

LA VOCE DI GCICS

GULF COAST ITALIAN CULTURE SOCIETY, INC.

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

WWW.GCICS.ORG

November 2019



President's Message

As I realize how fast this year has flown, I am amazed by the passage of time. The snow birds are returning to us once again and we are happy to see them.

We had our first Board Meeting of the 2019-2020 season last week at Selby Library. I can report it is going to be a busy time starting with our "Welcome Back Luncheon" that was held at Mattison's 41 on October 27th.

George Arfield has once again booked the "twilight" Cruise out of Marina Jack's for our sunset enjoyment in the spring. Keep an eye out for all the details as they become available. We had a sellout crowd last year and everyone enjoyed the upper deck views. George has made arrangements for the full moon too!

There are still seats for the Sarasota Youth Opera production of "Brundibar" on Saturday the 16th of November. For those wishing to join us, there will be a dinner before at the Bijou Café across from the Opera House at 5 pm. Linda Mercurio is now taking the reservations for the Opera and Dinner...please let her know if you are joining us for one or both...please sign up as our support of the Youth Opera is so important to these young people. Tickets are \$30. Call Linda (941-400-1156) first and then send your check to her...Linda Mercurio, 5770 Deer Hollow Lane,

W, Sarasota, FL 34232, and the performance is always wonderful. Details appear further on in this newsletter.

My sincerest thanks to Mary Lou Ferrari, George Arfield and Paola Tate for the beautiful Welcome Back Luncheon on Sunday. George has written about it and provided photos in this newsletter. But I could not help but add an addition KUDOS for a job well done. And thank you all for coming out and supporting our first "formal" event of the new program year. We have many more interesting events planned. Check out the "Save the Dates" listing in the newsletter. The Bocce picnic is just ahead, the Opera two weeks later, and then the always enjoyable Holiday Dinner Gala. So far we have 13 signed up for that evening; remember is it a fundraiser and it is a truly joyous time to celebrate together.

Looking forward to seeing all of you as our season progresses. To all of you I wish you a Happy Thanksgiving.

Ciao
Sheryl Lazzarotti
President

SARASOTA YOUTH OPERA

DINNER & PERFORMANCE: FINAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Deadline: ASAP



The good news is we have sold 29 of our 30 pre-purchased tickets for the SYO. The even better news is that Linda Mercurio has acquired (on loan) 10 additional tickets if we can sell them; otherwise we return them to the Opera. So this is one final call for buyers (attendees): Linda Mercurio will be at Bocce on Sunday and will have the tickets to sell; and if you purchase then, be prepared to pay and let her know if you plan to dine at The Bijou Café pre-theater. Dinner is optional. If you are not attending Bocce on Sunday, call Linda and let her know you want a ticket and then mail the check immediately to her (see her address and phone# below). Thank you. Ellen Roderick, GCICS Secretary

Event: Dinner & Sarasota Youth Opera Performance

Performance: “*Brundibar*”

Date: Saturday, Nov 16, 2019

Time: Dinner: 5:00 pm; Performance: 7:00 pm (90 min. with one intermission; in English)

Location: Dinner: The Bijou Café (across from Opera House); Performance: Sarasota Opera House, 61 N. Pineapple Ave., Sarasota, FL 34236.

Cost: Performance: \$30; Dinner cost will vary depending on what you order.

Deadline: ASAP

POC: *If you are not at Bocce this Sunday, call Linda to let her know you want a ticket & then send check immediately*, made payable to GCICS, to Linda Mercurio, 5770 Deer Hollow Lane, W, Sarasota, FL 34232

Dinner: Please include a note with check if you plan to join the group for dinner.

Questions: *Linda Mercurio or RSVP (941-400-1156)*

NOTE: If you plan to attend the dinner, please arrive by 5:00 pm. That is when the restaurant opens. If you arrive earlier, there is plenty of patio seating. The staff will be well aware that the group needs to be in the Opera House by 6:50 pm at the latest. So all need to be there at 5:00 pm for seating; order our drinks promptly and study the menu. In fact, except for specials, you may want to review the dinner menu on line. Separate checks will be provided.

