

LA VOCE DI GCICS

GULF COAST ITALIAN CULTURE SOCIETY, INC.

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

WWW.GCICS.ORG

April 2017



President's Message:

Happy Spring!

It's hard to believe that we are beginning the 4th month of the year in just a few days. With all the bad weather up north we are so fortunate for the winter we have had here.

As some of you may know, Linda Mercurio and I have been working on getting new restaurant discount cards in place for your use. You will find a list with addresses and phone numbers in this newsletter. Please know you can use this list to get the discounts immediately and they are good through December **2018**. Very soon, we will have a more manageable size card printed for you to carry in your wallet or purse.

Spring Bocce is in the air. Check out Tom Hurban's Bocce notes for details and I look forward to seeing many of you at the Bocce Social and "Corn Hole Toss" on April 9th.

Next month we will be able to report on the Planning Meeting results for next year. That meeting will take place on March 31. It is always an exciting meeting and your board looks forward to reporting back to you.

The Scholarship Brunch is just around the corner. I am told by Scholarship Chair, Linda Ahern, that we have an exciting group of young scholars this year that will light up the room. Do get your reservations in, as this popular event has been a SELL OUT for the past two years, and we would not want you to miss it. Ellen Roderick is checking her mailbox daily for your check/reservation. Do not disappoint her. 😊

Look forward to seeing all of you at our upcoming events.

Ciao,
Sheryl

SPRING BOCCE PICNIC



We are hoping to see many of you at our Bocce Social at 1:00 on April 9th. Mary Lou will be out of town and Julie Bondarenko will be in charge. [908 246 8143]

As the blast sent out by Ellen stated, this will be more informal. We're trying a new simple format to just be able to all gather together to socialize and have fun. Please bring your own food and drink and an appetizer or dessert to share. Don't forget your chairs! Coffee will be provided. We will also have the opportunity to try a corn hole toss game as well as bocce for all. Large tables will not

be provided this time, although there will be table for your desserts and appetizers. If you have a table for your use, please bring it along.

The court continues to be a nice meeting place on Sundays between approximately between 2-4 pm. New members are being drawn to our Club because of it and those members who recently joined are excited to join in on the fun!

Tom Hurban
908-507-3048

- Date/Time:** Sunday, April 9, 2017; 1:00 PM
Location: Bay Preserve, 400 Palmetto Ave., Osprey, FL (not at, but behind Spanish Point)
Food: Bring your own picnic basket including food, drinks (alcohol is allowed) and paper products for yourselves.
To Share: Bring an appetizer or dessert to share with 7 or 8 persons.
Cost: No charge.
Bring: Chairs, Sunscreen, Hat, and a Table if you have one
RSVP: Julie Bondarenko, (908) 246-8143
Program: Eating, Socializing and Playing Bocce
Parking: Carpool if possible; we must not park inside the gates.

Scholarship Festa



You are cordially invited to the GCICS Scholarship Festa where up to 7 high school seniors will be awarded \$1,250 scholarships as they begin their college education. We have seating for 80. We will welcome the student scholarship awardees and their guests. The committee is hard at work reviewing applications and making selections. You will have the opportunity to meet and hear from these college bound local Italian American high school seniors. *Details follow.* Mail your checks quickly, because this event sold out last year.

EVENT: CCICS Scholarship Festa – a Breakfast Buffet honoring our Scholarship Awardees

DATE: April 23, 2017

TIME: 10:30 AM

LOCATION: Stoneybrook Country Club, 8801 Stoneybrook Blvd., Sarasota, Fl. 34238

MENU: Omelet station; waffle and fresh fruit bars; Eggs Benedict; other egg dishes with bacon, sausage; hash brown, grits; hot cereal; toast, English muffins, pastries; coffee, tea; one Mimosa or Bloody Mary included in cost.

COST: \$24 all inclusive (brunch, gratuity and one alcoholic beverage)

RAFFLES: Linda Mercurio will be conducting restaurant gift card/certificate raffles.

RESERVE: By Monday, April 17. Makes checks payable to "GCICS" and mail to:
Ellen Roderick
770 So. Palm Ave. #1003
Sarasota, Fl. 34236

QUESTIONS: 941-366-6756

ITALIAN CONVERSATION CLASSES & HAPPY HOURS



The GCICS Board of Directors is pleased to announce that we have established an ongoing Basic Italian Class and an Italian Conversation Class on Monday afternoons at the home of the instructor and his wife, Silvio & Pamela Parodi. They have just joined GCICS and have volunteered to conduct these classes in their home. There is no cost for the classes. It is followed by an **optional** Happy Hour. Details on both activities follow.

Basic Italian Classes

Date/Time: Every Monday at 1:00 pm for 1 hr. (commences March 20, 2017)

Class Content: Basic grammar, speaking and comprehension.

Instructor: Pamela (Pam) Parodi

Location: The Parodi home: 4081 Prairie View Dr., N, Sarasota, FL 34232 (located off McIntosh south of Fruitville Rd)

Cost: Free with membership in GCICS

Questions: E-mail Pamela Parodi: chez.parodi@verizon.net

Italian Conversation Classes

Date/Time: Every Monday at 2:00 pm for 1.5 hours

Instructor: Silvio Parodi

Location: The Parodi home: 4081 Prairie View Dr., N, Sarasota, FL 34232 (located off McIntosh south of Fruitville Rd)

Cost: Free with membership in GCICS

Questions: E-mail Carol Hall: CZHALLS@verizon.net

Happy Hours

Date/Time: Every Monday at 4:30 pm (up to 2 hours)

Location: Varies from north of Sarasota to downtown to south of Sarasota and east.

