

VOCE DI GCICS

GULF COAST ITALIAN CULTURE SOCIETY, INC.

P.O. BOX 2591, SARASOTA, FL 34230

WWW.GCICS.ORG

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Mary Rinaldi, Editor



President's Message

Julie Bondarenko

A million thanks to all of you who gave so generously to the "Giving Challenge." It is because of you that we are one step closer to meeting our 2023 Scholarship challenges. Members and friends contributed an astounding and generous amount, over \$4,600. With the matching contribution from the Patterson Foundation, we raised over \$9,100. The Board extends its warmest and heartfelt gratitude to you for your support in helping to make this a grand success.

Our program year, 2021-2022, is winding down as we complete our major cultural, social, and scholarship events. Looking back, we deserve a round of applause as we worked around the delays as we dealt with the COVID challenges. Thank you for all your patience and support. Now we look to the future as GCICS will again strive to bring its members fun, educational, and enjoyable events in our next program year, with some surprises in store.

I am happy to announce that Patty and Mike DiMichele have again agreed to host the

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Holiday Party & Fundraiser in their home on 12/11/22. I encourage you not to miss it. Another social/fundraiser will be held at Linda Ahern and Richard Potts' home for Mardi Gras on 2/21/23. Please refer to our Events page on our website for updates on events. Ellen will issue emails with dates, times, and instructions on how to register. Please note that Happy Hours will continue through the summer as well as Bocce every Sunday from 2 to 4pm at the Foundation in Osprey.

On another subject, I feel immense gratitude to our country for the assistance being provided to Ukraine. Although the war continues, and sadly families have suffered severe consequences, I feel with certainty the USA's help has saved countless lives. Ukraine continues to fight for its sovereignty with great and profound bravery. Our help and the help of our allies says more about who we are as a nation than the atrocities committed by our adversaries. God bless us all and pray for this to end.

This is a time of great sadness for our country as once more we face our own grave atrocity committed in Texas upon the most defenseless among us. There are many differences of opinions about the how and the why. Let us put aside our political stances and have sensible gun control laws. It is not the only answer because this is a complex issue with no doubt lots of contrary thinking. But twenty-one families today are experiencing the kind of grief that will haunt and reduce them to tears for many years to come. I am sorry to use this message as a platform to express no doubt what we are all

thinking --when is the killing of innocent children not an issue for all citizens.

This will be my last message until October. I want to add that this has been a very fruitful year despite our challenges. Many of you will travel north and elsewhere to be with friends and family or to take a much-needed vacation. I wish you to stay well and enjoy this time until we commence in October. Our Board has worked extremely hard. There are those that have stepped up to the plate and provided their skills to make this organization what it is. I want to thank the entire board. Special thanks go to our Treasurer Penny Thomas, our VP Linda Mercurio for Happy Hours, our Cultural Chair George Arfield who is responsible for organizing all our La Cena and has provided us with interesting guest speakers, our Bocce Chair Tom Hurban, and Mary Rinaldi our Newsletter Editor. Additionally, a special thank you goes to Ellen Roderick our secretary who everyday continually provides all of us with needed information. Have a wonderful summer. Thank you. [RETURN P1](#)



CULTURAL LECTURE REVIEW

Text By: Jack Norman
Photo By: George Arfield



Dr. Josh Goodman

On Monday, May 2, 2022 GCICS members present at the Gulf Gate library were privileged to attend a presentation and lecture by Dr. Josh Goodman, of the Archives Division of the Sarasota Library, titled "*A Bit of the Old World in the New: Mediterranean Revival Architecture in Sarasota County*". The presentation focused on the architectural elements that came to be associated with the term "Mediterranean Revival": red barrel tile roofs, arches and columns, wrought iron grills and balconies, stucco construction and proximity to water edging the subject properties, thereby imitating canal-like settings. Using photos and ephemera dating back to the late 19th and early 20th century, Dr. Goodman enriched his talk with slides and anecdotal stories from the past which helped to bring Sarasota's history to life. Making sure not to just focus on Venice, Florida, whose very name signals its links to the Mediterranean, Dr. Goodman spoke about the early settlers and luminaries of Sarasota including John and Mable

Ringling; Charles and Edith Ringling, Bertha Palmer, and the Burns and Thompson families. Dr. Goodman explained that Sarasota was originally "sold" as a tropical paradise with its lush and wild vegetation, symbolizing the exotic, while hinting at an oasis that would be alluring and safely dangerous. To make Sarasota even more attractive, developers decided to make its architectural style consistent with a stable and storied past by borrowing elements from antiquity. The new, manufactured to replicate the old, was how Sarasota got its start and eventually became the sparkling gem it is today. Dr. Goodman's presentation was indeed informative, lively, carefully documented and fully absorbing. Those in attendance were treated to an insightful look at Sarasota's past which became prologue to its present. The event ended with an expression of interest in arranging a follow-up field trip to the Archives on Porter Street where many more examples of memorabilia could be viewed and enjoyed by GCICS members.

BOCCE CORNER



Bocce will continue through the summer months at the court on the Conservation Foundation grounds, 400 Palmetto Ave., Osprey FL. Play is on Sundays from 2 - 4 PM, weather permitting. Come join us!

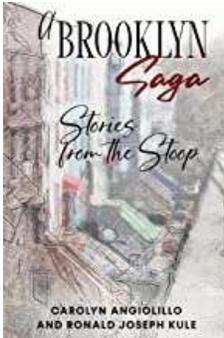
A picnic is planned for Sunday, Nov. 13, 2022, from 12:00 - 4:00. We had previously referred to this event as the bocce picnic since it was held next to the court where we play. Last year we temporarily moved to a new location for a number of reasons, but we found that we liked the facilities at the North Jetty Park Pavilion better. The facilities have been reserved for us for this date. Please place Nov. 13, 2023 on your calendars. Details will follow in the fall.

