

# La Circolettera

Summer 2018



CELEBRATING OUR 42<sup>ND</sup> YEAR

# La Bella Figura

GALA PHOTOS  
PAGES 4-7





## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Paul Finizio, President

### AMICI,

As we approach summer, it is appropriate to pause and praise all who have made this past season so wonderful. These are the performers, committee chairs, volunteers, officers and board members who dedicate time, effort and resources all year long.

Interestingly, as Il Circolo enters its 42nd year, its reputation is becoming more and more known around the U.S. and the world. I recently spoke at the Las Vegas Italian Social Club where Frank Sinatra and Dean Martin used to go to relax and try new songs. I met many members who heard of us and want to visit as well as create a link between our organizations.

The same in Tampa. I am meeting with the Tampa Unione Italiano this week to help the club with its gala celebration of 100 years on November 17, 2018. They have a beautiful building in Ybor City which was built by the mostly Sicilian community there. Stay tuned for invites and collaborazione info.

We are also proud to announce the Culinary Squalarship celebrating the life and love of food of our long-time stalwart member, Pasquale (Pat) Valenti and his son, Tom. This scholarship is with the Culinary Institute of America in New York and is the type of celebration of famiglia, food and all that is Italian that will be emulated by others in celebration of their families while achieving the Il Circolo mission of "preserving the Italian culture". Why not start a scholarship with us as a tribute to your family?

As we celebrate life, summer and the lives of famiglia and amici, please stay safe, live life to its fullest and use the mantra of Italiani — "*celebrare, mai lamentare*"!

– Paul Finizio



**The Italian Cultural Society**

Ilcircoloflorida.com

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Il Circolo, the Italian Cultural Society of Florida, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and was created in 1976 with the mission to preserve and promote Italian Culture in South Florida through educational outreach and special events. To fulfill this mission, the organization each year produces a robust schedule of special events that focus on Italian art, music, culture and Italian food and wine. In addition, Il Circolo gives support to college students to study in Italy and provides funding to local school organizations that promote Italian culture, including Florida Atlantic University, Palm Beach Opera, Palm Beach Atlantic University, St. Paul Academy and St. Andrew's School.



Robert De Angelis, the son of Rose Pirretti and Mario De Angelis, grew up in a "rich Italian cultural environment" in Englewood Cliffs and fondly recalls jarring tomatoes and making wine in his immigrant grandfather's basement. Further proof of that rich Italian culture were his neighbors ... Robert lived several doors away from the Sally & Pat Valenti family and grew up with the Valenti children.

Robert says he was sent to some of the best schools available including Don Bosco H.S., St. Francis University, and Pace University. Upon graduation, Robert worked in the food and beverage industry in some of the finest hotels and restaurants. As a result, he loves to cook! At a young age, Robert became involved in the family business and holdings and, as his grandfather became sick, he stepped in to administer the family trusts. In the mid-80s he began his career at Costco Wholesale where he was assigned many different positions, including management and administration. In July 2016, Robert was severely injured at work and could not return to his duties at Costco. He is now retired.

Costco's loss has become Il Circolo's gain. At the request of his mother and

Il Circolo board member Rose De Angelis, he recently became involved in the execution of several events, creating informational flyers and working closely with the 2018 Gala chairpersons to create the event Program Book. We are now pleased to announce that effective with the close of this season, Robert will officially become Il Circolo's Administrator and will be overseeing its business affairs.

Robert also serves as head usher for his Church and has been managing its finances and administration. He has one daughter, Megan, who is currently studying to become a Doctor at The University of North Florida and, in keeping with her father's love of Italian culture and cooking, will also be studying cooking and language in Italy this May.



## 42ND ANNIVERSARY GALA

### Gala 2018

The theme and focus of our 42nd annual gala was **La Bella Figura**, meaning to make a good impression — and that we did! The guests arrived formally attired in their finest, the outdoor Tuscan cocktail hour was splendid, the dinner and music was top notch — and our honorees and their speeches inspiring.

Franco Harris, Adriana Trigiani and Carlos De Antonis each expressed their pride in being Italian and how their traditional up-bringing and personal experiences helped bring them to this honorable point in their careers.

Mario De Orchis, a 95-year-old WW II veteran, was awarded a Lifetime Honoree of Il Circolo. Born in Italy, and eventually educated at Columbia Law School, Mario held a unique position during the war; teaching Italian to a class of 50 generals in Algiers. After the war, his fluency in Italian was the key to his being hired to defend lawsuits related to Italian maritime. This experience led him to form his own law firm, De Orchis and Partners in the Wall Street area. Humble in his demeanor, to know Mario, is to love him.

Il Circolo thanks all who attended, donated, assisted and helped us make La Bella Figura, with special thanks to co-chairs Matthew Rocco and Antonella Balzano for a well-produced and entertaining event.





42ND ANNIVERSARY GALA





# 42ND ANNIVERSARY GALA





42ND ANNIVERSARY GALA





## EVENTS



### Pranzo, Vino, Bocce

Our “Pranzo, Vino, Bocce” event turned into a spectacular afternoon that included learning, music, celebrations, sports and, of course, delicious food and wine.

