

# *VOCE DI GCICS*

GULF COAST ITALIAN CULTURE SOCIETY, INC.

1811 Englewood Rd., #317, Englewood, FL 34223 [WWW.GCICS.ORG](http://WWW.GCICS.ORG) November 2024

Mary Rinaldi, Editor



Happy Thanksgiving

## President's Message

Foremost in my thoughts, as I write my message for the November newsletter, are concerns for any of our members and their families who are dealing with the aftermath of Hurricanes Helene and Milton. For some Floridians, seeing their home or condominium uninhabitable, due to driving wind and rain causing mountains of sand and flooding, is incomprehensible. Many of us were unscathed by Milton's fury, and in as much as most of us lost electricity and received minor damage, it seems only an inconvenience by comparison. News of devastation and hardship of many people beyond our Sarasota/Manatee communities brings to mind, especially during this anticipated holiday season, how we may express compassion and concern for others. One good deed, one thoughtful sentiment expressed to another may go far as we feel for so many hurricane victims. As we gather around the Thanksgiving table and give thanks let us not forget them.

What a remarkable gal she is! Leita Kaldi Davis was awarded our GCICS 2024 Italian American of the Year recognition. Please read Leita's bio and citation in this newsletter. I had the opportunity to sit between Leita and her husband Bob at the luncheon. I gained new insights into how this couple found one another and how they enjoy life together to its fullest. In thinking afterwards about my conversation with Bob, I came to the conclusion that Leita must be an incredibly good cook. Perhaps that adage, the way to a man's heart is through his stomach, holds true. Leita, thank you for being an amazing woman and gracing us with your humor, fun-loving style, and above all your ability to make everyone you meet feel important.

This past week we received sad news of Bob Tate's passing. Bob was the husband of Paola Tate, our faithful member who teaches Italian classes for GCICS. At this time, our prayers

and heartfelt sympathy are with Paola and her family. Please see Bob's tribute further on in the newsletter. Ellen has sent information on his memorial service. Paola, please know we are truly sorry for your loss.

*Brainstorming New Member Recruitment Strategies* will be held on November 19, 2024, at Josephine Fontana's home from 1-3 pm. Ellen has sent out the announcement and is accepting reservations. This is an opportunity for members to share their ideas on recruiting new members for our Society. Several who cannot attend have submitted suggestions for which we are grateful. Everyone may participate and if, for any reason, you cannot attend, please submit your ideas in writing to Ellen. The Board will be looking at all the input early in the new year to see which strategies are feasible, and who

in the Society is willing to spend time in making these strategies a reality.

Please do not miss the several events happening in November (Welcome Back Picnic, Brainstorming Session, La Cena) and December (Cultural Lecture & Holiday Party/Fundraiser). All events are listed on our website [GCICS.com](http://GCICS.com) (go to the Event page). Also, Ellen keeps us up to date on events. Please watch out for her announcements.

I am looking forward to the new program year and excited about meeting new members and embracing those who have been faithful members for many years.

Wishing you all a Happy Thanksgiving!

Julie Bondarenko, President



## HOLIDAY PARTY



You are invited to our GCICS Holiday/Christmas Party & Scholarship Fundraiser (12/15/24). Space is limited so do not delay signing up. And paying online is the quickest way to secure a space. We are implementing the “bring a dish” system as we have done in the past.

Because we have had so much food left over after our Holiday parties in the past, and because we had a most successful Carnevale party in early 2024 with attendees bringing “heavy” appetizers (hors d’oeuvres) and desserts, we decided to have that kind of a menu for our Holiday party. A suggested list of appetizers and desserts is attached. But feel free to suggest to Pam other options that perhaps don’t appear on the list.

*Event:* GCICS Holiday/Christmas Party & Fundraiser

*Date/Time:* Sunday, Dec 15, 2024, 5:30-9:00 pm

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

*Attendees:* Open to all who have renewed their membership (i.e., dues are current for 2024-2025). Guests are welcome.

*Donation:* \$40 per member & per guest (both are non-refundable).

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

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

*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](mailto:itrain@erols.com))

VERY IMPORTANT:

If you decide to attend, take 2 steps:

STEP#1: Register/pay for this event on GCICS website or send check to Josephine Fontana (see above).

STEP#2: ONLY AFTER you have paid on the website or put your check in the mail, e-mail Pam Arfield ([pamarfield3@gmail.com](mailto:pamarfield3@gmail.com)) with your 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> choice of the specific dish you wish to bring; please be very detailed on what your choices are; and include your phone number in the email. Pam will contact you to discuss and confirm.

