

# *LA VOCE DI GCICS*

GULF COAST ITALIAN CULTURE SOCIETY, INC.

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

[WWW.GCICS.ORG](http://WWW.GCICS.ORG)

November 2018



## Letter from the President

Impossible to believe 2018 has brought us to November... Wasn't it New Year's Day just a minute ago? This weekend we gathered for our annual "Welcome Back Luncheon" event...this year at Café Baci. I am pleased to announce that we were a "Crowd" of about 60 members. Thanks to the owner Roberto Mei, we were located downstairs rather than upstairs. Since the restaurant is closed on Sundays we had the venue to ourselves. Thanks to Mary Lou Ferrari for overseeing this event and for our membership in coming out to enjoy the occasion.

Our membership is growing as interest in GCICS gathers momentum. Many thanks to our Board of Directors for their tireless devotion and service to our Society.

I am sad to report we will be missing the presence of Mary (Mickie) Moccia, beloved wife of Joe Moccia, who passed away on Monday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> losing her battle with cancer. Her happy disposition will be sorely missed. Our thoughts and prayers go to Joe and their dear family.

As a closing thought...a reminder to always wear your GCICS name badge at our events including Bocce and Happy Hours. It allows all of us to reinforce names and it advertises GCICS in a way that starts conversations and makes new friends. If you have not arranged with Nancy Schubert to purchase one, seek her out and let her know you would like to purchase yours.

All for now,

Ciao, Sheryl Lazzarotti

## HOLIDAY PARTY



Once again, the Holiday Party will be a “bring a dish” event where members will bring a bottle of wine and a dish. It will be a fundraiser for the Scholarship Fund (\$30 per person). It will be at the Lakewood Ranch residence of Mary Rinaldi and her husband Jack Norman. The type of dish that you will bring is according to the first letter of your last name. Here are the categories that we will follow:

- A – D: Main Course
- E – K: Dessert
- L – P: Vegetable dish (hot or cold; including salads)
- Q – Z: Appetizer

The hosts will provide ham as one main dish. Also, Mary and Jack are funding the live band for the entertainment of all party-goers.

**DATE/TIME:** Sunday, December 16, 2018; 5:30 - 9:30 PM

**PLACE:** 13982 Siena Loop, Lakewood Ranch, FL., 34202 (Phone: 941-907-9056)

**DONATION:** \$30 per person

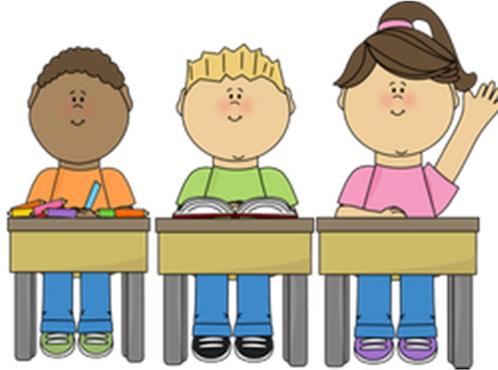
**BADGES:** Please wear your name badge (I keep mine in my car at all times so I don't forget it.)

**RAFFLES:** Great restaurant gift cards will be raffled off; so bring some cash to become a winner.



**RSVP:** Make checks payable to GCICS Scholarship Fund and mail to Mary Rinaldi, 13982 Siena Loop, Lakewood Ranch, FL., 34202

# ITALIAN CLASSES



**The GCICS Italian for Beginners and Conversation Sessions** will resume on **Wednesday November 14, 2018** thanks to the kind cooperation of fellow member Paola Tate. She is opening her home so we may enjoy a seamless transition in our efforts to become better speakers of the beautiful Italian language.

Paola, in her own words, "was born in Ethiopia, to a family from Bologna. I studied at the University of Urbino (Italy) and in Bologna. I taught Dow Chemical executives in Midland, MI, and later taught at Ohio State University; and wrote 7 books of Instructional Italian for McGraw Hill Publishing Company." She and her husband Robert (Bob) "have three grown children and nine grandchildren. We have lived in Sarasota for two years."

