

# LA VOCE DI GCICS

GULF COAST ITALIAN CULTURE SOCIETY, INC.

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

WWW.GCICS.ORG

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Welcome to 2016!

On behalf of GCICS, let me extend our very best wishes for a healthy, happy, and productive New Year. Upon reflection, it seems that each of the past few years has revealed a world more troubled and pained than ever before. As a result, the importance of the work done by GCICS in spreading a positive message and perpetuating the glorious and vibrant Italian culture and heritage throughout the greater Sarasota, Venice, and Bradenton areas, has become increasingly vital and meaningful. Our cornerstones of education, scholarship and the arts, celebrated amid activities of sports, dining and entertainment, lay the foundation for the uplifting work from which we can all take strength.

Undoubtedly, GCICS can make a difference in our own lives and the lives of others. But, it requires us to make a commitment to give generously and selflessly of our time and talents. In this regard, let us be reminded that time cannot be squandered nor hoarded. It must be well spent; and what better way to spend it than through GCICS' programs which promote and encourage the development of the arts as well as the personal development and enhancement of the individual who is seeking to grow intellectually and culturally. Reaching out to help and support others in a myriad of ways will grant you both joy and fulfillment. Do not shy away from contributing. Embrace this worthy ethic. Be open in sharing and giving. Offer suggestions. Speak your mind and your heart. We are all sure to benefit from the unique input

and experiences that are presented. In the coming year I am certain that new faces will emerge. New voices will be heard. New opportunities to lead and make a difference will arise. Seize the moment! Accept the challenge. Become engaged by involving yourself in the wonderful, rewarding work of GCICS.

This coming year promises to be gratifying and exciting. We can look forward to our January 8<sup>th</sup> Town Hall meeting which will feature a presentation by member Leita Davis on GI: Giuseppe. In February, we are sure to "fall in love" with Valentine's Day Scholarship Fundraiser party at the home of the Amorosos. March will see a perennial favorite, our St. Joseph's Day celebration where we again set the chance to come together yearly enjoying food and fun. Of course, our busy calendar of events will culminate in the GCICS's annual Scholarship Awards brunch, spotlighting the important and meaningful work of our organization – honoring and rewarding top local scholars from our area high schools, with scholarships that will help ease the cost of their college pursuits. In all of these activities, we can derive pleasure from knowing that we will be sharing in good friendship and good food even as we perform the good works that distinguish our organization. May we all be blessed with giving hearts and hands, as well as caring thoughts. Get ready to enjoy the coming New Year with GCICS.

CAIO, Anthony Esposito

## ANNUAL MEETING AND LECTURE

The annual meeting will be in a Town Hall format. First a light lunch will be served. Then the meeting will begin. At this time, GCICS's vision and new initiatives will be presented by our President Anthony Esposito. Then the floor will be open to members so that they can discuss their future vision and program preferences. After this, a lecture about Italian Americans in World War II will be given. Finally, we will be having a sale of Italian books bequeathed to GCICS by Arden and Tony Fowler upon their passing. We will be selling these books to our members at a very reasonable price.



Our guest speaker will be one of our own Leita Kaldi Davis (nee Bevacqua) who worked at UNESCO in Paris, the UN in New York, and Tufts and Harvard Universities. She was a Peace Corps volunteer in Senegal, and a hospital administrator in Haiti. She has written two books on those experiences, Roller Skating in the Desert and In the Valley of Atibon. She contributes a “Lettera dall” America to Il Grillo Parlante in Calabria. Leita's interest in Italian American history stems from her own family background, from years in Italy, and from a constant interest in and love of Italians. Leita teaches courses at the Lifelong Learning Academy of USF Sarasota-Manatee on "La Storia: Five Centuries of the Italian American Experience".

- Title:** Lecture: “G.I. Giuseppe: Italians during World War II
- Date/Time:** Friday Jan 8, 2016 11:30 - 2:00 pm
- Location:** Community Foundation of Sarasota Florida  
2635 Fruitville Rd., Sarasota, FL. 34237 (near Tuttle)
- Contact Person:** RSVP by Sunday, January 3  
Ellen Roderick, [itrain@erols.com](mailto:itrain@erols.com) or 941-366-6756
- What You Should Bring:** Appetite and your thoughts on GCICS programs/activities for 2016-2017, and cash for the sale of donated books.
- Presiding:** Anthony Esposito, President

# ***Wine Tasting Social***

The Board of Directors of GCICS is pleased to announce a wine tasting social on January 29, 2016. Please come and join society members in friendship. It will be a great evening for all!



