 11:30-1:15; 1:30 pm (should last 45-60 min)
Location: Brunch: First Watch; Tour: Sarasota Opera House, 61 N. Pineapple Ave., Sarasota, FL 34236
Cost: Brunch: Individual Checks, Tour: \$12
POC: Send check made payable to GCICS to Linda Mercurio, 5770 Deer Hollow Lane, W., Sarasota, FL 34232
Deadline: Linda needs your check by Monday, March 6, 2017 (1 week before tour). Please put a note IF you plan to have Brunch at First Watch; Linda needs to reserve space for us at the restaurant so we can all sit together.
Questions: Contact Linda Mercurio at (941) 400-1156



BOCCE CORNER NEWS



Thanks to all of our GCICS members who came out to defend the coveted traveling bocce trophy at The Cascades on February 11. We had eight four person teams, many of which had to be rearranged because of last minute sickness or accidents. The end result was not pretty as we lost by a handy margin. Many of the games were very close, so if we had won them it would have been a different ending. To be honest we were at a disadvantage as the courts were very fast. I think the rain last year worked to our advantage as it slowed the courts down. Our cheerleaders did a fine job also! The matches were done on a random basis and both sides were both competitive and friendly. How great!!!

The party following was a blast. The Cascades group, Ciao, could not have been better hosts and we were treated as family. Of course Sheryl singing God Bless Americas was a real treat and got everyone up singing with a fraternal feeling! All enjoyed the pizza, wings, salad and WINE. Our members were asked to ring desserts to

share and outdid themselves. We were given many compliments on the efforts put into the homemade desserts. Good going to all of you chefs! The party continued with the handing over of the trophy to The Ciao Club followed by dancing to the tunes selected by their own DJ.

We continue to gather to play bocce on Sunday afternoons from about 2-4 at The Bay Preserve. This is very informal and as much social as anything else. If you have not come yet, please do so. Any questions, please call me. With the addition of some new material, our court is getting better and better!

The grounds at The Bay Preserve are reserved for others both April 16 and 23, but with those dates being Easter and our scholarship brunch, it will not present much of a problem to us. May Loo Ferrari will be in charge of the bocce picnic to be held there on April 9th. More details will be coming in an email blast.

Tom Hurban 908-507-3048





WHAT: Bocce Picnic
WHEN: Sunday, April 9, 2017
WHERE: The Preserve
TIME: TBA
HOST: Mary Lou Ferrari
WATCH FOR: Email blasts

MEMBERSHIP CARD

Several members have gone to participating restaurants for the 10% discount that we enjoy with them. They were asked to show their membership card. Unfortunately, we are still in the process of soliciting more businesses and have not finalized the list to print membership cards. Therefore, please print and cut out the temporary card below. The Board of Directors is sorry for any inconvenience this has caused.

GULF COAST ITALIAN CULTURE SOCIETY, INC.	
P.O. Box 2591 SARASOTA, FL. 34230	
MEMBERSHIP CARD	
NAME _____	
2017-2018	