HOLIDAY DINNER PARTY FUNDRAISER



This year our GCICS Holiday Dinner Party will be at the home of Noel & Eileen Chiantella. As in previous years, it will be a “Bring a Dish” and “Scholarship Fundraiser”. We sincerely hope that you will join us in welcoming in the season. Noel and Eileen have planned a delightful get-together and are providing a main course & entertainment. The type of dish you bring is based on the first letter of your last name:

A-D: Dessert
E-K: Main Course
L-P: Appetizer
Q-Z: Vegetable/Salad

Date/Time: Sunday, Dec 15, 5:30 – 9:30 pm

Place: 242 Pesaro Dr., No. Venice, FL 34275

Donation: \$30 per person; make check payable to GCICS Scholarship Fund; deadline-12/10; mail to Pam Parodi, 4081 Prairie View Drive N, Sarasota, FL 34232

Bring: Your dish, wine to share, your badge and your grand holiday spirit.

Questions: Call Ellen Roderick (301-775-1344)

November Bocce Corner News



Club members are slowly returning from their summer get-away. However, the bocce court usage has not slowed down because of the interest by many new members. Most Sundays have had near a dozen players. Once again many thanks to Jerry Hall for the maintenance work he does to maintain the bocce court.

Since this has to be submitted before the end of the month, I should mention the bocce picnic. As of this submission, I only have 20 registrants, but hoping for many more contacting me to enjoy this annual event. Our Club takes advantage of the Conservation Foundation Fall Festival Open House held the day before our picnic by using the rented tables and chairs used at their event; therefore no expense to us. We maintain a great relationship by keeping the bocce court in great shape and participating in their Nov. 2 event by teaching bocce to all those attendees interested. It has become a great symbiotic relationship. The court is

situated in a PUBLIC park so our having use of it as we do is a wonderful thing.

Interestingly the equipment left at the court has never had issues. Recently both an entire set of balls and several pallini have been either lifted or damaged. Members are now bringing equipment each week to insure that we have what we need. When looking up the cost of purchasing a new pallino, Jerry Hall was appalled at the cost and is checking into this while vacationing in Italy. This will be quite interesting to see if the cost is less there than on Amazon.

A reminder that we play each week at the Bay Preserve at 400 Palmetto Drive in Osprey each Sunday from approximately 2 till 4. Experience is not required! A good disposition is! Hope to see you there soon.

Tom Hurban, Bocce Chair
908 507 3048
dorisntom@gmail.com



Caroline (Carol) Hall



It is with deep sadness that I report that our dear Caroline (Carol) Hall died on Oct 21, 2019 during a visit to Italy with her husband Jerry. Carol had been battling a disease for many years, making regular visits to Moffitt Cancer Center in Tampa. She was very private about this aspect of her life as she and Jerry lived life to the fullest each day. Carol contributed so much to our "GCICS world". Each Friday those of us who participated in Monday Happy Hours and/or Sunday Bocce received a notice with all the upcoming information. So many of you knew Carol from those regular events. But Carol also worked "behind the scenes" for GCICS as our graphic artist, our proofreader, and our "go to" person for printing jobs. She served as one of my back-ups (Acting Secretary) when I am up north for the summer/fall, taking copious notes, recording Board actions and discussion. I am certain that many of you have special thoughts about your time shared together.

Carol has been cremated and Jerry will return to Sarasota with her ashes. Such a sad and difficult journey he faces. Please hold him in your thoughts and prayers as he makes his way in life without his dear

Caroline. Attached is a photo taken the evening of Oct 19 at the home of Claudia Zeni, a friend of the Halls and Mary Lou Ferrari, who lives in the Bologna area. I will let you know any information on a possible Memorial Service for our beloved Carol. May she rest in peace.

Just a few words about Carol and Jerry: Carol was born in Pittsburgh but grew up and spent much of her adult life in Panama, specifically in the Panama Canal Zone. Her grandfather worked on the construction of the Panama Canal. Jerry was an Army brat born in VT but ended up living in Panama as well. They met at a community theater where Jerry was playing a villain and Carol was working backstage. Carol was a Federal Government employee during her residence in Panama. She and Jerry moved to Sarasota in 1999 to look after her mother (87 at the time) who lived in Lakeland. Jerry also had a cousin in Sarasota. Within the past year, Tom and Doris Hurban traveled with Jerry and Carol to Panama where they were terrific tour guides for the Hurbans.

