



La Circolettera

Year-End
2018



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Paul Finizio, President

Here we are at the beginning of the 43rd year of committing ourselves to preserving and promoting Italian culture. We started with the recognition of October as Italian Heritage Month by enjoying an evening dinner at Palermo's outdoor facility. Music, laughter, singing, and hugging spread the joy of reuniting. Early in November, the Membership Welcome Back Luncheon at Benvenuto's gathered even more members who came not only to hear FAU students' thanks for supporting their summer study program in Italy, but also to honor Italian veterans commemorating Veteran's Day, November 11. That's was just the beginning! Check our calendar for events planned for the season.

Our important fundraiser, the anniversary gala, "Paparazzi Italiani" will be held on March 24, 2019 at The Breakers. We're pleased to announce that Buddy Fortunato, publisher of the English-language "Italian Tribune", will be our honoree. See the "Save-the-Date" page in this issue for details. Make your reservation early because Buddy is well-respected in the Italian community and many people have already indicated they will attend.

I'm honored to serve as President of Il Circolo, but working with a loyal Board of Directors and having a supportive membership is the formula for the longevity of the organization. We owe our success to our members who continue to extend and expand our presence. Thankfully, many young members who share our passion have dedicated themselves to continue our mission, embracing the technological developments necessary for communication with today's public. Il Circolo is right up there with the latest! Our new administrator, Robert De Angelis, makes sure about that.

We look forward to seeing you at next event. In the meantime, *Buon Natale a tutti*.

– Paul Finizio



The Italian Cultural Society
Ilcircoloflorida.com

La Circolettera *La Voce del Circolo*
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Sally Valenti, Executive Editor
Joan Nova, Associate Editor and
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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.

Chris Salamone is a highly-respected entrepreneur, attorney and New York Times bestselling author.

He attended college in New Hampshire on a full basketball scholarship and Nova Southeastern University Law School where he graduated 3rd in his class receiving Magna Cum Laude and Law Review honors.

A true “coach” at heart, Chris has dedicated much of his 25+ year professional career to building “first of their kind” education and leadership training companies. Hundreds of thousands of students from over 50 countries around the world have attended these training programs that include LeadAmerica, the National Student Leadership Conference, the National Institute for Legal Education and the BarBri Law Prep Program. Currently, Chris is the Chairman and CEO of Apollo Group Holdings, a private investment firm that invests in companies in a variety of industries including construction, entertainment, aviation, and healthcare.

Chris is the author of the New York Times Best-Selling book “Rescue America” which examines the historical, philosophical and leadership principles upon which America was founded. The book recounts his family’s humble journey from a small town in the *Provincia di Palermo*, Sicily, to America in 1903. Like many immigrants of their time, they personified the very principles that made America the most prosperous and generous nation in history – gratitude, personal responsibility and sacrifice. It is the transfer of these values and principles from one generation to the next that he believes is essential for our nation to sustain and perpetuate its greatness.

Chris is a quiet philanthropist who believes in giving back. He generously donates his time and money to a variety of worthy causes. For more than a decade, his direct financial support has provided for the education of more than 300 Haitian children, including all funding for school facilities, teachers, books, and school supplies. Besides the Il Circolo Board, Chris also serves on the Board of Directors of several other non-profit organizations including the Symphony of the Americas, The National Italian American Bar Association (NIABA), Above & Beyond Youth Ministries and the Ambassadors Board of Nova Southeastern University.

Chris attributes much of his success to his Italian upbringing and the values and principles taught to him by his parents and grandparents. His father Anthony, is his best friend and main source of inspiration, encouragement, and love.

Note from Il Circolo:

Chris has also graciously volunteered to partner with Paul Finizio as co-chair of Il Circolo’s annual anniversary gala to be held at The Breakers in Palm Beach on March 24, 2019 (see details on page 9).

Paparazzi Italiani, promises to be a very special evening and we look forward to the enthusiasm and passion this dynamic duo will add to the occasion.

