

VOCE DI GCICS

GULF COAST ITALIAN CULTURE SOCIETY, INC.

1811 Englewood Rd., #317, Englewood, FL 34223 WWW.GCICS.ORG December 2023

Mary Rinaldi, Editor



President's Message

This year's Thanksgiving celebration was spent with family members. It was extremely pleasant to connect with one of Vin's sons, Mark, his girlfriend, and her daughter. I made all the usual festive dishes. I was surprised to find my sweet potato casserole ablaze in the oven seconds after Vin announced that he smelled something burning. It was on fire! I was cautioned in the recipe not to walk away once you set the oven to broil to brown the topping. Well, my mind was elsewhere as I set about attending to something else and the sweet potato casserole never made it to our Thanksgiving table. I suggested to the person who graciously gave me the recipe that the suggestion of not walking away should be in **BOLD AND ALL CAPITAL LETTERS and IN RED.**

As we go about our daily activities, we sometimes need reminders. Not just for the

mundane but also reminders that bring us to a place where we can enjoy the fruits of our labor, fruits of giving. In our GCICS world we strive to accomplish many tasks during the year for our organization to be successful. What does success for GCICS look like? That is a question I often ask myself. Think about the many times we have taken on a new project or one that requires an effort to achieve the goal of success. What it looks like appears as a motion picture in our mind's eye. When it does not happen according to our vision, we are disappointed, but not deterred. We undoubtedly need to focus our attention on the task at hand and continue to strive toward success.

So, if success is our goal, and we understand the need to identify what success looks like for GCICS, we have no doubt mapped out a strategy to get there. Is our Scholarship Festa

our success story when we are introduced to six graduating seniors who have been selected to receive a GCICS scholarship award? Yes, it is!

How did we get there? We got there through faithful members participating in events, inviting friends to see what we are about, and by extending a welcoming hand to one another. The support you have shown by attending fundraisers and your generous donations are commendable. These actions have contributed greatly to the success of our scholarship program. Our Scholarship Committee, under the leadership of Sandra Russell, works hard during the year to make this program a success and we are all grateful for their dedication. We are a family in support of one another and achieving our goals. However, our scholarship program is not the only goal we strive for as a measure of our success. It is how successful we have been at giving our members what they seek,

whether it be weekly bocce, happy hours, Italian language classes, cultural lectures, La Cena dinners, or special celebration luncheons and dinners. These are the elements that bring us together and create a sense of belonging and appreciation.

Special thanks to Doris and Tom Hurban for the successful Welcome Back Picnic held at the North Jetty. It was a very enjoyable and fun experience for all. I thank our Board for giving their time and talent to this great Society. I feel the enormous need to mention that there are many sufferings and great hardships around the world. Please keep the families of the countries at war in your prayers. May you all experience a very Joyous Christmas and enjoy all the festivities of the holiday season. Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

Julie Bondarenko
President



**Final Announcement:
GCICS Holiday/Christmas Dinner Party & Fundraiser**



Date/Time: Sunday, **Dec 10, 2023**, 5:30-9:00 pm

Location: Mike and Patty DiMichele's home, 8425 Turnberry Circle, Sarasota, FL 34241

Donation: \$40 per attendee.

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

Registration: Please use GCICS website to register/pay (steps appear at end)

If Unable to Register Online: Mail check to Josephine Fontana, 8347 Canary Palm Ct., Sarasota, FL 34238; payable to GCICS; include each person's name.

Deadline for Registering & Paying: Online by **Dec 5**; or in Josephine's mailbox by **Dec 5**.

Deadline for Signing Up for a Dish: E-mail Pam Arfield ASAP after deciding you will attend. (See below.)

Point of Contact: Ellen Roderick, 301-775-1344 (itrain@erols.com)

VERY IMPORTANT:

If you decide to attend, take 3 steps:

STEP#1: Pay your dues on GCICS website if you have not already done so.

STEP#2: Register/pay for this event on GCICS website or send check to Josephine Fontana (see above).

STEP#3: ONLY AFTER you have paid on the website or put your check in the mail, e-mail Pam Arfield (pamarfield3@gmail.com) with your 1st & 2nd choice of what specific dish (see categories below) you wish to bring; please be very detailed on what your choices are; and include your phone number in the email. This system leads to a greater variety of dishes. The categories are:

1. Appetizers
2. Salads
3. Dinner Vegetables
4. Dinner Entrees: Meat (e.g., beef, pork, chicken); Fish; Eggplant
5. Desserts

STEPS FOR PAYING ONLINE

*Go to this GCICS web address: www.gcics.org/payment

*On 1st page, check "Member", enter first & last name, email address, phone #, and click on the blue block.

