

LA VOCE DI GCICS

GULF COAST ITALIAN CULTURE SOCIETY, INC.

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

WWW.GCICS.ORG

May 2017

Message from the President

First of all I want to thank the Scholarship Committee for their outstanding work this year. The Seven Scholars represent Six (6) schools in Sarasota, Manatee and Charlotte Counties. Each received \$1250 towards their college tuition for their freshman year.

The Scholarship Committee, chaired by Linda Ahern, deserves accolades for its hard work and diligent scoring to present us with the best of the best. The committee members are Julie Bondarenko, Mary Lou Ferrari, Linda Mercurio, Bette Powers, Mary Rinaldi and Dr. Ellen Roderick. Kudos to you all.

A SOLD OUT Brunch at the StoneyBrook Country Club (70 plus) honored our winners. Linda Mercurio, Vice President, sold raffle tickets to begin the process of starting to raise monies in an effort to set the stage for next year's scholarship event. Over \$700 was raised at the brunch. Thank you all for being so generous.

Our final Board meeting will take place on Wednesday May 3rd, 2pm-4pm, at the Selby Library 2nd floor conference room. We welcome any of our members if you wish to attend.

Bocce will continue throughout the summer on Sundays at Bay Preserve, Conservation Foundation. There is one caveat. If Bay Preserve has a pre-planned event, we get bumped. It does happen occasionally. A general email will be sent as we get cancellation information. We welcome hardy souls who can deal with the heat. Although there is generally a welcome breeze off the inter-coastal waterway which helps.

As we come to the end of my first full-term as President, please know how proud I am to be a part of this wonderful organization. We want to grow and you can help us in that effort. If you know of someone who would enjoy being a part of GCICS please let Mary Lou Ferrari (our membership chairman) know, and she will make contact and do the rest. Her cell number is (908) 310-7685.

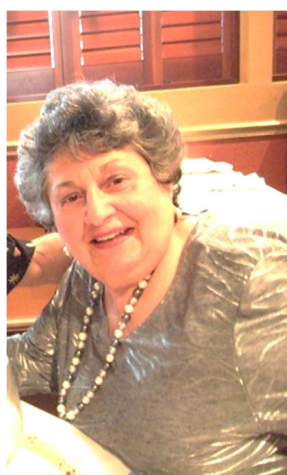
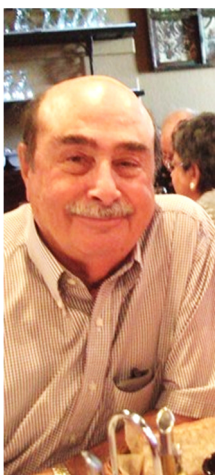
For those of you who are heading north for the summer, we wish you God speed and above all, be safe. Until we meet again.

Ciao,
Sheryl Lazzarotti

ST. JOSEPH'S CELEBRATION

Article & Photos by Dr. Ellen Roderick, GCICS Secretary

On Sunday March 19, 2017, we returned to Chianti's for our celebration honoring St. Joseph, Patron Saint of Italy. Forty-five (45) members and five (5) guests joined in the festivities. We honored not only St. Joseph but also eight (8) attendees celebrating their feast day: Joe Latona, Joe Tomaselli, Joe Raia, Joe Barresi, Joe Matturro (Barbara Rumpf's brother), Pina Pergolizzi (named for Giuseppina), Jack Joseph Ferrante and Nick Joseph Raino (guest). Thank you to those who contributed to its success: Linda Mercurio who ran the restaurant gift certificate raffles (\$470 raised for scholarship fund), Sheryl Lazzarotti who hosted our entertainer (guitar player and singer Gino); and yours truly handled reservations/arrangements and served as Master of Ceremonies. Sheryl sang for us and everyone appeared to have a fun afternoon. When you looked out at the tables, it was a "sea of red" in St. Joseph's honor. Enjoy photos of 7 of the 8 "Joseph's" or, in one case, "Pina" below; and plan to be "in the photos" on Sunday April 18, 2018 at a new venue.



