

LA VOCE DI GCICS

GULF COAST ITALIAN CULTURE SOCIETY, INC.

PO BOX 2591, SARASOTA, FL 34230

WWW.GCICS.ORG

April 2014

With the Scholarship Gala on April 6 the Society closes out the events presented to and for our membership and friends of the 2013-2014 year. This year's Gala will again introduce five young Italian American scholars to our Society members and I am advised that they are an exemplary group indeed! Interestingly two are from Venice High School and three from Manatee High School. I have read a couple of the required essays and feel they were both excellent in content and presentation of the subject, Constantino Brumidi.

Recapping the year, the kickoff was the Italian Heritage Month Brunch with Calabria the theme by Mattison's 41 menu with help from Mary Palmer and John Scalzi and a program by Rabbi Barbara Aiello on the Jewish struggles in Calabria and Sicily. In November member Vince Amoroso presided over the Maialetto Arrostito under a full moon at the home of A.G. & Shelia Spicola. In December was the Christmas Party at the home of Jack and Mary, the newsletter editor, with great food, dancing and conviviality.

The New Year opened with lunch, the Annual Meeting and the film Pranzo di Ferragosto and, later in the month, a scholarship fund raiser dinner at Connie Campisi's house. The Valentine Day Dinner/Dance at the Lido Holiday Inn was a surprisingly big hit for attendees. The food was truly outstanding. Connie Campisi made arrangements, with Joe Moccia booking the music which even drew some party crashers.

It was a fun evening. Later in February, Society members enjoyed a guided tour of the DaVinci Machines Exhibit in Bradenton after lunch at Pier-22. Pat Novak identified the activity and collected all the museum information. Joe and Micki Moccia then coordinated the enrollments and bookings with the restaurant and museum.

Early in March, member Dr. Joseph Polizzi presented an excellent and well-attended lecture on "Italian Painter in 19th Century Paris". La Festa Di Dan Guiseppa was a grand success with 50 attendees and a sumptuous meal. Connie Campisi led the team that included Mary Rinaldi and Ellen Roderick.

So those are the cultural and social activities the Society sponsored and pulled off during the current year and partially because of those events, we are happy to say, we have gained new members, and some with talents that we hope to put to good use in the coming years. We would like to have your suggestions of programs that you think will be of interest to our members and potential audiences in the 2014-2015 year and also your availability to pitch in to help the Board enrich the benefits to the Society's membership.

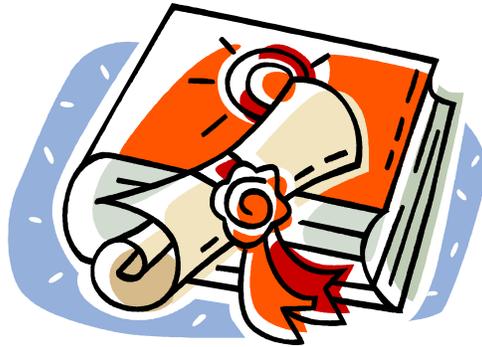
Ciao,

Bill Korp



UPCOMING EVENT

SCHOLARSHIP GALA – DINNER DANCE



Our most elegant, satisfying and beloved Dinner-Dance, Scholarship Gala is scheduled, this year, on Sunday, April 6, 2014 at the Laurel Oaks Country Club in Sarasota. For specifics, please see the detailed outline below. It has all the ingredients for an exceptional evening. You will have the privilege of sharing in the experience of college-bound local Italian American high school graduates who will be selected to receive our 2014 merit scholarships. It is expected that the youth program of the Sarasota Ballet, *Dance the Next Generation* will attend to receive our Award and participate through a brief performance. The popular DREAMCLASSICS group, with vocalist Pam Jeffries, will provide music for our listening and dancing pleasure.

WHAT: *Scholarship Gala*

WHEN: Sunday Apr. 6, 2014

TIME: 5:00 PM

WHERE: *Laurel Oaks Country Club*; 2700 Gary Player Blvd. Sarasota, FL; 34240

COST: *\$60.00 per person*

RESERVE: *By Wed. Apr. 2, 2014*; Mail checks payable to "GCICS", noting entrée choice(s) on memo line to: Tony Cagliostro, 500 The Esplanade N., #704, Venice, Fl. 34285. Phone number 941-4861441

DIRECTIONS: US I-75 to Exit 207 (Bee Ridge); East on Bee Ridge about 1.75 miles; Left on Gary Player Blvd to Gate; Identify your party as attending

Scholarship Gala at Club House.

PROGRAM

Cocktail Hour 5 – 6:00 PM (Cash Bar)

Antipasto Display

Assortment of Abruzzese Cured Sausage, Mortadella, Fried Mozzarella Sticks,
Gorgonzola, Aged Provolone
Grilled Artichokes, Asparagus, and Eggplant; Roasted Mushrooms, Marinated
Mixed Olives.

