

LA **VOCE** *DI* **GCICS**

GULF COAST ITALIAN CULTURE SOCIETY, INC.

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

WWW.GCICS.ORG

December 2016



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope everyone had a very Happy Thanksgiving!

At the November Board Meeting a unanimous vote elected Linda Mercurio to serve as Vice-President of the Board. Staying on and re-elected for another term are: Ellen Roderick, Secretary and Dwight Pendola, Treasurer.

We are in full swing of our season. With great delight I am happy to report many "Snow Birds" are returning to us.

The Bocce Picnic on November 5th was a tremendous success. Great food and camaraderie partnered with competitive Bocce, a good time was had by all. Kudos to Tom and Doris Hurban and their committee. We also raised \$340 for Scholarship with Linda Mercurio's "Restaurant Raffles".

Six members of GCICS attended the SICE (Sarasota Italian Cultural Events) opening event at the Sarasota Yacht Club on November

17th. A wonderful meal was served representing various regions of Italy. Included with each course were wines from the region with a slide presentation. It was a delightful evening for all who attended.

Next up our Christmas Celebration on December 11th at the home of Mary Rinaldi and Jack Norman on Siena Loop in Lakewood Ranch. I for one am looking forward to all the dishes supplied by our members. We will once again be bringing dishes. Check inside for details. Don't miss it!

Looking forward we have our "Annual Meeting" in January, "Bocce Tournament with the Cascades" in February, and some other events to be determined. There is much to look forward to.

Ciao till next time,
Sheryl Lazzarotti, President

Holiday Party Fundraiser

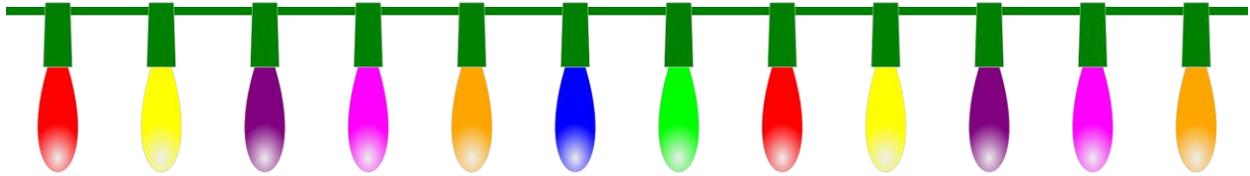


Once again, the Holiday Party will be a “bring a dish event” where members will bring a bottle of wine and a dish. It will be a fundraiser for the scholarship fund. It will be at the Lakewood Ranch residence of Mary Rinaldi and her husband Jack Norman. The type of dish that you will bring will be according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

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

The host and hostess of this event will provide ham as a main dish. Also, Mary and Jack will fund the cost of the live band for the entertainment of all party-goers.

- DATE:** Sunday, December 11, 2016
- TIME:** 5:30 – 9:30 PM
- PLACE:** 13982 Siena Loop, Lakewood Ranch, FL., 354202 (Phone: 907-9056)
- COAST:** \$25 per person
- RESERVE:** Make checks payable to GCICS Scholarship Fund and mail to:
Mary Rinaldi, 13982 Siena Loop, Lakewood Ranch, FL., 34202



ANNUAL TOWN HALL MEETING



The GCICS Board invites you to our Annual Meeting in a "town hall" format along with a gratis lunch and movie. Our Jan.'16 attendance was 53; let's see if we can match that. This is an opportunity to socialize with your fellow members, break bread together, provide feedback to the Board, and enjoy the acclaimed documentary, "Men of the Cloth."



Deadline for reservations is Thursday, January 5th. Ellen Roderick will be issuing a number of reminders. The easiest way to do it: put it on your calendar now and e-mail Ellen (itrain@erols.com); and she will put you on our list of attendees. Don't delay. Here is the information:

Event: GCICS Annual Meeting/Lunch/Movie

Date/Time: Thursday, Jan. 12, 2017, 11:30-2:30 pm

Location: Community Foundation of Sarasota County, FL, 2635 Fruitville Rd, Sarasota, FL 34237 (near Tuttle)

Program: Lunch (no cost), Annual Meeting/Town Hall, Movie

Movie: "Men of the Cloth" -- an inspiring documentary portrait of 3 Italian master tailors who share their pride and devotion to their Old World craft.