#### STEPS FOR PAYING ONLINE

\*Go to this GCICS web address: [www.gcics.org/payment](http://www.gcics.org/payment)

\*On 1<sup>st</sup> page, check “Member”, enter first & last name, email address, phone #, and click on the blue block.

\*On 2<sup>nd</sup> page, enter the total amount of your payment, then enter in the block directly below “12/15/24” 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.

We look forward to welcoming you.

#### GCICS HOLIDAY PARTY Menu – 12/15/2024

Here is a list of suggested foods. The menu will consist of “heavy” dinner-like appetizers and delicious desserts. Please email Pam Arfield with your 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> choices of what you would like to bring. She will confirm if the item is available as it is on a first-come basis. Pam says recipes for appetizers can be found on the web.

**IMPORTANT: Appetizers should serve at least 30-40 people.** All appetizers must arrive ready to be served. If you are bringing an appetizer, please arrive by 5:20 pm because the servers will be setting up the appetizers for serving soon thereafter. If you expect to be late for the party, either send your appetizer with another attendee or choose to bring a dessert.

**APPETIZERS (Need 30-40 members to bring appetizers.)**

**Antipasti**

1. Charcuterie Board
2. Gourmet Cheeses & Fruit
3. Stuffed Dates i.e., with Blue cheese or other savory cheese
4. Cheese Filled Mini Peppers
5. Tomato and Mozzarella Skewers with Balsamic Glace
6. Pear/Brie Puff Pastry Tartlets

**Fish**

1. Shrimp Cocktail
2. Hot Shrimp Dish
3. Mini Crab Cakes
4. Salmon Wellington or other salmon dish
5. Ahi Tuna Tartare Cups
6. Smoked Fish Dip
7. Crab Quiche or Dip
8. Prosciutto-wrapped Scallops

**Meats**

1. Lamb chop lollipops or Minced Lamb Skewers
2. Ginger/Sesame Chix Skewers
3. Mini Beef Empanadas
4. Mini Meatballs
5. Assorted pates
6. Beef Tenderloin with sauce on crostini
7. Sticky Pork Riblets
8. Pulled Pork Sliders
9. Chicken Pot Pie Bites

## **Savories**

1. Spinach-stuffed Mushrooms
2. Flatbreads i.e.(Fig/Prosciutto, Mushroom, or other savory)
3. Spanakopita
4. Sweet Onion /Zucchini Frittata
5. Mini Potato Skins with Filling
6. Arancini with Sauces
7. Hot Artichoke dish (dip or pie or roasted)
8. Tomato/cheese tartlets

## **DESSERTS (Desserts should serve 15-20 people.)**

1. Italian Pastries
2. Bread Pudding with Sauce
3. Baklava
4. Chocolate Mousse Cups
5. Tiramisu
6. Cranberry Pie
7. Chocolate Bourbon Pecan Tarts
8. Apple Crisp (Whipped cream on side)
9. Limoncello Cake
10. Pineapple Upside Down Cake
11. Flourless Chocolate Cake
12. Ricotta Cheesecake
13. Strawberry Short Cake (Whipped cream on side)

# WELCOME BACK PICNIC

Hi everyone, Hopefully you have reserved Sunday November 10 for our welcome back picnic. When I called the park authorities on Oct. 22, they felt that they would have the time to restore the pavilion area from the damage caused by hurricane Milton. North Jetty Park has a large pavilion which has many picnic tables undercover. The beach and restrooms are nearby.

This location is easy to find. After crossing the bridge to the Nokomis beaches on Casey Key, turn left and travel until the homes end, then turn right into the parking lot. Our reserved pavilion is now visible to your left.

**WHEN:** November 10, Sunday, from 12:30 until 4:30

**WHERE:** North Jetty Park pavilion. Nokomis. Rain or shine

**SEATING:** Multiple picnic benches.  
Bring a different chair if something more comfortable is desired.

**DRINKS:** Alcohol is permitted. Bring whatever your personal beverage preferences are. One restriction is that the Park Commission wants NO glass. Manage this the best way you can.

**UTENSILS:** We provide plastic silverware. You are welcome to bring metal.  
We also have paper plates, napkins, plastic glasses.

**FOOD:** After many years, we have found the following system works. Each party brings whatever main course they themselves will enjoy. You are also asked to bring another item to share with the group. This can be an appetizer, a salad, or a dessert.