- Event:*** Wine Tasting Social
- Date:*** Friday, Jan. 29, 2016
- Time:*** 6:00 to 8:00 pm
- Location:*** Casa Italia, 2080 Constitution Avenue, Sarasota, FL; Call Joe Moccia at 941-387-2039
- Cost:*** \$15 per person covering appetizers and wine tasting
- Program:*** Socializing & Wine Tasting
- POC:*** Send check to Joe Moccia, 705 Whitfield Ave, Sarasota, FL 34243
- Deadline:*** RSVP by Monday, Jan. 25th.
- Note:*** We must have a minimum of 35 attendees.

## BOCCE CORNER NEWS



Member Linda Ahern has invited our club to a Bocce Invitational at The Cascades, located on Lockwood Ridge in Sarasota. We need 2 person teams to play on their 3 courts. Play is being set up as a double elimination "tournament". Everyone will have an opportunity to play at least twice. Please note this a fun day! We need you to come to play, to cheer and to enjoy the after game festivities. Please bring pom poms for cheering and a lawn chair. The after party includes pizza, antipasti salad, wings, wine, soda, coffee and all paper products, and possibly some small trophies! This repast will be placed on each table of eight, so there is no getting up for a buffet. Linda's group asks for some homemade desserts to finish the festivities; dessert will not be provided.

**Definite numbers are vital so that the food can be ordered accordingly.** Also your name will be on the list at the Security entrance to Cascades. Come even if you aren't playing bocce; we need a cheering squad and you don't want to miss out on the after party.

This is a wonderful opportunity to wear our club shirts. Shirts can be ordered from Sheryl Lazzarotti, 908-803-4400, or you can buy a club patch to place on your own shirt. Shirt colors are either red, white or green, in both male and female styles. Order ahead so you can be sure to have one!

Now is the time to come on Sundays to our court at The Conservation Foundation at Bay Preserve, 400 Palmetto Ave, Osprey, at 1:30 to practice and to form our 2 man teams. As always, please call the Hurbans for any information or directions, 941-966-2745.

**EVENT:** Bocce Invitational

**DATE:** February 6, 2016

**TIME:** 1:00 pm

**LOCATION:** The Cascades on Lockwood Ridge Rd. in Sarasota

**COST:** \$15 per person: Checks made out to Linda Ahern

**RESERVE:** Mail checks to Doris or Tom Hurban, 931 Scherer Way, Osprey, Fl. 34229

## VALENTINE DINNER/SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER



GCICS will celebrate Valentine's Day on Sunday, February 14. Vince and Tam Amoroso are graciously hosting the party in their beautiful home. They will be preparing the entrée of roast pork and a pasta salad. All money raised is for the GCICS Scholarship Fund. Linda Mercurio will be raffling off restaurant gift certificates to raise additional scholarship dollars. It will be a "bring a dish" event where members will bring a bottle of wine and a dish. Tam and Vince will provide the main dish. The type of dish that you will bring will be according to the first letter of your last name. Here are the categories that we will follow:

- A – D: is assigned a dessert
- E - K: is assigned an appetizer
- L– Z: is assigned a side dish



- WHAT:** Valentine Day Party
- DATE:** Sunday, February 14, 2016
- TIME:** 5:30 – 9:00 PM
- PLACE:** The Amoroso Home, 1409 Westbrook Drive, Sarasota, Phone: 923-0329
- COST:** \$30 PER PERSON
- RESERVE:** Limited to the first 35 who submit their checks  
RSVP by Wednesday, February 10, 2016  
Make checks payable to GCICS and mail to:  
Joe Moccia, 705 Whitfield Ave, Sarasota, FL 34243
- DIRECTIONS:** From US 41 heading south, turn right onto Bay Road. Go to the stop sign at Camino Real and turn left. Go to Westbrook Drive and turn right.