PRESENTATIONS 6:00 – 7:00

Menu

Dinner following Presentations

House salad: Mixed green with Radicchio and Frisee Balsamic Vinaigrette

Assorted Rolls and Butter

Entree; Choice of:

_____ Veal Medallions in a Piccata Capers Sauce,

_____ Chicken Marsala, Seared Chicken Breast topped with Mushrooms &
Marsala Wine Demi

_____ Crab Crusted Corvina (Sea Bass) Lemon Zest, Garlic and Parsley Roasted
Tomato Butter

Each Entrée accompanied by sides of Mezze Penne and Sautéed Green Zucchini
1 Served Glass of Wine (red or white) Included; Extras at Diner's cost.

Dessert Plated

Mini Cannolis, Biscotti, Pistachio Bark

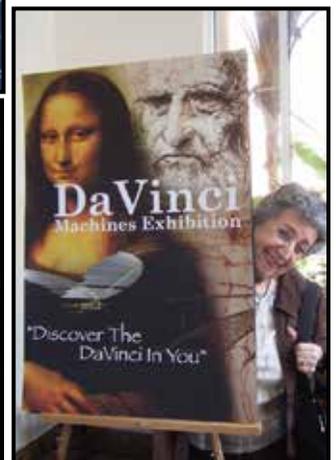
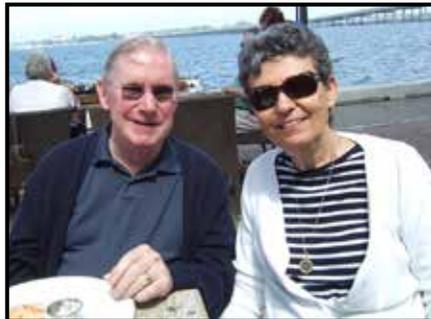
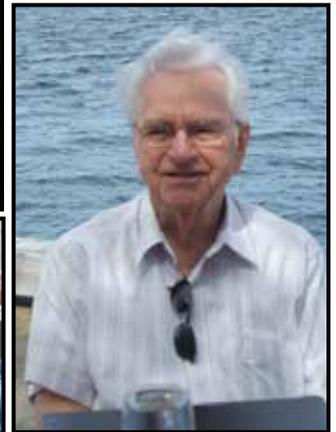
REVIEW OF PAST EVENTS

DA VINCI OUTING AND LUNCH

Photos by Ellen Roderick

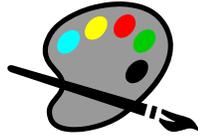


On Tuesday, February 25, 2014 Joe Moccia planned a trip to Pier 22 for lunch and the Bradenton Auditorium to see replicas of Da Vinci inventions. Over fifty members and friends joined together for this activity. The outdoor seating on the patio of Pier 22 was a serene setting to visit with each other. Many new members and friends joined the outing and it was great to meet and greet new people. The docent at the exhibition was very informative, and it was surprising to learn how many of Da Vinci's inventions are in use today.

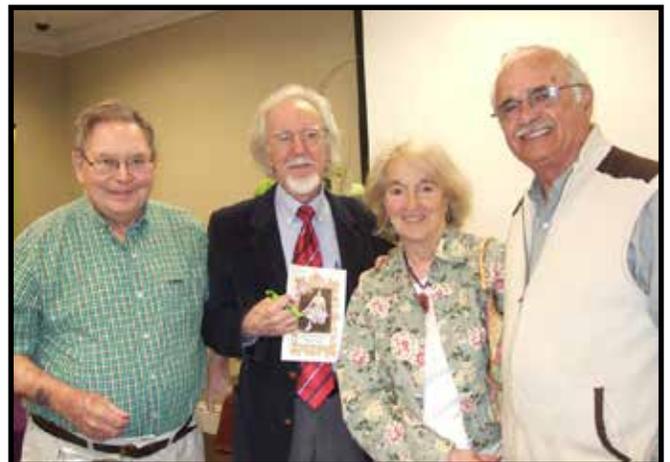
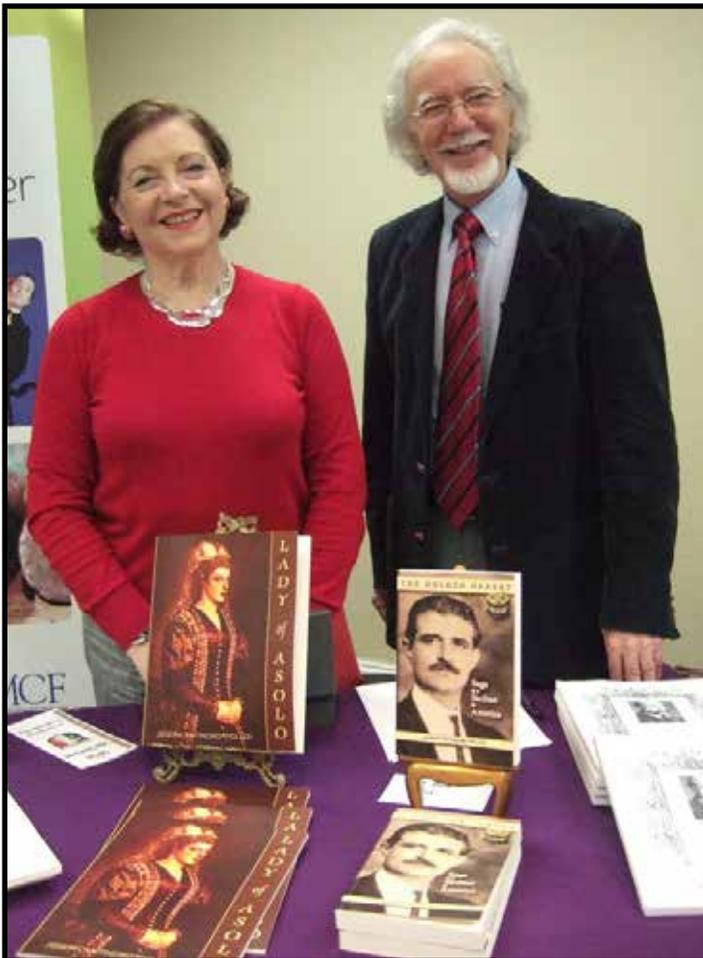