**FEE:** NO charge! PLEASE COME and share a friendly GCICS smile!

**Reservations:** Not needed, but we want to be prepared so please let me know if you plan to come. Guests are welcome. Please wear your name tags.

**Thank you,** Tom Hurban  
Bocce and picnic event chairperson  
[dorisntom@gmail.com](mailto:dorisntom@gmail.com) or 908 507 3048

12/5/24 GCICS Cultural Evening:  
Imagining the World in the Italian Renaissance



Centuries ago, Italian cartographers greatly influenced the perception of the world so that it led to many a voyage of discovery. We have a rare opportunity to gain experience more about their fascinating work when on **Thursday, December 5, 2024**, Prof. Carrie Beneš, who in March 2023 delighted us with a talk on the great Florentines during the Renaissance, will lead a panel of experts in the field.

Prof. Beneš describes this event thus: *“This roundtable will engage the audience with the history of the Italian Renaissance by challenging received idea about the nature of maps and the history of European explorations. By exploring complexities of artistic representation, spatial projection, and map production, the presentation will broaden attendees’ understanding of Renaissance culture and world history before the Age of Exploration, while also introducing them to some of the digital techniques scholars now use to study such maps.”*

The outstanding panel of presenters will include **Prof. Beneš** (New College of Florida), **Chet Van Duzer** (Rochester Institute of Technology), and **Jessica Maier** (Mount Holyoke College). Laura Morreale (Washington, DC) will moderate the event. Thumbnail bios of the panelists appear below. The event is organized under a New College Mellon Grant as part of the National Endowment for the Humanities’ Scholarly Editions and Translations Program.

## DETAILS

**WHAT:** **Imagining the World in the Italian Renaissance**, a special cultural event (free to GCICS members/guests)

**WHEN:** Thursday, December 5, 2024, 5:00-7:00 pm EST



**WHERE:** New College of Florida, Sainer Auditorium, Caples Campus (different location from the March 2023 lecture)

1.From US41N turn left into Ringling Plaza at the University Parkway intersection (Ringling Plaza is the one-block extension of University Parkway heading west toward the Bay).

2.Drive down to the end and turn left in front of the Ringling Museum of Art onto Bay Shore Road.

3.Pass the Ringling Employee driveway and turn right into the New College Caples Campus.

4.The entrance to Sainer Auditorium is immediately in front of you, under the porte-cochere.

**RSVP:** Email GCICS Secretary Ellen Roderick at [itrain@erols.com](mailto:itrain@erols.com) with the names of ALL attendees.

## **PANELISTS**

\***Carrie Beneš** is a cultural historian of premodern Italy and the Mediterranean, focusing on the classical tradition, the cultural history of landscape and identity, and mapping/geospatial analysis. She is the author of *Urban Legends: Civic Identity and the Classical Past* (2011) as well as *A Companion to Medieval Genoa* (2018), and co-director of the La Sfera Project ([sferaproject.org](http://sferaproject.org)).

\***Chet Van Duzer** is a widely published historian of cartography and one of the world's leading authorities on medieval and Renaissance maps. He is a board member of the Lazarus Project at the University of Rochester and a researcher-in-residence at the John Carter Brown Library at Brown University. He is the author of *Sea Monsters on Medieval and Renaissance Maps* (2013) as well as *Henricus Martellus's World Map at Yale (c. 1491): Multispectral Imaging, Sources, and Influence* (2019).

\***Jessica Maier** is an art historian of European Renaissance art and architecture in a global context, focusing on traditionally overlooked categories of imagery such as prints, illustrated books, maps, and city views, which provide new insights into a period of extraordinary cultural activity. She is the author of *The Eternal City: A History of Rome in Maps* (2020) as well as *Rome Measured and Imagined: Early Modern Maps of the Eternal City* (2024).

\***Laura Morreale** is a cultural historian of the late medieval Italian peninsula whose interests in French-language writing extend to the Latin East. She is the creator of several digital products such as the Oxford Outremer Map and the Harvard-based DALME Project (Documentary Archaeology of Late Medieval Europe) as well as one of Dr. Beneš's co-directors on the La Sfera Project. She is co-editor of the two-volume *Digital Medieval Studies-Practice and Preservation* (2022) and *Experimentation and Innovation* (2024).



Bob and Paola Tate

It is with great sadness that the Board of Directors announces the passing of one of our dear and faithful members, Bob Tate. Bob died on October 23, 2024, with his beloved wife Paola and three children by his side. Bob and Paola joined GCICS in March 2018. Paola became our Italian Language instructor soon thereafter. On Friday, Paola shared Bob's obituary. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to Mrs. Paola Tate and Family, 4583 Atwood Cay Circle, Sarasota, FL 34233.