*On 2nd page, enter the total amount of your payment, **then enter in the block directly below "12/10/23" and list the name(s) of the person(s) for whom you are paying.** Please make sure you do this step.

*Click PayPal checkout and the next page will come up. Complete what is needed.

*Note: You do not need a PayPal account to pay for GCICS events. PayPal will accept your credit card directly. You will receive a confirmation email once you have completed the transaction.

FYI:



GCICS member, Local Author, Chef and Italy Travel Specialist Robert Gaglio to Launch National Book Tour which starts in Sarasota at various venues in January. His new book, "Freedom to Wander" is an inspirational story of family, travel, and taking chances.

1/25/24 GCICS Cultural Lecture

“Diverging Personalities: Michelangelo & Leonardo da Vinci”

You are cordially invited to an exceptional comparative presentation about two giants of the Renaissance, **Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo Buonarotti**, whose unparalleled legacy continues to influence the arts, science, and ideas to these very modern days.

This informative lecture on the intellectual power, thrust and style of these mega-influential Florentines will be presented by a prominent scholar of Italian Culture, Prof. Chrystine Keener, Ph.D. who teaches Early Modern Art and Culture at Ringling College of Art and Design. It promises to be an event not to be missed and remembered.

The details:

WHEN: Thursday, January 25, 2024, 2:00-4:00 pm

WHERE: Sarasota Library Gulf Gate Branch, 7112 Curtiss Ave, Sarasota, FL 34231
(Meeting Room "B," ground floor)

WHAT: **"Diverging Personalities: Michelangelo and Leonardo da Vinci"**

SPEAKER: Chrystine L. Keener, Ph.D., Professor of Early Modern Art and Culture, Ringling College of Art and Design.

FOR WHOM: Members & Guests (no cost)

PARKING: On site (no cost)

RSVP: Reply to this email (issued by Ellen Roderick) if you plan to attend and provide the names of all the people who will accompany you. If you have a spouse or companion, please be very clear as to whether you are attending alone or with your spouse/companion and provide all names. We will need to set up adequate seating. Thank you. Ellen's email is itrain@erols.com

We look forward with pleasure to your attendance.

George Arfield
GCICS Social & Cultural Chair

BOCCE CORNER NEWS



On Sunday Nov. 12, our Society enjoyed perfect weather during our Fall picnic at the North Jetty Park in Nokomis. Sixty plus members showed their culinary skills as they provided varied dishes to share as well as providing their own main course. The covered pavilion gave us ample seating and since alcohol is permitted there was absolutely no reason for a good time not to be had by all! Our Sicilian import Gianni entertained us again by singing a few songs. He was almost upstaged by a gopher turtle which showed up under our food table! Although we had the corn hole bags and a bocce set there for use, it appeared that all were very happy to relax and converse. The facility was ours to use until four o'clock but most everyone left around three. We welcome any suggestions as to how to enjoy each other's company a little longer next year. Doris and I have been a two-person committee for a few years and would welcome volunteers to share this load! A big thank you to those attendees who stepped in to help us set up!

We will try to form a maximum of nine teams for the February 3rd invitational at The Cascades. That is 36 people. It is time for our novices to start sharpening their skills. We'd love to see you at our court. You can set up a team of friends or I can assist in doing so. Please keep me in the loop of your plans. Time will pass quickly with
The upcoming holidays!

As a reminder to ALL, we play bocce each Sunday from 2-4 at the Conservation Foundation grounds at 200 Palmetto Ave. in Osprey. It is very informal and beginners are welcome!

Tom Hurban
Bocce chair
Questions? 908 507 3048



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
Sheryl Lazzarotti	2016-2020

FYI:

Submitted by Joe Barresi

The following blurb is taken from the September 2020 issue of Reader's Digest.

ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL DID NOT INVENT THE TELEPHONE.....

In 1860, a Florentine immigrant in New York named Antonio Meucci demonstrated a remarkable invention he called a teletrofono. Sadly, Meucci could not find a sponsor for his product, and after several mishaps, he could not afford the fee for even a temporary patent. Enter Alexander Graham Bell, who just so happened to share a laboratory with Meucci. Bell didn't get a patent for "his" telephone until 1876, 16 years after Meucci had unveiled his prototype. Bell soon struck a deal with Western Union to sell his device. Meucci sued Bell for fraud, and the case was nearing the Supreme Court when Meucci died, in 1889. It took until 2002 for the Italian inventor to be vindicated. That was when the U.S. House of Representatives passed a resolution declaring that "his work in the invention of the telephone should be acknowledged."