RSVP: Ellen Roderick (itrain@erols.com) @ 301-775-1344 (before Dec 7); 941-366-6756 (Dec 7 & beyond) **by Thursday, January 5th.** We must confirm the no. of attendees with caterer by the 6th.

Bring: Your appetite & thoughts on GCICS 2017-2018 programs/activities

Presiding: Sheryl Lazzarotti, President

Menu: Chicken Marsala, Pasta (Rigatoni) Bolognese, Eggplant Rollatini, Tossed Salad, Bread, Tiramisu, Coffee

Wine Tasting Social



The GCICS Board of Directors is pleased to announce a **Wine Tasting Social** on Friday, Jan. 27, 2017. This was an extremely successful event in Jan. 2016; members loved their visit to Casa Italia and asked that we repeat this SOCIAL. Bring your friends. The appetizers were so delicious and the wines fantastic. Buy wines! Here is the information:

- Event:** Wine Tasting Social
- Date:** Friday, Jan. 27, 2017
- Time:** 6:00 to 7:30 pm
- Location:** Casa Italia, 2080 Constitution Avenue, Sarasota, FL
- Cost:** \$15 per person covering appetizers and wine tasting (all Italian wines)
- Program:** Socializing & Wine Tasting
- POC:** Send check made payable to GCICS to Linda Mercurio, 5770 Deer Hollow Lane, W., Sarasota, FL., 34232
- Deadline:** RSVP by Monday, Jan. 23rd.
- Questions:** Contact Linda Mercurio at (941) 400-1156
- Limit:** 40 persons

REFLECTIONS ON OUR ANNUAL WELCOME BACK LUNCHEON

It is a pleasure and privilege to report that GCICS honoree as “Person of the Year” was Dr. Joseph Polizzi who was also the featured speaker at our annual welcome back luncheon. Dr. Polizzi delighted and charmed the 54 guests in attendance at Mattison’s 41 with an informative presentation recounting his personal experiences and memories of “growing up Italian.” Dr. Polizzi’s talk was very well received and succeeded in setting a ‘nostalgic tone’ that no doubt everyone appreciated.

On behalf of the members and Board of Directors of GCICS, Dr. Polizzi was gifted with a beautiful clock honoring him as “Person of the Year.” Surely Dr. Polizzi will cherish the clock as a token of the high esteem in which he is held by GCICS.

As a special treat, Dr. Polizzi also favored us with several of the books that he authored for sale, with the understanding that \$5 would be donated to the GCICS Scholarship Fund for every book purchased. The brunch was an enjoyable and memorable opportunity to gather together in fun and fellowship.







REVIEW OF NOVEMBER WELCOME BACK PICNIC

On November 6th, a bright and breezy Sunday afternoon, from 1 PM to 4 PM, at the Bay Preserve near Spanish Point in Osprey, approximately 48 GCICS members and guests came together to share in good food and friendship in a lovely, relaxed setting.

The picnic lunch of BBQ chicken, sweet and hot sausage with peppers and chili were provided by several members of our society. GCICS members supplemented delectable side dishes as part of our popular “bring-a-dish” custom. Included were pasta dishes, assorted salads, and a variety of

tempting desserts such as tiramisu, cinnamon coffee cake, pies, and Italian cookies.

The picnic afforded participants an opportunity to talk and network informally, to catch up with familiar friends as well as make new ones, while enjoying a fun “GCICS” outing. An added treat included several games of bocce in which a number of members participated, showing their mettle and skill. The conservation site is home to the “bocce court” maintained by GCICS as part of its ongoing commitment to

making Sarasota more lovely and enjoyable for all.

The picnic succeeded in bring in \$320 earmarked for our annual scholarship fund. Restaurant Gift Certificates were raffled off largely resulting from the devoted efforts of Linda Mercurio as part of the organization's

efforts to raise funds to help deserving young scholars of Italian descent/heritage, defray the cost of college with scholarships.