### **BOB TATE**

Bob Tate, husband of Paola Nanni-Tate, died at Doctors Hospital, Sarasota on Wednesday October 23, 2024, of natural causes. Paola and his three children were all at his side. Bob and Paola were married for 60 years. They met in Ethiopia where Paola was born and they were married in Binghamton, New York on August 1st, 1964.

Bob graduated from Colgate University in 1959 with a Bachelor of Arts. He joined the Army, and was stationed in Asmara, Ethiopia in Army Intelligence where he met his future wife, Paola. He returned to the USA where he obtained a master's degree in counseling. He went to work at Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio as Assistant Placement Director of Recruiting.

Three years later he was hired by Dow Chemical in Human Resources and from there he went with Dow as Compensation Director to Horgen, Switzerland where the family resided for four years. They returned to Midland and, after 27 years with Dow, went to work at Drake Beam Morris in Outplacement. He worked there until his retirement.

Bob and Paola have three grown children, 8 grandchildren, and 6 great grandchildren spread across Italy, Michigan, and Florida. Bob was an avid tennis player, Rotarian, and skier, but he will be remembered as a great husband to Paola, father to his children and grandfather to all the grandchildren.

**GCICS ITALIAN CULTURAL HERITAGE MONTH  
WELCOME BACK LUNCHEON  
ARTICLE: ELLEN RODERICK**



On October 26, 2024, GCICS launched its program year with a Welcome Back Luncheon celebrating Italian Cultural Heritage Month in what has become an annual tradition. Members and guests gathered to socialize, dine on a sumptuous and varied buffet at Stoneybrook Country Club, and honor “GCICS 2024 Italian American of the Year,” Leita Davis.

In total, 53 members and guests attended the luncheon, including our newest members: Carmille Kramer, Rosemarie (Bunnie) Eccleston, and Angel Coloneso. Julie Bondarenko, President, presided over the event and was ably assisted by Josephine Fontana, GCICS Treasurer, who welcomed attendees; Phil Miner and Pam Arfield who did an outstanding job selling raffle tickets, and Tom Hurban, Bocce Chair, who delivered the blessing and called for a moment of reflection in commemoration of Bob Tate, who unfortunately passed away on October 23.

The honoree, Leita Davis, was introduced by Phyllis Shonk, a member who shared remarks highlighting Leita Davis’ achievements and

contributions during a lifetime of sacrifice and service to our global community. Our honoree, who was accompanied by her husband Bob Davis, then delivered an informative and stimulating keynote address which made it abundantly clear why she was recognized as GCICS 2024 Italian American of the Year.

Let me conclude by thanking all those who purchased raffles, the proceeds of which go to our Scholarship and Grants Programs. In total \$580 was raised for this worthwhile purpose. Let me note it was also a pleasure to learn that all 3 of our newest members were winners!

Finally, thanks to George Arfield, Sherman Shonk and Gordon Bloom for taking some great photos which will find their way into our newsletter. For closing, let me reiterate the comments of Gordon Bloom who probably expressed the sentiment of all those in attendance: “Stoneybrook did a great job. The buffet was great, artfully presented, and full of tasty foods that everyone enjoyed.” The success of the event was due in no small part to our President, Julie Bondarenko, who worked closely with the Stoneybrook staff to develop the menu and ensure smooth sailing.

**GULF COAST ITALIAN CULTURE SOCIETY HONORS LEITA DAVIS  
WITH THE “2024 ITALIAN AMERICAN OF THE YEAR” AWARD  
Written by MARY RINALDI**



Leita Davis

The Gulf Coast Italian Culture Society ([www.gcics.org](http://www.gcics.org)) proudly honored recipient Leita Davis on Saturday, October 26, 2024, with its “2024 Italian American of the Year” award. Leita Davis was recognized for her many contributions to citizens of the world, including the United States, Senegal, and Haiti.

In her outstanding years of service, Leita Davis was a trailblazer who engaged in efforts to foster peace and human rights through education, science, culture, and communication. She was an active feminist and a devoted humanitarian.

In conferring the award, GCICS President, Julie Bondarenko, drew attention to Leita’s many worthwhile contributions to the Gulf Coast Community as well as the world at large. She pens book reviews for our newsletter and supports important causes such as F.E.L.T. (Feeding Empty Little Tummies).