## Gift Certificates Received This Past Month



Bridge Tender  
Word of Mouth  
Tommy Bahama  
Simons Coffee  
Southside Deli  
Swordfish Grill  
S3 Sugar Cubed  
Mr. Bones  
Fuzzy Taco  
Louie's Modern  
Old School  
Basils  
The Rosemary  
Kona Grill  
Square 1 Burger  
Freckled Fin  
Veg  
Ciao Italia  
The White Horse Pub\*  
Village Cafe  
Poki Joes  
Sarasota Ale  
Banyan Cafe (Muse)  
World of Beer  
Casa Italia\*  
Dutch Valley  
Millers Dutch Kitchen  
Bayou Tavern Italian Cuisine

Note: \* Indicates a second donation

**GCICS CHRISTMAS PARTY/HOLIDAY GALA REVIEW**  
Article & Photos by Ellen Roderick, GCICS Secretary

When a GCICS member steps forward for the organization it means a great deal to all of us. A warm thank you to Vince and Tam Amoroso for their grand hospitality on Dec 13. As you know, our holiday party had to be canceled at Palm Aire Country Club because we did not reach the minimum (40) for Palm Aire to open the club just for us on the evening of Dec 13th. I announced the cancellation while on the auto train traveling from Washington, DC to Sanford, FL the evening of Dec 7th. But by the morning of Dec 9th, Vince emailed me with an invitation we could not resist. Tam and he invited us to their home -- they volunteered to prepare the main course and we would bring appetizers, sides, desserts, and beverage of our choice. By that time, some folks had made other plans and of course we understood. Also, Linda Mercurio who had been coordinating the gala had begun arranging a dinner at Chianti Restaurant on Clark Rd. So on Sunday evening, Dec 13, GCICS had two holiday parties taking place! Linda tells me that the dinner at Chianti's was wonderful with 14 attending and that she raffled off some of the restaurant gift certificates to raise scholarship dollars. Thank you Linda. Meanwhile, Gene and I attended the dinner at Vince's along with 7 other couples (including Vince & Tam) for a total of 16. The aroma upon arriving at their home was incredible. In the oven cooking were two huge polpettones (Italian meat loaves) made with beef, pork and veal along with a number of spices. The meat is rolled out and filled with hard-boiled eggs, spinach and cheeses. Then it is rolled up like a jelly roll and cooked. It makes a fabulous "presentation" when cut and served. We had a number of Italian sides and appetizers, and for dessert, key lime pie, Italian cookies and fresh fruit. Vince and Tam had their tree all decorated. Later in the evening we were all introduced individually to their son Michael. We had piped in music and dancing was an option but folks really wanted to socialize, socialize, socialize. I have prepared photos of all the folks who attended as well as Vince cutting his masterpiece polpettone. Everyone had a terrific time; it is great to really get to know one another in these smaller settings. Again, a huge thank you to Vince & Tam as well as to Linda for organizing our two "substitute" Christmas parties.



## 2015 – 2016 GCICS Italian Classes



**Location:** Bay Village, 8400 Vamo Road, Sarasota, FL 34231, Telephone: 941 966 5611

**Conditions of usage:** Guests must park below, immediately to the left of the gate upon entry. Either walk up the stairs or the road to the main entrance. Participants must sign in at reception and wear a name tag the entire time in the building. Absolutely forbidden, food or any beverage including bottled water brought into the meeting room.

**Directions to the room location:** After sign-in at reception, proceed to the left. Just after the elevators, (in front of the gift shop) turn left and proceed half-way down the hall. The room we meet in is on the right (just past the computer room and just before the mailroom). The room is almost directly across from the restroom.

**Textbook information:** Book may be purchased on line. Barnes and Noble sometimes has this book in stock. It is appreciated that students have the book for the start of these sessions.

**Book information:** Italian: A Self-Teaching Guide by Edoardo A. Lèbano, Publisher John Wiley & Sons, Inc. , copyright 2000, ISBN 978-0-471-35961-6

Note: Conversation classes will start in October, but the language classes will NOT start until November.

### **Monday class times are:**

Beginning Italian 12:00-1:00

Intermediate Italian 1:00-2:00

Conversation Class 2:00-4:00

### **Dates:**

January 11, \*18, 25 (\*Deadline for any new members in Beginning Italian)

February 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

March 7, 14, 21, 28

April 4, 11, 18, 25

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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
1409 Main St., Sarasota	
Café Amici	951-6897
1371 Main St., Sarasota	
Café Baci	921-4848
4001 Tamiami Tr., Sarasota	
D'Corato	330-1300
322 So. Washington Blvd., Sarasota	
Mona Lisa	377-6562
4989 Ringwood Meadow, Sarasota	
Philadelphia Cheesesteaks & Hoagies	926-0441
7523 S. Tamiami Tr., Sarasota	
Piatti Italian Bistro	923-5570
6630 Gateway Ave., Sarasota	
Primo Restaurant	359-3690
8076 Tamiami Tr., Sarasota	
Valentino's	
Cooper Creek Blvd.	359-6400
Clark Road	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.