Sister City Talk

GCICS had a delightful event on March 27, 2017 at The Cascades. Linda Ahern and Linda Mercurio arranged to have a speaker from the Sarasota Sister Cities Treviso which is one of Sarasota's sister cities. Also, a beautiful video about the Province of Treviso as well as the town of Treviso was shown. What we learned was that the town is small and therefore, Sarasota is a sister city to the entire Province of Treviso. From the video, it looks like a gorgeous spot to visit. We had 21 GCICS members attending as well as residents of The Cascades community. Coffee, cookies and conversation followed the presentation, video and question and answer session. Thank you Linda and Linda.

Bocce Corner News

The bocce picnic social held on April ninth was a success. Thirty members and guests shared their food and had great fun! Linda Mercurio did a 50/50 for the benefit of our scholarship fund. Pina Pergolizzi was the lucky winner taking \$125 as her half share. Besides playing bocce we were able to break in Mary Lou's new "Ferrari" corn hole toss game. For those wanting to use the court over the summer months, all the equipment is always there but currently nothing organized is planned. Do plan on coming to our fall welcome back bocce picnic on Nov 5. Tables will be provided. Everyone have a great summer!

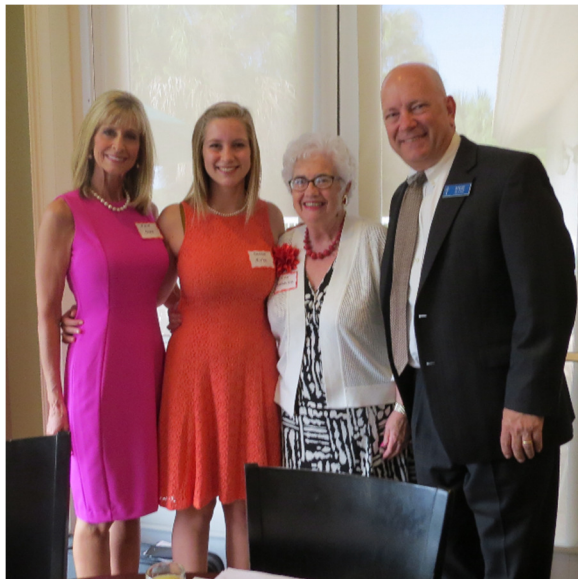
Tom Hurban



Scholarship Festa

Photo Gallery

A picture is worth a thousand words!







Member to Receive High Honor

By Ellen Roderick

So many of you know our member and very engaging speaker, Leita Kaldi Davis. Well, Leita will be honored on May 10th with the "Lillian Carter Award" in Atlanta, GA. Let me share the details.

The Lillian Carter Award is given to Peace Corps Volunteers who enter service over the age of 50, in honor of President Jimmy Carter's mother, who went to India with the Peace Corps in her sixties. It is also awarded to return Peace Corps Volunteers who continue the third goal of the Peace Corps, "bringing the world home to America."

Leita and husband Bob will travel to the Carter Center in Atlanta to accept the award from President Jimmy Carter. Peace Corps staff visited Leita this week in order to produce a video. To quote Leita: "Needless to say, I'm thrilled, as thrilled as I was the day I got the phone call saying I'd been accepted into the Peace Corps. Thrilled about this very great honor and to share it with you!"

I know we all extend our sincerest congratulations to you, Leita. Your contributions to our world have been so truly significant, especially in improving the quality of the lives of others. Travel safely and do share a photo or two that we can publish. Or better yet, loan us a copy of the video which we could share with all of our members.