Currently, she teaches for the Lifelong Learning Programs, lectures at International and GCICS conferences, and is serving as President of the Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of the Gulf Coast.



Leita Davis

**INTRODUCTION: LEITA KALDI DAVIS**  
**“GCICS 2024 ITALIAN AMERICAN OF THE YEAR”**

**Written by: Ellen Roderick**  
**Delivered by: Phyllis Shonk**



Phyllis Shonk introducing Leita Davis

Free Spirit, Globe Trotter, Humanitarian  
These words aptly describe the person we are honoring today.

Leita Bevacqua has her roots in the region of Calabria in Southern Italy. Her father's parents immigrated to Fulton, NY, along the Oswego Canal that connects Lake Ontario and the Erie Canal. Leita was born and grew up in Fulton.

But by the age of twenty, Leita, a free spirit, was off to Paris, working for UNESCO as an Administrative Assistant. UNESCO is a United Nations agency that works to foster peace and human rights through education, science, culture, and communication. It was during her time in Paris that Leita first went exploring in Calabria to find her family. And finding them brought immense joy into her life.

From Paris, she worked for a wealthy American in Rome and spent time in Milan as well. But the United Nations was calling, so off she went to New York where she worked in the Office of Legal Affairs, handling protocol for foreign ministers who came to the UN to negotiate or sign treaties.

A job fascinated her in Boston, and so she found employment at Tufts and Harvard, working on programs that aided developing countries. Throughout these years, Leita took university courses in music, literature, and language. She became fluent in both French and Italian.

Leita had vacationed in Florida and decided to move to Miami in the 1980s. That move led to an adventure that shaped her life to this day. While working in Miami, a man came into the office and just happened to mention that he was joining the Peace Corps. Well, the 'free spirit' and 'globe trotter' that Leita was, she contacted the Peace Corps the following day. Two months later she was off to Senegal at the age of fifty-five as a Federal civil servant and member of the Peace Corps. To quote Leita, *"I wanted to be on the ground."*

And on the ground, she was for 3 years, living in a village in the bush close to the Gambia border. When asked about her work, she replied: *"I invented my own work."* She helped women with the set up and selling of food and crafts they made. She was involved with the building of an important warehouse; and she wrote grants to build school latrines.

Having been “on the ground” for 3 years, and due to health matters, she returned to the states for treatment at Georgetown University Hospital in Washington, DC, needing a year to recuperate.

Her next adventure was to Haiti in 1994 as an administrator at Albert Schweitzer Hospital founded by the Mellon family. She acquired that position due to a successful interview in which she brought a photo album of her Senegal experience. That certainly convinced the interviewer that Leita was serious about humanitarian service. The organization staffing that hospital was based in Sarasota. For the final 2 years of her 5-year assignment, she lived in the Meadows doing fundraising for the organization.

By 2002, Leita retired, remaining in Sarasota. She had been writing through the years. She penned her Senegal memoir, *Roller Skating in the Desert*, while living in Haiti. And upon

returning to FL after her Haiti assignment, she wrote her Haiti memoir, *In the Valley of Atibon*.

2007 was another turning point in her life. Leita met Bob Davis in a bar in Bradenton. By 2009 they married and settled in Bradenton. Leita continued to write and joined a number of lecture circuits. Bob and Leita made 2 International trips a year until the pandemic arrived.

Leita and Bob joined GCICS in 2013 and have been faithful members ever since. Leita has generously shared her expertise through GCICS cultural lectures and writing of a monthly book review column for our newsletter.

Leita Kaldi Davis, a free spirit, a globe trotter, and a humanitarian.

Please welcome Leita to the podium to share her remarks.



CITATION: LEITA KALDI DAVIS  
“GCICS 2024 ITALIAN AMERICAN OF THE YEAR”  
Written by: Ellen Roderick  
Delivered by: Julie Bondarenko



President Julie Bondarenko delivering citation for Leita Davis

\*Since 1992, GCICS has had the privilege of honoring fifteen outstanding “Italian Americans of the Year.” Our Society prides itself on recognizing a Gulf Coast resident who has made significant contributions to the welfare of Gulf Coast citizens as well as citizens beyond our Florida borders. That person must be of Italian American ancestry. This is a significant dimension of our Society’s mission.

\*I am pleased to announce that the Board of Directors was unanimous in its selection of Leita Kaldi Davis, an 11-year member of GCICS, as our 2024 recipient. It is an honor to share Leita’s many contributions to our Gulf Coast community as well as to the world at large. In the bio that was read earlier, Leita was portrayed as a humanitarian and a public servant.

