

# LA VOCE DI GCICS

GULF COAST ITALIAN CULTURE SOCIETY, INC.

PO BOX 2591, SARASOTA, FL 34230

WWW.GCICS.ORG

March 2013



Dear GCICS Member,

Welcome to La Voce di GCICS!

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our experiment with mailing a separate membership renewal statement has been somewhat of a success and we will follow that lead with next year's renewals. The 2013 Directory has been mailed, or will be shortly, with Restaurant Card. Notice that there are some new restaurants on the discount list and a few no longer listed. The popular monthly Dinner Club meets at one of the listed establishments as noticed in advance in La Voce and on the web site. The only rule is call ahead to the designated person and show up. These are not GCICS events that members are expected to attend, but get together where members and friends spend a social evening out. By the way, no minutes are taken.

As is noted herein the same officers who served during the previous year were appointed to perform their various functions for the rest of 2013 and early 2014. We appreciate the confidence shown by such appointment and will be striving with the other Board members to improve the value of the Society's membership to our members. We are always happy to receive recommendations and requests,

preferably by e-mail, but, as you will see our phone numbers are in the directory as well.

At the Annual Meeting in January some members expressed an interest in the Society's financial condition. Year end balances were not yet available on January 11 so discussion was deferred. We can now report that as at December 31, 2012, Operating cash was \$1,761, Scholarship Account \$9,667 and Savings \$3,029, totaling \$14,458. In reviewing these figures one should bear in mind that some of the cash on hand was Scholarship contributions from fund raising events held in 2012 beginning with the dinner at Joe and Micki Moccia's, the Esposito's cocktail party in July, Kate's dinner in November and Jack and Mary's Christmas party in December and to a much lesser extent 2013 dues renewals. The dinners at members homes are particularly popular fund raisers, all be it expensive to and much work for the host(s). If you would like to explore hosting such an event let us know!

Ciao,  
Bill Korp

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### In Order by Date

#### Lecture Series

By Mary Rinaldi



On Friday, March 8, 2013, GCICS will hold its next lecture event. This year we will learn about the island of Sicily. Our guest speaker will be Ambrogio Calderone (known as Gino to his friends and relatives), who is a native of Sicily. Gino came to the United States from Carini (outside of Palermo) when he was 15 years old. The family settled in the Canarsie section of Brooklyn. After attending junior high school and high school, Gino went on to earn his bachelors and masters degree from Brooklyn College where he majored in

French and minored in Spanish. Professionally, Gino taught foreign languages in a junior high school and high school in Brooklyn. Retiring from the New York City Board of Education, he and two of his sisters migrated to Beverly Hills, Florida where he has resided for the last 15 years. He will be traveling from Beverly Hills, Florida (near Crystal River) to give his presentation. After speaking with him, I am sure that his presentation will be exciting and interesting. A light lunch will be served.

<b><u>WHAT:</u></b>	Lecture Series – A Trip to Sicily
<b><u>WHEN:</u></b>	March 8, 2013
<b><u>TIME:</u></b>	12 PM
<b><u>FOOD:</u></b>	Light Lunch
<b><u>COST:</u></b>	Free
<b><u>HOSTED BY:</u></b>	Mary Rinaldi
<b><u>WHERE:</u></b>	Community Foundation of Sarasota County 2635 Fruitville Road, Sarasota, FL 34237 (near Tuttle)
<b><u>RESERVE:</u></b>	Mary Rinaldi by March 4, 2013. 941-907-9056

## LA FESTA DI SAN GIUSEPPE

### *St. Joseph's Feast*

**By:** Mary Amabile Palmer

Since ancient times celebrating feasts and holidays hold a high place in the hearts of Italians. A break from drudgery of hard-working peasants, many last for days, even weeks. Always joyful, gay and congenial, they passionately express love of life despite the many hardships they endured.

One of Christendom's most celebrated feasts honors St. Joseph. Following ancient protocol, it begins with religious reaffirmation, High Mass, continues with the saint's statue being carried through town led by a band and procession of villagers. Young boys follow in close pursuit, banging tambourines, ringing cowbells, prancing gaily through the streets, adding to the merriment. Chosen above all others to be Mary's spouse, Joseph is patron saint of the family, children, the Universal Church, and pastry chefs! On March 19, in little villages and in big cities throughout Italy, everyone celebrates this feast.

Happily, in Italy and America, the tradition continues. Many people pin money on the statue's clothing out of reverence or as an offering for favors asked. A law was passed in Italy forbidding this. It is ignored (which Italians tend to do when they don't find a law pleasing or practical, and harmful to anyone.). When the automobile came into existence and processions impeded traffic, laws were passed prohibiting "lengthy" processions. Deciding what's lengthy was left to revelers. While somewhat curtailed, processions were still splendid.