To learn location each week: E-mail Carol Hall: CZHALLS@verizon.net

To RSVP: E-mail Carol Hall by the Saturday before the Monday of Happy Hour:

CZHALLS@verizon.net

To be on list for notification each week: E-mail Carol Hall: CZHALLS@verizon.net with your email address.

Note: Linda Mercurio "scouts" restaurants to identify good Happy Hour locations and then reserves for the group.

Gift Card Donations



The following establishments have donated gift cards to GCICS for our scholarship program. An * indicates that a gift certificate was given in the past as a donation.

Azari's Pizzeria Restaurant – 342-0090
Café Amici* - 951-6896
Café Baci* - 921-4848
Chianti Ristorante Italiano* - 952-3186
Dolce Italia* - 921-7000
First Watch* - 954-1395
Goodfellas Café and Winery* - 5366535
Longhorn Steakhouse* - 377-4343
Oil and Vinegar* - 702-9664
Opa Opa* - 927-1672

Ortygia* - 741-8646
Paisano's Italian Bakery* - 926-8422
Pub 32 - 952-3070
Schnitzel Kitchen* - 922-9299
Spacco Italian Grill – 312-4452
Stottlemeyer's Smokehouse* - 312-5969

Oil and Vinegar Review

Upon entering the Oil & Vinegar Shop, members were greeted by our organization's Vice President, Linda Mercurio, who provided those in attendance with a "beaded necklace" to distinguish club members from regular store patrons. During the visit, which extended from 6PM to 8PM, members were given an opportunity to sample a wide variety of flavorful, aromatic olive oils into which they could dip chunks of crusty bread. In addition, members were invited to partake in a "tasting" buffet in which they were offered a drink made of zesty, tangy vinegar; a sampling of black pasta (made with squid ink, hence the color), topped off with almond pesto and sundried tomatoes; dried bruschetta; strawberries dipped in chocolate vinegar; and a serving of cookies. The products featured in the store, were all rich in flavor and unique. All in all, members had a pleasant evening enjoying good food, drink and fellowship. The event was made even more special when the store's management discounted 15% off any products purchased by GCICS members. The "tasting" proved to be a treat that members in attendance will fondly remember and savor.

GCICS Women's History Month Lecture Review

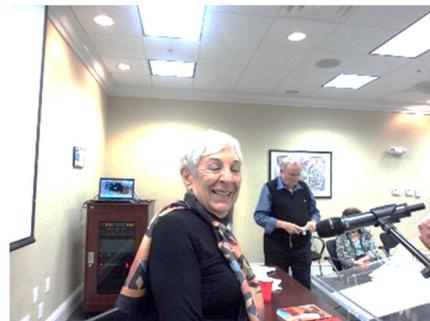
Article by Ellen Roderick & Photos by Mary Rinaldi

Leita Kaldi Davis inspired us all with her presentation “Parole Femmine: Italian American Women Writers and the Immigrant Experience” during Women’s History Month at the Community Foundation of Sarasota County. Members (27) and guests (5) were fascinated with Leita’s wide-ranging knowledge of Italian American writers over the past decades. Her remarks led to the sharing of attendees’ thoughts on their experiences, especially focusing on life with their nonnas (grandmothers). “Mille grazie” to dear Leita for both an educational and inspiring program. What follows are three book citations that Leita made reference to during her talk:

**The Dream Book-An Anthology of Writings by Italian American Women* (1985, 2000) by Helen Barolini

**Umbertina: A Novel* (published in paperback, 1998) by Helen Barolini

**Rosa: The Life of an Italian Immigrant* (1970, 1999) (autobiography of Ines Cassettari as transcribed by Marie Hall Ets)



Opera Tour Review

Article by Ellen Rodrick and Photos by Mary Rinaldi

On March 13th, Sam Lowry and Travis Rogers, Sarasota Opera staff, provided a comprehensive 2-hour tour of the Sarasota Opera House for members (10) and guests (1). Linda Mercurio had arranged a pre-tour brunch at First Watch. We learned about the history of the building, its conversion to an opera house, the evolution of the Sarasota Opera, the vision of the company, and the extensive production of each opera. We visited the costume department where we learned how each production is handled (some costumes are rented, others re-used from previous productions and others designed and sewn from scratch). And finally, we toured backstage and on stage, seeing the huge opera sets along with learning about the roles of the stage directors and conductors. On a sidebar, how small the world really is. Newsletter Editor Mary Rinaldi discovered that she and Travis Rogers graduated from the same elementary, junior and senior high schools on Long Island, 28 years apart.



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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

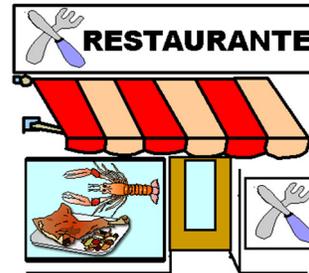
William Korp 2010-2014

Anthony Esposito 2015-2016

RESTAURANTS OFFERING 10% DISCOUNT TO MEMBERS

PLEASE PATRONIZE THESE RESTAURANTS

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 @ 1st 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. 359-6400