\*Leita’s public service and humanitarian work around the globe are reflected in:

- (1) Service in Paris, working for UNESCO.
- (2) Service as a Peace Corps volunteer in Senegal for 3 years, commencing at the age of fifty-five.
- (3) Service in Haiti at the Albert Schweitzer Hospital.
- (4) Receiving the Haitian Award in Miami for her support of human rights; and
- (5) Receiving from President Jimmy Carter the 2017 Lillian Carter Award, celebrating the extraordinary impact a Peace Corps volunteer over the age of 50 made somewhere around the globe.

\*Leita’s contributions in support of the Gulf Coast Communities include:

- (1) Serving as President of the Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Gulf Coast, FL, for 7 years. In that capacity, she provided leadership to over two hundred retired Peace Corps volunteers in achieving their goals, one of which is “bringing the world home.” The organization engages in

extensive community activities with a more recent example being the housing and support of 80 Afghan refugees who settled in the greater Bradenton area.

(2) For 20 years, the book club in the organization: Through Women's Eyes, an all-volunteer non-profit women's rights and gender equity organization based in Sarasota.

\*Leita's work as an author and lecturer include:

(1) Writing memoirs on her life in Senegal and Haiti.

(2) Writing memoirs on her Italian life notably "Dreams of Italy," "Milano to the Mezzogiorno," and "Circling Sicily," all available on Amazon.

(3) Teaching courses in the Lifelong Learning Programs on the Gulf Coast with topics such as: "500 Years of Italian Americans".

(4) Lecturing at International Conferences on the topic of Roma Gypsies, whom she worked with for 15 years in the greater Boston area.

(5) Lectures to our Italian Society on a wide variety of topics related to Italian history and culture.

(6) And finally, writing reviews of fascinating books that focus on Italian life which appears in our monthly newsletters.

\*These are highlights of Leita's extensive contributions to not only the Gulf Coast community but also to global communities. I know you will join me in a round of applause as we thank Leita for being such an inspirational human being in our world today. Leita, please join me at the podium for a presentation.



President Julie Bondarenko and Leita Davis



President Julie Bondarenko, Bob Davis (Leita's husband), Leita Davis, and Phyllis Shonk



## Photo Gallery



Anna Bondi, Lucille and Larry Samartin



Joyce Bloom and Sherman Shonk



Barbara and Gene Barattini



Skip Stuart and Carol Wilson



Leita Davis and guest



Camille Kramer and Vince Amato

## **OFFICERS/DIRECTORS**

### **President**

Julie Bondarenko  
[juliebondy@yahoo.com](mailto:juliebondy@yahoo.com)

### **Secretary**

Ellen Roderick, PhD  
[itrain@erols.com](mailto:itrain@erols.com)

### **Treasurer**

Josephine Fontana  
[Fontana.Josephine@gmail.com](mailto:Fontana.Josephine@gmail.com)

### **Bocce Chair**

Tom Hurban, DDS  
[dorisntom@gmail.com](mailto:dorisntom@gmail.com)

### **Scholarship Chair**

Sandra Russell  
[russellsandra062@gmail.com](mailto:russellsandra062@gmail.com)

### **Newsletter Editor**

Mary Faith Rinaldi  
[maryfaithrinaldi@gmail.com](mailto:maryfaithrinaldi@gmail.com)

### **Social and Cultural Chair**

George Arfield  
[arfield@yahoo.com](mailto:arfield@yahoo.com)

### **Language Instruction Chair**

Jerry Hall  
[CZHalls@verizon.net](mailto:CZHalls@verizon.net)

### **Technology Chair**

Gordon Bloom  
[Gordon.bloom@att.net](mailto:Gordon.bloom@att.net)

### **Happy Hour Chair**

Philip Miner, MD  
[Retire66@gmail.com](mailto:Retire66@gmail.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
Sheryl Lazzarotti	2016-2020



## **GI Giuseppe**

Written by Jack Norman

On Monday, November 11, Americans come together to celebrate and honor the brave men and women who served in the defense of our country in various branches of the armed forces. Not least among these brave souls, is the Italian American who exhibited patriotism and devotion to the land that they or their ancestors adopted as their own. In World War II, alone, over 500,000 Italian Americans fought bravely to defend this country from the scourge of Nazi Germany and the aggression of the Empire of Japan. Colloquially, these Italian American soldiers have come to be known as GI Giuseppe. On this November 11, let's not forget their heroism and love of this country and take pride in who they were and the service they rendered.