Save The Dates



Sunday, October 22, 2017: 11:30AM – 2:00PM

Italian Cultural Heritage Month Welcome Back Brunch

Mattison's 41 Restaurant, So. Tamiami Trail

Sunday, November 5, 2017, 1:00 – 4:00 PM

Welcome Back Bocce Picnic

GCICS Bocce Court, Bay Preserve

Sunday, November 12, 2017: 10:30AM

Brunch & Sarasota Youth Opera Performance: Rootabaga Country

First Watch for Brunch & Sarasota Opera House for Performance

Sunday, December 10, 2017, 5:30 -9:00 PM

Christmas/Holiday Dinner Gala/Fundraiser

Home of members Mary Rinaldi & Jack Norman, Lakewood Ranch

Friday, January 12, 2018, 11:30AM – 2:30PM

Annual Town Hall Meeting/Lunch/Program

Community Foundation of Sarasota County, Fruitville Road

Saturday, February 10, 2018, 1:00 – 4:00 PM

GCICS Bocce Invitational III

The Cascades Clubhouse, North Lockwood Ridge Road

Tuesday, February 13, 2018, 5:30 – 9:00PM

Mardi Gras Party (Dinner)/Fundraiser

Home of members Tam & Vince Amoroso, Sarasota

Friday, March 9, 2018, 1:30 – 3:00 PM

Italian Lecture: The Unification of Italy, 1861: presented by Gino Calderone

Community Foundation of Sarasota County, Fruitville Road

Sunday, March 18, 2018, 2:00 – 5:00 PM

St. Joseph's Feast Day Celebration (Afternoon Dinner)

Mona Lisa Restaurant

Sunday, April 22, 2018, 10:30AM – 1:00PM

Scholarship Festa (Brunch/Awarding of GCICS Scholarships)

OFFICERS/DIRECTORS

President

Sheryl Lazzarotti

slazzarotti@gmail.com

Vice President

Linda Mercurio

lindascot@iname.com

Secretary

Ellen Roderick, PhD

itrain@erols.com

Treasurer

Dwight Pendola

dpendola@live.com

Bocce

Tom Hurban, DDS

dorisntom@gmail.com

Courtesy

Isabel Istorico

Isabelistorico585@comcast.net

Membership

Mary Lou Ferrari

MLFFLYME@yahoo.com

Newsletter Editor

Mary F Rinaldi

maryfrinaldi@yahoo.com

Scholarship

Linda Ahern

lindalahern@aol.com

DIRECTOR AT LARGE

William Korp

wrkorp@comcast.net

COORDINATOR

Website

Marco Mazzoni

Marco_mazzoni@outlook.com

Past Presidents

Joseph Raffaele, PhD 1988-1992

Gabriella Thurston 1993-2001

Patrick Corsentino 2001-2004

Arthur Castraberti 2004-2006

Marie Corsentino 2007

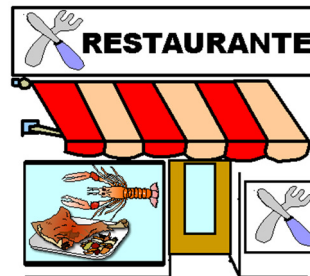
Mary Amabile Palmer 2008-2010

William Korp 2010-2014

Anthony Esposito 2015-2016

RESTAURANTS OFFERING 10% DISCOUNT TO MEMBERS

PLEASE PATRONIZE THESE RESTAURANTS
2017 – 2018



Beulah Restaurant @ 1766 Main St.	960-2305
Café Amici @1371 Main St.	951-6896
Café Baci @ 4001 S. Tamiami Trail	921- 4848
Café Barbosso @ 5501 Palmer Circle	922-7999
Chianti Ristorante @ 3900 Clark Road	952-3186
Flavio's 5239 Ocean Blvd., Siesta Key	349-0995
Good Fellas @ 4571 Clark Road	922-9470
Mona Lisa @ 4989 Ringwood Meadows	377-6562
Salute @ 1 st Street and N. Lemon	365-1020
San Marco @ 505 W. Venice Ave.	254-6565
Opa Opa @ 6525 Superior Ave.	927-1672
Valentino's @ 8203 Cooper Creek Blvd. 4045 Clark Road	359-6400 921-9600