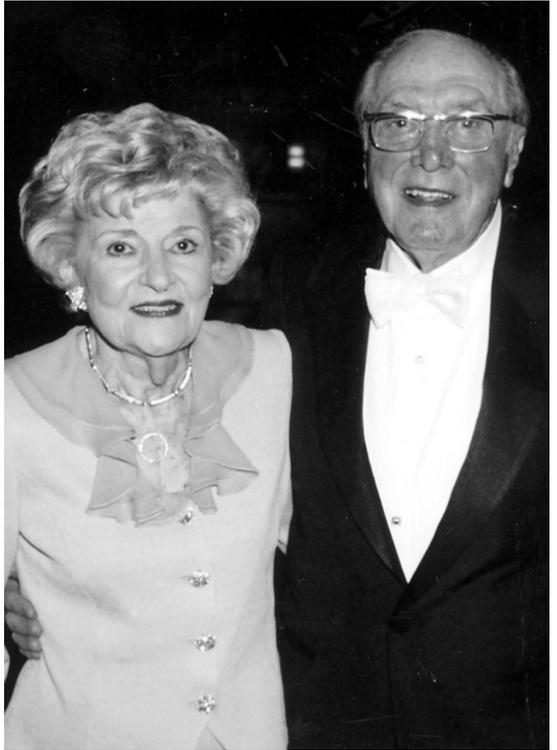


IN MEMORIAM

Remembering Hubert Opici

Il Circolo lost a dear friend on September 11, 2018. Hubert Opici left a loving family and thousands of adoring friends at the age of 102 after a lifetime full of hard work and ethical business experiences. Born in New Jersey and once a delivery boy for a beverage distributing company, he went on to achieve notoriety in the spirits, craft beers and wine businesses. Always a generous supporter of Il Circolo's events, Hubert and his loving wife of 65 years, Rose, were honored at the 2005 gala. Many remember the two of them holding hands and smiling as they approached the stage.

You've earned your place in Heaven, Hubert. Il Circolo will always remember your friendly smile and impeccable impressive presence.



Funeral Mass In Loving Memory of Giulio Salani

October 2, 1925 – September 22, 2018



IN LOVING MEMORY OF
Giulio Salani
October 2, 1925 - September 22, 2018

Arc Catholic Church

Friday, September 29, 2018

Giulio Salani

Our sympathies to the Salani family. On September 22, they lost the patriarchal strength of their family, Giulio Salani. Il Circolo mourns their loss. For a long time, his children and grandchildren were by his bedside helping him remember the beautiful musical life he shared with the world. Many times, in his lucid moments, he joined them in songs he made famous, his eyes lighting up. For all his life, music was the driving force of his very being. Il Circolo members often were graced with his vocal performance with his son, Sergio, or daughter, Barbara, at the piano.

You left great legacies, Giulio. Thank you for Barbara and Sergio, your gifts to us.



The first event of the 2018-19 season was the celebration of Italian Heritage Month at Palermo's in Boynton Beach. More than 80 people enjoyed a delightful dinner al fresco prepared by Anna Orlando. Leiza Michaels and George Tuzzeo provided spirited entertainment and it didn't take much before many guests were singing along or dancing.

Paul Finizio and Sally Valenti officially greeted guests, thanking everyone for their continued support and assuring all that the new season's events will be exciting.

Throughout the evening, there was much table-hopping as friends hugged and kissed, welcoming each other back after a summer away.

Thanks to Administrator, Robert DeAngelis, who helped make this first event a great success.



MEMBERSHIP WELCOME BACK LUNCH

Our annual Membership Welcome Back Lunch was held once again at Benvenuto's in Boynton Beach on November 11th. In commemoration of the date, we were honored to have Tony Ficarra and Dr. Vito Rao of the Italian War Veteran's Association join us. After a short program and the awarding of several meritorious citations, everyone participated in a chorus of "America the Beautiful" led by event chair Gloria Ciongoli.

Other special guests included FAU professor Dr. Ilaria Serra and several of her students who were recipients of Il Circolo scholarships allowing them to study in Italy over the summer.

Thanks to Gino De Marco and Peppino for an afternoon of wonderful music that inspired gleeful singing and energetic dancing. Especially rewarding was the mingling of members with the young students from FAU and the children of some members. The entire room was abuzz and a good time was had by all (as usual).

Thanks also to Colavita who gifted all attendees with take-home samples of their olive oil and Baci candy.



MEMBERSHIP WELCOME BACK LUNCH



IN OTHER NEWS



Sally Valenti, with her daughter Mary and daughter-in-law Maureen met Erin Decker, the scholarship coordinator at the Culinary Institute of America in New York, to discuss the inception of the Il Circolo Culinary Scholarship. A wonderful lunch at the Caterina de Medici restaurant and tour of the kitchens followed in the Colavita Center.



NIAF awarded Joan Nova's photo second place in their annual photo contest associated with their gala. The theme this year was "made in Italy" and this photo shows a scene from the filming of a sweeping WWII movie. "In guerra per amore" was filmed in 2016 on the streets of Erice, Sicily. This is the second time in 3 years that NIAF recognized Joan's work.



Matt Rocco, Lucia Maggiore and Paul Finizio with Daniella Firmino, Italian teacher, at St. Andrew's School's annual Donor Celebration in Boca Raton. Il Circolo has a long-standing association with the school and supports its Italian studies program.