For the outdoor feast, men built a large communal altar in the *piazza*, covered with garlands, greenery and oranges. Part of the ritual is reminiscent of the Jewish Passover. On the feast's eve, a bonfire is built burning the old, welcoming the new. The priest blesses everyone, thanksgiving prayers are

offered to St. Joseph, and the joyous celebration continues until sunset.

The next day women bring much food to the *piazza*--pasta, fish, vegetables, salad, wine, and desserts. Outdoor and home celebrations include breads shaped into flowers, fruit, birds, sun, stars and moons in sizes tiny to huge. Round bread is baked for Jesus representing eternal life, one shaped like a date palm for Mary, symbolically blossoming with fruit, and a large, tall bread shaped like a staff for St. Joseph. They are placed upon the communal altar, Jesus' bread in the center, Mary's on the right, Joseph's on the left. Fresh flowers and candles surround St. Joseph's statue.

At home, family and close friends share *La Cena di San Giuseppe*. Following appetizers, one of two special pasta dishes appear: tasty *Pasta with Sardines and Fresh Fennel* or *Pasta with Anchovies and Toasted Bread-Crumbs*. Even if you think you don't like anchovies, you might change your mind after tasting this. The anchovies dissolve in the extra-virgin oil and garlic creating a tangy "sauce." Topped with toasted bread crumbs, it has a nutty, crunchy twist. Since many members prefer pasta with a tomato dressing, it has been added to the menu even though it is not a traditional item. Various fish and vegetables follow. No meat is served since The Feast of St. Joseph falls during Lent.

A dessert created especially by nuns for St. Joseph follows: *Sfinge di San Giuseppe*, St. Joseph's Cream Puffs. Initially, Sfinge were large, round puff pastries that contained one of two equally loved fillings found in various villages, towns and cities: ricotta and cream. And initially, sfinge were fried. In the interest of calorie savings, most are now baked.

## La Festa Di San Giuseppe

Now a yearly tradition, beloved by all, we are celebrating the Feast of St. Joseph on Monday, March 18<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM. The authentic menu was adapted from Pina Pergolizzi and Mary Amabile Palmer's research and is sure to please. The event will be chaired by Kate and Bill Korp and Mary Palmer.

### MENU

#### APPETIZERS

#### CASH BAR

*Peperoni Arrostiti* (Freshly Roasted Red Peppers)  
*Funghi Marinati con Olio e Limone* (Mushrooms Marinated with Extra Virgin Olive Oil & Lemon)  
*Olive Condite* (Marinated, Seasoned Olives)  
 Crusty, Country-style Italian Bread and Butter

#### PASTA

*Linguine con Alici e Mollica* (Linguine w/Anchovies and Toasted Bread-Crumbs)  
*Penne alla Marinara* (Penne with Marinara Sauce)

#### ENTRÉE & VEGETABLE

*Pesce* (Baked White Fish or Shrimp)  
*Melanzane al Forno* (Baked Eggplant W/Mozzarella & Tomato Sauce)

#### SALAD

Mixed Salad Greens with Tomatoes and Italian Dressing (sugar free)

#### DESSERT & COFFEE

*Sfinge di San Giuseppe* ( St. Joseph 's Cream Puffs)  
 Coffee

One Complimentary Glass of Wine

#### Café Baci

\$32.00 per person, inclusive  
 Upstairs Private Dining Room  
 4001 S. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota  
 6 PM

Don' forget that it is a tradition to wear red on St. Joseph's Day

**WHAT:** *La Festa Di San Giuseppe* (The Feast of St. Joseph) Dinner  
**WHEN:** Monday, March 18, 2013, at 6 PM  
**WHERE:** Café Baci, 4001 South Tamiami Trail, Sarasota  
**TIME:** 6:00 PM  
**COST:** \$32 per person  
**CO-HOSTS:** Kate and Bill Korp and Mary Amabile Palmer  
**RESERVE:** Make checks payable to GCICS and mail to:  
 Mary Palmer, 888 Blvd of the Arts #406, Sarasota, FL. 34236  
 Please include names and phone numbers of all attending.

A table will hold a Statue of St. Joseph and three loaves of bread. A bouquet of flowers and candles will adorn the table. Three breads will be placed in front. A round loaf of bread is baked for Jesus and represents eternal life. This is placed in the center. A second loaf of bread shaped like a date palm baked for Mary, that symbolizes blossoming fruit, will be placed to the right. A third loaf of bread shaped like a staff is baked for St. Joseph. Mary Palmer will bake and donate the breads.