While the genesis of the event was a culinary demonstration to commemorate the establishment of Il Circolo’s new scholarship fund in the culinary arts, it ballooned into an afternoon of memorable joy that began with an abundant buffet of antipasti followed by table-side demonstrations of a flambéed Pasta alla Gismondi and Zabaglione. Between courses, the crowd was entertained by the stellar talents of tenor Carlos De Antonis, concert pianist Sergio Salani and pop singer Mary Carmen Siciliano.

To add to the festivities, the De Orchis family celebrated their father’s 95th birthday along with the birthday of his and our dear friend, Emilio Petti, so out came champagne for all and two huge cakes of the most delicious tiramisù.

After a long afternoon of camaraderie and a wide expression of our Italian culture, some said *arrivederci* while others took off to the bocce court for a quick game. *Viva l’Italia!*





**Alla Prossima**

*Alla Prossima*, our last event of the season at Trevini Ristorante was filled to capacity with members and friends who came to dine, sing and dance while wishing each other, *Buon Estate, Happy Summer*.

Gianni Minervini and his professional staff went out of their way to make everyone welcome and Frank Todaro entertained with his repertoire of familiar songs while guests dined — and after dessert got many of them up to dance.

It was the perfect ending to a very successful and enjoyable season. Thanks to Antoinette Vigilante and Wendy Marfino who chaired the event and thanks to the Trevini staff, Frank Todaro and all who came to share another good time with Il Circolo's *famiglia*. *Alla prossima!*







## WELCOME TO IL CIRCOLO FLORIDA



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### Welcome to il Circolo Florida!

Italian culture is part of the mosaic of our daily lives, influencing our vision of art, beauty, fashion, design, architecture, cuisine, nature, language, poetry, philosophy, thought, opera, and music. Since the beginning, annual scholarships have been given to qualified students to study in Italy. In addition, il Circolo has been a major supporter of Florida Atlantic University's Italian Studies Program, one of only two major programs in the Florida State University System.



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Our website has been upgraded to include some exciting features. One of them allows you, as a member, to gain access to a 'members only' section that offers more information, including the membership directory which is not accessible to the public. Additional content will be added over time.

To manage your profile and gain access to members only content, we need you to reset your password by following the instructions to the right.

Additional updates to note: all events for the new season are listed under the Events tab located at the top menu section of our home page. You'll be able to make your reservations on this page by using a credit card. Also, under the Events section, you'll see a "Past Events" tab that has a link to all photos taken at the events. The current La Circolettera is published online under News tab.

Please familiarize yourself with the redesigned website for a full membership experience.



## WELCOME TO IL CIRCOLO FLORIDA



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\*Code

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**BSSWRU**

SUBMIT

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2. Select "Forgot Password"
3. Enter your email address and the visible code provided (please note the code is case sensitive) – click "Submit"
4. Follow instructions in the email you receive
5. Return to [ilCircolo.org](http://ilCircolo.org) and click the member icon  to login with your new credentials.





For forty-two years, Il Circolo's programs have funded scholarships for many deserving students while spreading the word of the cultural contributions made by Italians and Italian-Americans through its annual program of events. These events are all well-planned and executed by volunteers and supported by friends of Il Circolo.

As the season comes to a close and to recognize these people and the Board of Directors, a "Thank You" luncheon is held each year at La Sirena in West Palm Beach, most recently on April 13, when guests dined in style, Marcello Fiorentino style; nothing but the best!

BUT, we, the board and volunteers, stand up to cheer you, the members, because none of this would be possible without your continued support of Il Circolo.

Together we've formed a familial bond ... one that has promoted Il Circolo's mission to share and nurture our Italian culture ... and one, like any Italian family, that is always a *celebrazione* when we get together.

**Bravi tutti e Grazie.**





# CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2018-2019

Program Chairperson  
**CLAIRE GIANNAMORE**  
 401-255-8585



2018	Event	Chairperson(s)
Oct. 21 6:00 pm	<b>Italian Heritage Month Celebration</b> Palermo's, Boynton Beach	Sally Valenti
Oct 23 1:00 pm	<b>Welcome Back Luncheon</b> Benvenuto's, Boynton Beach	Gloria Ciongoli
Dec. 9 1:00 pm	<b>'Natale in Famiglia' (Christmas Luncheon)</b> Boca West Country Club	Loretta Jungreis
2019		
Jan. 19 1:00 pm	<b>Regional Luncheon</b> Cafe Sapori, West Palm Beach	Rose DeAngelis Regina Peters
Feb TBA	<b>Young Artists of Palm Beach Opera</b> Palm Beach Atlantic University	Rick Zullo Sally Valenti
Feb TBA	<b>Italian Festival</b> Sanborn Park, Boca Raton	Marco Capoccia
Mar TBA	<b>43rd Anniversary GALA</b> The Breakers, Palm Beach	TBA
Mar TBA	<b>Festa Delle Donne</b> Arturo's, Boca Raton	Ilaria Serra
Apr 7	<b>Italian Cinema</b> Palm Beach Atlantic University	Dr. Myriam Ruthenberg
Apr 28	<b>Alla Prossima</b> TBA	Claire Giannamore

**Note:** This calendar is not final. Details will be confirmed over the summer and communicated to all members.