

La Circolettera

Year-End 2017



*Un Sereno
Natale a Tutta
la Nostra
Famiglia*



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Paul Finizio, President

CARI AMICI,

It is with great honor and pleasure that this column is being written for our Fall 2017 season. After being with our "paesani" in Italia for a month in September, where familiarity with www.ilcircoloflorida.org exists with many people and while participating in www.niaba.org (National Italian-American Bar Association) events of roof-top opera and Sorrento cliff-top singing, I can truly say Italia is more than ever in my heart and soul. And, it feels good! It is my sincere hope that all readers can one day plan a trip of similar duration to deeply immerse in the Italian culture and, most of all, have fun!

Now, focusing on Florida, we have every reason to be enthusiastic and energized. Your program chairs, board members and officers have been busy all summer planning a season of events that kicked off with our sold-out Welcome Back luncheon at Benvenuto. The singing and dancing were like a mini gala and to have the young students, recently-returned from their summer study program in Italy, dancing and singing with members, old and new, warmed my heart. They enjoyed us and we enjoyed them.

Upcoming events include holiday parties, talent shows, concerts and, of course, our March 18th Gala that promises to be the best yet. Honorees include Franco Harris, the famous sports figure; Adriana Trigiani, a best-selling author of Italian-themed literature; and Carlos De Antonis, crowd favorite and noted tenor who most recently was a contestant on America's Got Talent! Please mark your calendar now as this event will surely sell out.

We wish you and your *famiglia* a wonderful holiday season and hope you will attend our December 10 Christmas luncheon celebration at Boca West. The music and food promises to be special.

Buon Natale e Felice Anno Nuovo.

– Paul Finizio



The Italian Cultural Society

Ilcircoloflorida.com

La Circolettera *La Voce del Circolo*

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Il Circolo is an independent, not-for-profit, non-sectarian organization, legally incorporated in the State of Florida. Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent provided by law.

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.

**Interview with Matt Rocco,
3-year member of Il Circolo and 2-year
member of the Board of Directors.**

What attracted you to Il Circolo? To see the passion and energy from a group that has been organized for over 40 years is simply amazing.

**What is best part of your association so far?
What do you hope for the future of Il Circolo?**

The best part is the variety of events that Il Circolo hosts for our members. We truly “brag” about our heritage through many cultural events. I hope the future of Il Circolo is continued by our youth to carry on its mission and keep the organization alive for another 50 years.

What is your Italian heritage? My paternal grandfather and his family come from Rocca Pia, a commune in the Province of L’Aquila in the Abruzzo region of Italy. Its territory extended up to the level of Cinquemiglia.

Do you volunteer for other charitable, community or civic causes? I am involved in the Thomas W. McCormick Scholarship Foundation run by one of our members, Nuccia McCormick. The mission is to provide scholarships to deserving students to travel abroad to our Sister Cities in Exchange Student Programs, and encourage students to experience other cultures and enrich their lives.

What is your profession? Currently I am the President of the South Florida Manufacturers Association (SFMA) which is the #1 resource for Manufacturers in the State of Florida saving members time and money through networking, advocacy, and resources. Prior to joining the SFMA, I was in higher education at Broward College in various roles from Professor to Administration and recently in Corporate Relations.

Where did you go to school? I am a true native of Florida. I graduated from Florida Atlantic University and also graduated from Nova Southeastern University with a Masters in Business Administration and Juris Doctorate.

Sports, activities, interests and passions for free time? Outside of my professional obligations, I am heavily involved in Toastmasters and enjoy cultural and fitness activities. I also enjoy watching sports and the main one that interests me is college football.



What’s on your bucket list?

My bucket list consists of:

- 1 Learning to speak Italian.
- 2 Entering a competitive cooking contest (Sally Valenti will first have to teach me how to make good “sauce”).
- 3 Spending time in my home town Rocca Pia.
- 4 Learning how to play the piano.

ITALIAN HERITAGE MONTH



For the first event of the season, Il Circolo celebrated Italian Heritage Month at Palermo's in Boynton Beach on October 15th. Chairpersons Robert De Angelis and Sally Valenti arranged for a four-course dinner prepared by owner/chef Anna Orlando which was served outdoors under the warm evening skies. While Italian music played and the wine flowed, the 100 members and guests joined in the camaraderie.

In his greeting, President Paul Finizio thanked all those whose tireless efforts have successfully brought Il Circolo to its 42nd year in the community. We were honored and delighted to see Jim Guttuso, former president of Il Circolo (2003-2007), who came to the event with his wife, Lucy. New members were especially welcomed and the winning 50/50 ticket was drawn by one of them, Louise Crutchley. Surprisingly, it was won by charter member of 42 years, Virginia Longo!

Il Circolo thanks Senator Maria Sachs whose driving force achieved the proclamation of October as Italian Heritage Month forevermore in the State of Florida and honors all those who celebrate it.



HOW DID YOU SPEND THE SUMMER?



Sally Valenti welcomed her first great-grandchild, Pippa Salvatrice.



Sally with the Maitre D' Vincenzo in the Caterina de' Medici Restaurant founded by Colavita at the Culinary Institute of America (NY).



Joan Nova spent a couple of days on Guidecca (Venice) before boarding cruise through Croatia which also made stops in Messina and Naples. Seen here with her Traveling Sisterhood group in Piazza San Marco.



Antonella and husband Domenic dining with friends at the esteemed A Taverna 'e Mare, Torre del Greco (Compania).



Vivian Treves with daughter Allegra Treves in St. Mark's Square, Venice.



Sergio Salani, Carlos de Antonis, Barbara & Paul Finizio and Chris Salamone are among the familiar faces seen here in Sorrento.