### **WE'RE BACK!**

As many long-time members recall, we instituted a once-a-month dinner group some years ago. Those attending met at one of the restaurants that give GCICS members a 10% discount. It became very popular and at a recent board meeting, it was decided to reinstate it. We try to do it the third Wednesday of each month, but occasionally have to alter that choice for different reasons. The way it works, in every month's newsletter, an entry will contain the name of the restaurant choice and the date. All you have to do, a day or two prior to the date, is to e-mail or call Connie Campisi and tell her how many are coming in your party, [739carmella@comcast.net](mailto:739carmella@comcast.net), 941-918-8969, so she can reserve tables for us. Friends are

not only welcomed, we encourage it. Friends often times become members. There is open seating, so each month you'll be seated near someone different. And individual checks will be presented. And you get 10% off your bill! The overall rating of these small and intimate dinners has been excellent. Come join in the fun! As with all events, the dinner club is voluntary.

If anyone needs a ride for this or any other GCICS event, please contact an officer or other Board Member for help in obtaining a ride. We do not want any member to fail to participate because they do not drive during the daytime or evening hours.

### **DINNER CLUB**

On March 13, 2013 our dinner club, a GCICS favorite, Meets at Café Amici Restaurant. They give our paid members a 10% discount. Those who have attended these events have made it a point to report that they enjoy meeting new people in a friendly, informal setting. Come join the fun!

**WHAT:** Dinner Club  
**WHEN:** March 13, 2013  
**WHERE:** Café Amici, 1371 Main Street, Sarasota  
**COST:** Individual Checks  
**RESERVE:** Connie Campisi, 918-8969, at least a day in advance



## Notice of a Memorial Service

### In Memory of *Edith Zara*

By: Mary Amabile Palmer

A Memorial Service is planned in memory of Edith Zara, board member of the GCICS since its inception, active therein throughout the years and friend to all its members. When Edith died, most of the membership was up north. However, many of those in town attended the Mass at St. Martha's and some went on to the funeral. It was decided to postpone a Memorial Service until the late fall or winter when all the members would be in town.

Edith was an active board member. She and Tony planned the picnic and ball game for many years. Edith volunteered for other events as well. She was always open to new ideas and was a friend to

everyone. She had a winning smile, was always agreeable and was highly thought of by everyone.

The Memorial Service will be held on Tuesday, March 26 at 2 PM in the Community Room of St. Martha's Church, corner of Fruitville Road and Orange Avenue. Edith's daughter is expected to attend. We plan to honor her memory and those who wish to speak about Edith may do so. All are encouraged.

The GCICS will serve refreshments. However, any members who wish to bring cookies, pastries, fruit or other snacks are welcomed to do so.

**WHAT:** Edit Zara Memorial  
**WHERE:** St, Martha's Church Community Room  
**WHEN:** Tuesday, March 26, 2013  
**TIME:** 2PM  
**RSVP:** Mary Palmer, 365-8055



## UPCOMING EVENT

### SCHOLARSHIP GALA DINNER DANCE

Our most elegant, satisfying, well loved event of the year is our Scholarship Gala which is being held at Mattison's 41 Restaurant. It has all the ingredients for an exceptional evening. You will have the pleasure of witnessing presentation of scholarships to worthy college-bound local high school graduates. The music by Bruce Shelley and vocalist Sharon will be there for our listening and dancing pleasure. It promises to be an exciting evening.

#### First Course:

Mattison's House Salad; mixed field greens with toasted pine nuts, tomatoes and Gorgonzola tossed with balsamic vinaigrette

#### Second Course:

Penne Pasta with pesto Alfred sauce

#### Entree Choice of:

1. Chicken in Chianti - roasted with onions, tomatoes, celery, carrots, pine nuts, sultanas, demi-glace and sage; served over roasted vegetable risotto
2. Osso Bucco - served over roasted vegetable risotto
3. Italian Sea bass Branzino – roasted grape tomatoes and fresh parsley; served over roasted vegetable risotto

#### Dessert Choice of:

Tiramisu or Zabalone with fresh berries

Non-Alcoholic Beverages included: Assorted soda, water, iced tea, coffee

- WHAT:** Scholarship Gala  
**WHEN:** Sunday, April 7, 2013  
**TIME:** 5:30 pm  
**WHERE:** Mattison's 41, 7175 Tamiami Trail, Sarasota  
**COST:** \$40 per person  
**RESERVE:** Make check payable to GCICS and mail to:  
 Joe Moccia, 536 Ketch Lane, Longboat Key, FL. 34228