Overall, the picnic was a well-attended, welcome event appreciated and savored by all.





BOCCE CORNER NEWS



Our bocce picnic on November 6 was well attended with lots of good food and donated by all participants, most especially our thanks to the gals who supplied us with all the homemade sausage and peppers: Mary Lou Ferrari, Bobbi Rumpf, Julie Bondarenko and Doris Hurban. It's doubtful if any one went home hungry! New members, Diane and Andy McGrellis, were introduced and thanked for their donation of a set of beautiful new bocce balls

A reminder that we continue to play bocce every Sunday at 2:00 at the Bay Preserve. It's informal; no reservations are needed. All are welcome to play as always. However, if an event is scheduled by the Conservation Foundation, such as a wedding, that takes precedence over our bocce. If you are in doubt, please call Tom Huran at 908-507-3048 to check availability.

Our GCICS was well represented at the Conservation Foundation's Fall Festival on November 5th, where we exposed many of the over 1000 attendees to bocce and our club. Multi grazie to Carol and Jerry Hall, Sheryl Lazzarotti, Mary Lou Ferrari and Tom and Doris Hurban for all the time given and great stamina and patience shown!

It's time to think about our upcoming invitation to travel to The Cascades on Saturday, February 11th (please note the date change), to play bocce as GCICS strives to hold onto our hard won trophy from last year's event. Hopefully we'll enjoy much better weather this year. We have asked Cascades to please change the format by having 4 person teams, rather than 2, which will make it a much quicker and fun tournament to play so that we can get to the important after party celebration. Save the date now!

ITALIAN CLASSES



Since our two Italian Class instructor have retired from teaching. We had to look for an alternative venue. The Italian American Club of Venice is welcoming our members to join their classes. Noted below is the schedule that we were provided with.

The Italian American Club of Venice
1375 Ringling Dr., Venice Fl. 34286
Offers.....

Italian Cultural & Language Classes

Conversational: *Tuesdays 2pm to 3:30pm*
with Domenic
Beginning Oct. 11th, 2016

Basic Italian: *Tues 4pm-6 pm* *with Domenic*
Beginning Oct. 11th, 2016

Intermediate Italian: *Mondays 4:pm to 5:30pm*
with Bruce
Beginning Oct. 10th, 2016

Study of Italian Culture: *Wednesdays 2pm to 3:30pm*
with Carlo Ferroni
Beginning Oct. 12th, 2016

NOTE:
All
Classes
Will be accepting
Students
at any time
throughout the year.
All Welcome.
Info:
Domenic 941-544-8965
Bruce 941-266-3317
Carlo 941-485-1359

All classes are held at the Club and are complimentary.
The objective is to foster and encourage knowledge of the language, art, culture and history of Italy, and to foster an understanding of that cultural heritage in our country.

OFFICERS/DIRECTORS

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COORDINATORS

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Past Presidents

Joseph Raffaele, PhD	1988-1992
Gabriella Thurston	1993-2001
Patrick Corsentino	2001-2004
Arthur Castraberti	2004-2006
William 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

Café Amici	951-6897
1371 Main St., Sarasota	
Café Baci	921-4848
4001 Tamiami Tr., Sarasota	
D'Corato	330-1300
322 So. Washington Blvd., Sarasota	
Mona Lisa	377-6562
4989 Ringwood Meadow, Sarasota	
Phila. Cheesesteaks & Hoagies	926-0441
7523 S. Tamiami Tr., Sarasota	
Piatti Italian Bistro	923-5570
6630 Gateway Ave., Sarasota	
Primo Restaurante	359-3690
8076 Tamiami Tr., Sarasota	
Valentino's	
Cooper Creek Blvd.	359-6400
Clark Road	921-9600

GCICS PATCHES

GCICS has patches with our logo for sale. These are attached to a garment with a safety pin which is on the back. These will be great to wear at our events and bocce tournaments. Please contact Joe Moccia at 387-2039 if you are interested in purchasing one for \$7.