Also, the Cascades Italian American Organization (CIAO) has currently placed March 4 on their calendar for the annual bocce invitational. We will keep you posted.

Thanks, Tom Hurban
email: dorisntom@gmail.com
908-507-3048

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Italian Bookshelf



A Brooklyn Saga : Stories from the Stoop
By Carolyn Angiolillo and Ronald Joseph Kule
Review by Leita Kaldi Davis

This is truly a saga, a multi-generational account of Italians in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. The central character is teen-age Angie Carpello, along with her sister JJ and parents Luigi and Caterina. We learn about the history of Williamsburg since its founding in the late 1800s by various immigrant groups – Polish, German, Austrian --though Italians have been the dominant group through several generations. We learn about the lives of everyone in Angie’s neighborhood from the stoops, where families and friends gather to recount the day’s gossip or the world news on hot summer evenings they wait for the Good Humor Man or Mr. Softee for a cold treat. Italian opera wafts from the windows, along with voices of heightened domestic dramas. Culinary traditions are maintained at Joe’s butcher shop, Pasquale’s pork store, DeLuca’s bakery and the Napoli Bread Shop. Raised as a strict Catholic, Angie has an overactive conscience that doesn’t seem to plague her friends who don’t hesitate to grab an apple from a vendor or shop lift a candy bar in the local grocery store.

Of course, the picture wouldn’t be complete without the “... ever-present mayhem of the Mafia,” who run their rackets from Mott Street and Mulberry Street bars. Extortion of small business owners is commonly accepted, though the “made men” and *capos* have more serious

business to attend to. Enter a Chinese immigrant, Peter Wei, who accidentally saves the life of Don Molinari who welcomes him into the mob as a hit man. Peter was traumatized for life when his parents were shot to death in front of him as a child of the Cultural Revolution. He spots Angie at a street festival and is attracted to her bold, assertive demeanor and emerging beauty. One-night Angie is walking home alone from a friend’s house when she hears gunshots nearby. She detours to another street, and in the morning learns that a traitorous mafioso had been killed. She’s terrified that she and her family might become involved, even targets of the mafia, if she tells the police what she heard. Her conscience nags her about lying, however, until her family convinces her that she would be forgiven for protecting her family. Peter decides to intervene and lures her to his apartment, where he convinces her that he will keep her safe from any danger from the Mafia. Angie is reassured and Peter, “... by protecting her, had reconciled with honor the death of his parents.”

Carolyn Angiolillo is a local author whom I met at Barnes & Noble. I will invite her to a GCICS gathering, in the hope that she might become a very interesting member of our group. [RETURN P1](#)

SAVE THE DATES
GULF COAST ITALIAN CULTURE SOCIETY
6/7/2022



***10/22/22 (Sat) Italian Cultural Heritage Month Welcome Back Luncheon**

@ Mattison's 41; 11:30 am. To be announced.

***11/5/22 (Sat) Sarasota Youth Opera Performance & Dinner;** performance is "The Secret World of Og" @ 5:00 pm, followed by dinner @ 7:00 pm at a nearby restaurant. Have reserved 36 tickets. To be announced.

***11/13/22 (Sun) Welcome Back Bocce Picnic** @ North Jetty Park Pavilion, Nokomis, 12-4 pm; bring own main course and a dish to share. To be announced.

***12/11/22 (Sun) Holiday/Christmas Party/Fundraiser** @ Patty & Mike DiMichele's home, Misty Creek, Sarasota, 5:30 pm. Potluck; Scholarship donation (\$35), BYOB. To be announced.

***1/21/23 (Sat) Annual Meeting/Luncheon/Town Hall/Program** @ Peridia Golf & Country Club, Bradenton; N/C to members; 11:30-2:30 pm.; Speaker: Melissa Morgan's topic: "Anthony Rossi, Sicilian-born founder of Bradenton-based Tropicana." To be announced.

***2/21/23 (Shrove Tues): Carnevale/Mardi Gras/Scholarship Fundraiser** @ Linda Ahern's home, Peridia G&CC, Bradenton, 5:30 pm. Potluck, Scholarship donation (\$35), BYOB. To be announced.

***3/4/23 (Sat): Bocce Invitational VII** @ Cascades, Sarasota; begins midday with practice, tournament, party, music, and dancing (fee). To be announced.

***4/15/23 (Sat): Scholarship Festa Luncheon** @ Stoneybrook G&CC, 11:30-2:30 pm. To be announced.

NOTE: St. Joseph's Celebration (3/18/23 or 3/19/23) location to be determined so final date has not been established. Also, cultural events (lectures, tours), La Cena's, and some additional "fun" events are being planned. Happy Hours (Mondays), Bocce (Sundays), and Italian Language Instruction (Wednesdays) are ongoing. [RETURN P1](#)

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William Korp	2010-2014
Anthony Esposito	2015-2016
Sheryl Lazzarotti	2016-2020

Italian Classes



Please note that after the “Italian for Beginners” and “Italian Conversation” classes on Wednesday, July 13, there will be a summer break for both classes. They will resume on Wednesday, September 14. It is foreseen that classes will remain on Zoom.

For prospective (new) participants in either of these classes: please send an email to GCICS Secretary Ellen Roderick (itrain@erols.com) indicating which class you plan to actively participate in. This will serve as your registration and help maintain a commitment to weekly attendance, to keep uniformity and advance progress in the instructional process.

COVID Request

With the new variants making COVID very contagious and spreading in Sarasota even though folks have been boosted, GCICS is asking the following: “If you come into contact with a person with COVID within 5 days of our function, please be considerate and do not attend the function. Your cooperation is very much appreciated. Thank you.”

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