## SCHOLARSHIP CORNER



Francesca  
and Masiaya

Good morning,

As my winter break comes to an end, I want to thank you once more for all of the support you've given me. Time and time again I find myself thinking of how blessed I was to receive so many scholarships. I love attending the University of Miami. The atmosphere is perfect; the class sizes are just right; and the courses are wonderful. I even learned that my chances of being accepted to medical school are greater because I will be earning my bachelor's degree from UM. The most rewarding part of receiving a scholarship is knowing that people are trusting me enough to invest in my future. Thank you again!

This past semester was very tough, a complete balancing act (16 credit hours, work-study, Big Brothers Big Sisters, tutoring a high school student in all subjects, and other extracurricular activities). I finished the semester with two A+s, three As, and one A-. Organic Chemistry and Biology were two of the most strenuous courses I have ever taken. I started writing in a journal and posting positive post-it notes on my desk, so that my ambitions could never be clouded. My path to become a doctor is so clear and concrete in my head that I might not need the post-its this year! Attending medical school and becoming a physician is no longer something I want to do; it's something I am going to do. I find myself more and more invested in health science. Actually, I am so interested that I am switching my major from Psychology to

Exercise Physiology. This major requires my taking additional science courses that I wouldn't have had time for if I didn't switch. This semester I will be taking Organic Chemistry II, Organic Chemistry II Lab, Anatomy Lab, Physiology, Physics, and Intermediate Italian.

Aside from school this semester, I was matched with Masiaya, my Little Sister. I visit with this sweet and spunky second grader one hour a week at Aftercare. She has helped me more than she knows this semester. That one hour a week when we play outside or pour over homework allows my mind to completely escape from campus stresses. We are transitioning into the Big Brothers Big Sisters Community-based Program. Soon I will be able to take Masiaya places instead of being restricted to her school and Aftercare Park. I am going to invest more time in her this semester and hope to teach her the importance of education.

Over winter break I was fortunate to be able to shadow a family physician a few hours a week. This summer I also plan to take part in a ten-day trip to Peru with Medlife. This organization of doctors and other health care volunteers brings primary care medical services to individuals and families in Peru, Ecuador, and Panama. I have been setting aside work-study earnings to pay for it.

All good wishes,  
Francesca Tebano



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Gabriella Thurston

Patrick Corsentino

Arthur Castraberti

Marie Corsentino

Mary Amabile Palmer

**ITALIAN CLASSES****2013 Schedule**

Please be advised that both beginner and conversation classes will be held in the **Sarasota County Schools Administrative Building** located at 1950 Landings Boulevard, Sarasota beginning January 2013. Landings Boulevard is off RT.41 and behind "Sweet Tomato Restaurant". Take the first left off Landings Boulevard and look for building #1950 straight ahead with a blue awning. Ample parking is provided in front of the building. Enter building and take the elevator to the second floor. Classes will be held in room 218 or 219. Check the daily easel board near the elevator for the exact room # for that day.

**Location:** Sarasota County Schools Administrative Building  
1950 Landings Boulevard, Sarasota

**Class Section:** *Italian Conversation*                      *Beginner's Italian*

**Instructor:** Frank & Pina Pergolizzi                      Patricia Novak  
Cell: 203-583-2323                      Cell: 941-753-8357

**Day:** Wednesday                      Mondays

**Time:** 2:00 – 4:00 PM                      2:00 -4:00PM

**Dates:** **February**                      **February**  
6, 13, 20, 27                      4, 11, 25

**March**                      **March**  
6, 20, 27                      4, 18, 25

**April**                      **April**  
3, 10, 17, 24                      1, 8, 15, 22, 29

**Please Note:** There will be no Italian language class on Monday, March 11, or on Wednesday March 13, because the room that we meet in is being carpeted. We will return to normal class sessions the week of March 18.

## SAVE THE DATE

- 1) April 7, 2013                      Scholarship Gala Dinner Dance
- 2) April 20, 2013                    Dinner Club at Fillipo's

### **OOPS!**

In the last newsletter the last names of a husband and wife duo were omitted.  
They are: Joni Gambardella and Robert Narcisco

### **THE SUNSHINE LADY – ISABEL ISTORICO**

Get well wishes and a prayer card were sent to Tony Zara, who is an original member of GCICS. He is undergoing tests for a heart problem.

GCICS  
PO Box 2591  
Sarasota, FL. 34230

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