Ellen Roderick
GCICS Secretary



2019-2020 GCICS EVENTS
By: Ellen Roderick, GCICS Secretary

The GCICS Board of Directors continues to make plans for the 2019-2020 program year.

* **Sunday, Nov 3, 2019:** Welcome Back Bocce Picnic (1:00 pm): @ Bocce Court, Osprey – announced on 10/8/19.

* **Sat, Nov 16, 2019:** Sarasota Youth Opera Performance (*Brundibar*) (7:00 pm) @ Opera House; dinner at 5:00 pm at The Bijou Café – announced on 9/2/19 and 10/18/19.

* **Sunday, Dec 15, 2019:** Holiday Dinner Party & Scholarship Fundraiser (5:30-9:00 pm) @ home of Dr. Noel & Ms. Eileen Chiantella, No. Venice (\$30+bring a dish & wine) – announced on 10/10/19.

* **Friday, Jan 10, 2020:** Annual Meeting/Lunch/Town Hall/Lecture (11:30-2:30 pm); no cost; Community Foundation of Sarasota County (CFSC); details to be announced.

* **NEW: Friday, Jan 31, 2020:** Cultural Event: Classic Italian Film "A Special Day" screened by Dr. Scott Perry, USFSM; 2:00-5:00 pm @ CFSC; no cost; details to be announced.

* **Saturday, Feb 8, 2020:** Bocce Invitational V (1:00 pm); @ The Cascades (Lockwood Ridge Rd); Bocce competition followed by pizza/salad/dessert dining and music for your entertainment (including dancing); details to be announced.

* **Tuesday, Feb 25, 2020:** Mardi Gras/Carnevale Party & Scholarship Fundraiser (5:30-9:00 pm); Penny Thomas's home, near IMG Academy, (\$30+bring a dish & wine); details to be announced.

* **NEW: Monday, March 9, 2020:** La Cena: Marina Jack II Dinner Cruise "Full Moon Evening"; details to be announced.

* **Sunday, March 15, 2020:** St. Joseph's Feast Day Celebration (12-3 pm) @ Cafe Baci; details to be announced.

* **NEW: Friday, March 27, 2020:** Wine Tasting Scholarship Fundraiser & Silent Auction @ Penny Thomas's home; details to be announced.

* **Palm Sunday, April 5, 2020:** Scholarship Awards Brunch (10:30 – 1:00 pm) @ Tara Golf & Country Club; details to be announced.

New additions are marked **NEW**.

Call with questions: Ellen Roderick, GCICS Secretary: 301-775-1344

Welcome Back Luncheon Review

Text and Photos by George Arfield

We owe Paola a BIG GRAZIE for this very unique experience. She touched everyone's heart with her story of love of family, strength of character and determination. You could have heard a pin drop while she was sharing memories of her experience fleeing from the Germans during World War II. She was not the only one shedding tears in the room. So we thank Paola for bringing her memories to us and making us reflect on the value of family and love, especially in the toughest of times.



Paola Tate with her husband Bob and granddaughter Isabella



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Past Presidents

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Gabriella Thurston	1993-2001
Patrick Corsentino	2001-2004
Arthur Castraberti	2004-2006
Marie Corsentino	2007
Mary Amabile Palmer	2008-2010
William Korp	2010-2014
Anthony Esposito	2015-2016

GCICS Italian Language Classes

Led by Prof. Paola Tate, GCICS offers its members two levels of instruction in the Italian language:

1. Italian for Beginners
2. Italian Conversation for those having basic to advanced command of the language and who are willing to actively participate in the conversation to the best of their ability to communicate in Italian. Full fluency is not required but participation is. This is not a class for silent auditors.

Both of these classes are for GCICS members only. Please do not bring guests, friends or visitors. Space issues require us to request that those wishing to join either class FOR THE FIRST TIME contact either Prof. Tate (rstvideo@aol.com) or George Arfield (arfield@yahoo.com) to insure that there is space available.

The classes are held every Wednesday during "season" at the home of the Tate family: Italian for Beginners from 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm and Italian Conversation from 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm. The address is 4583 Atwood Cay Circle, Sarasota FL 34233.

Members in "Italian for Beginners" are asked to leave the Tate residence promptly before the "Italian Conversation" hour begins. Conversely, those attending the "Italian Conversation" hour are asked to not attend the "Italian for Beginners" class. In other words: attend one class or the other but not both.