We would be remiss if we did not send a GRANDE "GRAZIE MILLE" to Pam and Silvio Parodi who contributed so much to make these language sessions in their lovely home a very pleasant and valuable GCICS activity. Thank you Pam, thank you, Silvio and we look forward to continuing to enjoy your friendship and company.

Now here are the details:

**WHAT:** Italian for Beginners & Italian Conversation

**WHEN:** Weekly, beginning Wed Nov 14, 2018: Beginners Session is 2-3 pm; Conversation Session is 3-4 pm.

**WHERE:** Paola Tate's home, 4583 Atwood Cay Circle, Sarasota FL 34233. This is a short distance west of Cattlemen Rd., east of Honore Rd., south of Bee Ridge Rd. and north of Proctor Rd.

**QUESTIONS:** George Arfield (917-658-9698) or [arfield@yahoo.com](mailto:arfield@yahoo.com)

We look forward with pleasure to resuming this educational experience.  
George Arfield, Social & Cultural Chair & GCICS Board Member



It is with genuine sadness and regret that we inform you that Mickie Moccia, longtime devoted member of GCICS and the wife of former fundraising chairman and GCICS Vice-President Joseph Moccia , died on Monday, October 22, 2018 and was subsequently cremated on Wednesday October 24, 2018. The passing of Mickie Moccia is deeply mourned by all who knew her, as she was a generous, loving, and caring human being. Our sincerest condolences are extended to her husband and children upon the loss of this gracious, gallant, and beautiful spirit. Members will be informed of any impending Memorial Service as soon as information becomes available. If members would like to write to Joseph Moccia extending heartfelt prayers and sympathy, you may direct communication to the following address:

Mr. Joseph Moccia  
705 Whitfield Avenue  
Sarasota, Florida 34243



Mickie and Joe Moccia

## THE WELCOME BACK LUNCHEON



On Sunday, October 28, 2018, GCICS held its annual “Welcome Back Luncheon” at Café Baci in Sarasota. The yearly event, a favorite among members, as evidenced by the presence of about 60 guests, afforded attendees an opportunity to “catch up” with one another after a long, hot summer and a chance to share fond memories, good fellowship, and enjoyable experiences, but, best of all, delectable food which included salad, a choice of three different entrees, and a luscious slice of tira misu.

A highlight of the brunch was a brief talk by member George Arfield, a former AP journalist, who discussed “this day” in history (October 28), including the discovery of Cuba in 1492, the dedication of the Statue of Liberty in 1886, and the events surrounding the Cuban Missile Crisis in October, 1962 which he personally recalled from experience, having been posted to Cuba at the time of the crisis.

Additionally, Roberto Mei, proprietor/owner of Café Baci, had been originally slated to talk about his family’s part in aiding Jewish families in Pitigliano, a small town in Italy, where the Nazis tried to carry out their twisted policies of racial hate, which have now come to be known by the odious term “The Holocaust.” Unfortunately, Roberto Mei was unable to speak at the luncheon due to a conflicting commitment, but he provided notes from his presentation to GCICS President, Sheryl Lazarotti, who shared Mr. Mei’s family story of heroism and courage in the dark days of WWII. In the words of Mr. Mei, his family was not really thinking about being heroic but about “helping friends and neighbors and doing the right thing.” The words of Mr. Mei were particularly poignant and meaningful in light of the terrible hate crime recently perpetrated at a synagogue outside Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where 11 Jewish worshippers were killed and 6 more wounded.

The luncheon also featured a 50/50 raffle facilitated by Linda Mercurio, which was won by Joseph Tomaselli, who happily characterized himself as a man of “good fortune”.