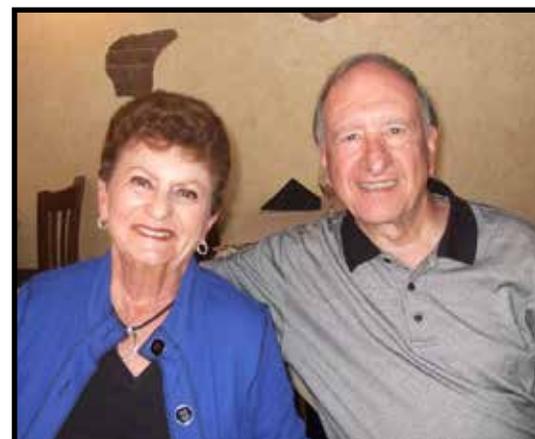
Dr. Joseph Polizzi: Italian Painters in 19th Century Paris Article

Article & Photos by: Dr. Ellen Roderick, GCICS Secretary



On March 7th, 2014 over 40 GCICS members and guests gathered at the Community Foundation to learn about Italian painters who left Italy for Paris in the 19th century to continue their careers in a very different environment. Our own Dr. Joseph (Joe) Polizzi amazed and amused us with his stories of these painters. Joe displayed reproductions of their works which he had purchased at an auction years ago. Joe was accompanied by Alexandra DeStefanis who is actively involved in Sister Cities International. She provided assistance to Joe with the setup and lecture, circulating with the prints for the audience to see “up close and personal.” He loves his Italian roots and conveyed this love throughout the lecture. Joe brought some of his books which sold out within 30 minutes. A book that was displayed was about Joe’s uncle who sold bananas in Johnstown, PA early in the 20th century. Quite by coincidence, Gene McLoone, a GCICS member, has a home in Johnstown—in the same community of Westmont where Joe’s uncle lived. When Gene and I return to Johnstown in May 2014, we plan to locate the two homes of Joe’s uncle and photograph them since Joe has not been to Westmont in many years. Dr. Polizzi is a true gentleman with a great love of Italian society and culture. We are so fortunate to have him as our GCICS colleague.





Planning Meeting

Photos by Ellen Roderick

On February 28th, 2014 the GCICS Board of Directors held a planning meeting luncheon for next season's events. All agreed that we have four must have events. These include the Italian Heritage Brunch in October, the Annual Meeting in January, Saint Joseph's Day in March, and the Scholarship Gala in April. Also needed are some social and cultural events. So far, it was decided to have a picnic in November, a Christmas Party, and a Saint Valentine's Party. All of these parties will be hosted by a individual who will organize these social occasions. Dates and places of all activities will be listed in the May newsletter. If you have suggestions for Society Activities, please email Mary Rinaldi before April 2nd at maryfrinaldi@yahoo. Do not forget the "f" for Mary's middle initial.

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Joseph Raffaele, PhD 1988-1992

Gabiella Thurston 1993-2001

Patrick Corsentino 2001-2004

Arthur Castraberti 2004-2006

Marie Corsentino 2007

Mary Amabile Palmer 2008-2010

ITALIAN CLASSES**2013-2014 SCHEDULE**

Both the language classes and the conversation classes will be held at The Landings in the Sarasota County Schools Administrative Building located at 1950 Landing Boulevard (behind "Sweet Tomato Restaurant").

Basic Italian: Mondays 2:00-4:00 pm

Instructor: Patricia Novak – 941-753-8357

Apr. 7, 14, 21, 28

Italian Conversation: Wednesdays 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Instructor: Frank & Pina Pergolizzi –

Cell: 203-583-2323

Phone: 941-497-5678

Apr. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

SUNSHINE LADY – ISABEL ISTORICO

A get well card for a quick and healthy recovery was sent to Joe Latona, a long-time member of the GCICS organization, who recently underwent a successful open heart surgery in Venice Regional Hospital.

GCICS
PO Box 2591
Sarasota, FL. 34230

<<First Name>> <<Last Name>>
<<Address>>
<<City>>, <<State>> <<Zip>>