Paul and Barbara Finizio, Carlos De Antonis and Sally Valenti attended the celebration of The Italian Club of Tampa's 100-year history of serving Italians and the community. As part of the program, Paul Finizio and Il Circolo were recognized as supporters and the room full of guests showed their appreciation with resounding applause. Carlos De Antonis sang bringing on a standing ovation.



43rd Anniversary Gala Paparazzi Italiani

Sunday, March 24, 2019, 6pm

The Breakers

Palm Beach

Cocktails in the Courtyard

6:00 pm

followed by dinner, program,
music and dancing with

Gino De Marco and band

Honoree

Buddy Fortunato

Publisher, Italian Tribune

the premier English-language newspaper
serving Italians since 1931

Guest of Honor

Franc D'Ambrosio

Musical Broadway Star

(the "World's Longest Running Phantom")

& Film Actor

Gala Co-Chairs

Paul Finizio

President of Il Circolo

Chris Salamone

Board Director



UPCOMING EVENTS

Milanese Regional Luncheon

January 20, 1:00 pm, at Cafe Saporì, West Palm Beach

This is an annual favorite celebrating the cuisine and culture of various regions of Italy. This time, *Milano*. Event is chaired by Rose DeAngelis and Regina Peters who always make it festive.



Young Artists of Palm Beach Opera

February 2, 4:30 pm at Palm Beach Atlantic University, West Palm Beach

Last year's performance was fantastic and the young opera singers were rewarded with a standing ovation by all in attendance. This is a free event for members, but a donation at the door is appreciated.



Italian Fest

February 16, 4-10 pm, at Mizner Park Amphitheater, Boca Raton

This is the 4th annual Italian Fest in Boca Raton. It is an outdoor event with food stands, entertainment, dancing, rides for the kids and lots of paesanos and Italophiles. A fun time for all the family.

Free event, chaired by Marco Capoccia.

La Festa della Donna

March 8, 1:00 pm, at Arturo's Ristorante, Boca Raton

While not celebrated in the U.S., *La Festa della Donna* (International Women's Day) has been a global event since 1917 in many countries. Its popularity rose in Italy in 1946, on the first March 8th following the end of WW II, when Italian feminists chose the mimosa flower as a symbol of sensitivity, strength and sensibility. It is generally commemorated with a special menu. While more cultural today, the holiday's roots are political. Our honorees: Rosario Gismondi and Barbara Salani.

This is a first-time event for Il Circolo and will be chaired by Ilaria Serra and Claire Giannamore. It promises to be very special.



43rd Anniversary Gala

March 24, 6:00 pm, at The Breakers Palm Beach

(see full page Save-the-Date info in this newsletter)



Italian Cinema

April 7, 3:00 p.m., at
Palm Beach
Atlantic University,
West Palm Beach

This is a free event for members, but a donation at the door is appreciated. After film discussion led by Professor Myriam Ruthenberg.



Alla Prossima

April 28, 1:00 pm, at Sardinia Enoteca Ristorante, Delray Beach

Annual luncheon to close the season for members. Always a fun event; this year in a fairly new restaurant to Palm Beach County. Claire Giannamore is the Chair.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2018-2019

Program Chairperson
CLAIRE GIANNAMORE
 401-255-8585



2018	Event	Chairperson(s)
Oct. 21 6:00 pm	Italian Heritage Month Celebration Palermo's, Boynton Beach	Sally Valenti 561-596-6730
Nov. 11 1:00 pm	Membership Welcome Back Luncheon Benvenuto's, Boynton Beach	Gloria Ciongoli 561-376-3781
Dec. 9 1:00 pm	'Natale in Famiglia' Buffet Boca West Country Club, Boca Raton	Loretta Jungreis 561-477-8580
2019		
Jan. 20 1:00 pm	Milanese Regional Luncheon Cafe Sapori, West Palm Beach	Rose DeAngelis 561-278-6220 Regina Peters 954-254-3598
Feb. 2 4:30 pm	Young Artists of Palm Beach Opera Palm Beach Atlantic University, WPB	Sally Valenti 561-596-6730
Feb. 16 4-10 pm	Italian Festival Mizner Park Amphitheater, Boca Raton	Marco Capoccia 614-207-1002
Mar. 8 1:00 pm	Festa Delle Donna Arturo's Ristorante, Boca Raton	Ilaria Serra Claire Giannamore 401-255-8585
Mar. 24 6:00 pm	43rd Anniversary GALA The Breakers, Palm Beach	Paul Finizio Chris Salamone
Apr. 7 3:00 pm	Italian Cinema Palm Beach Atlantic University, WPB	Dr. Myriam Ruthenberg 561-833-0944
Apr. 28 1:00 pm	Alla Prossima Sardinia Enoteca Ristorante, Delray Beach	Claire Giannamore 401-255-8585

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