Finally, the luncheon concluded with a moment of silence in memory of Mary (Mickie) Moccia, wife of former GCICS Vice President Joseph Moccia, who passed away on October 22, 2018, after a courageous battle with cancer. Our prayers and thoughts are with Joe Moccia and Mickie’s family at this time of sorrow and grief.

The luncheon drew to a close with reminders about upcoming events, including the **Bocce** picnic at the Conservatory on Sunday, November 4, 2018 and the Christmas Party on December 16, 2018 at the home of board member/newsletter editor Mary Rinaldi.





## SCHOLARSHIP CORNER



**The following thank you notes were received by GCICS from two of last year's recipients and the Sarasota Youth Opera. They are typed exactly as received.**

Dear Ms. Ahean and the Scholarship Committee,

Thank you very much for your scholastic gift towards me and my future. Your program is driven by heart and love, shown through your uplifting of your proud Italian heritage. I can't wait to join your group on the 22<sup>nd</sup> for the presentation brunch!

Many thanks,  
Mark Elliot Finley

We, Mark-Elliot's parents, rejoice in God's goodness for His manifold blessings upon our son's life throughout his high school career. God Almighty has always provided in every way on every day throughout Mark-Elliot's four years of study.

Mark-Elliot has been accepted into the Honors program at the University of Tampa. He plans to study secondary English education and pursue a minor in French. He has earned numerous and generous scholarship from UT, the Community Foundation of Sarasota County and several private scholarship funds. His collegiate career is off to an exciting start. Thank you for a being meaningful part of his life through his high school years.



# GIFT CERTIFICATES



The following restaurants have recently donated gift certificates. A \* indicates that this restaurant has provided gift certificates in the past. Thank you, Linda Mercurio, for all your hard work in obtaining all these gift cards this past month. Remember, the monies obtained by raffling off these gift cards at our events helps to fund our scholarships.

- 1) Jalisco 217-4536 \*
- 2) Full Belly 727-7111
- 3) Cafe Amici \*
- 4) Starlite 702-5613 \*
- 5) Beulah 960-2305 \*
- 6) Fresco's Italian Restaurant & Pizzeria 342-6500
- 7) Pascone's Ristorante 230-7368
- 8) Paisano's Italian Bakery 926-8422 \*
- 9) Curry Station 924-7222
- 10) Il Pacifico (Gulf Gate) 921-5570 \*
- 11) Lobster Pound 755-3474
- 12) Cremesh European Restaurant 896-9422
- 13) Walt's Fish Market Restaurant 941-4605 \*
- 14) Demetrios Restaurant & Pizza 922-1585 \*
- 15) Beckham's 706-1654 \*
- 16) El Toro Bravo 924-0006 \*
- 17) Grasshopper 923-3688 \*
- 18) Andrea's 951-9200 \*
- 19) Rolf's New Florida Kitchen 806-6820
- 20) Toasted Mango 552-6485/388-7728 \*
- 21) Spearfish Siesta Grille 349-1970
- 22) The Original Egg 922-2868 \*
- 23) Veg 312-6424 \*
- 24) Rico's Pizzeria & Pasta House 366-8988
- 25) Summer House 260-2675
- 26) Puccini's 923-7002 \*
- 27) Millie's 923-4054 \*
- 28) British Open Pub 492-9227 \*
- 29) Paradise Grill 786-1524 \*
- 30) Blue Rooster 388-7539 \*
- 31) Chianti 952-3186 \*
- 32) Norma Jeans Sports Bar & Grill 444-7823 \*
- 33) Wheat Water Italian Kitchen 216-3562 \*
- 34) Santino's Pizzeria Italian Bistro & Pub 242-2220

## OFFICERS/DIRECTORS

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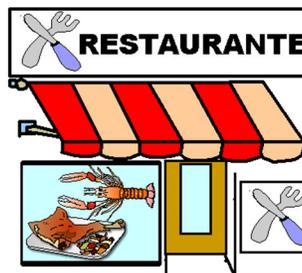
### Past Presidents

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

2018-2019



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 <sup>st</sup> 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