WELCOME BACK LUNCH

The annual season starter, a "Welcome Back" luncheon at Benvenuto's in Boynton Beach, was a very well-attended success. Arriving guests were greeted with a welcome cocktail before President Paul Finizio took to the podium to thank Gloria Ciongoli, Chair of the event, who then led the attendees in a prayer and a chorus of God Bless America.

Guests enjoyed a 4-course lunch with wine while Gino De Marco played familiar Italian music that enhanced the camaraderie and festive mood. Soon the dance floor was full of group-dancing that encouraged old-timers to celebrate with the young attendees.

A highlight of the afternoon was Profs. Myriam Ruthenberg and Ilaria Serra introducing the group of FAU students* who came to thank Il Circolo for its support of their summer study program. "Without Il Circolo's help, I could never have had this life-changing experience" many said, which was gratifying to all because our youth is the hope of preservation and perpetuation of the Italian Culture.

Based on the energy evinced at this event, everyone came back renewed and eager to enjoy another season of enjoyable events with the Il Circolo family.

Special thanks to our friends at Colavita who donated 100 lbs. of pasta which served as the inspiration for our festive table centerpieces.

*Scholarships were awarded to Michael Contrelli, Delaney Florence, Pedro Mejia, Domenic Santoya, Alberto Gonzalez, Alex Potter



WELCOME BACK LUNCH



FROM OUR MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

I would like to share with our members the warmth and sense of togetherness that prevailed at our "Welcome Back Luncheon" at Benvenuto's with great Italian food, rhythmic sounds of our ethnic music by our talented member Gino de Marco and last, but not least, hearing from the students who studied in Venice through Il Circolo's scholarship program at Florida Atlantic University. To hear from students who told of their life-changing experiences and their appreciation of Il Circolo's scholarship program was heartwarming.

Let us continue to share our Italian culture, our music, our food, and our generosity by inviting our friends, families, and neighbors to become members of Il Circolo.

Membership can be completed online at Ilcircolooflorida.org or contact me if you have any questions or concerns at cmg280@aol.com or 401-255-8585.

Claire M. Giannamore, Membership Chair

To all the new members listed below Il Circolo welcomes you and we hope to see you at the events that we have planned for this season, including our 42nd Annual Gala on March 18, 2018. It will surely be a night to remember!

Italia Brosseau	Dr. Michael & Julie DeLuca	Joe Pustizzi
John & Susan Connor	Lisa Marie Macci	Marilyn Rosamilia Rubin and Richard Zavaglia
Louise Crutchley	Giovanni & Grace Marquez	Joseph Seminara
Rocco & Anna Maria D'Amelio and Family	Kevin & Daryl Morris	Rocco & Iliana Silvis
Daniel McNalis & Daria Wels	Donald Nelson	Joan Surace
Nicholas & Elizabeth DeCapua	Dorina O'Campo	Salvatore & Mary Lou Van Casteren
Daniel & Rosemary DeFilippo	Guiseppe & Katina Paese	Margaret Warnock
Monica Laurans	Tony & Lori Pasko	Jack Palmeri
		Denise Kalland



Professional Networking Aperitivi

Il Circolo will launch a monthly “Aperitivo” event for professional networking. The concept of the modern apéritif is generally thought to have been invented by the distiller Antonio Benedetto Carpano, who also created one of the first types of vermouth in Turin in 1786. Today, the simple drink has evolved and spread south to encompass those glorious couple of hours all over Italy — generally between 7pm and 9 pm — when Italians meet to relax over a glass of wine or a light cocktail and finger foods. For more information, or to contribute to these events, please contact Jenifer Mangione Vogt at 561.961.9136 or jenifermangione@yahoo.com.



The International Downtown Association recognized the annual **Italian Fest** with a Certificate of Merit Award. This initiative was spearheaded by our own board member Marco Capoccia two years ago. As a result, it has become an annual event. The next Italian Fest will be held on February 3, 2018 in Sanborn Park, Boca Raton.



With the generosity of our patrons, we were able to donate the following funds during our last fiscal year to those charities and causes we strongly support.

Earthquake Relief Fund	\$12,795
Student Scholarships.....	10,000
FAU Scholarships	6,500
Palm Beach Opera	5,000
NIAF	2,500
McCormick Scholarship	1,000
Symphony of the Americas	1,000
Chamber of Commerce	300
Cultural Council of Palm Beach.....	100
Total	\$39,195

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Program Chairperson
MARCO CAPOCCIA
 614-207-1002

2017	Event	Chairperson(s)
Dec. 10 1:00 pm	Christmas Luncheon Boca West Country Club, Boca Raton	Loretta Jungreis Antonella Balzano
2018		
Jan. 14 1:00 pm	Andiamo a Bologna! Regional Luncheon Cafe Saporì, West Palm Beach	Rose De Angelis Regina Peters
Feb. 3 4:00 pm	Italian Fest Sanborn Park, Boca Raton	Marco Capoccia
Feb. 4 2:00 pm	Young Artists of PB Opera, "Familiar Opera Duets" Palm Beach Atlantic University, West Palm Beach	Rick Zullo Sally Valenti
Mar. 18 5:30 pm	42nd Anniversary Gala The Breakers, Palm Beach	Matt Rocco Wendy Marfino
Apr. 8	Culinary Demo Wine Tasting Bocce TBA	Joan Nova
Apr. 29	Alla Prossima Luncheon TBA	Wendy Marfino

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561-371-6768

SAVE THE DATE

La Bella Figura

STARRING

Honorees Franco Harris,
Carlos De Antonis,
Adriana Trigiani...
and many more!



**42nd Gala
March 18, 2018
The Breakers**



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